

Defend the Baltimore Panthers!

BALTIMORE—In New Haven the fascist government is using the guise of a "torture-murder" trial to murder Bobby Seale and Ericka Huggins. This example of vicious repression is being followed now in Baltimore where there are at least 10 Panthers and a white lawyer incarcerated in the Baltimore City Jail (with no bail) waiting to be legally murdered in the gas chamber, or condemned to life imprisonment.

The charges are the same as in New Haven—the torture-murder of a supposed informer. This is the result of a conspiracy on the part of U.S. Attorney General Mitchell, Maryland's Governor Mandel, and Baltimore's Police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau. The purpose of this frameup is to carry out and accelerate the genocidal plans of the U.S. government against the Black Panther Party, and all oppressed and revolutionary people.

This conspiracy against the people began in April 1970, after two pigs were shot in the city—one was killed and one wounded. It was at this point that Gov. Mandel had a meeting with Mitchell, and later Mandel met with Pomerleau. Following these meetings, two Panthers, Marshall "Eddie" Conway and Jackie Powell, were arrested along with another man, Jack Ivory Johnson, for this shooting. They were busted even though there were no grounds other than the fact that they were Panthers.

Two-week frameup trial

This whole torture-murder case is built on the lying testimony of three paid ex-Panthers who had been expelled—Mahoney Kebe, Arnold Loney, and Donald Vaughn. These three have stated that they committed this crime, but they say 15 other people participated with them. They are not being charged with any crime, but are being kept under pig protection, living rent-free, and being paid salaries by the State.

In little over a month, two of the defendants have received speedy convictions. The first trial was that of Irving "Ochiki" Young, which lasted one week. The jury for this first degree murder case was chosen in 3 1/2 hours. Although there was no evidence in the whole trial that Ochiki had even touched the alleged victim and the illegal testimony of the paid informers was used,

Afeni and Joan back in jail; sisters picket outside

NEW YORK, Feb. 9—We could see the women's heads craning out of the mesh-covered windows. Occasionally, during a lull in the chanting down below, their voices would drift down to us.

"Power! Right on!"
Some added, "We love you!"
We were at the Women's House of Detention because another atrocity had been committed against the Black people. Two Panther women, Joan Bird and Afeni Shakur, had been thrown back into jail (after having been there for almost a year) after two of their co-defendants in the Panther 21 trial didn't show up in court. Afeni is four months pregnant. Now she and Joan are being held as hostages in a prison that has been considered an abomination by the penal authorities themselves for decades.

Our signs whipped around in the cold, biting wind, but you could read their bold lettering clearly: "Free our sisters in the House of D." And our

the jury found him guilty in a deliberation lasted one hour and fifty minutes. They found him guilty of first degree murder without capital punishment (which means life imprisonment).

The second trial, which lasted two weeks, was for the frameup of Eddie Conway in the shooting of the two pigs. (Eddie Conway is also charged in the "torture-murder" case). To set the mood for this trial, the judge first explained carefully that this was definitely not a political trial—then he threatened to kick anybody out of the courtroom permanently for "demonstrating" or giving the "Black Power Salute."

Refuses to participate

On the first day, Eddie told the judge that he had fired his court-appointed lawyer, and would like a 30-day delay to find a lawyer of his choice. Judge Harris denied this request, although it was explained that the lawyers that Charles Garry was getting for Eddie would not be available for 30 days—the judge and prosecutor seemed to be in a big hurry to get the trial over with. Eddie then asked that Arthur Turco be allowed to represent him. This was also denied on the grounds that Turco was in jail. When this request for a lawyer of his choice was still denied, Eddie exposed the fact that this whole trial was a political frameup, that he was being used in an attempt to destroy the Black Panther Party, and he refused to stay in the court while the trial was going on as long as he was denied his right to counsel of his choice.

The trial went on without Eddie, with the lawyer he had fired allowing the jury of mostly middle-aged, middle class non-peers to be picked in one-half hour. The day after Eddie had requested Turco as his lawyer, their cell was ransacked as part of a "search and destroy" mission that went on all over the prison, and Turco's legal papers concerning his own and Eddie's case were taken, along with personal letters, pictures, etc.

Throughout the trial, Eddie refused to sit in the courtroom during the testimony. He came in every morning to protest objections to the court from his lawyer, Turco, to stop the trial on the grounds of selective persecution, pre-trial publicity, denial of various constitutional and human rights, etc. About 14 motions in all were submit-

ted. Eddie read some of them to the court that mentioned the blatant illegalities and racist practice of the prosecutor (Ward) and the court. These motions were all ignored.

