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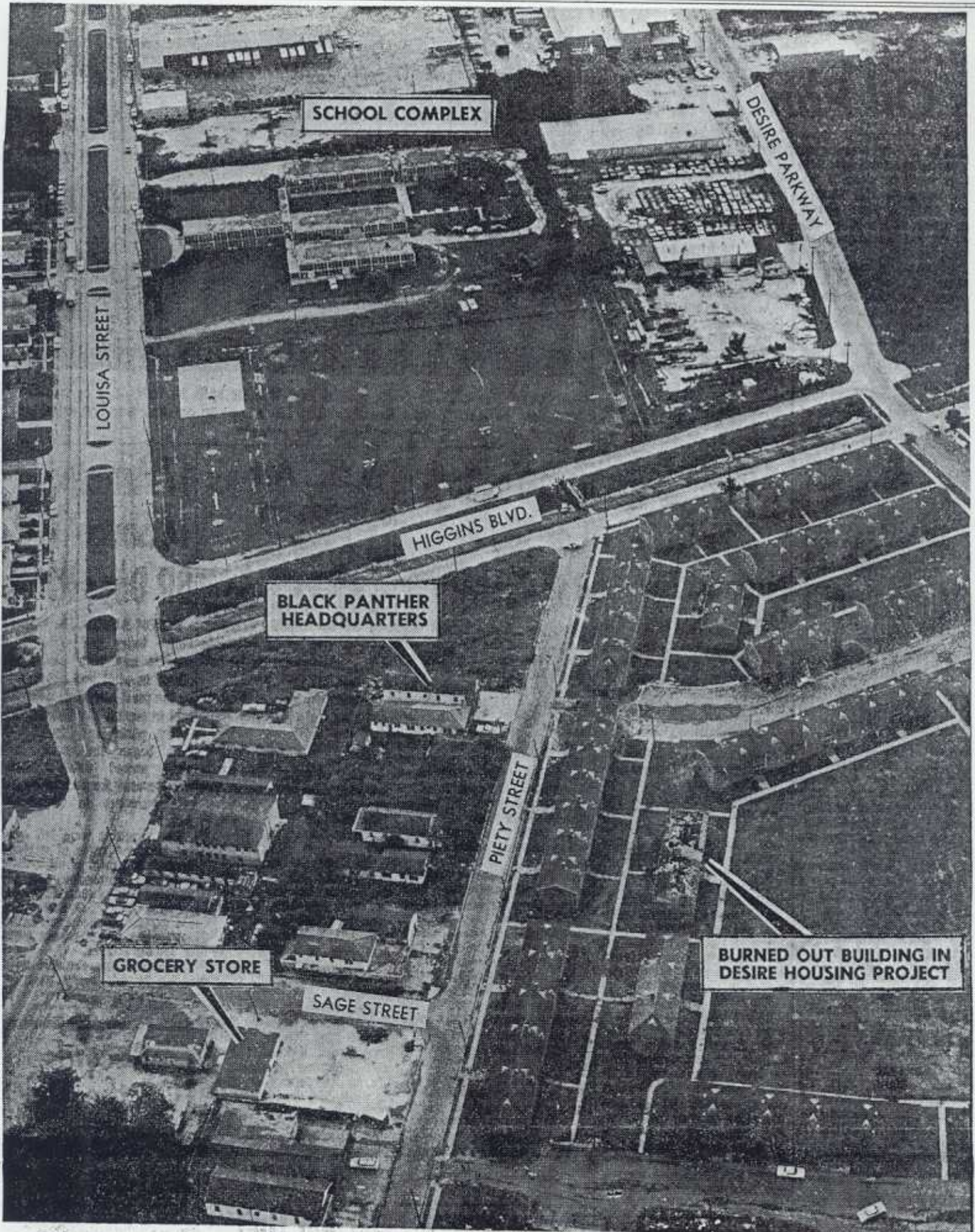
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THE TIMES-PICAYUNE, NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Police Charge Under Fire, Sandba



HEAVILY ARMED OFFICERS MOVE UP TO RETURN FIRE FROM PANTHERS



DOWNTOWN AREA WHERE SHOOT-OUTS, TWO NIGHTS OF VIOLENCE HAVE OCCURRED

—States-Item photo by G. E. Arnold.

