THANKSGIVING MEMORIAL CELEBRATION HOSTED BY
SEATTLE B.P.P.
Dedicated To Black Persons Slain By Police

(Seattle, Wash.) — A Thanksgiving Memorial Celebration, dedicated to all those who have been killed by Seattle police and sponsored by the Seattle Chapter of the Black Panther Party, was held here at the Langston Hughes Cultural Center on Sunday, November 23, and was packed by more than 250 residents of the central area community of Seattle.

Prior to the dinner, there were speeches and entertainment. The first predinner speaker was Mrs. Leda Bledsoe, mother of a 22-year-old Black man who was murdered by a Seattle police officer in February of this year.

Mrs. Bledsoe courageously reminded the audience that even though she's lost a son, "We must still fight for justice — justice for Joe and justice for all Black and poor people."

GARY GAYTON

The second speaker was famed Black Seattle attorney Gary Gayton. Brother Gayton elaborated on the recent police brutality case in which his two Black clients were awarded $75,000 each by a jury of 12 Whites, only to have this decision revoked by the judge and a new trial ordered.

Predinner entertainment was provided by the First A.M.E. Church's Young Adult Choir and Brother Joe Brazil and his jazz ensemble. The choir rocked the house with several enthusiastic spirituals. The jazz ensemble is from the Black Academy of Music, located in the central area here.

The closing address was presented by Brother Elmer Dixon, coordinator of the Seattle Chapter of the Black Panther Party. Brother Dixon reminded the audience that the pressure we face today can be overcome by Black people working and helping each other in our daily struggle for survival.

Referring to the people murdered by police, Brother Dixon said, "We as Black people can survive because we've survived in the past, and now we must understand that the brothers that were shot down and killed by murdering police died because they were doing something for our community. No matter what the police say they were doing when they shot them, they were only trying to survive."

After Brother Dixon's presentation, dinner was served and everyone settled down to enjoy turkey and all the trimmings. The event was a tremendous success and proved to be another step in the road towards unity in the face of Seattle police terrorism.

Free Southern Theater Delights Oakland Community School

(Oakland, Calif.) - Following their superb performance on November 23 of When Opportunity Scratches, Ich II, the renowned FREE SOUTHERN THEATER returned to the Oakland Community Learning Center last Wednesday to do a special program for the children of the Oakland Community School. Above, members of the critically acclaimed Black drama troupe perform Where is the Blood of Your Fathers?, a documentary examination of the role that Black people played in their efforts to secure freedom from the oppression of slavery in the years between 1827 and 1860. The New Orleans-based group gave another fine performance which delighted the children of the Oakland Community School.
LOS ANGELES, Dec. 30—Franko Diggs, a captain of the Los Angeles Black Panther Party, was murdered at 120 St. and Main St. on Dec. 19, according to a statement made today by Panther spokesman Mike Pennywell. The murder received no coverage in the local newspapers. A public funeral was planned for 1 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 2, at the Victory Baptist Church, 4802 McKinley Avenue.

In a statement to *The Militant*, Pennywell described the murder of Franko Diggs as "an attempt to liquidate the leadership of the Black Panther Party by the racist power structure. . . . Captain Franko had no real family—but he had a big family here in L. A. that loved him very deeply, the Black Panther Party. . . . We will intensify our struggle until there will be no more cold-blooded murders of our people."

Funds to help with the funeral expenses are needed and can be sent to the Captain Franko Diggs Fund, 8404 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, Calif.
ON THE ACQUITTL OF THE
NEW YORK TWENTY-ONE
AND THE HARLEM FIVE

STATEMENT OF ATTORNEY GERALD
LEFCOURT, ATTORNEY FOR THE
NEW YORK TWENTY-ONE

A new morning has come. With it a new ideology has invaded New York City and perhaps elsewhere as well. The "21" victory indicates that a cross section of people reject the tactics of secret police, the indefinable law of different crimes, the courtroom broke into hysteria when the Black jury foreman rose and said, "Not guilty, not guilty..." one hundred fifty-six times. With one fell swoop New York was ignited in a people's celebration. Not at the prospect that the American system of justice works, but rather at the prospect that when you fight hard enough and struggle long enough, your cause, if it is just and true, will be answered.

