

NY TIMES 17 MAY 71
Political Kidnapping Plot Tied to White Panthers

**Senate Panel Is Told Group
 Planned to Gain Hostages
 to Free Jailed Radicals**

WASHINGTON, March 16 (AP)—The White Panther party considered kidnapping political leaders of the prominence of Vice President Agnew to gain release of jailed radicals, according to a policeman's testimony released today by a Senate subcommittee.

Sgt. Clifford Murray of the Michigan State Police said the kidnapping plans had been among several courses of action suggested to or considered by White Panther officers in an effort to secure release of their chairman from the Marquette, Mich., state prison.

John A. Sinclair Jr., co-founder and chairman of the party, is serving a 9½-to-10-year term for violating Michigan drug laws.

Sergeant Murray disclosed the alleged plan in testimony last September before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. The testimony was released today.

Source Not Identified

Sergeant Murray attributed his information to "a confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past."

"The recommendation included adopting the style of the Tupamaros of South America, involving the kidnapping of Government officials to be traded against the release of 'political prisoners' in the United States," he said.

"This recommendation included the suggestion that Michigan Congressmen could be traded for John Sinclair," the detective continued. "Prominent national figures such as Senator Robert Griffin and Representative Gerald Ford might be good trading for Black Panther



Associated Press
John Sinclair Jr.



United Press International
Vice President Agnew

party leaders such as Huey Newton and Bobby Seale.

"The recommendation included the suggestion that with someone of prominence of the Vice President, Spiro Agnew, one 'could write his own ticket,'" Sergeant Murray said.

The Rev. Philip Berrigan, a Roman Catholic priest, and five other persons were indicted Jan. 12 on charges of conspiring to kidnap Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's National Security adviser, for ransom of "political prisoners" and to force United States withdrawal from Vietnam.

Sergeant Murray drew no connection between the two alleged plots and did not mention whether action had been taken to carry out the alleged Panther plan.

He quoted his source as saying that Lawrence R. Plamondon, co-founder of the party and formerly on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's list of most-wanted fugitives, had suggested that "during a riot w is a

good time to 'rip off banks' or to 'snatch Michigan Gov. William Milliken.'

The party is an all-white revolutionary organization with chapters in several states.

Sinclair and Mr. Plamondon were accused by a Federal grand jury in late 1969 of conspiring to bomb a Central Intelligence Agency office in Ann Arbor in September, 1968.

When Mr. Plamondon was arrested in July, 1970, Sergeant Murray said, his car contained about 65 pounds of dynamite "and maps indicating military installations in northern Michigan and a detailed diagram of a bank building in Traverse City, Mich."