

Witness Claims Seale Ordered Panther Killed

Judge Instructs Ex-Member of Black Militant Group to Undergo Mental Test

BY THOMAS R. LINDEN

Times Staff Writer

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—A former Black Panther testified at a pretrial bail hearing Wednesday that Party Chairman Bobby G. Seale ordered the killing of another Panther last May.

Later, George Sams Jr., 24, the man who implicated Seale in the slaying, was ordered by Superior Court Judge Harold M. Mulvey to undergo a mental examination.

Seale's attorney, Charles R. Garry of San Francisco, charged that Sams, of Highland Park, Mich., had spent more than three years in two New York institutions as an "alleged dangerous mental defective."

Suspected Informer

Sams was one of 14 Black Panthers originally charged with the kidnap and murder of Alex Rackley, a New York City Panther. Police say Rackley was killed because he was suspected of being an informer. Panthers claim he was a "member in good standing" at the time of his death.

Sams, who is believed to be the only one of the Panther 14 to have implicated Seale, pleaded guilty Dec. 1 of second-degree murder. Two other Panthers, Warren Kimbro, 35, and Loretta Luckes, 22, have also pleaded guilty to reduced murder charges.

The prosecution called Sams to the stand Wednesday to try to provide enough evidence against Seale so that he could be held without bail pending trial. Connecticut state law says bail may be denied in capital cases "if the proof is evident or the presumption is great."

Sams said that "Chairman Bobby" had visited local Panther headqua-

took Rackley 25 miles away to a swamp in Middlefield, Conn., where they killed him.

"Kimbro shot him first and Lonnie shot him second," said Sams. "We were ordered not to come back unless he was dead."

Throughout the testimony, Seale, who had vowed Tuesday to maintain decorum in the courtroom, stared forward at the bench. Sams, seated in the witness chair, several times rested his head on his hands and closed his eyes as Garry and Arnold Markle, the state's attorney, argued over legal points.

Under cross-examination by Garry, Sams claimed he had never been in a mental institution.

He did admit to being confined to the Eastern Correctional Institution in Napanoch, N.Y., from February, 1963, to November, 1964. Sams was transferred there after being held for two years at the Wassaic State School in New York, which, said Garry, is a school for mental retardates.

A decision on Seale's bail request will be delayed pending Sams' mental examination.

ters last May 19 after giving a speech to students at Yale University.

When Seale arrived at the Panther house, according to Sams, Rackley, the suspected police informer, was lying bound and gagged on an upstairs bed.

Sams testified that Seale ordered Rackley ungagged and then asked him if he "was a pig."

After Rackley denied the charge, according to Sams, Seale told a couple of other Panthers to "off the _____." The word off, said Sams, means kill in the language of the Panthers.

Sams said a three-man execution squad, including himself, Kimbro and Lonnie M c L u c a s, then