

FOR LOSS OF A SON--

see p. 5

\$175 MILLION SUIT

Berkeley Barb

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15¢ BAY AREA

20¢ ELSEWHERE



CLEAVER OPPOSES GREGORY

by Stu Glauberman
"You have to look at the penitentiary we all live in," Kathleen Cleaver said. "We're all on ice."

Mrs. Cleaver, who is Communications Secretary of the Black Panthers, was at Cody's Book Store in Berkeley Wednesday to speak for her husband's freedom—and his new campaign to become President.

Eldridge Cleaver, Panther Minister of Information and author of "Soul on Ice," is imprisoned at Vacaville, awaiting action by the California Adult Authority on his parole revocation. In this, his sixth week in prison since his arrest on April 6, Cleaver declared his candidacy for president of the United States.

UNELIGIBLE?
Cleaver, who is 32, is technically ineligible to be sworn in as President. He seeks the Peace and Freedom Party's nomination, after receiving the eloquent endorsement of the party's so-called

Fred Cody, proprietor of the Telegraph Ave. bookstore, announced Wednesday that all proceeds from the sale of "Soul on Ice" in Cody's store would go to Eldridge Cleaver.

The book, published by McGraw-Hill, sells for \$3.95. Cody said the \$2 he would normally make on the sale of each book will be given to Cleaver.

"For those of us who have the misfortune to be white, this book is a revelation," he said.

Radical or Black-Brown caucus this week.

"My husband's presidential campaign begins in the penitentiary," Mrs. Cleaver told BARB. "The penitentiary mirrors society. To expose the penitentiary system is to expose the ugliness of life outside the prison walls as well."
Mrs. Cleaver said many people were influential in her husband's decision to run, but it was his decision.

"It was the idea of many people as far back as March when the Peace and Freedom Party tried to get him to run then. Eldridge didn't have the time. He refused to consider the possibility. He decided he's ready for it now," she said.

INHUMAN
Eldridge Cleaver's presidential campaign is being run from prison. It focuses on the injustices of the penitentiary system and the racist society which creates such inhuman institutions.

"The penitentiary is the foul, inhuman crater of a sick society," Mrs. Cleaver said. She labelled prison administrators as "idiots."

The Cleaver-for-President movement received great impetus Monday, Mrs. Cleaver said, when Michael Gomez of the PPP's brown caucus delivered a "beautiful statement about Eldridge, calling him a spokesman for all humanity—black, brown, yellow and white."

While Cleaver holds the backing of the radical caucus securely, early reaction to Cleaver's campaign was not very favorable outside of the Panther and Radical caucus camps.

PARTY-SPLIT
Observers have commented that Cleaver's negligible out-of-state strength would obscure his campaign. Others see the ineligible candidacy as a publicity-attracting stunt to help spring Cleaver from jail.

Mrs. Cleaver denied such theories, claiming growing support and dedication for the campaign.

Gregory-for-President headquarters predicted that Cleaver's candidacy "will split the Peace and Freedom Party."

Joe Clark, Northern California Gregory campaign manager, told BARB: "We feel that Eldridge Cleaver's candidacy will not slow down the Gregory campaign."

He said, however, that complaints have come in over Cleaver's ineligibility for office.

People in the party have been calling since Cleaver announced

UNITED THEY STAND



Photo by Curtis
SYMBOL OF SOLIDARITY, Elgin, Abernathy, and Tijerina joined forces in Oakland. Note evangelist Bebe Patton in background.

EAST BAY POOR IN SOLID START

Three thousand people filled the Oakland Civic Auditorium Wednesday night in a support rally for the Bay Area's first contingent to the Poor People's Campaign in Washington, D.C.

Blacks, chicanos, poor whites, Panthers, laborers, welfare mothers, dissatisfied youth and a sprinkling of well-fed on-lookers listened to and applauded the men working with them for the dream of a decent life in the richest land.

At the close of the evening a black man, a red man and a brown man stood on stage with their arms about each other, to symbolize the unity the poor people are seeking in this massive nationwide demonstration.

