Bust in New Bedford

by an Old Mole staff member

Early Friday morning, August first, the New Bedford police raided Kempston Street and the newly set up National Committee to Combat Fascism Information Center in the Black West End of New Bedford. Two weeks before three white youths had driven down the same street and unloaded a shigon into Lester Lina’s stomach.

The mayor needed a scapegoat for the Black uprising that followed Lester’s death and the one in the Puerto Rican South End in late July. So he arrested 30 Blacks, including several members of the Black Panther Party, and charged them with conspiracy to commit murder, conspiracy to commit murder, conspiracy to commit murder, conspiracy to commit murder, conspiracy to commit murder, conspiracy to commit murder, conspiracy to commit murder, conspiracy to commit murder, conspiracy to commit murder, conspiracy to commit murder, conspiracy to commit murder.

Mayor Rogers said, “The people responsible for the crime of the last three weeks are in custody.” But in fact, most of the fighting this week was not in the West End but in the Puerto Rican South End, where it was sparked by a combination of police harassment and the failure of the city to answer community demands. In addition, a number of the people arrested have been in New Bedford ever since the end of the first uprising and some arrived the day before the bust.

I went into the West End around 1:00 on Friday morning. It was a state of siege. There were three pigs armed with shot guns and tear gas guns at every corner. You couldn’t get near Kempston Street, where the NCCP information center had been raided earlier.

I stood in a sandbox about a block away with some people from the neighborhood and watched about twenty pigs move out from behind a fire engine and into the woods next to what had been the Black Brothers Club (the most radical group in New Bedford). People told me that earlier in the morning the pigs had taken everything movable out of both the Black Brothers Club and the NCCP office. Now they were searching the woods for more.

A man said, “My house is behind that lot. They’d better stay away from it.”

The pigs moved in at 3 am before going into the center and rounding up everyone they could find and yelling them into a lot across the street.

I asked the people why they thought the cops had gathered so many people in the lot before making their raid. Most felt that the pigs were using the people as a shield. If they were to be any shooting, the pigs would have the black people between themselves and the bullies.

There was no shooting. When the pigs ordered everyone to get out of the information center, the people refused. The pigs got just about everybody who had been involved in organizing the West End since the uprising three weeks ago. Most of the Black brothers were arrested including three black members of the ad hoc committee set up by Senator Brooke to advise the mayor. They also got Black Panthers from Boston who had been invited down by the Black Brothers to set up the information center, and Bob Stevens, the head of the Black Student Union. The pigs also arrested the young girl who was shot along with Lester Lina three weeks ago. She had tried to take some pictures of the raid.

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After I left the West End, I went to the courthouse and spent much of the day standing there. State troopers armed with shot guns and rifles and wearing bullet proof vests kept me and the crowd I was part of away from the courthouse. Every so often young black people broke into chants of “off the pig.” Everybody was shocked by the hate in some of the cops’ eyes, but one young trooper to whom people were talking was almost in tears.

Old ladies stood at the edge of the crowd talking. Some young white boys told me that they had pissed on pigs. They said they would sell them to anybody who could pay. All day I tried to figure out why the raid had come in the West End rather than the South End, where most of the recent fighting had taken place. I also tried to understand why it had come at this time—although cops, all along, were hot for ripping off everybody, they could get their hands on. Up until today the mayor had wanted to wait to make the South End and West End “safe” for business. After today the mayor made their demands that the committee members cooperate. After I visited the South End, I knew why the mayor moved when he did. The fighting in the Puerto Rican community Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights had made it clear that many of the poor people in New Bedford were not going to sit through another round of empty promises.

The Moralis, the one Puerto Rican member of the committee, returned to the South End, where 1,000 Puerto Ricans live along with a number of Blacks from Cape Verde. On Water Street he found a couple of cops standing around outside some
**Lords Liberate Hospital**

New York (LNS)- "My aunt died of a wrong blood transfusion."

"My friend's mother died of hepatitis from a dirty needle."

"My brother broke his arm and had to wait two hours in the hall before a doctor came out."

The people speaking were all under 12 years old and all Puerto Rican. They were sitting around a table in the basement lunchroom of the liberated Lincoln Hospital, taking part in a political education class run by Denise Oliver, Minister of Finance of the Young Lords Party.

At 5:30 that morning, a group of about 200 Puerto Rican men and women from the YLP-HRUM (Health Revolutionary Unity Movement, a citywide radical union of black and Third World health workers), and the Think Lincoln Committee made up of workers and patients from Lincoln returned the hospital to the people of their community. Among their demands were a door-to-door health service for preventive care, sanitation control, nutrition, drug addiction, maternal and child care, day care and senior citizens' services, a permanent 24-hour-a-day grievance table, and a $140 minimum wage for all workers.

