

Invaders Leader Gets 4½ Years

Cabbage Sentenced For Draft Evasion

Charles LaVerne Cabbage, a founder of the Invaders, black militant group, was in Shelby County Jail today after being sentenced to four and one-half years imprisonment for draft evasion.

Cabbage, 25, one of Memphis' leading black power advocates, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Bailey Brown. He was taken into state custody on orders of Criminal Court Judge Perry Sellers.

The tall, slender Morehouse College graduate wore a black sweater and black slacks and carried a little black hat. He remained expressionless, standing beside his attorney, Howard Moore Jr. of Atlanta, while the judge passed sentence.

CABBAGE pleaded guilty in Judge Sellers' court in April to charges of receiving stolen property and carrying a pistol and was sentenced to a year at the penal farm. Police said he was found with a quantity of blank checks taken in a burglary of the CME Publishing Co., 531 S. Parkway E.

Several thousand dollars of the checks were cashed in Memphis. The CME compa-



**CHARLES LAVERNE
CABBAGE**

ny and church were hosts for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Convention in Memphis, which the Invaders were accused of disrupting by SCLC vice president Andy Young.

Cabbage, Judge Brown noted, was not a conscientious objector in the classic sense—in that he did not resist the draft for religious reasons—and that "it ap-

pears that Mr. Cabbage just didn't want to be in the Army."

WHEN Judge Brown asked if Cabbage had any comments before sentencing, Cabbage said "No."

During the trial last month Cabbage argued that he had intended to report to Local Board 83 on the morning of May 10, 1968, but was unable to because of deep depression caused by a "persecution complex and a fragmented personality."

He testified he was a conscientious objector but was now prepared to enter the service in a noncombat capacity.

The former employe of the War on Poverty Committee program said he was unaware of all the noncombat alternatives the Army offered conscientious objectors.

Asst. U.S. Atty. Harry Klein said he thought the sentence was "fair and reasonable."

CABBAGE could have received a maximum of five years in prison plus a \$10,000 fine. The judge instead ordered that the one-year state sentence for receiving stolen property and carrying a loaded .25-caliber pistol be served concurrently with the federal sentence.

Following the sentence, Moore filed an appeal and later said, "I have no comment. I don't like to second-guess a judge but I think it was too harsh and I'm going to appeal it."