

Pretrial Panther Witness Testifies That Seale Ordered Rackley's Death

NEW HAVEN, Conn., April 22 (UPI)—Black Panther chairman Bobby Seale was accused today at his pretrial hearing of ordering the death of a Panther suspected of turning informer.

The key witness for the prosecution, George Sams Jr., 24, testified that Seale came to the New Haven Panther headquarters and questioned the suspected police informer, Alex Rackley of New York City, and later gave execution orders.

Sams said Rackley was tied to a bed and gagged in the home of Warren Kimbro which also served as party headquarters.

"He lay in bed tied up," Sams testified. He said that Seale asked Rackley if he was working for the police.

"Is you a pig?" Seale reportedly asked Rackley.

"No sir, Chairman Bobby, I'm not a pig," Sams said that Rackley replied.

Then, Sams said, Seale turned to leave the bedroom and Kimbro asked what should be done with Rackley.

"What do you do with a pig?" Seale was quoted as replying. "Off with the (obscenity)."

Sams said he interpreted this to mean that Rackley was

to be killed. Sams testified that Rackley then was taken to Middlefield and shot to death with a .45 caliber pistol provided by Rory Hith.

Superior Court Judge Harold M. Mulvey acted independently of defense motions that Sams be given psychiatric evaluation and ordered tests to be undertaken at Fairfield Hills State Hospital.

Seale is charged with the kidnaping and murder of Rackley and is seeking release from jail on bail pending the trial. The trial of Seale and 10 other Panthers charged in the Rackley slaying is not expected to begin until the fall.