

Halperin talks to reporters in Chicago.

FBI accused in death of Black Panther

WASHINGTON — A civil liberties activist Friday accused the FBI of arranging the killing of a Black Panther leader in 1969 and asked Congress to investigate. Morton Halperin, director of an investigative project supported by the American Civil Liberties Union, made the accusation in a letter to Richard Sprague, chief counsel to the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Halperin said the committee should look into the killing of Black Panther leader Fred Hampton, who was shot to death during a police raid on his Chicago apartment in December 1969. Halperin said documents assembled by the group "do not absolutely prove but strongly suggest that the FBI encouraged the Chicago police to carry on the raid for the purpose of getting Hampton killed."

There was nothing they could do

DETROIT — A newspaper knew it was coming. The police knew it, too. But it happened anyway, and a man is dead. The Detroit Free Press received a call late Wednesday from William Walters, 33. Walters said he was about to kill John Slock, 36. A reporter called police, who then called Walters and asked him not to do it. But no patrol car was dispatched to the east side neighborhood where Walters and Slock had carried on a three-year feud. Three hours later, Slock was shot to death while sitting in a car parked outside Walters' home. Homicide Lt. Elmer Brewer said a squad car was on the way to the scene at the moment Slock was killed but "there would be nothing they could do but preserve the peace." "You don't drop everything because you've got a threat," Brewer said.

CIA ex-aide: Oswald was seen as 'kook'

WASHINGTON — A former CIA official with personal knowledge of the case said Friday he believes the Russians and Cubans considered Lee Harvey Oswald "a kook" and never encouraged him to kill John F. Kennedy. David A. Phillips, who was involved in CIA surveillance of the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City in 1963, said the CIA knew Oswald had contacted Cuban and Soviet diplomats there more than a month before Kennedy's assassination on Nov. 22, 1963. "I know of no evidence which establishes that Oswald was encouraged by either embassy to kill President Kennedy," Phillips said in an interview.