CHRON SERIES START BOMBS

The San Francisco Chronicle began a special report on the Black Panthers this week, and in their first installment revealed a magical mystery which does not exist, according to Panther leaders.

Under a subhead, "Conclusions," Charles Howe writing in the Chronicle, concludes that "A tense, armed truce now exists between the Panthers and the Oakland police."

BARB asked Kathleen Cleaver, Panther Communications Secretary, about the truce.

"That's absurd," she said. "You know, that's the first I've heard of that. Nobody told me."

"I can't see it -- the Oakland police by their very existence harass Panthers. They still follow our cars. They still stake out our office. Just because they haven't killed anyone this week? That's no truce."

"We see them as the occupying army," Mrs. Cleaver told BARB. "Until they withdraw, they're ter-

tionwide demonstration. Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Reies Tijerina, and Al Elgin showed the strains of exhaustion brought on by cross-country organizing. Still, "We're in Washington," Abernathy was able to declare, "and we're there to stay until the Congress of the United States does something."

"We are seeking justice to - gether," Elgin had said earlier in the evening, speaking as an American Indian and as one of the 35 million persons in the "poverty" category listed by the government.

Tijerina, a fighter for Spanish-American rights in the southwest, questioned even the possibility of the poor receiving justice, because "the white man founded an empire based upon crime, murder, hypocrisy, and blood."

Three busloads, 129 of the Bay Area's Washington-bound poor left DeFremery Park early Thursday morning, according to Cassandra Davis.

Because funds ran out, about a hundred are left behind. If and when additional money comes in for the project, these people will have first priority on the next buses.

Lou Goldblatt of the ILWU, as the only white labor representative in the program, promised "support, without reservation" for the campaign.

The slender figure of Bobby Seale on the platform was apparently a surprise to the program-planners, who didn't list the Panther leader among the speakers. He told the caravaners (who would leave from DeFremery Park early the next morning) not to go to Washington, "then come back and sit down again."

"Let's go forth together as humans," he urged.

Violence was a presence that most of the speakers touched on uneasily. Mark Comfort probably best brought out the feelings present in the rally when he said, "If they kill 10,000 people they can't eat us. And if they do, we're gonna

HUTTON FAMILY SUE FUZZ, CHIEF UNTIL IT HURTS

by Stu Glauberman

The suit against the Oakland Police Department filed in Federal court this week by attorneys for the parents of slain Panther leader Bobby Hutton, could amount to a \$175 million payment, BARB found out this week.

One of the three attorneys handling the case for Mr. and Mrs. John D. Hutton told BARB he was misquoted by the press.

Tuesday's press reported the Huttons filed a \$2.5 million damage suit in federal court. BARB learned Wednesday that the claim is for \$2.5 million PER defendant.

Donald Warden, attorney for the Huttons, told BARB: "We were misquoted in the press. We are asking \$2.5 million per defendant, and our complaint names 50 or more John Does, a total payment which could reach \$175 million dollars."

The action charges Oakland Police Chief Charles Gain and dozens of policemen as John Does with "deliberately, wilfully, maliciously and knowingly," shooting and killing Bobby James Hutton, 17.

Hutton was killed by Oakland police bullets after a 90-minute gunbattle with eight members of the Black Panther Party. Hutton was one of the original members of the party. More than 2000 mourners were present at the funeral on April 13.

Attorney Warden also criticized the press for inferring that Oakland policemen involved in the April 6 fray were cleared by the Grand Jury which indicted the Panthers.

"The Grand Jury merely indicted the Panthers," he explained to BARB, "The newspapers construed their indictment as an exoneration of the police. It was no such thing. The Grand Jury doesn't have the power to exonerate the police," he said.

"The police could very well have acted illegally in shooting Bobby Hutton, depriving him of his life without due process," Warden said. "That's what we're trying to prove."

Warden said he thought the legal grounds for the suit were sound. "I think we have enough evidence to prove this before a federal court," he told BARB.

