

Black Panthers

1. April 19, 1970 - Clifford McKee stopped by Troy, Michigan police, taken to Troy jail. Troy police called Detroit police and were told that he had not appeared for a court date and to hold him. McKee placed in a room with a phone that did not work and told he could call. Attorney Dean Robb was called by someone else and went out and had McKee released because he had been in court was released no charges, but who in Detroit Police Department was responsible for giving our false information?
2. April 1970 - Tony Norman and Andre Mitchell selling Panther papers in front of J.L. Hudson's on Woodward. A young Black man in civilian clothes engaged them in conversation and started asking them questions about the Panthers and eventually showed a badge identifying himself as a police officer. An argument ensued and both were taken up to J.L. Hudson's security officer. Mitchell was released but Norman was struck by one of the plain clothes officers and charged with creating an improper diversion. The next day Norman went to traffic court (Room 211) and asked for an adjournment and was charged with interfering with a police officer.
3. April 14 or 15, 1970 - Charles Holt stopped by police in 14th Precinct. Told by officers "We know what you are doing. You are extorting money from the merchants." Holt said, "No, these people are supporting our free breakfast program." Police, "You don't mind if we take some then, and reached for the bacon. Holt told the policemen that they couldn't have any food. A scuffle ensued. One officer asked Holt, "Who lives at 2219 Indiandale? How many Panthers are there in Detroit? We are going to knock that house over." Holt had a car load of food, taken in, no charge - held over night. When calls were made, denials were made that he was there. Finally released after numerous calls were made. No charges. While in jail he was beaten and numerous political questions were asked about the Panthers. When released he went to car and found all the food gone out of trunk.
4. January 3, 1970 - Charles Hold and Norman McKee picked up by police charged with extortion, while they were picking up food for the free breakfast program. Later charge was dropped to soliciting for a charitable organization without a license. Later entire case was dropped. Taken to 1st Precinct from Eastern Market, no merchants complained. Police asked Holt and McKee about the FREE BOBBY buttons on their jacket.
5. October 1969 - Brenda Jackson selling papers in front of Kresges downtown. Uniformed police officer told her she had to be 18 to sell papers. Asked her for proof of age. She told him that since people solicit for girl scout cookies at age of 12, she did not have to show proof. Arrested and taken to 1st precinct. Told by same officer - "You have to be 18 to sell in loop area." No charges, released after two hours, no phone calls permitted.
6. March 11, 1970 - Rented truck used by Panthers in Detroit to pick up food for free breakfast program, deliver papers, was legally parked near Panther eastside office (Mack & Baldwin). Two uniformed officers of Tactical Mobil Unit had stopped and one was going through the truck. One of the people from the Panther office came out and asked the officer why he was opening the door of the truck. The officer told the person from the Panther office, Norman McKee, that the truck was stolen and anyway it was none of his G--D--- business." McKee told him the truck was rented but that the papers were at another location. The officer pushed McKee against the truck, Victor Grayson from the Panther office came out and asked what was going on and why McKee was being pushed around. Eight to ten police cars came out from the 7th precinct. Both McKee and Grayson were roughed up, searched, handcuffed behind their backs, and taken to the 7th precinct and charged with larceny by conversion. On the way to the

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station, the following statements were made by one of the officers who took the men in, "Shut up N-----, you Panthers think your're bad. I'll beat your black ass." Both men taken to police headquarters. McKee released the next day, no charges. Grayson taken to Ann Arbor jail because of tickets.

7. Friday, March 27, 1970 (2:45 p.m.) Statement made by James Pita, Jr. - "I was leaving the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO office at 2310 Cass Avenue, and walking South on Cass Avenue when two police officers of the Detroit Police Department, sitting in a Scout Car, stopped me and motioned me to come over to the car. Policeman -Badge #3062 - asked me my name and where was I going and what did I have under my arm. (I had 100 issues of the Black Panther newspaper.) I told him I didn't have to tell him nothing but my name, and he, Badge #3062, said to show him something with my name on it. I showed him my school I.D. card, and he wrote my name down and said he was going to put me on their list, and that if anything happened to either of them, he would know where to find me.

