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Announcement for Book Party.

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1199 protests persecution of Panthers

"We are shocked and alarmed by the growing body of evidence which suggests that police departments throughout the country have embarked on a systematic campaign to wipe out the Black Panther Party."

So begins a statement adopted by the Executive Council last month and sent to the U.S. Attorney-General, John Mitchell. Copies of the statement were circulated

among 1199 members with the recommendation that they send similar messages to the Attorney-General.

The union's officers acted in response to newspaper stories telling about police arrest and killing of more than a score of Panther Party leaders and members during the past two years. The latest of these events were the killing of two Panther leaders in Chicago in a pre-dawn raid on their apartment. The Panthers say the police shot first, and they call it murder. Several newspapers have indicated that the circumstances of the killings give support to this argument.

Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy has said publicly that he thinks there is a government effort to eliminate the Panther Party.

The 1199 statement charged that the pattern of police and court attacks on the Party suggests persecution for political beliefs, and it called for a public investigation by a commission of distinguished citizens.

Such a commission has been set up, headed by former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg, NAACP head Roy Wilkins and former U.S. Attorney-General Ramsey Clark.

as seen in the

1199 Drug & Hospital News

January 1970

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