APR 1968

11 ARE SHOT; 16 ARRESTED

Police, Black Panthers Clash Anew Near Project Tuesday Night

A second shootout between police and Black Panthers occurred in the 3500 block of Piety late Tuesday night, leaving one man dead and three more injured.

The incident followed a confrontation between police and Panthers at the black militant group's headquarters at 3542 Piety Tuesday morning. Seven persons were injured in the earlier shooting and 16 arrested.

Police said they had learned that a fire bomb attempt would be made on Broussard's grocery, 3501 Piety, Tuesday night and placed four men in the building. They later observed a group of armed men approaching with a fire bomb, police added.

A gun fight ensued and four of the men outside the grocery were hit. Three were taken to Charity in unknown condition. The fourth remained lying in the street for some time.

In earlier disturbances in the area near the Desire Project four persons were burned, four others beaten and two hurt by flying glass.

Police Supt. Clarence B. Giarrusso said Tuesday afternoon that officers were still searching for several Black Panthers who

Additional Pictures in Sec. 3, Page 19.

reportedly escaped from the Piety Street headquarters of the militant organization.

The earlier gun battle concluded shortly before noon when 16 persons surrendered to police following a siege of bullets and tear gas.

The headquarters — site of most of the shooting — had been boarded up with sheet metal placed over the windows. The frame structure also bore a number of slogans reading, "Death To Pigs" and "Stay Out — Off Limits to

riffs.

Police confiscated a number of weapons from the headquarters, including 11 shotguns, two revolvers, one M1 rifle, one training rifle and a Bowie knife. Some 887 live shotgun shells also were found.

The 16 persons arrested at the scene were booked in Central Lockup and charged with attempted murder. Most of those arrested gave the Panther headquarters as their address.

Arrested were: Leah Bernadette Hodges, 18; Charles Rudolph Scott, 18, who police said is wanted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a fugitive from New Haven, Conn.; Milton Orville Martin, 26; Alton Edwards, 20; Issac Edward III, 27; William Ervin Cloud, 17; Leroy Jones, 22; Elaine Louis Young, 22; Catherine Lene Bourns, 19; Tyronne Edwards, 18; Ronald Ray Allsworth, 21; Jerry Michael Tyler, 17, of 1408 S. Galvez St.; and Donald Thomas Guyton Sr., 22, 319 Newton St., Algiers; Warren Hudson, 30, 3900 Hamburg St.; and a man identified only as Claude Christophe. Christophe also was charged with falsifying

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Arsenal Seized from Panther Piety Street Stronghold



E GUNS and ammunition seized at the Piety Street stronghold of the Black Panthers are checked by Ptn. Alex Vega at police headquarters Tuesday. The arsenal included 11 shotguns, two revolvers, one M1 rifle, one Bowie knife and 887 shotgun shells.

—Photo by The Times-Picayune.

