

**Black's story****No assassination plot, raider insists**

By Harlan Draeger

Detective James (Duke) Davis, one of five black officers in the Dec. 4 raid that led to the death of two Black Panther leaders, has denied reports that they were deliberately "assassinated."

Davis spoke out on the issue after a re-enactment of the raid, telecast Thursday night by WBBM-TV (Channel 2).

"All the colored officers felt the same way I did," he said.

"We were responding to a violation of the law. We established our right to be there by getting a search warrant. When we went there legally, we were attacked illegally."

DAVIS, FIRST man inside the door of the apartment at 2337 W. Monroe, noted that state's attorney's police have been accused by many blacks of shooting Fred Hampton, Illinois Panther chairman, in his sleep. He said:

"I can't understand why they would think that five black officers would stand by or watch and condone white officers kill a man in his sleep."

Davis said there was "no necessity" to kill Hampton if police wanted to get rid of him because he was going to prison on a robbery conviction anyway "in 13 days."

Davis said that the Panthers



James Davis

either were "neglectful of their leader's safety" by not awakening him when the shooting started or he was a "sound sleeper."

DURING THE re-enactment by officers who actually took part in the raid, Sgt. Daniel Groth said he first rapped on the apartment door with his revolver several times. Groth said he heard a male voice from within ask, "Who's there?"

Groth said he responded, "Police officers. We have a search warrant. Open the door."

Groth said the male voice

replied, "Just a minute." The sergeant said he waited a second and then told Davis, "OK, Duke." Davis said he forced open the door and burst into the room.

GROTH SAID that, as he entered behind Davis, "A shot rings out and Duke falls." He said he saw a woman lying on a bed with a shotgun, "calmly cocking in my direction."

Groth said the shotgun blast went over his left shoulder and he ducked back out the door. He said he then poked his revolver back inside the apartment and fired several times.

Several officers acted out their roles in the raid in a full-size mockup of the apartment during the 29-minute presentation. Detective Joseph Gorman told of "stitching" the wall of the front bedroom with machinegun bullets.

Groth said that during the gun battle he ordered a cease-fire and asked the occupants to give up but got no response.



Re-enactment (left) by state's attorney's police of raid on Black Panther head quarters. At right, Sgt. George Groth, who led the raid. (Photos from TV screen by Charles Krejcsi)



## Will Panthers get equal TV time?

# Raid's re-enactment

By Norman Mark  
Daily News Television Critic

The extraordinary move made by WBBM-TV of broadcasting a 28-minute, uninterrupted re-enactment by state's attorney's police of the controversial raid on Black Panther Party headquarters immediately raises more questions than the police version might have settled.

The report, which extended the half-hour 10 p.m. Channel 2 News to 55 minutes Thursday night, was hurriedly filmed by two crews in the state's attorney's office, beginning about 1:30 p.m. immediately after State's Atty. Edward V. Hanrahan told a press conference that he deplored trial by media.

The re-enactment was given to the station with the provision that nearly the entire police version be broadcast without interruption. Hanrahan was at the station Thursday night attempting to personally oversee the editing of the film, but left before air time, having been assured the air version would meet his requirements.

Other local TV stations reported they had been offered the same story possibility, but news directors there said they had refused to work under Hanrahan's restrictions.

**THE FIRST**, and most serious question, about the telecast concerns the Federal Communication Commission's fairness doctrine.

Will the state's attorney now allow the defendants in the case to re-enact their version of the shootout, and will WBBM-TV also give the defendants 28 uninterrupted minutes on the 10 p.m. news?

Bob Ferrante, WBBM-TV news director, said he would provide the equal time.

"But remember, in every single newscast for the last week, the viewers have heard nothing but the other side calling the state's attorney a murderer. This first, clear, clinical, unemotional presentation is a community service. It is a story that had to be told. It is TV journalism at its best," Ferrante said.

**ANOTHER** of the problems

raised by the telecast concerns the judicial code of ethics, which rules against pretrial disclosure of evidence on television. Has Hanrahan now established a precedent that will allow police to make re-enactments for other cases?

Then there is the continuing problem of an elected public official airing disclosures, with strings attached, on one station, despite the fact that he is elected to serve all the people. It is media manipulation and favoritism of the grossest kind.

If Hanrahan would have publicly offered his re-

enactment without restrictions, all local television stations undoubtedly would have covered it.

**BOB MANEWITH**, WGN-TV news director, asked, "What makes a public official go through the expense of clearing his office, hiring carpenters, and building a mock-up of the apartment out of two-by-fours? It is certainly not needed for the trial, for which floor plans are usually enough."

(I thought, by the way, that the mock-up was visually confusing at times.)

WBBM-TV reported that

## raises questions

viewer calls immediately following the newscast were 2-to-1 against showing the re-enactment.

The station undoubtedly

scored the local television news scoop of the year, but at the expense of relinquishing its responsibility to present both sides of the re-enactment.