

THREE PANTHER MEMBERS HELD

Attack on Jersey City Station Charged

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—Three members of the Black Panther Party, one a state leader of the militant group, were arrested Thursday in the hit-and-run sniper attack on a police precinct in this tough waterfront city.

Police said they confiscated a "small arsenal," including guns, ammunition, explosives and plans for making bombs.

Commenting on the arrests, Mayor Thomas J. Whelan said, "The Black Panthers are through in Jersey City."

Arrested were Isaish Rowley, 24, and Charles Hicks, 36, both of Jersey City, and Victor Perez, 19, of Brooklyn, N.Y. Rowley identified himself as New Jersey minister of defense for the Black Panthers.

The sniper attack, carried out by several men in a speeding car, occurred Friday night when 20 shots were fired from a machinegun or automatic rifle at the station house. One bullet knocked a patrolman's nightstick from his hand and another slug passed through an officer's hat.

Two days later, four members of the Newark, N.J., Black Panthers were injured in an explosion outside their headquarters. The Panthers contended the incident was a "bombing" in retaliation for the Jersey City attack, but Newark authorities said they suspected a home-made Panther bomb accidentally exploded.

Rowley, Hicks and Perez were charged with assaulting a police officer. Police said weapons charges also were pending against the trio.

"I hope that everyone gets the message loud and clear," Mayor Whelan said. "We are not going to tolerate terrorist thugs in this city."

"This is not a question of white against black. This is a

question of good people against bad people and I know our police will have the support of all people, white and black, who are sick and tired of these threats against public order."