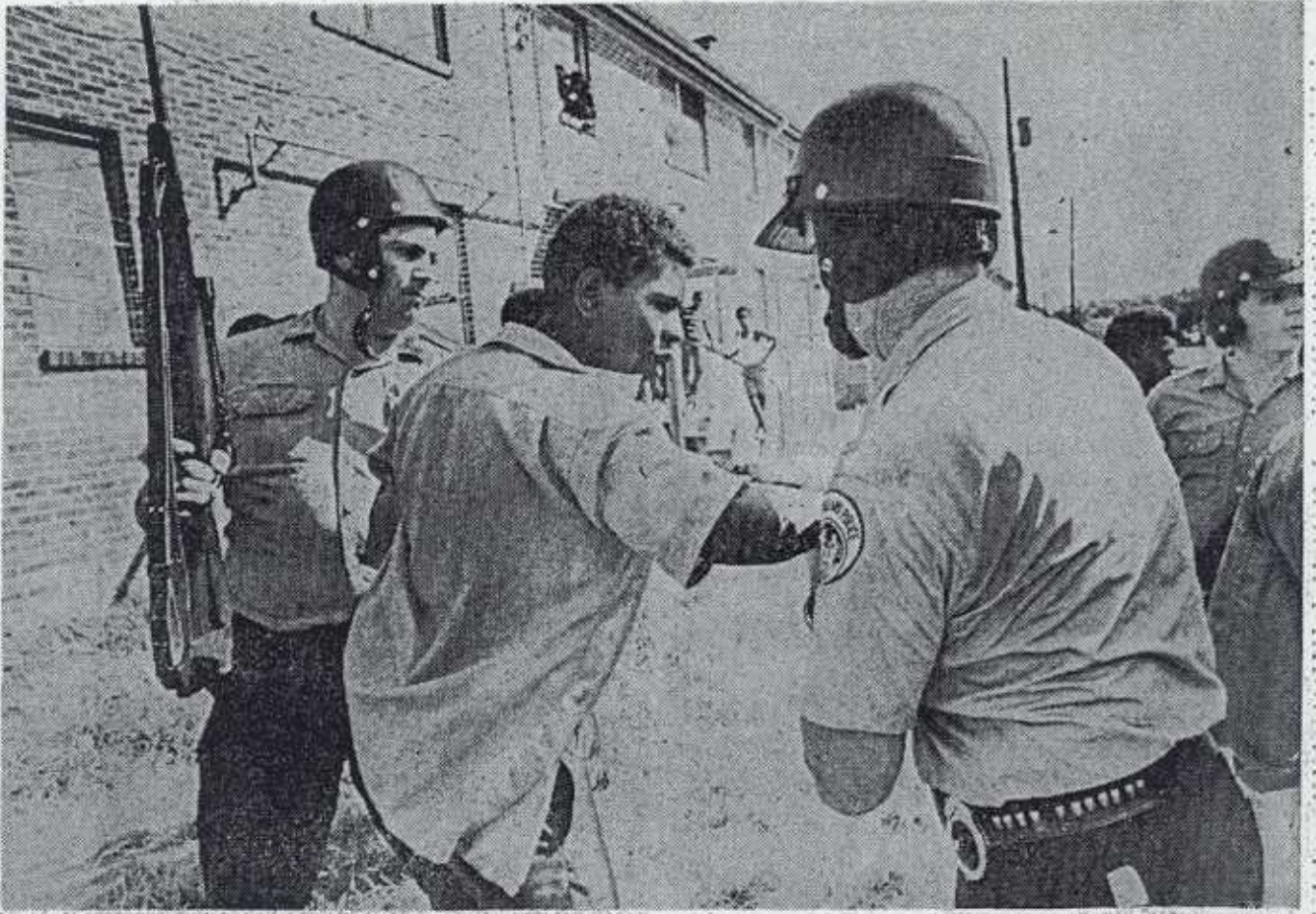
Panther Stronghold Taken by Police After Battle



POLICE OFFICERS occupy the Black Panther stronghold near the Desire Housing Project after flushing the occupants out with tear gas following a gun battle. The sign over the

porch reads: National Committee to Combat Fascism. Photos of black revolutionaries hang on the porch wall. —Photo by The Times-Picayune.

Black Panther Suspect Arrested in Desire Project



—Photo by The Times-Picayune.

HEAVILY ARMED OFFICERS SURROUND MAN FLUSHED FROM PANTHER STRONGHOLD

Picayune

al Gateway Since 1837

PARTLY CLOUDY

and warm with scattered, mainly afternoon and evening thunderstorms, variable winds five to 15 miles an hour is the National Weather Service forecast. High Saturday, 86-90; low, 72-76. High Friday, 90; low, 74. Weather map, details, Sec. 4, Page 4.