Hours later, hundreds of people were streaming in through the front door to get free tests for tuberculosis, iron deficiency, anaemia and lead poisoning. Cutting posters were stuck up all over the hospital building that could easily pass for a warehouse and saw the Puerto Rican flag flying and banners in the window proclaiming: "Bienvenido al Hospital del Pueblo." "Welcome to the People's Hospital.

Lincoln Hospital is located in an industrial area of the South Bronx (a borough of New York City) on the edge of one of the largest, most rundown Puerto Rican ghettos in the city. Leaflets handed out to the press explained the takeover. "Lincoln Hospital is a butcher shop that kills patients and frustrates workers. People come to the hospital to get medical help. It is a factory that makes money out of patients."

In a previous action the Young Lords Party liberated a tuberculosis truck and brought it to the Puerto Rican community, where it was sorely needed.

Mafia out to get Lords

New York (LNS)- The Mafia has a $20,000 contract out on the head of Chairman Felipe Luciano and other members of the Central Committee of the New York Young Lords Party.

Director of Information Pablo Yoruba Guzman told Liberation News Service July 23, "There has been rumors going around on the street, and last night we got reliable information that there is definitely a contract on Felipe.

"[A "contract" is a businesslike arrangement in which the Mafia hires a killer to murder someone they don't like.] Yoruba attributed the Mafia's assassination plot to the fact that the Lords are working to rid their community of the Mafia-supplied heroin that debilitates thousands of people in El Barrio, the Puerto Rican section of Harlem.

The Mafia has been investigating thousands of dollars at the Randall's Island Rock Fest, produced by Brave New World Productions, which has established connections with the Mafia, according to the Lords. The festival was held at Randall's Island, which is adjacent to the Puerto Rican community.

The Lords, together with the Revolutionary Youth Party, a group of white youth culture radicals, went to Brave New World and demanded that a share of the concert profits be used for community services coordinated by the Lords. They also demanded to be allowed to give political raps at intervals during the festival and that artists appear to represent the Puerto Rican community.

The demands were met, but nobody made much money, because the concert was a bust - Brave New World did a bad job of promoting the event, and many people crashed the gate. The Mafia seems to have pinned the blame on the Lords.

Many Italians live along Second Avenue close to El Barrio and the Lords are concerned that the revelation of the Mafia plot to murder their Chairman will be construed as an anti-Italian attack. Yoruba stressed that the Mafia membership includes Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Jews, and Greeks, as well as Italians, and that "our fight is not against the Italian people.

The Lords do not intend to curtail any of their work. Felipe will go underground at night and the Lords will tighten security around him and other members of the Central Committee during the day.

"The Mafia, like the police, believes that if you get the leader, the whole movement stops," says Yoruba. "We're not into that any more. If Felipe goes, well miss the brother, we'll cry, we'll give him a fantastic funeral by opening up another program, and we'll keep going."
I DON'T MEAN TO FRIGHTEN YOU

While Carl was speaking, Ovada Donzlek, leader of the Central Committee for the Protection of Poor People, another militant black group, approached Carl and warned him that an unmarked police car was parked in a lot at St. John the Baptist Church, some 300 yards from the center. A few minutes later, more heavily armed pigs were discovered on the roof of St. John's Church. Carl told the crowd about them and two young men, armed with shot guns went to see where the cops had moved in on the rally.

A single 22 caliber shot was heard. Donzlek said that "some foot" must have fired at the police. None of the People's Party members had 22 rifles, and the party's policy forbids firing on the police except in self-defense. So Carl and another man ran down to the church to check out the scene.

As they moved out into the street, they found themselves exposed to police guns, so they ducked into an alley that runs alongside the church and tried to hide near a business building across the street.

The cops opened fire. The first three shots hit Carl, two through the clust and one in the liver. The pigs knew who they wanted to get.

After the shooting was over, the cops entered the People's Party headquarters and tore the place up. Then they launched an attack on community people standing along the street a few blocks south of the center, beating and arresting everyone they could get their hands on. All except one of the fifty arrested were black, and may are still in prison.

The next day, the cops arrested Maggie Hampton, Carl's widow on charges of "burglary."

With Carl's murder, the Houston pigs have moved in on the People's Party. The organization, which is much like the Black Panther Party in its structure and program, has existed since February, but the People's Community Center has been functioning only a few weeks. It was designed as an information headquarters for the community. People's Party also planned to coordinate several programs through the center — free breakfasts for children, clothing drives and community control of the police.

