

Around the Nation

ACLU: Panthers Harassed

NEW YORK—The American Civil Liberties Union contended yesterday that members of the Black Panther Party have been subjected to illegal police harassment and denied their constitutional rights. But it said it found no evidence that any federal conspiracy was involved.

However, the organization said that high national officials, including the President, Attorney General Ramsey Clark, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, and their statements and actions, have helped to create the climate of oppression and have encouraged crackdowns.

The statements were made in a report based on a survey of nine metropolitan areas and reports from 18 ACLU affiliates. The report was prepared for presentation to an independent 28-member commission that is investigating clashes between Panthers and police. The private commission is headed by former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg.