

# Contempt Charges Dropped Against 2 Black Panthers

From News Dispatches

NEW HAVEN, Conn., April 21—Superior court judge Harold M. Mulvey dropped contempt charges and suspended six-month jail sentences today for two Black Panthers charged with disrupting the murder trial of Panther leader Bobby Seale.

The Panthers Party chief, David Hilliard, and Minister of Culture Elmer Douglas, were freed after they apologized to Mulvey. They said they had not intended to disrupt his courtroom April 14.

Both men were cited for contempt and sentenced to jail terms for scuffling with guards over the reading of newspapers in the courtroom.

After Douglas told Mulvey the disturbance occurred because he did not know that the plainclothes guard who tried to usher him out of the room was connected with the court and after he apologized for "spearheading" the disturbance, the jurist dropped the charges against both men.

Seale, who is on trial for the kidnaping and murder of Panther Alex Rackley, appeared in the courtroom only briefly between consultations with his San Francisco attorney, Charles Garry.

About 200 demonstrators paraded outside, but Seale told his supporters "don't nobody say nothing," upon entering the heavily guarded courtroom. Thirty of the demonstra-

tors were later arrested in connection with disorderly conduct.

The Yale College Student Senate, representing the 4,000 undergraduates, voted 33 to 26 Monday night to support a strike in support of Seale and other Panthers awaiting trial in connection with the death of last May of Rackley, who was reportedly suspected of being a police informer.

Rackley's death. Two were referred to juvenile court, two pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, one pleaded guilty to kidnaping resulting in death, and charges against one were dropped. Of the remaining eight awaiting trial, six are in jail in Connecticut and two in Colorado fighting extradition.

Fourteen Panthers were arrested fighting extradition.