

BLACK PANTHER PARTY - ATLANTA COLL
6/30/73

Ron Carter's Attorney Says:

Black Panther Arrest Ridiculous, Stupid ✓

Ron Carter, head of the Atlanta chapter of the Black Panther Party, was arrested late Saturday night at his home on charges stemming from a bond violation in New Jersey some months ago. Al Horn, Carter's attorney, told the press after a bond hearing in Fulton County Superior Tuesday that this was a "garbage arrest" and pure political harassment.

According to Horn, the Atlanta police department received a garbled message on their teletype last April 18th indicating that Carter had jumped bond in New Jersey on a charge of violating the state firearms act. They waited over two months, Horn said, and then sent 30 men with guns out to Carter's home, "trying to force a shoot-out." Horn emphasized that Carter has had a part-time job with the city and was selling the Panther paper in the area of the Muslim shootout downtown, so the police knew where he was and could have picked him up in a far less melodramatic way.

The late-night arrest of Carter, Horn continued, was "the sort of thing the Nixon mentality wants to divert

attention from Watergate. Carter has already had to put up with two harassment arrests here, Horn said, which the District Attorney's office had to drop. "I wonder that the Panthers are as forbearing as they are," Horn exclaimed.

Horn called attention to the article on the arrest in Monday's Constitution, which he labelled "absurd." The article mentioned that results of ballistics tests on a rifle found in Carter's apartment have been sent to New Orleans "to find out if the rifle may have been involved in the sniper attacks in that city in January." The article then goes on to talk at some length about the shootings by Mark Essex. Horn was furious at the Constitution bringing in the New Orleans incident "when they didn't have a scintilla of evidence. Even Adolf Eichmann had some constraints" in what he said, Horn exclaimed.

O'Dell Lewis, a legal investigator for Horn, told the Voice that the arrest of Carter was definitely part of a "conspiracy of some sort." The Muslim shootout, Lewis said, was part of the same plot.

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CHICAGO (AP) — Former State Atty. Edward V. Courshan and three of his top-time assistants have been ordered to stand trial for civil damages stemming from a 1968 weapons raid on a Black Panther party apartment.

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Black Panthers - Atlanta

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PAWTHERS

9/9/71

Guarded Words, Welcomes Meet Planned Panther Shift

By HARMON PERRY
AND HUGH MERRILL

Atlanta's black community has reacted to the announced move of the Black Panther party to the city with guarded comments and cliches of welcome.

Panther leader Huey Newton announced Wednesday that his organization would move its headquarters from Oakland to Atlanta sometime within the next six months.

Perhaps the most serious comment, however, was made by a black leader who asked not to be identified "because the Panthers have big shot-guns."

"THIS IS the last gasp of a dying organization," he said. Black Panther party membership is estimated to be less than 1,000 nationwide.

The Rev. Ralph Abernathy, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was optimistic when asked about the Panther's move.

"I say welcome . . . right on!" Abernathy said, adding that he was pleased to see a group dedicated to lifting the plight of black people coming to Atlanta.

But Atlanta insurance executive Jesse Hill said he felt the Panthers could choose a better Southern city if they were mainly concerned about problems of housing, employment and pay cuts.

that has been romanticized and some of it overly harsh. I don't personally know any members of this organization, and would like to withhold comment until I do."

State Rep. Julian Bond said the Panther move shows "the South is not only the point of origin of black people, but also the spiritual and idealistic haven of blacks."

Bond also added that the Panther's decision supports what the Chamber of Commerce has been saying Atlanta is a wonderful place to live and work.

John Shabazz, a former Black Muslim minister in Atlanta, says he doesn't understand why people are so "up-tight" about the Panther move.

"One trick whites use against blacks is telling them one black is better than another, when all blacks should be saying, 'Welcome, brother' to the Panthers."

MEANWHILE, Atlanta Mayor Sam Massell said the Panther image as we know it leaves much to be desired. "However," he added, "we

However, Hill added, the Panthers might be able to "effectively challenge" local black leaders in their efforts to eliminate "police brutality."

Local NAACP President Lonnie King called the Panthers the "shock troops in the civil rights movement" and said that the influx of Panthers into Atlanta might make those who have held back the progress of blacks more willing to deal with his organization. SCLC and the Urban League.

LYNDON WADE, executive director of the Atlanta Urban League, withheld comment because, he said, "I don't know about that organization or what I've read, and some of

have the Ku Klux Klan with its history of hate and destruction, so I guess we can deal with the Panther party as well."

He said the majority of whites in Atlanta reject the Klan leadership, and the majority of blacks reject the Panthers.

"We can do quite well without the help of either of these two groups," he said.

Lt. Gov. Lester Maddox told the Associated Press, however, that the move is "frightening."

"I HATE to see this thing happen because we've got enough problems already. This group is licensed to steal, destroy and kill and wage war upon our society," Maddox added.

Rep. Fletcher Thompson of

East Point reacted angrily to news of the Panthers' move, saying "they're not welcome. We don't need any rabble-rousing agitators in Atlanta."

Speaking of Newton, Thompson said, "We do not need trouble makers of his sort in the area and I am sure I speak for a majority of people in the area."

Atlanta Police Chief Herbert Jenkins was unavailable for comment but his counterpart in Oakland, where the Panthers maintained headquarters now, had plenty to say.

Police Chief Charles Cain said the transfer would be "very propitious for Oakland."

"If Newton thinks Atlanta would be a better place, I wholeheartedly agree with him. My congratulations to Atlanta," he said.

