

Indict policemen, Maywood urges

By James Campbell

The Maywood mayor and other village officials said Sunday they will meet with Illinois Atty. Gen. William J. Scott to discuss bringing murder charges against 14 policemen involved in the killing of two Black Panther Party leaders.

Scott told The Sun-Times that his office routinely looks into such complaints but said he had not been contacted yet by the Maywood officials. He refused further comment.

The Maywood officials issued a statement calling the killings a "blatant act of legitimized murder" and said they will meet Monday with Scott to seek ways to bring their charges.

They said they will ask Scott to "investigate Mr. Hanrahan's role in directing this atrocity." The policemen who made the raid

work out of the office of Edward V. Hanrahan, Cook County state's attorney.

Fred Hampton, Panther chairman in Illinois, and Mark Clark, a Panther official from Peoria, were shot to death early Thursday during what police termed a gun battle in a West Side apartment.

Grew up in Maywood

Police, armed with a search warrant, said they were attacked by the Panthers as they sought to search the apartment.

Two policemen were hurt in the fray.

Meanwhile, William Hampton, 22, brother of the slain Panther official, said an independent autopsy showed no powder burns on the hands of Fred Hampton, indicating he fired no shots at police as police claimed.

Hampton was reared in Maywood, and his parents still live there. Mayor Leonard Chabala said Maywood was calling for the investigation because "Fred was a Maywood

citizen; this is his home town and people here were concerned about it."

Seven of nine members of the Maywood Human Relations Commission signed the statement calling for murder indictments and asking an investigation. Also, three of six village trustees signed it. Chabala said the other three trustees were out of town.

The statement also criticized the "silent majority" who condoned police actions and said it was similar to reactions of Germans

in the early days of the Nazi genocide policy toward Jews.

Evidence 'clear'

The statement, read by Village Trustee Thomas Strieter at a press conference in Maywood City Hall, said evidence collected at the scene "clearly indicates" that all shooting was done by police.

Mayor Chabala said the statement was supported by citizens and officials, blacks and whites alike.

Back



Maywood Mayor Leonard Chabala (left) talks at suburb's city hall about death of Fred Hampton. Standing next to the mayor is Fred's brother, William. (Sun-Times Photo by Bob Black)

Repression plan seen

By Sam Washington

South Side community leader asserted Sunday that the killing of Black Panther leader Fred Hampton signaled the start of a national police repression program. "We should not be alarmed by such acts by police; rather, we should be alarmed by the

large portion of Americans who will not call for an end to such police activities," said the Rev. Curtis Burrell, director of the Kenwood-Oakland Community Organization. He maintained that the killing of the Black Panther Party chairman was "part of the initiation of a police repression program in the nation against outspoken black leaders and white

in Hampton killing

radicals and other vocal minority groups in America."

The Rev. Mr. Burrell and more than 30 other speakers talked at a "Town Meeting" held at the University of Illinois Chicago Circle Campus. The meeting, sponsored by the Chicago Committee on National Priorities, was the first of about 35 similar gatherings to be held around the country in the next two months.

Latin spokesman riled

Earlier, another speaker, Obed Lopez, of the Latin American Defense Organization, said, "I don't know what the police had in mind (in killing Hampton), but none of us are inclined now to decrease our activities in trying to change the injustices that the power structure will not attempt to change."

He said the killing "has brought the Latin community much closer to the black community and the Black Panther Party."

In the matter of priorities for the nation, the Rev. Mr. Burrell said, "It is the duty of a nation to set priorities that will save itself; and until we begin to find the answer to why

white America finds it necessary to repress, America is doomed to eventual death."

Many other speakers referred bitterly to the death of Hampton. Mrs. Joan Phillips Brown, co-ordinator of the Women Mobilized for Change, said, "The murder of Fred Hampton reminds me that the position of rhetoric today is a dangerous one."

Gang leaders and professors

Speakers at the conference included youth gang leaders, university professors, welfare workers, businessmen and psychologists.

"Priorities" discussed included end of the Vietnam war, income supplements, adequate housing, day-care centers for working mothers, and financing of human rights activities. Another priority discussed was ending what some speakers called police harassment of minority groups.

Herbert N. Hazelkorn, chairman of the committee sponsoring the session, said tapes of the conference would be given to state legislators in hopes of effecting changes.