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Panther Dead

Blame on Cops

By Lu Palmer

CHICAGO — (CDN) — The first shot in the fatal 1969 Black Panther raid was fired by state's attorney's police, according to a report by a blue-ribbon commission composed of nationally known Americans.

A draft of the report, which the Commission of Inquiry has not yet released, is highly critical of the federal and county investigations of the raid in which Illinois Chairman Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were killed.

The report says the Black Panthers fired only one shot and that Hampton "was shot from the doorway to his bedroom as he lay drugged and defenseless in bed."

Severe Criticism

State Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan also comes in for severe criticism.

The Chicago Daily News disclosed yesterday that the commission staff had warned the commission's steering committee that it would release its own report if the delay continued.

The Daily News also revealed that the commission report concluded that "neither the federal government nor the state sought to establish the truth" about the raid.

Former Attorney General

Ramsey Clark and NAACP Executive Director Roy Wilkins were co-chairmen of the commission. Clark is also chairman of the steering committee, which approved the report last June.

Dr. David M. Spain, a New York pathologist who participated in the third autopsy on Hampton's body, is quoted in the report:

"The integrity of the Cook County coroner's office is open to serious question . . . the pathologist who performed the autopsy testified that he had opened the stomach of the corpse and examined its contents . . .

"At the third autopsy, it was found that the stomach was completely closed and had never been opened."

The coroner's autopsy was performed by Dr. Edward Shalgos and Dr. Eugene Constantinou.

Police Fired First

The Commission of Inquiry's report agreed with the federal grand jury report that the Panthers had fired only one shot during the raid. However, the commission's ballistics expert, Herbert L. MacDonell, said in a letter accompanying the report:

"The one shot fired out (by Panthers) was not the first shot. The first shot was

fired by the police. This conclusion is based upon previous testimony that the living room door was opening at the time of the shooting."

Of the federal grand jury report, the commission report says:

"The (grand jury) report lacks credibility because of the bias and adversary approach reflected in it. The calculated attempt to mislead and in some instances to deceive the reader make the report unreliable and a mechanism by which public opinion may be manipulated to serve narrow political ends."