

# CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

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## A time to cool it

The circumstances of the death of Illinois Black Panther chairman Fred Hampton and a friend in an exchange of gunfire with state's attorney's police will dependably come to light in the trials of those arrested at the time.

Meanwhile we urge restraint on both sides of the dispute that has broken out — perhaps inevitably — in the wake of the incident. State's Atty. Edward V. Hanrahan, for example, quite properly stood behind his men, two of whom were wounded in the fight, but his remark about the "vicious Black Panther attack" prejudged the whole matter and his remark about expecting "every decent citizen of our community" to side with him could scarcely have been seriously intended to apply to the South Side.

By the same token the South Side residents could be far better served than by the Black Panthers' deputy minister of defense, Bobby Rush, who charged: "The pigs undertook a search-and-destroy mission this morning in their relentless plan to destroy the Black Panther Party." This was a totally unwarranted leap to a conclusion and a deliberate effort to incite further friction between the races. We think and hope the time is past when contempt for law can be a major qualification for leadership in Chicago's black community.

Since the killing of two Chicago policemen last month in a Black Panther shootout, a rumor has gained new currency in the black community that the word is out to "get" the Panthers and that the Thursday raid that resulted in the death of Hampton and Mark Clark was part of that plan.

The conclusion flies in the face of contrary evidence: The state's attorney's policemen who raided Hampton's apartment were not under the direction of the Chicago Police Department. They held a valid search warrant from a Criminal Court judge, based on a sworn statement by a police sergeant that he had information of a cache of illegal weapons. A large cache of such weapons was found. This evidence strongly supports the contention that the police mission was legitimate and lawful.

The nature and order of events inside the apartment remains to be determined, and that determination should be made as objectively as the community and its agencies can get that important job done.

Meanwhile let all Chicagoans bear in mind that neither this nor any other city can long survive under a system that "settles" differences by armed confrontation. There can be only one law for all; that law must be applied even-handedly for all, and respected by all.