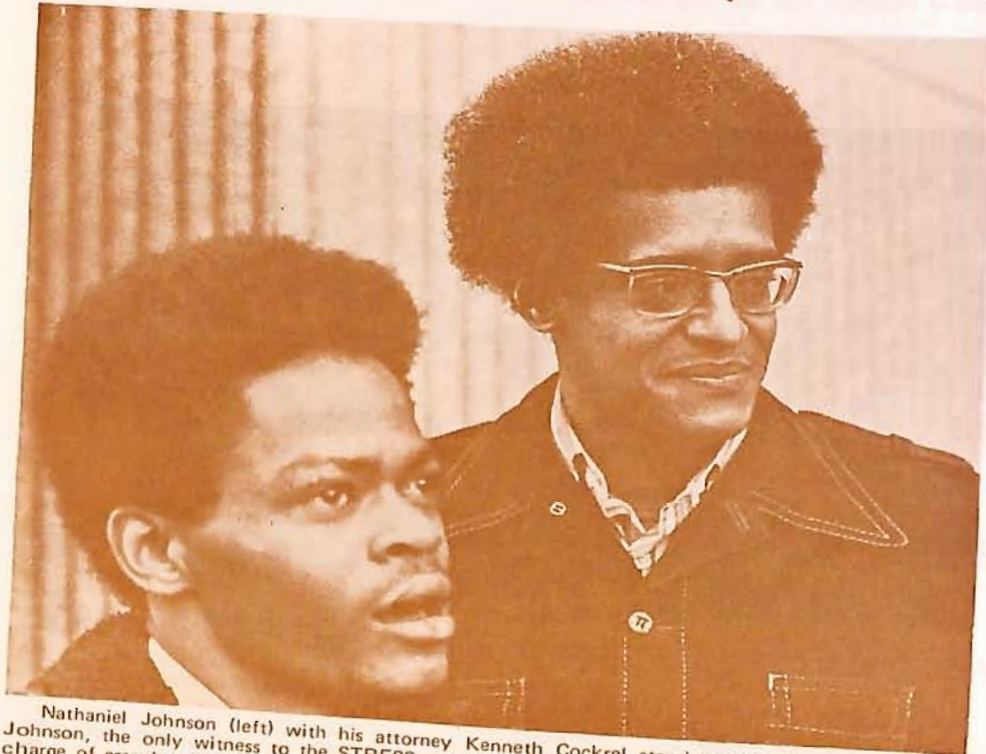
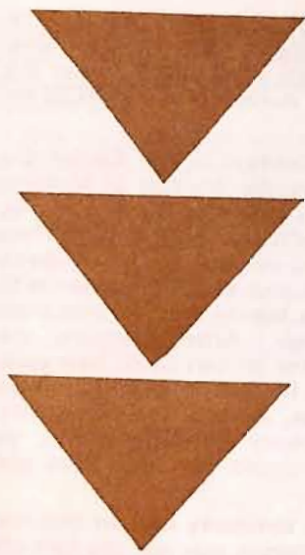


Six months after the killing of Clarence Manning, Jr., the one witness to this killing was brought to trial. The charge of assault with intent to rob being armed was dropped just before the case went to the jury and they deliberated only on the less serious charge of felonious assault.

Thirty minutes later the jury acquitted Johnson of any wrongdoing in the incident in which his friend was murdered. He had spent almost 90 days in jail, because he was too poor to put up \$500 bail.

At the time of his arrest, Nathaniel Johnson was 21 years old. He was employed as a plumber. He had no criminal record at the time of the killing, and he still has no criminal record.



Nathaniel Johnson (left) with his attorney Kenneth Cockrel stand outside Recorder's Court. Johnson, the only witness to the STRESS murder of Clarence Manning Jr., was acquitted of the charge of assault with intent to rob being armed by a jury who saw through the cover-up and lack of evidence.

Chapter 3

Turning Point: The Rochester Street Massacre

During its first year of operation, STRESS became increasingly more controversial in certain segments of the community — those sectors where STRESS left its mark in blood, bullet holes and battered bodies. The State of Emergency Committee (SEC), formed in September of 1971 after the killing of two teenagers, demonstrated vividly the level of concern that STRESS had generated among blacks in Detroit.

At the same time, STRESS had not shot its way into the consciousness of the entire community, at least not in any way commensurate with its battlefield statistics and human casualties. Most Detroiters had never heard of Clarence Manning, Jr., Ricardo

Buck, Craig Mitchell, Dallas Collins, James Henderson, Ken Hicks, Howard Moore, Horace Fennicks, Harold Singleton and other STRESS victims. March 9, 1972 changed that.

From the moment the papers hit the streets with the story of the shootout between STRESS officers and Wayne County Sheriff deputies, STRESS could never again be quite the same. This was a shooting different from all the rest. It was not "law enforcement officer vs. alleged street mugger". It was "law enforcement officer vs. law enforcement officer". The usual cover-up and whitewash of police murder would not work in this case, and so there was a selective prosecution.

