

People's Party II rally to protest Conner's murder

by Windel E. Culbreath

An estimate of 350 people gathered in Clinton Park's community park to hear speakers protest the murder of Bobby Joe Conner. Conner was stomped to death in the Galena Park police station by two Houston policemen April 4, 1970.

Policemen A.R. Hill and J.A. McMahon were indicted on charges of murder by the Harris County Grand Jury. They are still awaiting trial while free on bail after their lawyer secured a second delay to represent clients in other cases.

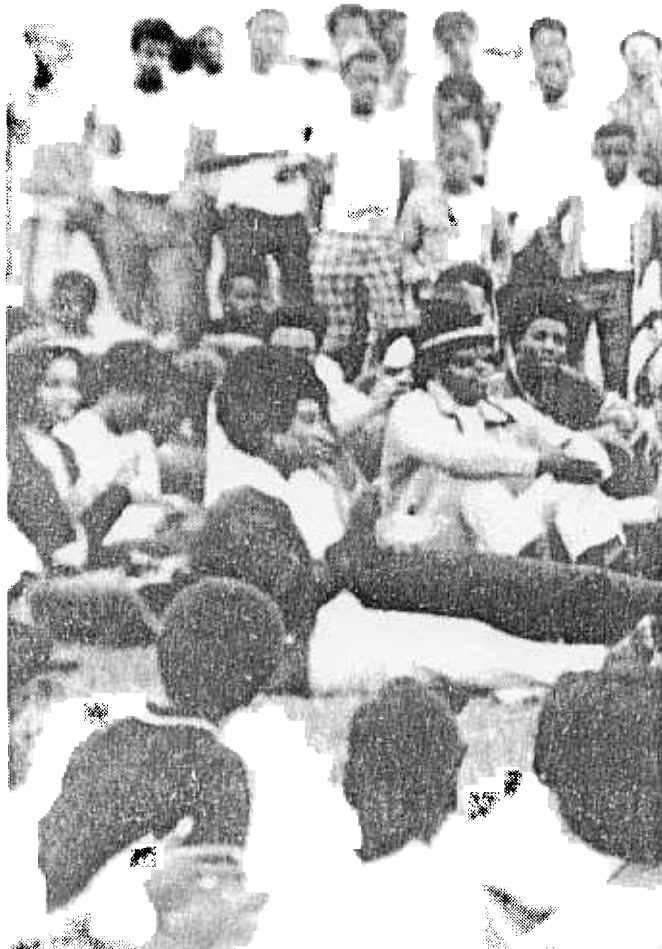
After removing the trial from Harris County over Dist. Atty. Carol Vance's assertion that the two men could not get a fair trial in Harris County, the trial was scheduled for Comal County Court. The seat of Comal County Court is in New Braunsfields.

The murder of Bobby J. Conner has been described as animalistic, brutal, insane, irresponsible, unnecessary and regrettably disgusting by elements of the Black community. Black organizations and the Black media have called for justice and a speedy trial.

Larry Taylor, another Black youth, was present and severely beaten by officers, but he survived the incident with injuries. Taylor was required to undergo surgery as a result of the beating he took at the hands of the two indicted policemen.

After the incident in April, 1970, Taylor related that he and Conner had borrowed a friend's car. After running a red light, they "panicked and ran before police caught up with them." After they were arrested, the two were handcuffed and taken to the Galena Park police station.

Taylor added, "We



Ovide Duncantell at Clinton Park rally. Where is the public furor?

on our stomach and then on our backs. We were repeatedly kicked with the heels of the officers' shoes... Bobby Joe fell on the floor... he was kicked when he didn't get up. They kept telling him to get up, and kept kicking him."

Bobby was described by one friend as a person who had never been "violent or got into any fights." About the beating, another friend asserted, "It was especially cruel that he had been kicked in the stomach because he had ulcers."

Repeated demonstra-

the Black community in protest of the Conner slaying. Two Galena Park policemen, Glen Brady and Walter Sanders, had original custody of Conner and Taylor. They were suspended for standing by while two Houston police beat Bobby and Larry. The two Galena Park policemen were not charged in the affair, and they have returned to work in the midst of a Black community that is still hostile in their feelings towards the officers.

HOW MUCH PUBLIC FUROR?

Conner murder in Clinton Park Sunday afternoon, April 4. They included Ovide Duncantell, outspoken Black from the Sunnyside area; James Aaron, chairman of People's Party II, and Charles Freeman, People's Party II Culture Coordinator.

"You've forgotten Bobby Joe Conner," claimed Duncantell. "We're here to protest the murder of Conner, who was stomped to death by some police from the Houston Police Department--in conjunction with some pigs that are very close to you--the Galena Park Police Department."

"How much public furor is being raised about this issue? Bobby Joe Conner was stomped to death. Look at Lt. William Calley. All the people in America are trying to put pressure on President Nixon to free him. How much public furor is being raised to see that the men who killed Bobby J. Conner will answer for this crime? They have been delaying the trial of the two men who criminally killed Bobby Joe."

"It takes a mad man to shoot a little 14-year-old kid in the back," asserted Duncantell. "It takes a mad man to go on

top of a church--a sacred house--and shoot a brother down... We did not hear anything from the Black churches when Rev. Malone let them use his church to shoot down a Black brother... You gotta stop this cat from wasting your brother in the community. If the South Vietnamese are more important to you than your brothers, sisters, and mothers, then something is wrong with your thinking--you have a mental problem... If you can deal with the South Vietnamese, you should

are under until change it. But policeman stops legally or puts him on you without cause, he's breaking the law--you're supposed to deal with this. time he comes community and breaking the law are supposed to him there... It is hardly to ambush a brother from a church cowardly to have brother and take jail and beat him.

"To the brother there who use the juana and other of narcotics, I alone. Any brothering with or pushing stuff, he's dealing the pigs. The pig that stuff in the community. If you don't believe it, just take at the places de the community and how many times are arrested or down for this stuff."

"NEWS MEDIA US A BAD IM

In addition to tinuous barrage test for the murder of Bobby Joe, Charles Freeman bitter cused the news of "giving us (People's Party II) a bad image." "The news media distorted the incident," Carl Hampton.

"Today we come in memory of a brother who was brutally stomped to death by police department brother was hanged when he was beat death... I didn't know him, but we are Black and what that brother affected me."

"There are brothers and sisters who need police protection, but can't get it because (police) are all DOWLING," added man. "A lot of wonder if we're missing All the