

The Black Panther Party needs money to provide bail funds, pay funeral costs, and to carry on Chairman Fred's work in building a People's Medical Care Center and providing Breakfast for Children. Send all contributions to the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party, 2350 West Madison, Chicago, Illinois.

Fred Hampton, 21, Chairman of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party was shot and

killed in his bed this morning, December 4th, by Illinois state's attorney's police. Also murdered was Mark Clark, Panther Defense Captain of Peoria, Illinois. Four other Panthers were wounded in the raid on Hampton's apartment at 2337 West Monroe, one block from the Black Panther Party headquarters.

According to police reports, a gun battle began after fifteen state's attorney's police cordoned off the block and tried to enter the Monroe street apartment. The raid was made on the basis of a search warrant issued by Circuit Judge Robert Collins after a witness swore he had seen "a large cache of shotguns and other weapons" in the building earlier in the day.

Sgt. Daniel Groth of the state's attorney's police led the raid. At a press conference Groth said, "I knocked on the front door, and someone asked 'Who's there?' I identified myself as a police officer and said I had a warrant to search the premises. I got no response. I repeatedly demanded entry for several minutes. Then I forced the front door with my shoulder. It was only a light touch. As I entered the darkened apartment I saw a girl on a bed holding a shotgun. As she fired the gun, Det. Duke Davis and three others fell to the kitchen floor."

This writer went to the apartment twelve hours after the slaying took place. Sgt. Groth is lying. He said he forced the front door open, was met by gunfire, and four of his cohorts fell to the kitchen floor.

Fact — The front door opens onto the front room.

Fact — The kitchen floor is in the kitchen which is the back room.

Fact — The front room door shows no evidence of having been forced.

Fact — There is a bullet hole in the front door which was made by a bullet entering the front room.

Bobby Rush, Minister of Defense of the Illinois Black Panther Party reported that a witness to the raid said he heard a knock on the front door. Someone in the apartment asked, "Who's there?" "Tommy," was the reply. Then a gunshot ripped through the door and into the front room.

All police statements insist that it was the police that were attacked, that a wild gun battle ensued, and that they were carrying on a legal search to confiscate illegal weapons.

Bobby Rush called it "another search and destroy mission." He said, "this vicious murder of Chairman Fred and Clark was implemented by that dog Nixon and Hanrahan and all the rest of the pigs. Hampton never fired back when the pigs came into his back room and shot Fred in the head. He couldn't have fired back because he was asleep.

"If the Panthers had as many weapons as the pigs said they had and if they had fired them, there would have to be evidence those weapons were fired."

There was no evidence in the apartment that the Panthers had fired. There is one bullet

hole going into the front door. In Hampton's bedroom, a blood-stained mattress lies on the floor, there are nine bullet holes in one wall, and fourteen bullet holes in another wall. The last set of holes are the effect of bullets which were shot through that wall from an adjoining bedroom. If it was a pitched 10-minute gun battle, as the police claim, then it is truly amazing that only two cops were injured — one struck in the right hand by flying glass, the other grazed by a shotgun pellet on the left leg.

Coroner Andrew J. Toman said Hampton was shot twice in the head and once in the left shoulder, and that Clark had been shot once in the left chest and once in the left arm.

Four other Panthers were taken to County Hospital. They are: Ronald (Doc) Satchel, 19, Minister of Medicine, shot in the abdomen and left leg; Blair Anderson, 18, shot in the abdomen; Vernlin Brewer, 17, shot in the left leg and thigh; and Brenda Harris, 18, shot in the right leg and left hand.

Three others were arrested: Deborah Johnson, 19; Louis Trueluck, 39; and Harold Bell, 23. State's Attorney Hanrahan said all of those arrested in the "shootout" would be charged with attempted murder.

Bobby Rush said, "The people will beat the pigs to death and just because Chairman Fred has fallen does not signal the end of the Black Panther Party in Illinois."
"When one of us falls, 1,000 will take his place."

Marshall Rosenthal