Houston's ghetto, in which the Center is located, defies description. The poorest blacks, of which there are many live in tiny shacks crowded 20 feet apart, and surrounded by narrow dirt roads — a few blocks from the mansions where Houston's ruling whites make their homes. In many areas of the city, black people can see Houston's super Los Angeles style freeway system from their shacks. The virtually nonexistent transportation system here quite literally keeps black people in their place.

During the past seven months, 24 alleged robbers have shot to death by Houston pigs. Twenty were black. A few months ago, Houston pigs literally beat to death a young black man named Bobby Joe Conner.

Houston is also the city where tenced Lee Otis Johnson, a charismati- tic SNCC leader, to 30 years in prison for planning a joint to an undercover agent a few years ago.

When Lee Otis was bust, there wasn't much of a movement in Houston. But things have changed. Over the past year, people have begun to build an anti-imperialist movement. A strong coalition of black, Chicano and white groups has developed and is pulling together to defend People's Party leaders.

"The movement in the city of Houston has to be prepared to fight for its life at this point. This is a war," said a young militant.

"We're advocating our survival, and getting the truth to the people, and this means by any means necessary."

PEOPLE'S PARK MIDWEST

Milwaukee (LNS) — Police gunfire killed one man and wounded another who were allegedly involved in firebombing an A&P supermarket here early Friday morning, July 17. The shootings occurred during a week of clashes between police and members of Milwaukee's youth culture community.

Dead is Randolph Anderson, 26, of Milwaukee, a student at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, and an ex-Marine Vietnam veteran. Wounded and in fair condition in Donald Rubin, 20, a student at the same school. A third man, Gary Schmidt, who escaped the scene unharmed, was later arrested and charged with being a party to arson.

The conflict grew out of a curfew ordinance which had been imposed on Water Tower Park, a nightly gathering spot for young people, because of complaints about noise from residents near the park. The city council rejected a proposal by the kids to close the streets to traffic, which they say is causing the noise.

The park became the scene of several conflicts with police, including a battle between riot squads and 3500 protesters on the night that the ordinance was to go into effect. The action developed into a window-smashing and firebombing attempt on a Veterans of Foreign Wars meeting hall and a Honeywell Corporation plant.

There were smaller clashes on the nights of July 16 and 17, with numerous arrests made. Anderson and Rubin were shot about Jam near the A&P. The cops said that Anderson had charged — but he was hit on the side of the face with 00 buckshot, and in the back and leg with .38 bullets. Anderson was dead on arrival at the hospital. Rubin was hit in the back with .00 buckshot and is now in the hospital on $50,000 bail. A Newswriter photographer was attacked and his camera smashed by the A&P store manager when he was filming the uncharred area where the firebombs were supposed to have landed.

It seems like the Milwaukee Police are trying very hard to create another People's Park.
Police Kill Two More Students in Middle America

Lawrence, Kansas (LNS and Vortex)
Located 30 miles from Kansas City, Lawrence is a typical midwestern "Honor-America" town with a population of 30,000 white citizens, 5000 Blacks, Chicanos and Indians, and 16,000 university students. The town's hierarchy, made up of local businessmen and conservative politicians, threatened by the rising militancy of its third world population and by the emergence of a frisky, radicalized student body, has met its minority groups' grievances with repression. Last spring, black students at Lawrence High School presented a list of demands to school officials, asking for greater participation in school activities, black history courses, and black instructors. For the second consecutive year, their demands were rejected.

When the young black community demonstrated at the high school, they were dispersed by police using clubs, tear gas and Mace. The same night, the Kansas student union burned -$1,500,000 damage. The town was put under curfew with national guardsmen called in by the governor. For the following 3 days, the white student community mobilized in support of the black community and in defense of their own turf, actions which resulted in property trashings, burnings, and over 70 arrests. The Lawrence Liberation Front was organized as a center of radical white youth activity, and the Afro House was established as a center for militant blacks. These two new organizations served as focal points for the mobilized energy of the town's growing movement.

On the night of July 16, police cars with lights out closed in on Afro House, and Rick "Tiger" Dowdell, a black student activist whose life had been threatened on various occasions by Lawrence police, knew it was time to leave. He asked Frankie Cole to drive him to a friend's house. As the police pulled out, the two were immediately followed by several squad cars. Trying to ditch them, Frankie overtook a two-blocks from Afro House. Rick jumped from the car, headed for the alley, and was shot in the back of the head by patrolman William Garrett. Earlier that evening, there had been several incidents of gunfire in the East Lawrence black ghetto. A white woman had been shot in the leg, and the police reported shooting at nearby New York elementary school. The Afro House is in the same neighborhood. The police had headed there, supposedly following two "suspicious" blacks.