One juror said he felt like running up to Judge Murtaugh and asking him where he thought he was "Mississippi?". Another said, "Conspracy law is like a lasso that is turned into a hangman's noose that fits every collar size." Still another said, "This verdict of not guilty was necessary for everyone's freedom!" All in all, twelve people with their four alternate jurors, unanimously agreed that the verdict was "Not guilty" on every charge. Without any disagreement at all, the jury ended the longest trial in the history of New York with a 90-minute deliberation.

Way back on April 2, 1969, the government launched its attacks with the indictment of the "21", following soon thereafter with the indictment of the "Chicago 8", then in May, 1969, the New Haven Chapter of the Black Panther Party was indicted for murder, and in a phony hunt for George Sams, the government attacked and destroyed offices of the Black Panther Party in several cities across the nation and finally indicted Bobby Seale also for murder in Connecticut. These attacks culminated in the murder of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark on December 4, 1969, in Chicago, Illinois. Besides Ericka and Bobby, Angela Davis and Ruchell Magee, the Berrigans, in Harrisburg, and countless others around the nation, the government has been attacking ever since.

The verdict in the New York 21 case is the first step in the fight back, hopefully to be followed quickly by a victory for Ericka and Bobby and on to victory in California for Angela and Ruchell. In each case, the fight back will continue to prove that through struggle and determination and with the support of the people, freedom can be a reality for those who seek it hard enough.

STATEMENT OF ATTORNEY
WILLIAM KUNTSLER,
ATTORNEY FOR THE
HARLEM FIVE

The acquittal of the New York 21 and the Harlem 5 spurious conspiracy charges raises sharply the issue of the criminal conduct of public officials. Many Black and some White people have recognized for years that the judicial process has been illegally used, since the very foundation of the Republic, to punish political dissidents to crush liberation movements and to control the poor. Now, for virtually the first time in American History those who wanted so much to believe in the fairness of the system can see at close range that the concept of equal justice under law was merely a convenient smokescreen for the power structure's consistent and relentless destruction of human rights and liberties.

It would be ironic indeed if the New York acquittals were viewed as proof that the system does indeed work. Nothing could be further from the truth. It was the system that arrested, indicted and tried these Black defendants. It was the system that stripped from them years of the lives, unmercifully and unjustifiably punished their families and attempted to ostracize them from human society.

It was the system which, in total disregard of all of most vaunted principles of justice and fair play, tried brutalize and destroy them.

That they were eventually saved is a triumph, not of destructive system, but of two juries which, at last, could not bring themselves to legitimize the tyranny of the law. These verdicts represent, in a microcosm, the revolt of the powerless from the fearful conquerors of all of us. Twenty-four Americans decided, the face of a monstrous evil, to cry halt to those who attempt to equate court decrees with the hangman's noose and the headsmen's blade.

These cases do not mark the beginning of the Gold Age of Universal Justice. But they do give heart to us and indicate that some fights can be won if we are together with ourselves and determine to resist oppression until we destroy it or die in the process. And, hopefully they will teach other juries in other places that there truth to the cries of the persecuted and that the system will often stoop to the pavement in order to preserve itself and its mythology.

We must now go forward on every front in unity and comrade ship. Our true enemies are not ourselves, those who lie in wait for each of us - the powerhungry avaricious, the hate mongers, the militarists, the imperialists, the racists, the despisers of the dream. Brothers and sisters may die, but they will not be destroyed - their hopes and dreams will be passed fro willing hand to willing hand until the walls come down and the city is ours. Then, and only then, will the time he been seized and the power re-taken by the people.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!
TRIAL OF DETROIT 15 COMES TO A CLOSE

On October 24, 1970, 15 members of the Black Panther Party were arrested and charged with the murder of a Detroit policeman, Glenn Smith. At the time of their arrest they were attacked by a police raiding party. There was firing into and around a house for 9 hours from which the fifteen brothers and sisters were finally driven out by tear gas. The last three being Erone De Soussure, Benjamin Fondrun and David Johnson, who were eventually found guilty of felonious assault on the raiding police officers.

Their existence. Our programs serve the people's interests by providing basic necessities, food, health care, clothing, etc. The government understands that through our own programs people will unify against oppression. They realize that if we work together to survive, we can organize to control our own lives. They fear unity in the communities because this means disunity within their crumbling structure and their eventual downfall.

