

Pre-raid report didn't list Panther weapons: Johnson

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An FBI report made two weeks before the December, 1969, raid on a Black Panther apartment made no mention of illegal weapons in the apartment, according to testimony in a multimillion-dollar damage suit being heard in federal court.

Marlin Johnson, who headed the FBI office here at the time of the raid, conceded Friday it was "unusual" no mention of weapons was made, if their existence was known.

The raid was carried out to seize illegal weapons, law enforcement officials said at the time. Two Panther leaders were killed.

Johnson and 27 others, including former

State's Atty. Edward V. Hanrahan, are defendants in the suit.

JAMES Montgomery, attorney for the plaintiffs, drew the distinction between the fatal raid and one that Johnson led on Panther headquarters, 2350 W. Madison, in June, 1969.

The former FBI official testified he was able to convince Panthers to leave the building without firing any shots, although he and 40 other agents had come armed with tear gas.

The FBI was at that time seeking Panther fugitive George Sams, who, it turned out, was not in the building.

The trial resumes Tuesday in the courtroom of Judge Joseph Sam Perry.