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Autopsy shows slain Panther had taken dose of sleep drug *Boch*

By Thomas J. Dalan

An independent autopsy on the body of Fred Hampton has revealed Hampton's blood contained a high amount of a sleep-inducing drug, it was learned Wednesday.

A heavy dose of the drug — Seconal — was found in samples of the slain Black Panther's blood, Panther attorney Dennis Cunningham said.

Panthers contend Hampton was asleep when killed Dec. 4 in a raid on an apartment at 2337 W. Monroe.

State's attorney's police killed Hampton and another Panther and found a quantity of rifles and ammunition in the apartment.

Claim guns nearby

Police have maintained they were fired upon from the bedroom in which Hampton was found. Hampton was found, according to police, with

a gun near each hand.

Dr. Victor Levine, former chief pathologist for the coroner who conducted the independent examination, confirmed Cunningham's statement.

He said that 4.1 to 4.5 milligrams of the drug were found in every 100 cubic centimeters of Hampton's blood. He said this was about three times the normal amount needed to induce deep sleep for a man of Hampton's size and weight.

Lasts five hours

Seconal takes about a half hour to be effective and a normal dose is active for five to six hours after that.

An inquest is being held into Hampton's death. Dr. Levine has not been subpoenaed to testify at it.

Bobby Rush, who succeeded Hampton as the leader of the Illinois branch of the party,

told The Sun-Times that, to his knowledge, Hampton did not use sleeping pills. He also said the occupants of the apartment did not know of any pills being there.

Police have not revealed whether they found any pills in the apartment. Seconal is a prescription drug.