Several nights of street fighting followed Dowdell's death. On Friday night, a cop was shot in the chest while patrolling in the black community. Meanwhile, in the freak community people were shooting out street lights, turning on fire hydrants, starting trash fires and throwing rocks and bottles at police wherever they showed up.

Early Monday evening, July 20, a fire hydrant was turned on and police dispersed the crowd, and shot off the hydrant. Later a Volkswagen was turned over in the middle of the street ready to be burned as a barricade when the police returned.

On July 23, three hundred white street people marched from Oread Avenue through the downtown area as a memorial to Rick Dowdell - and Nick Rice. An hour later, three hundred blacks also marched through the downtown streets bearing Rick's coffin, carried by a lamplighter and two potters.

"Any man who carries hate in his stomach should have the chance to fall before harburrity. I will not let him go forgotten."

New Bedford continued

buildings owned by Pacheco, one of the big slum lords in the area. He called the mayor and asked him whether they had been given orders to protect Pacheco's property. In my talk with Tito, he seemed to me a man who had not always asked the cops to leave, but to do their job and not stand around in one place protecting some slum lord's property. The mayor said that they were there protecting the community.

After calling the mayor, Tito went back into the street. A crowd had gathered around the cops. Someone asked Tito, "How many cops do you have?" Tito said, "You'd better ask them."

With that, the police arrested Tito. He was thrown down town, beat him, and booked him for disorderly conduct.

After Tito's arrest, hell broke loose. Twenty or thirty people were stoned, barricades raised. Some shooting. The pigs tore down the barricades. The people put them up again. Sixteen people were arrested.

On Wednesday, (two days before the bust) the mayor set a 9:00 curfew. Tito told the mayor that no one would obey the curfew. It was too hot to be indoors. At 8:43 the mayor pushed back the curfew to 11:00.

There was temporary peace in the South End, but the City Council, the newspaper, and the businessmen were outraged that the mayor hadn't clamped down harder and earlier. The city received millions of dollars in federal funds, but that had come of this money was another federal bureaucracy. Now the people were going into the streets. The mayor needed a scapegoat, someone he could blame people's anger on. He also needed some way to seem like he was finally finishing off all this trouble. An editorial on the first page of Thursday's Standard Times predicted the tactics of the raid would come in twelve hours: "...those who are arrested in connection with these night-time outbreaks be held in such high bail that they will not be able to participate in further violence..."

In answer to the criticism he had been receiving, the mayor said that the police would enforce the law in every section of the city and there will be no sanctuaries. He told the police to do what was necessary.

There was no obvious target in the South End. Organization there, though effective, was very informal. Informal. Someone body wanted to say something or get something started they got on the top of a car and rapped to the people. The Black Panthers and the Nazis at the NCCP were much more visible, their outspoken politics more of an open threat and they could be called outside agitators more readily and thus make it seem that conditions in the city weren't really responsible for the upsets.

After the raid the police chief said that he was happy that pigs had an area back under their control which had been out of their hands for awhile. It wasn't hard to see that the pigs who control New Bedford had reached a consensus: the way to put a stop to the town's trouble was to put all the "trouble-makers" in jail and keep them there.

Mayor Rogers after the raid:
"In summary, we should say that the forces of revolution that have been at work throughout the community, and which have been difficult to suppress, we think now have been eradicated."

It doesn't seem too likely that he is right. After the raids Francis Haddocks and the Massachusetts Police-Community Relations Committee, said "My whole attitude has been changed since the trouble began here. I feel if I was asked to join the Black Panthers now, I might just do it."
The State of Connecticut laid out the guts of its case against Lonnio McLu- cas the last days of July: the tape re- corded which the straight press has featured as "the recording of the kangaroo torture-trial of Alex Rackley," Warren Kimbro, ex-Panther turned state's evi- dence, to cop a second-degree murder charge, who also interpreted the tape for the jury: and New Haven detective Vincent DeRosa, who was allowed to play another tape in which he had gotten Lonnie to incriminate himself.

With the press section filled and Kimbro on the stand, the state brought out the famed tape recordings suposed- ly seized at the time of the New Haven bust. Kimbro sat in the witness box, sipping a glass of water a sheriff had brought him from the judge's bench, waiting to "identify" the voices on the tape.