In May of this year, all 15 of them were brought to trial not only for the murder of Glenn Smith, who was supposedly ambushed that same day, but also for conspiracy with the intent to commit murder of the 40 policemen that surrounded the Detroit Community Center, back in October.

Throughout the country the agents of the law always want us to believe that it is the people who are provoking the attacks on them. It seems to be a constant pattern that the police unwarrantedly harass and attack the People, particularly Black Panther Party members and then scream that they have been shot at, ambushed, that they are the victims of unprovoked attack. We know this to be untrue. As a matter of fact, we understand that the work we do in the communities of America is geared toward the survival of poor, Black people and therefore threatens the government's control of the community. If we were to disappear, the government would be forced to admit that they were wrong in their policy of force and violence. Their power would be threatened. The government, therefore, is afraid of unity in the communities.

It was not until the free breakfast for school children programs were established across the country that they began to openly attack our Community Centers and homes in full force. From the murder of Fred Hampton to the attack on the centers in L.A. to the raids and attacks on our community centers in New Orleans and elsewhere. No one ambushed them in Detroit, as they claim; they attempted to ambush our Detroit Chapter and herd them off to the prison camps to be railroaded through the courts. The trial of members of the Detroit Branch of the Black Panther Party lasted for six weeks. Seven days were spent picking the jury, which consisted of ten Blacks and two whites. The prosecution built its whole case around one of the defendants, John Lee, whom they singled out as the only person who could place a weapon in the hand of one of the other defendants. They felt that if they dropped all charges against him, he would testify (lie) for the State. So they dropped the charges against him. When John Lee was called to the stand, he refused to testify. He was the only one who could, according to the prosecution, prove that the shot that killed Officer Glenn Smith came from the community center. Lee refused to utter a word. The judge cited him with contempt of court. They sentenced him to 30 days in jail for refusing to testify. And still no word.

These trumped-up charges for this case were therefore left in the air again. So that when the jurors deliberated, for thirty hours over a five-day period, they felt that there was not enough evidence to convict the defendants of murder. However, because of the forcefully skillful manner in which the prosecution implicated Brothers De Soussure, Fondrun and Johnson, the jurors wished to convict them of something. Mrs. Angeline Buchanan was the only juror who held out, for 2 1/2 days, however, because she felt that there was no evidence to convict any of the defendants on any charges.

In an interview with Mrs. Buchanan, she stated that they (the other jurors) became hostile and threatened her if she did not make a decision. She finally did - guilty. However, if it had not been for her firm stand on an acquittal for all, the charges would never have been dropped down to felonious assault for those three brothers, The acquittal for nine and lesser charges for three was the jury's compromise.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17
people. He now awaits appeal, and does so with the knowledge that victory and liberation, in the final analysis, belong to the people.

ROGER 'BLUE' LEWIS...has been the victim of repeated attempts to kill or imprison him. Blue since joining the Party has had to fight six times for his life and was acquitted six times. He has been in the fascist pigpen of New County since being kidnapped last August, almost a year ago. During this time his probation was violated on the pretense that he didn't get permission to leave the State when he was called to visit his sick father. He may now have to serve one to ten years if an appeal is not granted.

In addition, the brother still faces three major charges. He now awaits trial in a bomb case where he supposedly was riding around the city of Los Angeles (along with the Southern California Chapter Deputy Minister of Defense, Geronimo) with 'pipe bombs' in the car...The pigs are moving full steam ahead to attempt to file charge after charge to make sure he along with our other political prisoners is behind bars for life...The second major case is an attempt to frame Blue along with three other members of the So. Calif. Chapter in a 'bizarre conspiracy' to kidnap and beat a 16 year old boy. The ridiculous nature of the charge is indicative of the desperateness of the LAPD to jail the Panthers here.

Blue is a prime example of the pigs attempt of 'legal genocide'. Although he's been acquitted at least six times in attempts to put him back in their pig pen, Blue is still har- rassed by his 'so-called' record. He along with the other Panthers in New County face the day to day harassment inflicted on them by the demented pigs acting as their keepers. The constant harassment hasn't stopped them from setting revolutionary examples by teaching and exposing the decadence of this fascistic government to the black, brown, and poor oppressed whites concentrated in that pig pen.