OCT. 27, 1972

AARL

Panther Shooting *Panthers, Atlanta 10-27-72* Case Continued

By KEELER McCARTNEY

A 19-year-old member of the Black Panthers, whose arrest Wednesday night sparked the shooting and wounding of an Atlanta policeman, Thursday was granted a continuance of two weeks to answer charges in Municipal Court.

Meanwhile, police said they had developed no concrete clues to the identity of the mystery sniper who shot Pantherman Daniel Smith, 23, while Smith was investigating an auto crash at English Avenue and Pelham Street NW.

Smith, wounded in the hip, could not attend the scheduled hearing Thursday of Larry Johnson, alias Phillip Lester.

Police said that at the time of the arrest, Lester gave his name as Johnson. They added, however, he was identified later as Phillip Lester, a member of the Black Panthers.

Smith was shot and wounded within a stone's throw of a Black Panther office on English Avenue, officers said.

Officers said Smith arrived to investigate an auto wreck and found a crowd gathered there. They said Lester informed Sgt. W. J. Taylor, who had arrived to help Smith, that he wanted to make a complaint.

Taylor said he told Lester he would talk with him as soon as possible, but Lester insisted he wanted to talk then. Taylor said he heard someone say, "Let's go get guns."

While Lester was being placed in a police car, a shot rang out and Smith was wounded.

Lester was charged with creating a tumult, simple battery and interfering with an officer, police said.

11-10-72C

By Police in Panther Raid

Black Panther
Want to buy some dynamite? It's easy

Page 18-A

By BARRY HENDERSON

Atlanta police confiscated explosives, a deactivated hand grenade and guns from a Black Panther Party headquarters during a raid here Thursday.

Officers wearing bulletproof vests and carrying automatic weapons closed in on Panther headquarters at 678 English Ave. NW and discovered four guns, blasting caps, the deactivated grenade and military ordnance charges.

Also confiscated were chemicals police said could be used to make bombs. Agents of the Atlanta office of the Treasury department's Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau said a hand-drawn chart describing operation of the grenade was among notes and diagrams impounded.

Georgia Panther leader Ron Carter, 23, was one of eight persons arrested during the raid, which was conducted under a search warrant for a gun used in the recent wounding of an Atlanta police officer.

Officers did not find the gun, a .45 caliber automatic pistol police have identified as the weapon used in the shooting of officer Daniel Smith during a traffic accident investigation Oct. 27.

"I'm Ron Carter. They're tearing me apart," shouted the Panther leader, arrested following his arrival while the raid was in progress. "Look at me. My face is not bleeding now, but it may be soon."

Carter yelled, "Power to the people" as he was placed in a patrol car.

Civil Disorder Squad head Lt. W. W. Holley led the raid, assisted by the special weapons and tactical team and backed up by uniformed officers. Those arrested were in bed and offered no resistance, Holley said.

Initially, the persons taken into custody

See PANTHERS, Page 20-A

The Georgia Black Panther Party, that had its only headquarters in the state in Atlanta, has closed its doors, at least temporarily. Black Panther Party head Ron Carter said they are closing their doors for a year because the few remaining members must go to Oakland, California, for training. Carter said that "periodically every chapter within the Black Panther Party has to send a percentage of its members to Oakland for political training."

This training consists of the studying of Panther programs in Oakland, attending classes dealing with the international political situation, studying the third world countries and socialist nations, attending classes in sociology and psychiatry, and classes in union organizing.

Carter said the training is designed to "give us the deepest type of background that we can have so that when we get back to our particular chapters, we can have a greater depth of information that we can draw on so we can make the right decisions and the right type of moves."

Just a year ago the Panthers had two dozen active members and many supporters in the community. For over one year they had a free lunch, dinner and breakfast program for the poor children in four locations in the black community, free clothing program and political education classes and liberation classes "to raise the political consciousness of the people," Carter said.

But because of police harassment an internal troubles the Panthers had dwindled to a skeleton organization. From its inception in 1971 the Panthers have been continuously harassed by police. Carter said local Panthers were busted probably two dozen times "because we were a revolutionary party as a threat to Atlanta's ruling class." But only two charges have ever stuck against the Panthers. Former Panther leader Charles Lundy has been sentenced to 7 years in jail for stealing a typewriter. His conviction is being appealed. Another Panther Paul Martin is

serving time for robbery. Panthers have been busted for possessions of guns, explosives, and drugs as well as several robbery charges, but according to Carter, "They were all trumped up and political so they never stuck."

When Panthers talk about the extent of the harassment and surveillance they were subject to, they point to the printing in Signal 39, the newsletter of the Atlanta Police Department, of a list of nine subversive individuals. In September of 1972, 4 of the 9 were Panthers. Two others were members of the Black Federation Alliance at Georgia State University. The newsletter told police that when approaching the individuals or their residences, they should use extreme caution. Just two more months later police department men under the direction of Lt. W.W. Holley of the Intelligence Division busted into a Panthers headquarters and arrested eight of them for possessing stolen goods and explosives. Because of the lack of evidence only one of them was bound over on the charge. It was later dropped.

Then in early December six more Panthers were busted for the possession of marijuana. These charges didn't stick. At that time the Panthers issued a statement saying, "We are getting attacked because we threaten the existence of our exploiters and oppressors of black people, poor people, working people--that is the big white businessmen and their allies."

In March of this year internal troubles came that split up the party. Carter said that members of the national Party came down and "checked out each party member to see whether the individual met up with the criteria of the Party. We had to rid ourselves of a lot of individuals. And we had to close down a number of offices." With the closing of these offices went most of the programs.

Several members split from the organization and together with other individuals in the community formed the People's Liberation Party, Kousan Oliver, a member of the Party and a former

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Panthers

Black Panther Party---Atlanta

Dec. 17-31, 1973

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