

FEDS

Continued from page A1

of witnesses in homicide investigations. The Detroit City Council and Mayor Dennis Archer invited the review last year after an avalanche of negative publicity about police brutality.

"We learned through a little bird that the City was about to release confidential information to the federal government," said Michael

Rataj, the attorney for the DPLSA, during the hearing. He said he had been informed by Judith Levy, Assistant U.S. Attorney, that the Justice Department did not consider the Detroit probe an official "14141" investigation of civil rights violations, referring to a provision in Chapter 42 of the U.S. Code.

Rataj said the federal government had issued no subpoena for the requested information, and objected to voluntary compliance by the city with the government's request. He requested that Drain continue the order until an arbitrator ruled on the

union's related policy grievance.

Pamela Thompson of the Justice Department, Levy's supervisor, denied Rataj's allegation after the hearing. "We do not comment on the substance of ongoing investigations as a matter of policy," she said. "But Michael Rataj must have been confused. There has never been any question that this is a U.S. Chapter 42 Section 14141 investigation."

"I'm hoping that the Justice Department will review the documentation with a fine tooth comb, and find everything the city tried

to push under the rug," said Herman Vallery, father of Lamar Grable, one of three Detroiters killed by Police Officer Eugene Brown. "There's a lot that the Law Department and Phyllis James are trying to cover up on behalf of higher officials."

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Isidore Torres has so far declined to release an internal police department review of shootings by Brown to attorneys representing the Grable family in civil proceedings. The City has also refused to release the review to the media despite Freedom of Information

Act requests filed by *The Michigan Citizen* and *The Metro Times*, among others.

In a letter to Quinn dated July 30, U.S. Trial Attorney Joseph Zogby assured the City that all information turned over to the Justice Department would remain confidential. Zogby said that without the requested documentation, including the Garrity statements, "We will not have the benefit of the involved officers' assessment of the facts at a point in time close to the incident."