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## THREE COURTS ACT IN PANTHER CASES

### Motions Involve New Haven Trial Set to Begin Today

Associate Justice John M. Harlan of the United States Supreme Court refused to intervene in the Connecticut prosecution of eight Black Panthers charged with murder and kidnapping yesterday, the eve of a trial for one of the defendants.

In related developments, a State Superior Court judge in New Haven refused to dismiss the murder indictments against the Black Panther Party's national chairman, Bobby G. Seale, and a three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit here reserved decision on a question of bail for the secretary of the New Haven Black Panther chapter.

The separate actions by judges in the three courts yesterday all involved Black Panthers charged in the death 13 months ago of a fellow Black Panther, Alex Rackley.

#### Demonstration Is Planned

One of the eight defendants, Lonnie McLucas, 24 years old, is scheduled to begin trial today on charges of kidnapping resulting in death, a crime punishable by death.

Panther supporters are planning to demonstrate outside the Elm Street courthouse in New Haven this morning as the court starts to select a jury.

In Washington, Justice Harlan refused a defense request to block enforcement of the special courtroom rules imposed for the Panther proceedings.

The special rules prohibit cameras, sound equipment, sketching and demonstrations in and around the courthouse. Attorneys and witnesses in the case will be forbidden to give newsmen interviews that could result in disclosure of prejudicial information.

#### Argument Rejected

In New Haven yesterday, Superior Court Judge Harold M. Mulvey ruled that the grand jury that indicted Seale last August met the requirements of state law and "reasonably represented a cross-section of the people of the County of New Haven."

Seale's attorneys, during a hearing last April, contended that the 18-member jury was made up of hand-picked friends of the New Haven County high sheriff, J. Edward Slavin.

In the third legal development yesterday, the state asked a three-judge Federal panel of the Second Circuit to keep Black Panther Frances Carter in custody until the state appeal on a decision to release her on bail is decided.

Miss Carter, jailed by Judge Mulvey last January for refusing to testify at a preliminary hearing, was released on a \$2,500 nonsurety bond last Friday, on order of a United States District Court judge, M. Joseph Blumenfeld. Her attorneys contended that if she were not released she would have served her entire six-month contempt-of-court sentence before the Connecticut Supreme Court decided her pending appeal of the contempt order.

She has been subpoenaed by the state to testify at the trial of Mr. McLucas.