All of the defendants have not yet been served. "We have no way of knowing at this time when the case will come up. We've merely filed suit. It could be a couple of months," the lawyer said.

The two other lawyers involved in filing the suit were Clinton W. White and Henry Ramsey, Jr.

NOW THEY'RE BUSTING HUEY'S LITTLE COUSIN

The police harassment of the Black Panthers reached down into Oakland's high schools and junior high schools recently, and two 14 year old girls were arrested in one of the incidents.

Cathy Godfrey, 14, and her friend were both arrested last Tuesday by plainclothesmen at the King Junior High School in Oakland. Both were held overnight, charged with extortion and assault.

Cathy Godfrey is Huey P. Newton's cousin.

She and her friend, who was not identified by Melvin Newton, were arrested when the schools' police were notified that two white girls had stayed home from school. The two charged that Cathy and the other girl attempted to

According to Kathy Cleaver at the Panther headquarters, the mothers of the two "victims" were told by the principal to call the police.

Plainclothesmen are assigned to Oakland schools, Mrs. Cleaver said. "What are police doing in the schools?" she asked. "They can't educate anyone. They can't even be educated," she laughed.

Earlier this week it was revealed that the Oakland Police Department had requested Oakland public high schools to cooperate by providing them with the names of students associated with the Black Students Union.

Mayor John Reading was asked why the police had been allowed to single out the BSU. Rudin

GREGORY BACKERS HOPE CLEAVER RUNS

from page 5
his candidacy," Clark said. "Many say they would leave, if Cleaver were nominated."

"He is not even qualified, but Gregory people are not concerned over that. We hope he will run," the campaign manager said. "It will make us work harder."

Clark explained that Gregory has already succeeded in winning the endorsements of many PFP groups in and out of the state. The nominating conventions are expected to be held late in June, according to Clark. PFP will hold a convention in San Francisco and one in Los Angeles.

COMEDIANS

Commenting on Dick Gregory's candidacy, Mrs. Cleaver told BARB: "The president must be the political leader and the outstanding statesman of the people. While black actors, football players, and comedians have been allowed to speak for the black community in the past, in politics, we don't accept them."

Mrs. Cleaver, who is herself a PFP candidate for state assembly (18th Dist., SF), spoke informally at Cody's Books while signing copies of her husband's "Soul on Ice."

Mrs. Cleaver discussed her husband's arrest and imprisonment, largely in terms of his humanity. "Eldridge is humanity—if he's being destroyed, if his vision is being destroyed, we're all being destroyed," she said.

Cleaver's imprisonment in the State Medical Facility following the gunbarrage in West Oakland last month, came after a request by Oakland Police Department. As a parolee, Cleaver is at the mercy of the Adult Authority.

His wife explained, "Two members of the Authority must meet, by law, and file charges to revoke a parole. In my husband's case they told him he was going to San Quentin just as soon as they arrested him."

"By three in the morning, he was a prisoner, before any mem-

bers of the Authority knew anything about it. They drew up charges several days later," Mrs. Cleaver said.

As a prisoner of the state, Cleaver does not receive his mail on time. All of it is read prior to delivery, it is censored and everything he writes must be approved, Mrs. Cleaver said.

"His attorney was told this week that a law was found, preventing him from bringing a tape recorder with him when visiting a prisoner," she revealed. "His agent was told that Eldridge doesn't have the right to sign a contract (for the Swedish publication of his book)."

"When I visit him, I can only stay three hours in a plate-glass booth. We talk on a telephone and they have an open line."

"These are not conditions unique to Eldridge, they are part of the devious and secretive plan of prisons in this state. If they are devious and secretive, they are evil. We must save Eldridge Cleaver, by petitioning the governor and the parole authorities so that he will not be silenced. We must end political imprisonment by political action. The tax structure of this state must be made to respond to the ugly system which is part of this state," she said.

SAVE ELDRIDGE

"We plan to make it more expensive to keep him in, than to let him out. They will find it is easier to free Eldridge Cleaver than to keep him imprisoned."

