

## Black Panther Raiders Indicted; State's

By JAMES M. STEPHENS JR.

On December 4, 1969, Illinois Black Panthers Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were killed by a special detachment of Chicago policemen acting at 4 a.m. on a tip that the Panther leaders had a cache of weapons in a West Side Chicago apartment. Not much hope was held by the city's Black community that any justice would be done. But last week, all the police officers who participated in the raid, together with Cook County State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan, were indicted by a special grand jury for "willfully, fraudulently and deceitfully conspiring, confederating and agreeing to commit an offense of obstruction of justice."

Criminal Court Judge Joseph Power, before a packed courtroom filled with journalists and survivors of the raid, opened the two-month, suppressed indictments under order from the Illinois Supreme Court which had ruled that the indictments had to be opened and the appointment of Mitchell Ware, as special investigator in the case as "friend of court," was illegal. Ware, at one time the highest ranking Black in law enforcement in the country, is the former head of the Illinois Bureau of Investigation. He quit his post to look into alleged illegalities in the Panther case by the special prosecutor, Barnabas Sears.

The indictment named with Hanrahan two Black police officers, George Jones and James (Gloves)

Davis, along with white officers Daniel Groth, John Sadunas, Raymond Broderick, Edward Carmody, John Ciszewski, William Corbett, Joseph Gorman, Charles Koludrovic, John Meade and John Mulchrone and Hanrahan aide Richard Jalovec. Named as unindicted co-conspirators, Chicago Supt. of Police James B. Conlisk Jr., police officials Sheldon Sorsky, Harry Ervanian, Earl Holt and James Meltreger were charged "with intent to obstruct criminal prosecution . . ."

Conviction for conspiracy to obstruct justice carries a possible maximum penalty of one to three years in an Illinois penitentiary. The minimum is a \$1,000 fine. The designation of co-conspirator means that the person had some knowledge of the purported conspiracy, but that there was insufficient evidence to indict them.

Reaction from those intimately involved with the case was reserved as the indictments only precluded trial on the charges, and possibly appeal by either the winner or loser, when the case goes before a court. Kermit Coleman, attorney for the Fred Hampton family who has filed a multi-million dollar suit against the police department and the state's attorney office, said quietly: "I was surprised that it was finally seen fit to follow the letter of the law. This case would have been forgotten six months ago if the people of the community had not raised ques-

## Attorney Asked To Quit His \$35,000 Post

tions about the conduct of the raid and the police. But anything can happen in Cook County, so we'll have to wait and see what happens after this."

Sherman H. Skolnick, a legal researcher who probes politicians and others of suspected wrongdoing, said simply, "It's not enough. There should have been more."

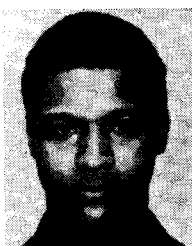
Bill Hampton, brother of the slain Black Panther Fred Hampton, said, "The people won a victory by putting pressure on the judicial system. I just hope that the pressure is strong enough to

Black folks believe that ice won't melt in hell than to make them believe that Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were not murdered," one West Side Chicago resident told JET. He was expressing the views shared by a wider segment of Blacks in Chicago and other cities where the Black Panthers have been the victims of violent police actions.

Meanwhile, both Hanrahan and the Panther police raiders have been urged to take a leave of absence from their jobs until the case is settled.



*E. Hanrahan*



*Mark Clark*



*Fred Hampton*



*K. Coleman*

make the indictments stick, and that we won't be betrayed by a tokenism thing. If this case is successful, we hope to do the same for countless other Blacks who have similarly been murdered."

While some Blacks were surprised and pleased at the indictment of Hanrahan and the police raiders, others expressed disappointment. They argue that the Panther raiders should have been indicted on charges of murder and that the lesser charges are a white-wash.

"It would be easier to make

As an elected official in Illinois, Hanrahan has the right to stay on his \$35,000-a-year job until the case is resolved, even though he is indicted of criminal charges. However, political pressure from his Democratic Party could force such action. In that event, he would take leave and be required to give up his five-figure salary.

Police Supt. James B. Conlisk Jr. was firm about his intentions. "I will continue to direct the activities of this (police) department." He made no comment about the special grand jury indictments.