ING, AUGUST 7, 1971

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12 BLACK PANTHERS FOUND 'NOT GUILTY'

Jury Deliberates Briefly After Summations

By ED ANDERSON
and BRUCE NOLAN

A jury of 10 blacks and two whites returned a unanimous verdict of "not guilty" after barely half an hour of deliberation Friday in the trial of 12 Black Panthers accused of the attempted murder of five New Orleans policemen.

The verdict, read by Court Clerk Weber Stevens at 6:05 p.m.—31 minutes after the case had gone to the jury—was greeted with a single shout of joy from friends and sympathizers of the defendants who jammed the courtroom.

The defendants, who on order of Criminal District Court Judge Israel M. Augustine Jr. were told to stand for the verdict, pounded each other on the back and hugged each other and their six-man defense counsel team after the verdict was announced.

One of the defendants, Leah Bernadette Hodges, buried her face in the shoulder of defense attorney Robert Glass.

After Judge Augustine quieted the shouting in the courtroom, Assistant District Attorney Numa Bertel Jr. asked that the jury be polled.

JURY POLLED

On order from Judge Augustine, each of the jurors rose and announced his verdict, with each pronouncing the defendants "not guilty."

One exception came from Kenneth Weaver, a former newsman who was one of the first jurors to be picked 30 days ago. "In the spirit of Martin Luther King," said Weaver, "not guilty."

Later, Weaver said that the jury might have returned the verdict sooner than it did.

He said that the jurors had spent most of the 31 minutes trying to work out a statement for presentation after the decision was announced. Finally, he said, it was decided to let the "not guilty" verdict speak for itself.

The 12 faced charges stemming from a gun battle between Panthers and police last Sept. 15 near the Desire Housing Project. If convicted, each could have faced 20-year prison sentences.

The verdict did not bring freedom for the defendants, however. According to Judge Augustine federal authorities

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Lesser state charges of aggravated battery of two undercover agents who were dis-

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12 Panthers Found Not Guilty

Continued from Page 1

covered and allegedly beaten the night before the confrontation are also pending.

In addition, a number of the 12 face contempt of court charges which stem from other court proceedings prior to the actual trial.

Nine jurors had to concur on the guilt or innocence of the defendants. Three possible verdicts could have been returned — guilty as charged, guilty of attempted manslaughter, and not guilty.

Following the verdict, spectators emptied into a corridor outside the courtroom where they shouted, cheered and raised the clenched fist salute as the defendants were escorted through a side door back to the Parish Prison.

As the defense attorneys left, they were clapped on the back and hugged by the approximately 75 sympathizers who lined the corridor. At one point, attorney Ernest Jones nearly disappeared under the crowd which swarmed around him.

According to Bertel Jones' summation for the defense was "the most eloquent" of the day.

Reacting to the verdict, Bertel said in an impromptu news conference in front of the Criminal Courts Building that "I have no complaints at all" and felt both sides had been accorded a fair trial.

JONES "ELOQUENT"

"I think the jury wrapped it up," Bertel said. "... I am quite satisfied."

He added that the summation argument presented by Jones was "eloquent and quite sincere" although he was unable to say what kind of effect it had on the jury.

He said he felt the state and

the defense put on good cases and added that he will be back at his desk Monday morning with another case. Bertel said he felt the jury would have stayed out a bit longer than the 31 minutes it did before reaching a verdict.

In his reaction to the verdict, Augustine said the decision proved that "fair trials can be had by any black people in the South." "If ever there was a fair trial in this community," he said, "this trial was it."

Augustine had special words for Bertel and assistant district attorney William Ary. He cited them for their fairness, and said that their conduct of the case made him "proud to be a part of the legal system."

As he emerged from the courtroom in a shirt and tie — he apparently left his judicial robes in his chambers — the crowd in the corridor began chanting "Here come de judge!" Several times he was stopped and kissed by spectators who had attended the trial.