One voice came on, in no context, and said, "With regard...go ahead." Kimbro said it was Francis Carter and then added the voice came from a pre- vious use of the tape. He didn't say how many of the other voices were out of context, but said the recorder had been turned on and off repeatedly so that it is quite broken up.

The tapes were basically boring for the press: they contain only question- ing of the alleged victim, Alex Rackley, mainly by the two men testifying for the state, George Sams and Kimbro himself. The questioning concerns what Rackley probably didn't know anything but made up stuff to placate Sams. The Panthers have said repeatedly that Rackley has a Panther member in good stand- ing who was killed by Sams and other police agents. Rackley's voice is trembling on the tape, but there is no mention or indication of kidnapping, torture, or murder happening or about to happen.

Kimbro had given his version of the murder prior to the playing of the tapes. He said that just before he, Sams and Lonnie took Rackley out, Lonnie had phoned Hartford to get another order for the mission. The implausi- bility of this story - the phone was known to be tapped, Hartford is an hour away, and the Panthers have plenty of weapons in New Haven - did little to remove the implication that Lonnie had placed the murder. Besides, if the jury has to deal with phony evidence about whether the murder was premeditated, it'll be easier for them to forget that Lonnie may not have done it at all.

Kimbro continued his version by saying Sams told him that they were tak- ing Rackley, who had just been tortured and interrogated, to the woods to let him go. They got to a swamp and walked away from the car: then Sams gave a .45 to Kimbro and said, "Ice him. It's orders from National Headquarters." Kimbro shot Rackley in the head, and the three went back to the car. Same then ordered Lonnie back "to make sure he was dead," and according to Kim- bro, Lonnie shot Rackley in the chest. They split.

On cross-examination by Theo- dore Kookoff, lawyer for the defense, Kimbro admitted that he is being held in the same jail as Sams and sees and talks to him every day. He said they had talked about their testimony in the case. He also said he had talked with New Haven police within three times and with prosecutor Markle's staff several times about his testimony. The next day, Kimbro admitted he had made the plea from "testy galley - no cooperation" to "state's witness - early parole recommendation" at the urging of his brother, a detective from Florida flown to New Haven and put up at state expense. Kimbro said also that Sams had told him what Sams' testimony was going to be in the case be- fore either had testified.

The final outrage about Kim- bro's testimony was that it was "improved" with age. Kimbro never told police that Lonnie tied down Rackley before the state's witness testimony. Lonnie's arrest had been made on the basis of the tape recordings seized at the time of the New Haven bust. Kimbro stated that he recol- lected more now than he did last Janu- ary, when he made a 47-page statement to the police. Kimbro in his final statement, though, damaged the state's "conspiracy" case by saying that he never heard any- one order Rackley killed until the moment Sams handed him a .45 in the swamp and ordered him to fire. No one but Lonnie ever said to kill Rackley.

Kookoff immediately objected to Sgt. DeRosa's bringing in his tape of Lonnie on the same grounds he earlier had objected to testimony from an FBI agent: 1) Lonnie had not lawyer present at or prior to the interrogations which were being used against him; 2) DeRosa had intimidated Lonnie by saying that the state had an inculpatory case and it wouldn't matter much if he made a statement; and 3) any statement Lonnie made during interrogation was legally invalid since Lonnie's arrest had been based on unfounded FBI wiretaps.

Kookoff then freaked out the FBI by subpoenaing FBI officers and wiretap records to prove the FBI had used the illegal wiretap to locate Lonnie for the arrest; and to prove Lonnie didn't make the call to Hartford for more guns. U.S. Attorney Peter Clark then showed up in "a special appearance," as he put it, to prevent the openinB up of "FBI files to complete looting and rummag- ing." Kookoff said this was ridiculous and it would be unfair for the FBI to testify for the state of Connecticut, which it already had done, and then to deny important information to the defense.

Judge Mulvey overruled each objection and motion of the defense. On the tape, Lonnie's voice, sound- ing despairing, related about the same events as Kimbro had. Most of DeRosa's questions were leading, and the voice re- lated the interrogation, car trip, and Sams' order to kill. In case the proju- dicial, illegal statement hadn't moved the jury enough, the prosecution read the transcript again the next day.

The state's case proves on thing - the devastating power the police and the media have in a political trial. Winesses and the accused are isolated and intim- dated into giving incriminating evidence or the public - which includes judge and jury - have their heads filled with "tor- ture-trial propaganda that's totally unfounded. Even the liberals should see that blacks like the Panther who fight for the press...they contain only que.. Florida flown to New Haven and put NN I E MC LC/CAS LN $,