

5-1, 12-11-68

FBI Seeks Top Panther As Fugitive

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Black Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver is sought on a federal warrant charging unlawful flight to avoid confinement as a parole violator.

Bail on the fugitive charge was set yesterday at \$100,000.

Cleaver vanished Nov. 25, two days before he was to return to state prison as a parole violator.

The fugitive warrant was based on an FBI affidavit stating that Cleaver's wife, Kathleen, had drawn \$33,000 from their bank account and had flown to New York Sunday.

"It appears she has transported funds which are the fugitive's property for delivery and probable use outside the state," said the affidavit by FBI agent Fred Ligarde.

The withdrawn money presumably was from Cleaver's best-selling book, "Soul on Ice." His parole from a 13-year sentence for attempted murder — of which he had served eight years — was revoked last spring after an exchange of gunfire between Black Panthers and Oakland police.

He posted \$50,000 bail on the Oakland charge. He is charged with assault with a deadly weapon and intent to murder. He and two policemen were injured. Black Panther treasurer Bobby Hutton, 17, was killed.