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Not Guilty Plea for Hanrahan

Chicago

State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan and 13 codefendants pleaded innocent yesterday to charges of obstructing justice in the aftermath of a police raid in which two Black Panthers were killed.

The pleas for Hanrahan, his assistant, Richard Jalonec, and 12 policemen were entered before Judge Philip Romiti of Circuit Court who on Wednesday rejected a defense plea that the indictment be dismissed as invalid.

Earlier yesterday U.S. District Judge Joseph Sam Perry ruled Hanrahan could not be held liable in a \$16 million damage suit brought by relatives and friends of the Panthers shot to death in the raid.

Perry ruled the official and governmental status of their positions made Hanrahan and his assistants immune to such litigation.

About a dozen members of the Black Panther party led by Illinois leader Bobby Rush sat in the courtroom.

They chuckled as Hanrahan insisted his constitutional rights were being denied by Judge Romiti's ruling Wednesday.

Romiti set March 1 for the defense to file pre-trial motions with prosecution replies due March 27 — six days after the Illinois primary election.

Hanrahan was dropped by the Democrats as the regular organization's candidate for state's attorney but he is running an independent race against Raymond Berg a former judge who was slated in his place, and Donald Page Moore, a former U.S. Justice Department lawyer.

Associated Press