Mrs. Cleaver said efforts by the International Defense Committee to Save Eldridge Cleaver as well as by the Black Panther Party and other groups would make Cleaver's case known throughout the nation and the world. She also described plans for the Committee to Humanize the Prisons. Hundreds of lawsuits will be brought against the Adult Authority by convicts, ex-convicts, and their families, organized from within, she said.

'FROZEN'

Panther's attorney Charles Garry told BARB this week that he would enter a writ of habeas corpus in the Cleaver case. The Adult Authority is not bound by law to act upon the case within a specified time limit. "He's frozen," his wife said.

Garry said that Cleaver and seven other Panthers arrested on the night of April 6, would appear in court this week before Judge Redmond C. Staats for what he termed "preliminary matters."

Their trial awaits the result of a federal court case in which Garry seeks to obtain an injunction against the City of Oakland and the County of Alameda to end their persecution of the Panthers through their police and court harassments.

"Arguments will begin on May 21, at 9 am in Judge Sweigert's court," Garry said.

"Thus far," he told BARB, "the defendants have filed their affidavits. They have challenged the legal basis of our suit." "That's what we'll argue, beginning on the 21st," he said.

EDITOR ROUTS POLICE

Police besieged THE SON OF JABBERWOCK -- Student Communication Network San Jose office for fifteen minutes at 3:25 am Wednesday. Five San Jose police officers supported by three squad cars tried to gain entry into the Kaleidoscope bookstore, the building in which the news center is located.

Jabberwock editor C.K. Moreland, Jr. was in the bookstore glancing at a newly arrived copy of GRAMMA newspaper when two cops checked the lights.

The fuzz returned to demand entry into the building to investigate for burglars.

Moreland told them he had an office in the building and that they would not be allowed inside. They radioed for assistance. Two more cars arrived, containing at least one sergeant, one plain clothes detective and what appeared to be a dog.

Once again Moreland insisted on his legal right to use his office. He offered as identification a California Highway Patrol press card, a San Jose police department press card, a copy of the newspaper containing his name as editor and the address of the newspaper office which was the same as the location of the harassment.

The officers refused even to look at the press cards or any other form of identification, as well as at the newspaper which was passed outside through the mail slot by Moreland. They said they would not be convinced by a bunch of papers.

Moreland, who is black, then asked the officers if his producing the key to the door of the building would affirm his right to be inside. The officers responded that they knew plenty of burglars who work with keys.

Moreland then informed the officers that if they still sought entry into the building they would have to produce a warrant before he would produce a key.

Shortly thereafter the bookstore telephone rang, and a San Jose police officer ordered Moreland to open the door and permit the officers to enter. Moreland, upon discovering that he was not under arrest and that the telephone conversation was being recorded, hung up.

After receiving a radio message the officers departed en masse, but kept the office under constant surveillance in cruising squad cars and G.L. taxi cabs.

FREE U HERE FACES TEACHER SHORTAGE

The Free University of Berkeley is having problems getting teachers.

While the Mid-Peninsula Free University, FUB's sister school in Palo Alto, is thriving with almost as many courses as Stanford and more than 1,000 registered students, the Free U in Berkeley is appealing for help.

"Palo Alto has nothing else beside Stanford and Free U," Carol Small, co-ordinator for FUB, told BARB, "so students come to the Free U there in droves."

"But in Berkeley, there are so many other things happening, people don't take a prolonged interest in FUB," she explained.

FUB is seeking persons from the community to organize courses which will be relevant to the current political and/or practical scene for its next session, scheduled to begin this week.

It is also appealing to professors from UC to come and teach courses which can't be taught in the establishment institution because of curriculum restrictions.

Two of the most popular courses last session were "How to Survive in Prison" and "How to Defend Yourself Legally;" similar courses are welcomed for this session, Carol said.

"The Free University of Berkeley

was established in 1966 as "an experiment in long-range radical education," according to its first catalog. "It has nothing to do with credits, grades, or limitations like that of any kind."

