

'Spy' Reported to L.A. on Breakout

# Cops Knew of 2nd Marin Plot

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The Los Angeles Police Department, less than three months after the bloody 1970 Marin shootout, had intelligence reports that Black Panther guerrillas were planning a second courtroom breakout at the Civic Center—but did not warn Marin lawmen.

A department spokesman denied yesterday that Los Angeles police ever possessed such information.

The Chronicle, however, has obtained copies of intelligence reports compiled in October, 1970, by the Los Angeles Police Criminal



JUDGE E. W. MCGUIRE  
He denied motion

## L.A. Police Deny Having Information



JAMES CARR  
Agent C-14's report tied them to the plot



TOMMY LEE WALKER  
Agent C-14's report tied them to the plot



Conspiracy Section in which details of an elaborate plot to "rescue" convict George Jackson—a Panther "field marshal"—were spelled out.

The planned breakout described in these reports bore striking similarities to the earlier escape attempt on Aug. 7, 1970, in which Superior Court Judge Harold J. Haley and three other persons—one of them Jackson's brother—were killed.

In that incident, Judge Haley, a prosecutor and two women jurors were seized as hostages.

A Chronicle investigation has determined that the original scenario for the August 7 escape plot had called for armed Panther guerrillas to attack the Civic Center and hold as many hostages as possible in a wing of the building.

It can be assumed the October, 1970, plot was to be along similar lines.

The guerrilla assault on the Civic Center might have gone off as scheduled on Oct. 22, 1970, except for the act of an unsuspecting judge.

According to the intelligence reports—obtained by The Chronicle from law enforcement sources—a Los Angeles police agent, identified in the documents only

as "C-14," had been dispatched to the Bay Area in early October to infiltrate the Panthers and report on their operations.

Agent C-14 soon reported by telephone to the Criminal Conspiracy Section that he was "... in close contact with the hierarchy of the Black Panther party..." and gathering information "... in the Santa Cruz area..."

On Oct. 12, 1970, C-14 began supplying details of a plot to "bust out" convicts Jackson, John Clutchette and Fleeta Drumgo, the so-called Soledad Brothers then in San Quentin Prison.

The undercover agent reported that the Panthers and certain members of the Soledad Brothers Defense Committee had arranged for the release of a Marin county jail inmate, Tommy Lee Walker, by posting \$10,000 bail.

Walker was awaiting trial at the time on a charge he had assaulted a guard at San Quentin where he had just completed a ten-year sentence. In those prison years, Walker had been acquainted with George Jackson. He was also a cousin of James Carr, a state prison

parolee then under suspicion of having been one of the key plotters in the aborted escape attempt in Marin two months before.

According to the Los Angeles intelligence reports, Carr, Walker "and nine others, possibly from the Black Panther party, Los Angeles chapter, were going to participate in the jailbreak."

The reports state the plan called for Walker to have Jackson subpoenaed as a witness at his Marin trial, and Agent C-14 relates that he had been told by parolee Carr: "...if they bring George Jackson to the Tommy Walker trial we'll go then."

If the plot succeeded, C-14 said he was told, Carr intended to flee to Paris, while others among the guerrillas planned on seeking refuge in North Korea.

Agent C-14's reports are replete with names of alleged

plotters, locations of "safe-houses," even a detailed rundown on the weapons the guerrillas were training with in the Santa Cruz mountains.

Some of the information in the reports, The Chronicle

has learned, was being supplied to the Criminal Conspiracy Section by a 17-year-old Los Angeles girl who was traveling with C-14. In the reports she is identified variously as "source" or "informant."

Whether the plot would have been carried out remains a matter of speculation, because, on Oct. 15, 1970, Superior Court Judge E. Warren McGuire denied the motion of Walker's attorney to call Jackson as a character witness in the case.

His reason, Judge McGuire noted at the time, was that it would be difficult to find 12 jurors who would not know the relationship between witness Jackson and his brother, Jonathan, the youth who had been killed after setting the August 7 drama at the Marin courthouse in motion.

C-14 returned to Los Angeles a few days later, reporting that if the October 22 plan was delayed, another one "...for the 30th or 31st of October" was being plotted by Carr and others.

Details of the alternate plot were vague, C-14 said, other than that he had been told by Carr that it would in-

there together in early October of 1970. That Carr and Walker were known to be in Santa Cruz at that time has also been confirmed by police sources who have talked with The Chronicle.

Friends of Walker—who denies any knowledge of the plot described by C-14—have said they recall Walker was being put under considerable pressure “by Jimmy Carr and the Panthers” to repay the favor of bailing him out by subpoenaing Jackson to court.

Walker, said one friend, “went along with it, reluctantly,” after several Panthers “in a sense kidnaped him. They took him off somewhere and ‘talked’ him into it—with threats.”

clude the “...kidnaping of children of prominent people in two or more areas in the state and the reason for more than one so that the police would be confused and not as able to organize a concentrated search.”

The Marin Sheriff's Department has told The Chronicle none of its personnel received any warning from Los Angeles police that an escape plot linked to the Civic Center was apparently being planned. . .

And Judge McGuire says he was never alerted to the possibility of a breakout try in his courtroom.

That Agent C-14's reports had some validity is borne out by Marin county court and jail records that show:

- Walker was bailed out with money furnished by the Soledad Brothers Defense Committee.

- The bail was posted by Carr, who picked up Walker at the Marin jail when he was released on Sept. 30, 1970—the date noted in C-14's reports.

And sources in Santa Cruz have told The Chronicle that Carr, Walker and C-14—though they knew him by another name—were seen

Apparently Walker fell out of favor with those who had put up the bail. Shortly after Judge McGuire ruled against Jackson's appearance, the bail was withdrawn and Walker was back in jail.

Yesterday, Commander Ray Ruddell, who heads the Investigative Services Group of the Los Angeles Police, said a search of Los Angeles police records had failed to turn up any reports about the escape plot described in the documents The Chronicle has obtained. He conceded the possibility the C-14 reports may have been among “intelligence files” destroyed earlier this year in a departmental purge of such documents.

He said, however, he doubted the validity of the intelligence reports The Chronicle has.

“All I can tell you is this,” Ruddell said. “If we had hard information that there was going to be a prison breakout, we certainly would have communicated that. I will deny to you that we had hard information that there was going to be a breakout.

“If we did not communi-

cate with the local authorities then it was at the time, if we had any information at all, deemed not sufficient...or it would have been passed on,” said Ruddell.

Asked if he meant there had been no “hard” information rather than no information at all, Ruddell replied: “As far as I know, we had no information.”

“But when Chronicle reporters presented proof that Louis Tackwood—the person known as C-14—and his girlfriend, Gwen Carr, were in Santa Cruz in behalf of the on Oct. 29, 1970, in the Los Angeles Police's company—Los Angeles Police of two officers, Robert Sharrett and Daniel Mahoney, Command-

er Ruddell was able to confirm this.

Gwen Carr, Tackwood's common-law wife at the time, is the sister of James Carr. Carr was murdered in San Jose in 1972.

That trip to Santa Cruz on October 29, Ruddell said, was to investigate reports that several Black Panther fugitives from Los Angeles—including Elmer (Geronimo) Pratt, Cotton Smith, Long John Washington and Paul Redd—were hiding out at a secret training camp near Aptos.

That same information, including those names, is also to be found in the reports filed by C-14 two weeks prior to October 29.