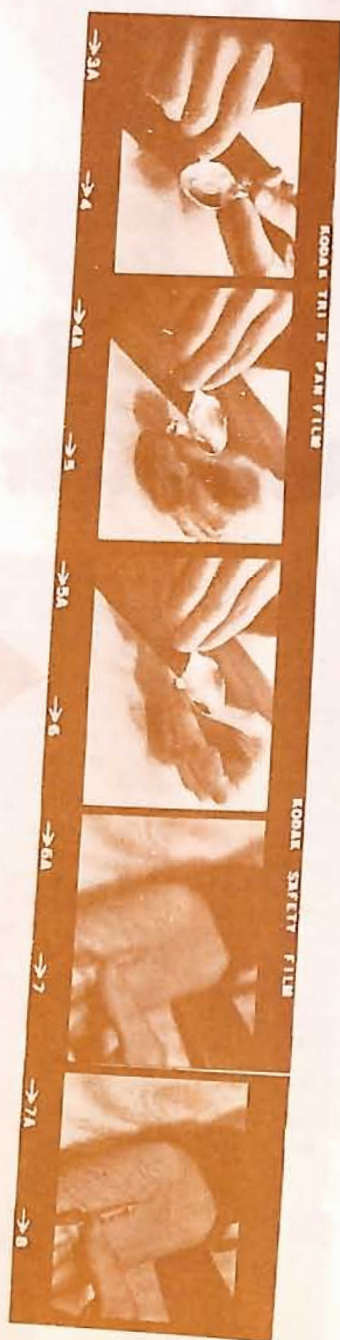


Extensive court testimony provided the basic facts of the case. Black STRESS officers Virgil Starkey, Ronald Martin and James Harris, all dressed in street clothes, observed a man, later identified as Wayne County Sheriff Deputy James Jenkins, walking toward an apartment building at 3210 Rochester with what appeared to be a gun. He entered Apartment 14 to join some friends in a card game. The STRESS officers, assisted by other police officers called to the scene, fought their way into the apartment with guns blazing, killing Deputy Henry Henderson seriously wounding Deputy Jenkins and wounding two other deputies present in the apartment. According to court testimony, two of the deputies were saved by Patrolman Richard Herold, who arrived at the scene and prevented their execution.

The real story of the Rochester Street Massacre has never been satisfactorily explained, nor do we expect that it ever will be. There were constant rumors that it was really a "battle for turf" by different law enforcement agents competing in the building of local heroin trade.

These rumors are given added, though confusing, legitimacy by the presence of Patrolman Herold. Police investigations now indicate that Herold's actions resulted from past disputes with one of the police officers present regarding which heroin dealers worked for which officer.

Herold has been indicted for having, on several occasions, been involved in stealing narcotics from one dealer and re-selling them to another. On January 8, 1973, he was suspended from the force after being arrested in Toronto for possession of and dealing in cocaine. He is currently under indictment in Detroit for heroin trafficking.



Forty four shots were fired by the Detroit Police — 41 of them by the STRESS officers, Deputy Henderson sustained six gunshot wounds as he stood with his back to the wall, his hands in the air, and his ID badge in his hand. The fatal shot was from the gun of Patrolman Dennis Shiemke, yet Shiemke, who is white, was never brought to account for that death. It was ruled "justifiable homicide" because he was "acting in the line of duty."

STRESS officers Starkey, Martin and Harris were prosecuted for assault with intent to murder Deputy Jenkins. Preferential treatment for police was abundantly evident throughout this prosecution. In spite of the public outcry, the officers were not charged for more than two weeks following the incident. They were not arrested and subjected to lineups as would be the ordinary citizen. Instead, 12 days passed without police action. When the DPD finally arranged lineups, victims of the crime were subjected to endless viewings of 111 police-volunteer lookalikes in order to confuse the witnesses, thus lessening the likelihood of conviction. The STRESS officers were not detained in Wayne County Jail while awaiting trial, but were each free on \$2000 personal bond.

The apartment on Rochester Street where Wayne County Sheriff's Deputies and STRESS engaged in an early morning shoot-out on March 9, 1972 leaving Deputy Henderson dead and Deputy Jenkins wounded.

Starkey, Martin and Harris were finally brought to trial on June 29, 1972. The jury trial resulted in the three defendants being acquitted. Prosecutor Cahalan did not suggest that there was a "miscarriage of justice" or that black jurors would not convict the blacks. Rather, he was quoted in the Detroit Free Press as saying, "It was up to the jury to determine whether or not (the STRESS officers) acted reasonably under the circumstances. I always accept a jury verdict."

In the Police Department all was soon forgotten — or was it? In April of 1973, Ronald Martin, one of the defendants in the Rochester Street Massacre, journeyed to Washington, D.C. with Commissioner Nichols. Their purpose was to laud the glories of STRESS before the House Select Committee on Crime. In response to a query from Representative Lawrence Winn of Kansas, Martin compared STRESS to the Marines, "only better!"

This resume of the Rochester Street Massacre would be incomplete without a comment about the role of the media in the history of STRESS. Newspaper archives bulge with voluminous coverage of Rochester Street. Where are the comparable volumes on the killing of other STRESS victims? They are non-existent. Such selective coverage of other shocking murders requires that the media share the guilt of the Detroit Police Department and Prosecutor Cahalan in the cover-up of these murders.



Chapter 4

Response To Oppression

Even an abbreviated chronology of citizen response to STRESS in its two and one-half years of existence indicates a period of intense popular dissent and unrest in Detroit. Widespread community criticism and multiple grass roots initiatives calling for modification or abolition of STRESS make evident the degree to which an oppressive police operation drives a deep wedge between the people and their government. A review of that period easily demonstrates both the level of concern in Detroit during those 30 months and the issues raised by the people in resisting and exposing STRESS. Although numerous citizen groups and citizen-sponsored events could be cited, only highlights of that period can be covered.

Nearly three months after its inception, STRESS operations were reported to the community for the first time. Soon after that, on April 24, 1971, the first fatal STRESS shooting occurred. A brief five months later the number of fatalities resulting from STRESS unit operations had risen to 11. All but one of the victims was black.