"For this reason we have a great format for an awful lot of things to happen," Carol told BARB. "Anyone who wants to teach a relevant course may teach if he can find enough students interested in attending."

Descriptions of proposed courses can be brought to the Free University office at 1703 Grove St. from 2 to 6 Monday through Friday. The FUB phone is 841-6794; prospective teachers may call Carol Small at 549-0220.

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LEASH LAW A SLEEPER

Berkeley's imminent leash law may not be as innocent as it seems, judging by audience growlings at the May 14 City Council meeting.

"They should not only leash the dogs, but leash the beatniks, too," one member of the audience remarked, with the visible approval of the bulk of those present.

Diane Rain, one of the three speakers against the proposed ordinance, told BARB of her dismay and frustration at the reaction of the elderly gathering, which gave Councilman John DeBoris an ovation when he thumped the table in theatrical outrage over the threat of "anarchy" in Berkeley.

"The whole climate was so rabid and bloodthirsty," Diane said, "that dogs seem like Krishna by comparison."

When she told the councilmen that Oakland charges an excessive \$20 for releasing an impounded dog to its owner, a voice in the audience said, "Good, good!"

Under the ordinance proposed by City Manager William Hanley, dog-owners could be busted for six months or fined \$500 for giving a dog freedom beyond a 6-foot leash "under effective charge and control."

Discussion of the cost of kennels needed for the new local law led one member of the bulky majority to suggest, "just destroy them" apparently referring to the cap-tured dogs.

One pro-dog speaker was met with silence when she pointed out the economic discrimination implicit in the proposed leash law. "You mean you're telling me that because I don't have enough money to afford a closed yard, I can't have a dog?" she asked.

Councilwoman Bernice Hubbard May expressed surprise that nearly everyone present was for a leash law, which has been defeated for the last nine years, Diane Rain said.

The audience laughed when Miss Rain suggested that not enough notice had been given.

Efforts are now being made to mobilize Berkeley's free-dog people in time for the Tuesday, May 21 council meeting at 8:30 a.m. when the final vote is expected. Last Tuesday the council passed a "sense motion" favoring the leash law, with only Councilman Daniel Dewey opposed.

Although the May 14 audience expressed concern over damage done to their lawns by dogs, the proposed ordinance does not restrict the activities of leashed dogs, and does not prohibit walking leashed dogs past the houses of dog-hating citizens or councilmen.

CHIPS DOWN OVER AFROTC AT SF STATE

Almost everybody at SF State wants the Air Force ROTC removed from campus, except may be the SF State administration and the Air Force.

If the ROTC isn't gone by next Tuesday, the SDS at State has promised to sit in "with the purpose of remaining until the contract is cancelled," John McKenny, Students for a Democratic Society spokesman, told BARB Thursday.

On Tuesday of this week he said, the Academic Senate voted 25-4 against continuing the ROTC program.

This follows endorsement of the SDS demand last week by newly elected student body president Russell Bass, and a general student election last month in which the State students voted 2-1 to cancel the Air Force contract.

A teach-in Wednesday by SDS and the Third World Liberation Front effectively closed down the psychology building where the Air Force has its offices, for the day, McKenny said.

He indicated that this was just a sample of what would follow next week if John Sumerskill, president of the college, doesn't act on the student's demands by Tuesday, May 21.

A TALK IN TIME



Photo by Reim

SIGN SAYS: When you shop here you support racism, pig brutality, exploitation. The lady is listening.

HOUSEWIVES WINNING HOUSEWIVES BOYCOTT

by Terry Reim

The success of the boycott on Housewives Market in Oakland was apparent Saturday as hundreds of people intending to shop there, respected the picket lines and turned away to do business elsewhere.

A group of white clergymen present on a fact-finding mission for the Northern California Council of Churches, added strength to the strike when they ended up carrying picket signs side-by-side with the black Oakland housewives. The housewives were acting under the banner of Blacks Strike for Justice.

