

AUG 24 1971

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1971

## House Unit Calls Black Panthers 'Incapable' of U.S. Overthrow

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23 (AP) — A divided House Internal Security Committee described the Black Panthers today as ranting revolutionary radicals "totally incapable of overthrowing our Government by violence."

However, instead of being "merely mischievous children," said Representative Richardson Preyer, members of the militant Negro group "turn all too easily to guns in their rage and frustration."

"They pose a serious physical danger to the police," he continued, "and their violent language and conduct create a climate for revolution, even though the Panthers themselves cannot bring about a revolution."

Mr. Preyer, North Carolina Democrat who is head of a committee panel that investigated the Panthers last year, defended the nine-member committee's 145-page report amid criticism from Republicans who argued that the study should have hit harder.

### 'Subversive Criminal' Group

The four G.O.P. members of the committee—John M. Ashbrook of Ohio, Roger H. Zion of Indiana, Fletcher Thompson of Georgia and John G. Schmitz of California—contended that the report did not give "a clear understanding of the Black Panther party as a subversive criminal group using the facade of politics and Marxist-Leninist ideology as a cover for crimes of violence and extortion."

Mr. Preyer said that the facts would justify "a real zinger of a report" but added:

"Such a report would run the risk of making martyrs of the Panthers; a cooler and more balanced report would avoid any possibility of reviving a flagging Panther party by making available the charge of 'oppression.' The Panthers wear

'oppression' like a badge; it is their excuse for not making it in society or even trying to make it. It is their too easy excuse for any unlawful or violent act."

### Party Chapter Studied

The report, denouncing what it called "the gun-barrel politics" of the Black Panther party, came after research into the group's national structuring and operations of party chapters in Kansas City, Mo., Seattle, Omaha, Neb., Des Moines, Iowa, Detroit, Philadelphia and Indianapolis.

Mr. Preyer said that the party, "as a national organization, is near disintegration. Its peak membership was never more than 1,500 or 2,000, and the committee hearings document the steady decline in these numbers during the last year."

The report criticizes use of the mails for distributing the party's official newspaper. It says also the Government should be sure "all Federal tax obligations are fully met."

The G.O.P. dissidents insisted that the tone and emphasis of the report were "unfair to the police and to the American people — especially blacks — who have to cope with Panther crime and violence."

"The treatment of the Panther relationship to the Communist party is grossly inadequate," the Republicans added.