

Reactions to Panther Verdict: Joy, Surprise, Silence

By MICHAEL T. KAUFMAN

Where reactions to the acquittal of the Black Panthers were freely offered around the city and the country, they were generally ones of joy and surprise.

For the most part, those who might be expected to disagree with the verdict kept their views to themselves.

About the only real expression of sadness came from Joseph A. Phillips, the assistant district attorney who prosecuted the eight-month case. Shortly after the verdict, he sat in his office telling the undercover policemen who testified that they should not regard the verdict as any reflection on their work.

"These men have done their jobs well," he said.

On the verdict itself, Mr. Phillips said:

"We felt we had a very, very strong case, and we were very surprised at the verdict. We were particularly surprised that the jury could evaluate the very complicated evidence in just two hours. There were 12 charges. The judge took three days to charge the jury. The summations took three weeks, the evidence took over six months."

Unexpected by Defense

Speaking for the battery of defense lawyers, Gerlad Lefcourt said that one of the lawyers felt that all 13 defendants would be cleared on all counts. He said he viewed the decision as "a rejection of secret Government a

l the way from J. Edgar Hoover down to the secret police of New York City."

The reactions of those who favored the decision were es-

entially of two kinds: Those who thought the verdict had been reached despite an unfair trial, and those who thought it attested to the efficacy of the judicial system.

For example in New Haven, where he is defending Bobby G. Seale, the chairman of the Balck Panther party, Charles R. Garry, the party's counsel, had this to say:

A 'Fair Shake' Seen

"It took these—what I consider a good people's jury, with all those black men and women on the jury and some real decent people—to be the conscience of the community, to get around the fascist police-state

conduct of the prosecutor as well as the judge."

But, Jack Greenberg, counsel director of the N.A.A.C.P. Legal Defense and Education Fund, commented:

"I think it's just fantastic. It really runs contrary to all popular preconceptions. It's an indication that the jury system is considering the facts and the law."

And Jeff Greenup, president of the New York chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said he hoped "this will show those on all sides that it is possible to get a fair shake within the system."

"One lesson the prosecution

can learn," he went on, "is that the fact that you disagree with somebody is no reason to put them in jail. It should also tell black militants that it's not necessarily so that they can't get a fair trial."

In the streets of Harlem there was undisguised jubilation at the verdict. On West 135th Street, Eleanor Irby beamed in approval when told of the decision: "All I can say is I'm glad they were acquitted."

At the Barbershop 301 on the same street, the owner, Herbert Jackson, remarked: "They shouldn't have been in jail to start with. They put them in there for bombing, and the bombing is still going on."

Cost of 8-Month Panther Trial Exceeds \$300,000

By LINDA CHARLTON

The largest single item in any estimate of the costs of the eight-month trial of 13 Black Panthers would probably be the salaries of the necessary participants in the courtroom process.

From judge to court officers to jurors, the pay totals more than \$300,000 for that period.

There is a large area where costs are too interwoven to separate—such things as the cost of maintaining one courtroom, of estimating the depreciation on buildings and vehicles during an eight-month period, the number of pencils worn down, of lined yellow pads used.

Among the smaller charges, certainly, will be that for the lunch brought in yesterday to the 16 members of the jury—12 jurors and four alternates—during their deliberations. They are allowed \$2.50 each for such meals.

The jurors are perhaps the lowest-paid participants in the trial process: They receive \$12 a day.

According to Thomas B. Galligan, general clerk to the First Department of the Supreme Court (which is composed of New York and Bronx Counties), the jurors involved in this particularly wearing trial are likely to be paid on a five-day-a-week basis for every week since the trial began, although they often worked only four days in a given week. The total weekly bill for their service will be \$960.

The highest paid is Justice John M. Murtagh, whose annual salary, including a recent small increase, is approximately \$41,000, according to Mr. Galligan.

Justice Murtagh's secretary is paid \$22,450 a year; his confidential attendant, \$11,500. The 30 senior court officers on duty during the trial receive an average of \$11,800 each a

year; the three court reporters, \$20,000 each. The supervising court officer receives approximately \$16,000, and his assistant, \$11,800.

Daily Transcripts Provided
The cost of providing the minutes, or a transcript of the proceedings, to the defense counsel daily is \$2.30 a page, and Mr. Galligan said it was estimated that the total number of pages would be about 16,000—or \$36,800 total cost.

It is possible, Mr. Galligan added, that Justice Murtagh may decide, as he is empowered to do, to pay the jurors a premium for having served longer than 30 days. The statutes set no amount for this optional bonus, but Mr. Galligan said it usually ran to between \$300 and \$500 a juror.

Beyond the courtroom itself, the costs were borne by the city's Police and Correction Departments. It costs \$11.92 a day to maintain each prisoner "in the system," a spokesman for the Correction Department said.