BARB, on a fact-finding mission of its own, was also at Housewives Market Saturday and spent the morning talking to the strikers and observing the success of the boycott.

"Housewives has lost ninety percent of its business," one of the 50 or more of the women pickets surrounding the store told this reporter.

I noted that because of the small number of customers, many employees were standing around inside the market with little or nothing to do. Those who were shopping were almost entirely white.

One older white man employed in the store stuck his head out the door just long enough to yell to the passing clergymen; "They're vicious people -- they'll kill you first."

"You're really socking it to them," a young black employee said leaving the market by the same door, "keep up the good work."

The picketers spent the day Saturday, as they have done for three weeks, asking people not to shop at Housewives. "Please help us," one striker told a black couple, "The Man can't make it without your money -- it's the most peaceful way in the world." The boycott is an attempt to make the Oakland merchants use their political power to end police harassment in the ghetto.

It is concentrating on Housewives Market at 9th and Clay Streets, Mrs. Norma McClure, one of the originators of the strike,

told BARB, "because most of the people who shop at Housewives are black."

The boycott is obtaining wide support in the community and a number of black leaders have come out personally endorsing the strike including Senatorial candidate John George, and Elijah Turner of CORE.

Ralph Williams, chairman of the West Oakland advisory Commission, was also originally reported as a sponsor of the boycott by the Oakland Tribune, but last Thursday the Trib reported he denied any endorsement.

"I am not a sponsor of the boycott," he was quoted as saying, "I have not been asked to have my name used."

"Ralph Williams has no black awareness," Mrs. Marie Johnson another of original strikers told BARB Saturday, "A lot of people are afraid of their poverty jobs, but there comes a time when you have to stand up and be counted."

FEELERS OUT FOR ABERNATHY TO JOIN RFK

A group of "the poor people who are never heard from" is pushing for a non-partisan Bobby Kennedy-Ralph Abernathy presidential ticket, BARB learned this week.

Jim Campbell, organizer of the move said Wednesday that a sampling in San Francisco's Fillmore district indicated 80% support for a Kennedy-Abernathy slate.

"The elimination of racism, poverty, wars, and Uncle Tomism," are the goals of the group he said.

"This is the only way we can inhibit the trend toward violence and war, by electing these two men who understand the grave situation in America today."

Campbell told BARB that the group has already printed posters which are on their way to the Poor People's Campaign in Washington, D.C.

MANDEL'S HAT IN THE RING FOR US SENATE

William M. Mandel of Berkeley has challenged Paul Jacobs for the senatorial nomination of the Peace and Freedom Party.

Mr. Mandel, a commentator on KPFA radio, is an authority on Soviet politics and history.

Jacobs received the Party's official stamp at its March convention. Mandel's candidacy was urged by a number of small-county P and F activists.

Dr. Richard White of San Mateo County announced Mandel's candidacy Tuesday, stating, "Many people were distressed by the party's endorsement of Jacobs because we didn't feel, with his past record,

he represented the Peace and Freedom Party."

Mr. Mandel is equally "distressed" with Jacobs' nomination. "I don't trust his present claim to radicalism," he told BARB in an exclusive interview.

Jacobs, by his own admission, was instrumental in eliminating a number of liberal trade unions from the CIO in the late forties, because of alleged communist infiltration.

However, before the Peace and Freedom convention which endorsed him for the senate in March, Jacobs pointed to a clean radical slate for the past 17 years. Mandel challenged Jacobs on this point and said he could prove Jacobs' red-baiting right into the sixties. He told BARB:

"In 1960 Jacobs (and 3 others) demanded the removal of the following people from KPFA: Professor Marshall Windmiller, Paul Baran of Stanford, Herbert Aptheker, and myself.

"The only thing the four of us have in common is opposition to the cold war.

"This group threatened that if the station did not meet its demands, it would smear the station in REPORTER magazine and TIME magazine.

