

## Panther Reportedly Wanted to Testify in Senate

7/31/70  
By JOSEPH LELYVELD

Special to The New York Times

NEW HAVEN, July 30 — A detective who interrogated Lonnie McLucas three weeks after the Alex Rackley slaying testified today at Mr. McLucas's trial that the defendant was ready then to appear before a Senate committee that was investigating the Black Panther party.

A tape recording of the interrogation was played for the jury yesterday. In it, Mr. McLucas could be heard confessing to having fired a shot into Rackley's body.

The tone of his responses was anything but militant. Throughout the recorded interrogation he replied "Yes, sir" and "No, sir" to the detective's questions and followed his lead in referring to Rackley as "the victim."

This morning the detective, Sgt. Vincent DeRosa of the New Haven police, told of reporting on the interrogation to State's Attorney Arnold Markle, who is prosecuting this case and those of the seven Panthers due to stand trial here in the Superior Court after Mr. McLucas.

Sergeant DeRosa said he told the prosecutor that Mr. McLucas had said "he wanted to

testify before the Senate, before the McClellan Committee on the Panthers' activities."

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, headed by Senator John L. McClellan of Arkansas, was then holding hearings on the party.

The detective did not say whether he had been the one to broach the idea of an appearance before the committee to Mr. McLucas, who had been arrested five days earlier, on June 6, 1969, in Salt Lake City.

An impression of the defendant as a somewhat malleable person has emerged from the testimony so far. As a Panther dealing with Rackley, he has been portrayed as always taking orders, hardly ever giving any. He also appears to have submitted easily to the requests of law enforcement officials immediately following his arrest.

Thus when cross-examination of Sergeant DeRosa began this morning, Mr. McLucas's

lawyer, Theodore I. Koskoff, demanded that he be shown any statements or reports by the detective relating to the case so that he could judge whether any of his client's responses in the interrogation were the result of "suggestions."

The request was made under a Connecticut statute passed last year, which empowers a judge to order such disclosure. Judge Harold M. Mulvey granted the request over strenuous protests from Mr. Markle, who complained that the defense was trying "to get into the entire Government file."

Eventually Judge Mulvey agreed to examine the detective's files in his chambers and to decide what in these has to be shown to the defense under the statute. The prosecutor handed the judge seven envelopes full of material related to Sergeant DeRosa's investigations in the case. Of these, only one was finally turned over to Mr. Koskoff.