







## FIRST PEOPLE'S CHURCH — WINTER '69

After several weeks of visiting the First Spanish Methodist Church on 111th Street and Lexington Avenue to ask the pastor for permission to start a breakfast program in the church basement. The Young Lords Party decided to take the issue directly to the congregation.

On a Testimonial Sunday, Felipe Luciano, Chairman of The Young Lords Organization, rose to speak to the parishioners. But the pastor had already asked several plainclothes policemen to sit in the pews. They were backed up by uniformed cops outside. These photos show the confrontation among police, church members, and the Young Lords. Minutes after, the beatings took place. Police broke Felipe's arm in two places, gave several "Lords" and supporters several wounds on scalp which required stitches. When it was all over, 13 "Lords" and "Lord" supporters were arrested. Those arrested were ordered by the court to stay away from the immediate vicinity of the church.

The next Sunday, rather than retreat, The Young Lords Party quickly occupied the church during services, re-named it the People's Church, chained the doors, blockaded the exits, and began preparation for breakfast and preventive health care programs as well as cultural activities for the residents of El Barrio. Those who were under court order

provided logistical support from across the street.







## JULIO ROLDAN FUNERAL

In the fall of 1970, two members of The Young Lords Party, Bobby Lemus and Julio Roldan, were arrested simply because they were Young Lords. The next morning, Julio was found hanged in his cell. Against a background of general unrest in the New York City prison population, The Young Lords Party decided to end Julio's funeral procession through East Harlem with the second occupation of the People's Church.