The trial began July 8 with jury selection, and testimony began Sunday. The state rested its case Wednesday and the defense closed its case Thursday night.

On trial for the attempted murder of New Orleans policemen Nick Pasaccio, James Lewis, Frank T. Ben, Wayne Galjour and Joseph Branaham were Leroy Jones, 23; Ronald Allsworth, 21; Donald T. Guyton, 22; Charles Scott, 26; William Cloud, 18; Isaac Edwards III, 28; Milton O. Martin, 27; Tyrone Edwards, 19; Alton Edwards 21; Leah Bernadette Hodges, 19; Catherine Bourne, 20; and Elaine L. Young, 22.

In closing arguments, the state referred to the store of weapons confiscated from the Panther headquarters at 3542 Piety St. and said, "When you get to the issue of who fired the first shot, you have to determine who was in a position to fire first."

Claiming the defendants acted in self-defense, defense counsel Glass said, "the state must prove specifically the intent to murder beyond a reasonable doubt and they just haven't done it."

Judge Augustine ruled that two attorneys could present the closing arguments, and Jones

the Sept. 14 beating of two undercover agents, Melvin Howard and Israel Fields.

"You must decide whether their law or the law you and I live by is the right one," Bertel said during the wrap up of his case. Glass countered with a reference to the heavy arms used by police in the Desire Street area, saying:

"When in the history of New Orleans have 150 men gone down there with a tank to serve simple arrest warrants?"

JONES' STATEMENT

Glass was followed by another defense attorney, Ernest Jones, who told the jurors that "a trial is a very human thing. It involves human beings and human problems."

Jones said that two things had impressed him during the trial:

One was a tape recorded statement by Gov. John J. McKeithen, which the jurors heard played in the courtroom Thursday. Referring to the Panthers, Jones quoted McKeithen as saying, "We should hit them right between the eyes."

Jones also told the jurors of another statement by Police Supt. Clarence B. Giarrusso. Again in reference to the Panthers, he quoted Giarrusso as saying, "These people will not get a foothold in the community."

"History tells me," Jones told the jurors, "that since the beginning of the slave trade, 50 million black people have been destroyed — eliminated."

Then, motioning to the defendants across the room, Jones said, "But these 12 don't have to look back 400 years." Jones told the jury of the alleged murder of Fred Hampton, a Panther official, by police last year in Chicago. He also referred to the murders of three civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Miss., in the early 1960s.

"These people don't have to look back," said Jones, again motioning toward the defendants.

Jones reminded the jury of the state's contention that, on the morning of the gun battle, armed policemen went to the Desire Project to serve search and arrest warrants for the people who were involved in the alleged beating of two undercover agents the previous night.

The agents, Fields and How-

Grand Old



East Wing of

activities in the Panther headquarters following the defendants' surrender. Jones said that police took posters, typewriters, newspapers and leaflets.

"Why?" asked Jones. "Because these things were doing what they (police) feared most. They were giving ideas to black people."

Bertel, who began his statement at 2:05 p.m. and concluded at 3:27 p.m., centered his remarks around the testimony of Giarrusso and Det. Frank Ben, a narcotics officer who spent the night of Sept. 14-15 in the project and gave key state testimony.

The chief prosecutor told the jury to dismiss any traces of levity or anger shown in the courtroom between attorneys and witnesses since "the responsibility you have undertaken is extremely serious."

"In my opinion," the short, serious Bertel said, "we have withheld nothing from you... the state could have paraded before you a great number of policemen..."

"My only explanation is the time... It (the testimony)

defense has courageous you

"That trial any due proclaimed, "they beat them... is it want to live?"

Giarrusso do he got a search arrest warrant in connection at 3542 Piety St.

However, in nation, it was one of the trial was named. The other five to court.

Touching on recorded Fields tel said if "that, then you thing in this courtroom under cover at James Gladu Panther hea known to Ft and "knew the these people."

Bertel added, were den tion of the g Desire area."

Referring to up in the ho St., Bertel sai

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