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# PANTHER TRIAL BEGINS TODAY

## Plot to Blast Rail Lines, Stores Alleged

NEW YORK (AP) — Sixteen members of the Black Panther party go on trial Monday on charges of plotting to kill policemen and dynamite rail lines and major department stores here during last Easter's shopping season.

In addition to the 16 to stand trial Monday, three others indicted in the case were missing, two were in jail elsewhere and a 22nd man accused jumped bail.

Those indicted have acquired the name "Panther 21," even through 22 persons are charged.

The 16 to be tried Monday have all pleaded innocent to the charges.

The charges included conspiracy to murder, arson, reckless endangerment, and possession of weapons and explosives. The indictment alleged a plot to dynamite a police station and to shoot down policemen fleeing the explosion with high-powered rifles.

Other alleged targets were six Penn-Central Railroad rights-of-way, the New York Botanical Gardens and five major department stores. If convicted, each defendant faces a maximum prison sentence of 150 years.

Arrested last April, 13 of the defendants have been in jail here since. Bail was set at \$100,000 for 10 of them, \$50,000 for two others and \$25,000 for a third. Two accused men brought from Ohio later as fugitives



DR. WILLIAM F. WINDLE, research professor of rehabilitation medicine at New York University, will be the first guest speaker in this year's Distinguished Scientist Series sponsored by the Department of Anatomy at Tulane University School of Medicine. He will talk at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Stone Room of the University Center.

were jailed without bail and one defendant made bail of \$10,000 several months ago.

The case has received a great deal of public attention, particularly over the issue of the amount of bail assessed. Supporters of the Panthers say the bail is excessive.

The jailed Panthers have contended they could not prepare an adequate defense unless they were freed.

The Panther 21 have the support from various white leftist groups, including the Students for a Democratic Society and Youth Against War and Fascism.

The trial will be held before State Supreme Court Justice John M. Murtagh in the New York County Courthouse.