

Post 12-2-76

## High U.S. Officials Named In Panthers' \$100 Million Suit

United Press International

The Black Panther Party filed a \$100 million class action suit yesterday against nearly two dozen present or former high federal officials, charging them with actions since 1967 to destroy the party and its members.

At a news conference, Black Panther Chairman Elaine Brown said the suit was filed in the hope it would end nine years of government harassment of the party.

"Through this lawsuit we intend to bring an end to a long, national nightmare, exposing that the most extreme and violent actions were employed by high government officials against citizens of this nation," she said.

"We hope the Carter administration will live up to its campaign promises to provide sunshine in the government and disclose what has been happening since 1967, she said.

The suit, filed in behalf of the party and families of party members alleged to have been killed because of govern-

ment action, named present and former officials of the FBI, Central Intelligence Agency, Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service, Army and U.S. Postal Service.

Among those named as defendants in the suit: FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley and a predecessor, J. Edgar Hoover; CIA Director George Bush and two former directors; Attorney General Edward H. Levi; former Attorney General John Mitchell; Robert Mardian, a former assistant attorney general and a Watergate figure; the current commissioner and former commissioners of the Internal Revenue Service; former Army Secretary Howard H. Callaway; Harold R. Aaron, assistant chief of staff for Army intelligence; Postmaster General Benjamin F. Ballar and Winton M. Blount, one of his predecessors, and Treasury Secretary William E. Simon and two of his officials.