

HOUSTON CHAPTER OF BLACK PANTHER PARTY RAIDED

3 ARRESTED LATER RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGES

(Houston, Texas) - Last Wednesday local, state and federal police raided the offices of the Houston Branch of the Black Panther Party as part of the continuing effort by local and national law enforcement agencies to eliminate the Party. The police kicked in the door, intimidated the men, women and children at gunpoint, ransacked the office and arrested three Party members only to release them later without charges.

Brother Charles Freeman of the Houston Branch described the raid in an interview with THE BLACK PANTHER.

"The raid was staged by over 50 men from the Houston police and sheriff departments, federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents, Texas Central Investigation Department, Houston firemen and a police reporter from a local television station. All were armed with various automatic and heavy caliber weapons,

and were covered by a helicopter from above.

"The police kicked in the door without knocking, breaking in simultaneously at the front, side and back doors. They forced my brother, Winston Freeman, Robert Wallace, Sister Annie Harris, six small children and myself into one room at gunpoint and roughly searched us. Police then literally tore the center apart, even tearing shingles from the outside of our newly remodeled building.

"The police claimed to be searching for a stockpile of illegal weapons which they said they had been told were there. They confiscated three legally registered firearms which we owned, and have refused to return them.

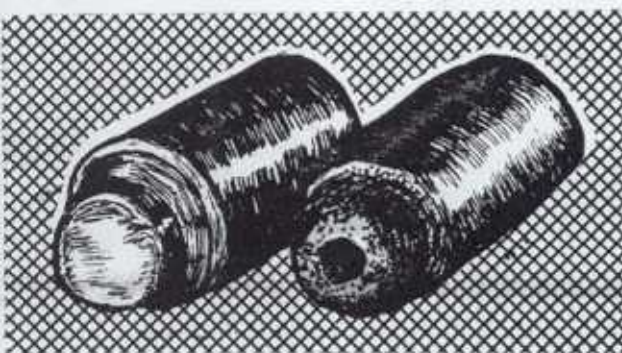
"They handcuffed Robert, Winston and me and took us to the police station where they threatened and interrogated us. They had to release us because they had nothing to charge us with."

Police and the local press claimed that the Black Panther Party in Houston was involved in a string of robberies allegedly committed by four Black men now held in custody, one of them being a former Party member. However, their fruitless and blatantly illegal raid exposed their fabrication as an outlandish lie.

The attack was one more attempt in the nationwide government conspiracy to destroy the Black Panther Party. The attack followed by one week the vicious attack upon and arrest of Huey P. Newton, leader of the Black Panther Party, by Oakland police and federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents.

This is the second attack within a week in which local and federal police have collaborated in an effort to bring about the demise of the Black Panther Party. They are failing miserably, primarily because of the total lack of any foundation for the trumped-up allegations used to justify their attacks, and secondly because of the cool-headedness of those harassed and the astute defense of the Party's legal counsel.

In essence, all attempts to destroy the people's vanguard will meet with defeat despite losses in lives and property, for the ideals of liberation are securely inbedded in the community it serves. □



Drawing of "dum-dum," hollow point bullets. These slugs expand upon contact with the body and carry flesh and blood along as it proceeds towards the victim's insides. The bullet exits, and it takes much of the victim's body through a large gaping hole. Police say they want to make sure any person they shoot is thoroughly dead.

SEATTLE POLICE SWITCH TO "DUM-DUM" BULLETS

(Seattle, Wash.) - "The purpose of shooting a person is to stop them permanently. These new bullets do a much better job of stopping a person. Stopping a person," explained Seattle policeman Joe Nicholas, means "to kill them, of course."

These words refer to the new better-kill bullet the Seattle Police Department is arming itself with: an expanding, hollow-tipped, .38 calibre slug with new improved "stopping power." It replaced the old flat-nosed .38 which, police complain, does not inflict enough damage.

The new hollow slug expands in a mushroom pattern when it meets the body and carries flesh and blood along as it proceeds towards the victim's insides. The bullet will likely never leave the

body, but if it does, it will pull much of the victim's body through a very large exit wound.

The force of the bullet has enough energy to kill a deer instantly. The police have so much as said that use of the hollow cartridges will result in an increased number of fatalities of suspected persons.

Seattle American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) director Lauren Solden, who participated in a recent press conference here with the Seattle Chapter of the Black Panther Party to denounce the use of the bullets, said, "we must never forget that police discharge weapons at suspects, people who are presumed innocent of a crime."

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