

14 Arrested in Raid on A Black Panther Office

By Patrick Murphy

Oakland and Berkeley police yesterday arrested 14 persons in a house occupied by members of the Black Panther party in East Oakland. The raid occurred shortly after 5 a.m.

No one was injured and there was no resistance when nine policemen with a search warrant entered the house at 1524 29th avenue.

The police said they confiscated several sawed-off shotguns, one automatic rifle, one hand grenade, ammunition, gas masks, radio equipment that can monitor police calls, bulletproof vests, a quantity of marijuana and a bloody baseball bat.

After discovering the house contained illegal arms and narcotics, the officers arrested all the residents of the house — ten men and four women.

The 14 persons were charged with possession of a hand grenade, illegal weapons, dangerous drugs and with conspiracy.

Bail was set at \$280,000, or \$20,000 for each defendant.

Panther party Chairman Bobby Seale, who was not present nor arrested in the raid, told a press conference yesterday that the police action was "politically inspired."

Seale said the 29th avenue house was a political headquarters for collecting voter information, and served as a nerve center for Panther campaign activity.

"These charges are absurd," Seale said. "It's a plot to discredit the party in the eyes of the people because we do have the ability to take the next election."

The Panthers plan to field a slate of five candidates for five openings on the nine-member Oakland City

From Page 1

council in next year's election.

Seale, who ran unsuccessfully for mayor of Oakland in 1972, said there were 3000 names and addresses of workers in the house, and that the list of names had disappeared after the raid.

He said an outlay of almost \$300,000 in bail money, "would halt us." Seale ap-

pealed to the community to help the Panthers raise the bail money.

Berkeley police spokesman Richard Berger said the raid resulted from the beating in Berkeley Monday night of Michael W. Foster, 21.

Berger said Foster, who was hitchhiking, had been picked up by a car containing three men, one whom

Foster recognized as a Panther associate.

The spokesman said Foster was pistol-whipped and beaten with a baseball bat, then dumped into the street. He was not seriously injured.

Foster told police his assailant lived at the 29th avenue house, police said, and a search warrant was then issued.



Police said they found sawed-off shotguns, an automatic rifle, a hand grenade, ammunition, gas masks and bullet-proof vests in the East Oakland house.