At the end of the trial Eddie spoke to the jury, although he was refused permission and threatened with contempt. He told them about the party's breakfast for children program, the free clothing program, the free clinics, etc., and said that the Black Panther Party had grown out of the needs and desires of Black people. He explained that it was because of these socialistic programs, and the practice of self-defense that the Panthers were being persecuted all over the country. He also told them about the attempt to murder Bobby Seale and Ericka Huggins in New Haven.

Even after hearing the truth, the jury of Eddie's non-peers found him guilty of first degree murder and assault with intent to murder. While they were condemning Eddie, one of

the people in the spectator section read the peoples' verdict: "We, of the true peer group of Marshall Eddie Conway, have evaluated the testimony presented by the State of Maryland and find the defendant NOT GUILTY of any of the charges brought against him. However, we find the Court system, the Judges who knowingly participate, the prosecutor's office, prison officials and the police guilty of murder, genocide, flagrant violation of human and constitutional rights, harassment, bribery and terror tactics."

As the person who was reading our verdict was dragged from the courtroom, many people stood up and demanded that Eddie be set free.

One of these railroadings is scheduled every month for the next year.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE
FREE BOBBY AND ERICKA
Please send contributions to:
Committee to Defend Political Prisoners, P.O. Box 1095, Baltimore, Md.

Witness to Tombs murder convicted in frameup

NEW YORK—The man who witnessed the savage murder of a Puerto Rican prisoner, Raymond Lavon Moore, was convicted, January 29, on charges of grand larceny, robbery and assault. After six days of trial, his bail was revoked, supposedly because he came to court 15 minutes late.

Because Richard Harris was an eyewitness to the beating that killed Moore and because he has signed a sworn statement to that effect, there is fear for his life if he is left in prison here.

Harris is with the Inmates Liberation Front of the Young Lords Party. The ILF bailed him out on January 8 and his trial began on January 22.

On November 1, 1970, Harris saw the savage beating of Moore by four guards. The guards were trying to force him to take medication which would aggravate conditions already present—epilepsy and asthma. To quote from Richard

Harris' statement: "They handcuffed him, dragged him out of the cell, and continued to viciously kick and beat him. Brother Lavon was covered with blood! His cries went unheard. When they finally took him off the floor, he was more dead than alive. Raymond Lavon Moore did not commit suicide—he was murdered."

The prison authorities said at the time that Moore was a "suicide," but he was one of many, many so-called suicides that were really part of the genocide carried out against the Black and Puerto Rican people who make up the very large majority of the prisoners in this country's concentration camps.

On February 27, at 2:00 p.m. in front of the Tombs the Gay Community Prison Committee is calling a demonstration to protest the death of Lavon Moore and the jailing of Richard Harris.

Angela's birthday tribute

NEW YORK, Feb. 2—Manhattan Center was filled with cheering supporters of Angela Davis, here tonight. The crowd of several thousand had come to pay tribute to Angela and show solidarity with her on her 27th birthday.

A long list of speakers, including members of her defense committee, John Abt, one of Angela's defense lawyers, and Dr. Ralph Abernathy addressed the crowd. Dr. Abernathy gave the most rousing speech of the evening, bringing the audience to its feet as he accused the U.S. government of kidnap, murder and conspiracy (the charges the government is trying to bring against Angela) against the Black people and the poor of this country.

Dr. Abernathy related the case of Angela Davis to the persecution of the Black Panther Party, saying, "The Black Panthers are our brothers in the struggle," and calling for the freedom of Angela Davis, Bobby Seale and Ericka Huggins.

The only speaker to mention Ruchell Magee was Attorney John Abt. He cited the fact that there is no evidence to show that Magee shot Judge Haley in San Rafael last August. In fact, the evidence points to the possibility that the judge was killed by the prison guards who also murdered Jonathan Jackson, James McClain and William Christmas. (The three Black men were killed during

their attempt to liberate the Soledad Brothers.)

To emphasize the importance of defending Ruchell Magee and all other Black liberation fighters who are being framed up, Youth Against War & Fascism handed out a leaflet at the rally calling for freedom for Ruchell Magee, Bobby, Ericka and all political prisoners. The leaflet pointed out the absolute necessity of defending each victim of racist U.S. injustice.

Although none of the speakers on the platform wanted to mention Jonathan Jackson (the young revolutionary hero who carried out the daring attempt to ransom a judge for the Soledad Brothers) a film on Angela Davis which was shown at the end of the meeting was dedicated to his memory at her request. (When John Abt did speak of Jackson, he dismissed his deed by saying that he was "driven to desperation...to make this ill-fated attempt.")

The defense line which emerged at tonight's meeting was moderate, with CP officials stressing what a "great American" Angela Davis is and calling for the people to "save our country." Nevertheless, thousands of people—Black and white—turned out to show support for her case, not because she is a "great American" but because she is a Black liberation fighter whose persecution has aroused the anger of the people across the country.