"All of this has been testified to by the former president of the Pacifica Foundation (which includes KPFA) in the reinstatement hearing of Elsa Knight Thompson, the public affairs director.

"The issue of the day was anti-

Mandel told BARB that he considers Jacobs' candidacy hampers the PFP's ability to attract members of the labor movement. He said the effect of Jacobs' union activities of the forties was to restrict the number of blacks allowed in labor unions, today.

"The unions then expelled from the CIO," he says, "were those which first fought for the admission of blacks to the ranks of organized labor en masse."

They include the ILWU, the United Electrical Workers, and the Mine, Mill and Smelters Workers.

While Jacobs has just recently come out in favor of the black revolutionary leaders, Mandel said, he was supporting them "37 years ago, at the time Jacobs was driving the most interracial unions out of the CIO."

Commenting on Eldridge Cleaver's recent announcement that he would seek the presidential nomination on the Peace and Freedom ticket, Mandel stated:

"I support the Black Panther Party in full and agree entirely with the reason for putting forth Eldridge Cleaver's candidacy."

"I have the highest respect for Dick Gregory," he said, "but to me, organization and clarity of program are the key to black liberation. This is what the Panthers have to offer -- this is what Eldridge Cleaver as a thinker has to offer."

Many small-county members have apparently been considering choosing their own senatorial candidate ever since the March convention.

"Many of us didn't think the convention had the prerogative to choose a candidate," Dr. White told BARB, "because we went there unstructured with regards to candidates."

Mrs. Marlene Primack of Palo Alto, another person largely responsible for Mandel's candidacy pointed out, "Mr. Jacobs is only a candidate for the nomination; he is not yet the senatorial nominee."

That will be decided by the registered P&F votes in the California primary election June 4. With such a short time before the primaries, Mr. Mandel stated that he will conduct his campaign "chiefly by speaking at whatever P&F organization invites me."

Mandel may be contacted at his home address, 233 Lake Drive in Berkeley, or by phone at LA 5-

PFP PUSH ON FOR 18 YEAR VOTE

A drive to lower the voting age to 18 in California will be the major thrust of Peace and Freedom Movement actions throughout the state during the next three weeks.

The PFM statewide steering committee last weekend made itself an organizing committee for the age 18-21 vote effort, aiming at gathering a required 600,000 signatures by July 7.

If the massive initiative petition campaign is successful, Californians will be able to vote on the proposal in November. The drive is expected to be the largest PFM effort since the original registration drive which put the party on the official ballot.

In both Georgia and Kentucky the voting is now 18.

Among the reasons given for the PFM support of the 18-year-old vote is the argument that youth required to fight in war should be able to take part in the selection of those who send them to die.

Peace and Freedom literature points out that 45.8 percent of the Viet Nam casualties have been under the age of 21 at the time of death.

Another, and less traditional, reason for supporting the 18-year-old vote initiative was stated by PFM Steering Committee member Brian Heron.

"Many legislators say they cannot support the legalization of marijuana because their electors are primarily over 30," Heron said. "If the voting age were lowered to 18, it would then be in the interest of the legislators to legalize grass."

The immediate large-scale mobilization in Northern California will begin this Saturday, May 18, at the PFM San Francisco offices at 55 Colton Street, starting at 11 a.m.

Action in the 18-year-old vote is also being coordinated at the Statewide Office (841-8480) and the Alameda County Office (549-0690), both in Berkeley.

The campaign will be directed toward intensive on-the-streets work at a neighborhood and precinct level. PFM leaders are seeking all the manpower they can get.

Another crucial decision made by the Statewide Steering Committee last weekend was to expand the Peace and Freedom Movement as it exists in California to a nationwide organization.

"This alternative was chosen rather than forming coalitions with groups whose positions we didn't really know," steering committee member Heron explained.

At present national organizing is being promoted out of state by four PFM members sent to New York, Boston, and Chicago.

Peace and Freedom activists at all levels emphasize unanimously that the new party's efforts are perpetually hamstrung by limited financial resources. They urge PFM supporters to make what-