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JUDGE POWER He had suppressed charges
EDWARD HANRAHAN Top prosecutor indicted
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Panther Raids SFChronicle

13 Chicago Cops Are Indicted

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Chicago

A long-suppressed grand jury indictment yesterday charged state's attorney Edward V. Hanrahan, chief prosecutor of Chicago, and 13 other law officers with conspiring to obstruct justice in the investigation of a police raid in which two Black Panther leaders were killed.

Chicago police superintendent James Conlisk Jr. was one of five persons named as co-conspirators, but he was not indicted.

Those facing the criminal charges are Hanrahan, a key mover in the Chicago Democratic party, an assistant state's attorney, eight policemen who took part in the Dec. 4, 1969, raid, and four police officers who later investigated the shootings and exonerated the officers.

Chief criminal court judge Joseph A. Power, who had suppressed the indictments since June 25, opened them yesterday on orders of the Illinois Supreme Court.

Power — a former law partner of Mayor Richard Daley — had kept the indictments locked up, citing a variety of reasons, including charges that the grand jury had not heard all the pertinent witnesses and that it had been pressured into returning the true bills. Yesterday morning, the Supreme Court ordered him to act.

The indictments charged that Hanrahan, 50, and the others conspired to obstruct justice in the investigation which followed the raid at

4:30 a.m. on a Chicago West Side apartment in which Fred Hampton, 21, Illinois chairman of the Black Panther party, and Mark Clark, 22, a Panther organizer from Peoria, Ill., were killed and four Panthers were wounded.

Those indicted were also accused of "unlawfully, willingly and knowingly destroying, altering, concealing and disguising physical evidence by planting false evidence and by furnishing false information."

The raid on the Panther apartment—ordered by Hanrahan's office as a weapons search—has been the center of a national furor.

CLAIM

The policemen from Hanrahan's office claimed they were greeted with a hail of gunfire when they broke into the apartment and that they fought a desperate battle

See Back Page

13 Chicago Cops Are Indicted

From Page 1

with the embattled Panthers. Hanrahan backed this account to the full.

The seven surviving Panthers were charged with attempted murder. But Hanrahan dropped the charges in May, 1970, after a federal grand jury concluded that, of the 100 some shots fired in the apartment, only one came from the gun of a Panther.

Police investigators were accused of issuing information which they should have known to be false and, in inspecting the Panther apartment, intentionally focusing on evidence which might back up the police version of the raid.

There were 21 separate citations of police misconduct before and after the raid.

Hanrahan was also accused of preparing "false and misleading" information to gain the indictment against the seven Panthers. Hanrahan leaned against a wall of the courtroom, his arms crossed, as Power read the indictment. He said afterwards, "I have done absolutely nothing wrong. I want a full and open hearing as soon as possible so the public can have that demonstrated in court."

Maximum penalty on the charges would be one to three years in prison and/or a \$1000 fine.

Mayor Daley, who backed Hanrahan for the state's attorney's office and is expected to have the deciding voice whether he will run again, noted the contents of the indictment had been common knowledge in Chicago for

months and said, "I'm happy they finally opened the envelope."

He would not comment on his estimation of Hanrahan's political future, but said, "Where's the evidence? Where's the obstruction of justice?"

The indictments appeared likely to act as a political bombshell in Chicago.

Hanrahan, a Harvard law school graduate and one-time crime-busting U.S. attorney, had been regarded as a star performer in Daley's Democratic organization when he won office in 1968 under the slogan "criminals fear this man."

Since news that a true bill had been returned spread through Chicago in April, Power had been engaged in a running feud with Barnabas Sears, the distinguished criminal attorney who acted as special prosecutor for the grand jury.

Spokesmen for the Black Panthers in Chicago could not be reached for comment regarding the grand jury's action.

The Chicago Bar Association urged that Hanrahan and others named by the grand jury be given leaves of absence from their positions pending final resolution of the grand jury proceedings.

The association also urged that Judge Power, who presided over the grand jury proceedings, remove himself from the case.

The Chicago Confederation of Police said in a statement the grand jury gave only one side of the story of what happened in the raid and was "rowing the wrong boat" in indicting the officers.