

PIGS RAID INDIANAPOLIS PANTHERS

Facts On The Racist
Police Raid On Black
Panther Party Headquarters
December 18, 1968

Between 7:30 A.M. and 8:00 A.M., a representative of the Internal Revenue Services Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division accompanied by members of the Indianapolis Pig Department appeared at Panther Headquarters with a warrant to search for unregistered automatic weapons.

Since the Black Panther Party had received threatening letters from the Ku Klux Klan, the security guards, Michael Cannon and Dan Ginn had strict orders to admit no one without authorization from one of their superior officers. One guard, Michael Cannon informed the Federal Pig that he would have to wait for this authorization. Instead of waiting, they ordered reinforcements.

The two men in the headquarters contacted Lawrence Roberts, Deputy Minister of Finance. Upon arriving, he entered the building to find out just what was happening. Lawrence then went outside to talk to the pigs. He was only told that they had a federal warrant to search. When he asked to read the warrant, he was informed that the Pigs did not have to show him the warrant and that he was under arrest for disorderly conduct and interfering with an officer. Is this freedom? Is this justice?

After Lawrence's arrest Deputy Minister of Information Robert O'Bannon and Deputy Minister of Health Donald Campbell confronted the police with questions pertaining to the incident. O'Bannon and Campbell were told that "We do not have to tell you anything." After calling the Chairman Fred Crawford, Campbell and O'Bannon were to ask someone in charge to speak to the Deputy Chairman. This was to no avail. He refused. The two were told by Fred Crawford to see if we could get in the building to tell Cannon and Ginn to come out. O'Bannon and Campbell were told to get the hell away from here. At this point it is obvious that the police did not intend to let the men in the building out alive, however since there were so many witnesses this was not possible.

Before the gas was fired, Sgt. James Harris threw a brick through the window. This was not necessary since the tear gas grenades were fired from a shotgun. Cannon and Ginn were forced to surrender when they became overcome by the fumes. They were arrested and charged with menacing a federal officer. Cannon was not allowed to get his shoes and socks from inside. He was taken in barefoot through the cold and slush.

A copy of the warrant was finally given to O'Bannon. On the warrant appeared the name Sgt. James Harris. This is a Black man who is married to a white woman. He has found that there is only one way for him to get ahead while retaining this taboo relationship. That way is by brutalizing and victimizing black people. He has played the part of 'Super Uncle Tom'. This man has been proven a liar in his past exploits of Black people. Before the raid Harris had two dressed-up incidents to his credit. On June 23, 1968 he and Elroy Watkins ended a plot planned by themselves. This resulted in the arrest of Omar Sabhan, Melvin Johnson, and Leon Gomilla on charges of conspiracy to commit burglary and conspiracy to commit murder. Harris second attempt to frame black people came 3 weeks before the raid on the headquarters. He was responsible for having shoot to kill orders issued against two Black Panthers, Stanford Patton, Deputy Minister of Defense and Joseph Martin, Assistant Deputy Minister of Information. These men were supposed to have kidnapped and possibly murdered a Louisville, Kentucky fire inspector. It was later discovered that the inspector took a trip to Florida, finally Harris had the warrant issued to search Black Panther headquarters because he had a so-called reliable informant who saw quantities of machine guns being carried into the



As you can tell, the Pigs left no stones or papers returned to their complete, but fruitless raid.



building. Stanford Patton was also listed on the warrant as a "known and proven trafficker of illegal weapons." With no arrest, how is he known and proven?

After the building was turned over to the Panthers on the scene, it was discovered that \$600.00 in cash and a \$10.00 check was missing. The money was not taken from the arrested men. It was known to exist in the building by only one man, Fred Crawford, who was not present. This money was stolen by the Indianapolis Pig Department. By stealing the money they took food and clothing from needy families as well.

After being sent around town, members of the Party were finally informed that the bond hearing was to be held in the Federal Building at 3:30 P.M. It did not begin until about 5:00 P.M. When Cannon and Ginn were brought in, Cannon was still without shoes. One of the Panthers took his shoes off and gave them to him. Bond was set at \$10,000 for Cannon and \$5,000 for Dan Ginn.

DECEMBER 19, 1968 -- Lawrence Roberts bond hearing was set in Municipal court. It was irregular in that court convenes at 9:00 A.M. and he was heard and bond was set by 9:15 A.M. The bond was set at \$3,000. The BIP was informed by William Erbecker that Robert released was mandatory so he could appear at the Federal preliminary hearing as a witness. Bond was made.

DECEMBER 20, 1968 -- The federal hearing seemed to dwell on the fact there was no curtain on the door and that it was light outside. Every Police witness testified there was no curtain. Paul Marshall, the federal agent stated he never saw Ginn until he was arrested later.

How can someone menace you when you don't see them?

Every defense witness and many other people know that it was not light and there has been a full length curtain at the door, for about 3 months. Even when it is bright outside, it is still very, very difficult to see inside with no lights turned on. This is because the two windows and the door are profusely covered by posters, newspaper clippings, pictures, etc. Even though these facts make Paul Marshall, Garland Jones, and Dutton nothing but liars Michael Cannon and Dan Ginn were bound over to the Grand Jury. Cannon on \$10,000 bond and Ginn on \$1,000 bond. At this time both men are out of the pig pen.