"Badge #3062 asked me where was I going to sell papers, and did I have a permit, and I told him that I did not need a permit. He told me that I was on a public street and that he controls the streets and that in order for me to control the streets I would have to walk over him.

"The Badge #1804 searched me without probable cause and kept threatening to take me in. They both kept intimidating me with remarks about Russia, Cuba, and China, telling me that they had revolutions and look what it got them.

"Badge #3062 finally ended by saying that I shouldn't shoot any police officers in the back at night because that's the way cowards do it. But, he said, he'll meet me face to face in armed confrontation anywhere, anytime."

A letter was sent by Tom Turner, President of the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO to Police Commissiner Murphy regarding this (a copy also went to Judge Lincoln), but Commissioner Murphy has not answered yet.

8. February 7, 1970 - Edward Horn and Billy Phillips - arrested at Stimeon and John Lodge Expressway, alleged to be painting signs on property "Free Huey" and charged with malicious destruction of property over \$100.

9. March 31, 1970 (approximate date) Clifford McKee selling papers in front of J.L. Hudson's - charged with interfering with a pedestrian. Case dismissed May 13, 1970

10. April 16, 1970 - Billy Phillips, Harriet Walker(19), Olesia Williams (16) & Michael Cunningham (17) were in the vicinity of W. Grand Blvd. and John Lodge at about midnite, they were carrying Panther papers. Two squad cars pulled up and ordered the youngsters into the cars. (The young women in one and the young men in the other.) They were forced to sit on the floor and were cursed at and threatened. Driven around for a while and taken to an area in Grosse Pointe or the northeast side of Detroit (an all white area) and then shoved around, beaten and told, "We are going to kill all you Panthers." "Get out and run." All of the papers and about \$37 was taken. The four were released after this continuous harrassment which lasted for some time.

11. May 9, 1970 - Two plain clothes police officers started asking LaMarr Bellinger and Victor Grayson numerous questions about the Panthers while they were selling papers on Woodward Ave. downtown, an argument ensued and the two were arrested and taken to the 1st precinct and charged with resisting and obstructing, later reduced to assault and battery, then to simple assault. Both were released on May 11 on the reduced charges. While being taken the following was stated by one of the officers, "Good Panthers don't act like this." Another said, "We killed Fred Hampton and Mark Clark and we'll get you next."

12. May 12, 1970 - Lonnie Darden and another unidentified Panther were taking pictures of the plain clothes officers on Woodward. They were taken in to 1st precinct and the camera was confiscated and film destroyed. These two went out again and were rearrested, but no charges were filed and released after being harrassed. Attorney Justin C. Ravitz went to get them released. Police denied they were arrested even though Darden was ticketed for interfering with a police officer and had to appear in court the next day.

13. February 21, 1970 - Larry Powell, Norman McKee, James Pita were arrested at about 4 p.m. at Kresges department store while selling Panther papers. All three were beaten by police, taken to 1st precinct. James had five stitches in head, taken to Detroit General. Police said he had run into a wall. Stitches on top of his head. Larry and Norman charged with felonious assault. James taken to juvenile - charged with assault with intent to commit murder. Later changed to felonious assault. This occurred after a demonstration by some white youths protesting the "conspiracy trial" in Chicago. The white youths broke a window at J.L. Hudson's store and some ran into Kresges. Several police officers ran into Kresges (all had removed their badges), but according to several people, the police began pushing and clubbing black people in the vicinity and attacked and chased the people selling the Panther paper, none of whom were involved in the demonstration. The police claim some people were throwing bottles at them. An unidentified police spokesman was quoted in the local papers when asked if the police knew the Panthers were on that corner, "We are quite aware that they are there." McKee and Powell were released on \$500 bond.

