

10/26/70

15 Blacks Held in Detroit Police Slaying

DETROIT, Oct. 25 (UPI)—Fifteen persons who barricaded themselves in a house, described as a Black Panther organization headquarters, for eight hours after the fatal shooting of a Detroit policeman were charged today with murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

At the same time, the great restraint used to handle a situation that could have become "a holocaust . . . 1967 again and more" was commended by city and state officials who grimly remember the riot here three years ago. Three youths—Ben Fondrun and David Johnson, both 19,

and Eron Desaussure, 18—who remained in the near West Side house until police used tear gas to flush them out, were held without bond. Four young men and eight women who surrendered voluntarily in the company of community leaders, including Acting Mayor Mel Ravitz and state Rep. James Del Rio, were held on bonds of \$10,000 to \$25,000. A hearing for all 15 was set for Oct. 30.

Patrolman Glenn Smith, a Negro, in the head. He was dead on arrival at Detroit General Hospital. Black leaders, including Del Rio and Nadine Brown, a columnist for the Michigan Chronicle, a black newspaper, spent several hours trying to coax the occupants out of the house while police waited.

Of eight others arrested near the scene, one was charged with assault and battery, one with destruction of property, five were released and another faces possible arson charges in the burning of a police car during the standoff.

The first 12 finally surrendered "because Chuck Holt, the Detroit leader of the National Committee to Combat Fascism, said the community around their house would be jeopardized if they didn't," Miss Brown said.

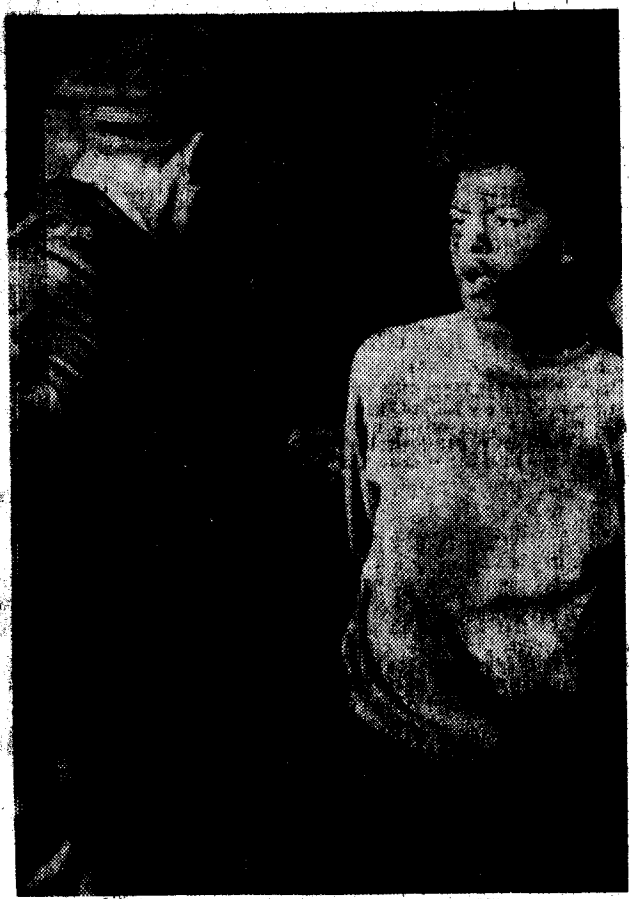
The trouble began Saturday evening when two policemen tried to break up the sale of Black Panther literature. Police said the sidewalk was being blocked and persons were refused passage unless they took the literature. A scuffle followed, and the officers called for help.

Police Commissioner John Nichols then delivered an ultimatum to the remaining three occupants before directing police to fire tear gas into the house.

Shortly after midnight, police had dispersed a crowd of 50 to 100 persons two blocks away who had been throwing rocks and bottles at police.