14. February 23, 1970 (1:30 p.m.) - Charles Holt received a call at Panther office from a person identifying himself as the Goldfarb Bonding Agency telling him that McKee and Powell would have to go there and sign the papers over again because there was a typing error on the bond. Holt drove McKee and Powell down to bonding office. When they arrived several Detroit Police Officers were there with badges off. The police drew their guns and took McKee and Powell to Wayne County jail. A scuffle ensued, and Holt was pistol whipped, injuring his arm for which he was treated at V.A. hospital. (Holt is a Vietnam veteran.) The bonding agency told Norman and Larry that the bond was \$5,000 and that they had received a call from the court stating that there was an error. Therefore, the bond was revoked since there was not enough premium for a \$5,000 bond. Attorney Justin C. Ravitz was called and after several hours was able to contact Judge Robert Evans who had them released on the original \$500 bond, because there was no error in the bond, Goldfarb agency seemed unwilling to cooperate and appeared intimidated by someone so the Wardford Bonding Agency put up the \$500 bond. When Holt, McKee, and Powell were taken to Wayne County jail guns were held to their heads and several Sherrif's deputies said "We have a bet on as to who is going to kill you and Malik first, us or the Detroit police."

15. Feb. 1970 - Tony Norman (20), arrested in alley behind Panther office on West Side. He had taken garbage out. Four police officers, one in uniform, stopped him and with guns drawn said "Move and you are dead." He was taken to the 10th precinct;

on the way he was told by one plainclothes officer, "We are waiting for you, Panther, to start something so that we can finish all you Niggers off, you yellow-bellied S.O.B." A witness inside the Panther office saw this and although the 10th precinct was called by several people that evening, the 10th precinct denied Norman was in the station. It was not until the next day when a witness came to the station who had seen the police pick him up that he was released.

16. Dec. 11, 1969 - 10th precinct police received a call that there was a stabbing at 2219 Indiantale. Six carloads of police officers with shot guns showed up for the investigation. This is the West Side Panther headquarters. The people at the Panther office called several people and because of this a confrontation was avoided. No one had been stabbed at this address.

17. December, 1969 - Several people arrested in front of Hudson's while selling Panther paper released - no charges.

18. Dec. 29, 1969 - Tactical Mobile Unit car of Detroit Police takes pictures of several people selling Panther paper.

19. Dec. 27, 1969 - Police cars park in front of building - West Side Panther headquarters - approximate time 3:00 a.m. - Police stayed in vicinity for about three hours, parked with lights off.

20. Approximate date, April 19, 1970 (afternoon) - C. Holt stopped at Mack and St. Jean. Was told that truck was stolen. He told officers it wasn't. He was taken in and fingerprinted. No charges lodged. Not allowed to use phone. A plainclothes officer identified as Sgt. Payne or Paytick (name may not be accurate) said "I see we have a celebrity here - Chuck Holt - What's been going on at the Panther office today?" Officer then implied that the police had almost knocked off the Panther office in December and may try again.

21. Approximate date, March 3, 1970 - 5:00 a.m. - C. Holt on way out of house to get into truck. Eight uniformed 14th precinct officers with guns drawn said "Don't move or we'll kill you. Put your hands over your head." They held a shotgun to his head. He was taken to 14th precinct, and held until 8:00 p.m. in the basement. Various people called and were told he was not there. Finally released - no charge.

22. March 19, 1970 - Andre Mitchell and Wendell Calloway arrested while selling papers downtown Detroit. Released on personal bond.

23. January, 1970 - Robert Smith had previously been ticketed while selling Panther paper, charged with interfering with pedestrian traffic. He was beaten by Detroit police in courtroom.

24. Jan. 30, 1970 - James Pita was attending basketball game at MacKenzie High School. Four plainclothes officers were pushing their way through crowd. One engaged in a brief pushing incident with Pita, grabbed him and said, looking at the FREE BOBBY button, "Oh, we got a Panther." He was handcuffed and pushed into a car and was told that the Panthers are going to be all killed off and was asked numerous political questions about Panther beliefs and the officers told him that the Panthers were racists who wanted to kill off all white people. Parents not called until he was on his way (two hours later) to juvenile home. Not released until next day. \$1,000 bond asked. Charged with assault and battery on a police officer. Case finally dismissed.