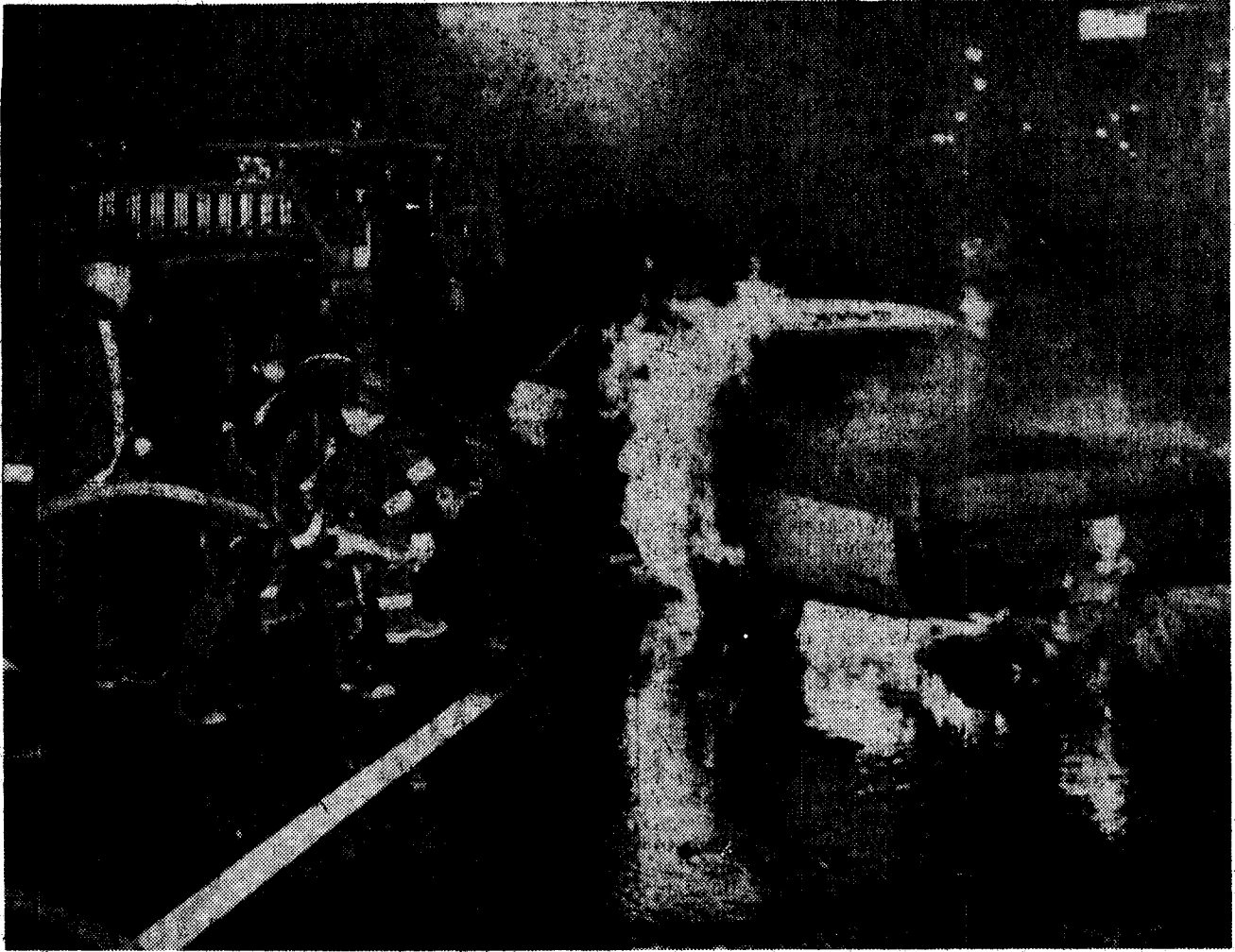
One of the cars responding brought plainclothes Patrolman Marshall Emerson and a colleague to the scene. Emerson was shot in the hand, treated at a hospital and released.

The 15 persons then barricaded themselves in a nearby house, said by police to be headquarters for the National Committee to Combat Fascism, a Panther organizing group. As officers arrived to isolate the area, police said a gun blast from the house struck



Associated Press

Handcuffed young man shouts at police in Detroit.



United Press International

Firemen try to extinguish burning police car in Detroit, where a policeman was shot to death Saturday night.