Blue has a charisma that acts as a catalyst to bolster the spirits of the brothers in jail in the face of constant harassment by the pigs there. He keeps them headed in the right political direction and always with a revolutionary respective.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE
SOUTHERN CALIF. CHAPTER
ARThUR LEAGUE...recently convicted in racist Orange County, Santa Ana California. Now facing a five to life sentence for allegedly killing the "Rookie Pig of the Year". He was charged originally with first degree murder. But after nine days of deliberation an 'all-white' jury 'compromised' on a second-degree verdict. His case is currently being appealed in the state supreme court. Arthur who organized in Santa Ana before being kidnapped by the pigs there, was remanded to Chino Prison to await final placing in a state institution.

Robert Williams Luxey Irvin are also in Chino Prison, awaiting shipment to state pig pens. They must endure 24-hour lock up (they refuse to work) and are only allowed two or three hours of exercise per day. The constant harassment hasn't daunted their revolutionary spirits, and they continue to make known the political ideology of the Vanguard Party through classes held with other brothers in this pig pen.

ROMAINE FITZGERALD...known affectionately as 'Chip' is now on death row in San Quentin State Prison. This brother was railroaded by a racist lawyer and jury who all agreed this Panther should be sentenced to the gas chamber after a 'mock' four day trial. Chip was sent to San Quentin immediately to make it difficult for his family to visit and communicate with him. Proving again the spirit is truly greater than the contempt of pigs, the Party moved to send Chip's mother and family, as often as they can make the trip to see the brother in order to keep his spirits high. Chip is just one of the many strong brothers who have faced repeated attempts of genocide by the fascist pigs here in L.A. Before being arrested on this trumped-up charge, Chip was constantly stopped and harassed by the pigs in L.A. for no other reason than serving the peo-

LUXEY IRVIN AND ROBERT WILLIAMS... were convicted by an 'all white' jury in the lily-white suburb of Torrance. Attempts by their attorneys for a change of venue were denied. The brothers were convicted (along with Romaine 'Chip' Fitzgerald) of several counts of assault on a pig, kidnapping and other trumped-up charges. Several consecutive sentences have it certain they'll have to face life in prison. Chip, the third brother, because he had been given the death sentence in another frame-up, was given a sentence of one to ten years...Robert and Luxey con't on page
ATTMPT TO RAILROAD PEOPLE'S SERVANTS

The demagogic elements of the Cleveland power structure, working in conjunction with the lower echelon Cleveland College system, are out to railroad two revolutionary brothers in the Cleveland N.C.C.F., who are students at the pigs' indoctrination camps, sometimes called colleges. One of the brothers, Al Hayes, is a student at Cuyahoga Community College. He has put in long hours helping with the liberal schools, free lunch programs as well as selling Panther papers at school.

There exists at the school a make-believe security department, handed a drop-out from the fascist bureau of intimidation (FBI). This fat-bellied buffoon has his cat disapproving,igger lackeys that ha-

The pigs are moving into the student lounge, where Billy Brock, also working with the Liberation schools, free lunch programs as defined in the Constitution of the United States. We are usually at the mercy of the Community Information Center to go to Monroe Prison. The people were very happy with the burning program because it provided free transportation, establishing their relatives being held in the prison. It also gives a chance to establish some type of communication between the community and the prisoners. Some of the people helped prepare the food for lunch. We talked on the phone with the people in prisons, people are up to you and the will of the people is stronger than your technology.

COUNTER-ATTACK

Seattle Pigs Murder Panther

On the afternoon of October 5, 1969 at 4:35 p.m., a man was killed in the fight for Black Liberation. Another Panther warrior was violently taken away from our midst. The cold-blooded, murdering, racist, pigs took it upon themselves to take the life of another one of our black brothers. He knew him as a warrior, but all you need to know is that he was a young man. A young black man made a conscious choice that he would have if he had chosen to live his life for himself. But he didn't. This black warrior chose to fight for liberation of all black and oppressed people everywhere. And for this he died. His name was Welton Armstrong, known to all who loved him as "Butch". Welton, like another black young warrior who also gave his life for the black liberation struggle, was only 17 years old. The other warrior, also a member of the Black Panther Party, I am sure you have heard of his name was Bobby Seale. Both these brothers were murdered unnecessarily by cold-blooded pigs.

The Black Panther Party has established the free burning program throughout the state of Washington. The purpose for this is to visit the brothers and sisters in prisons, state and federal institutions to establish a close relationship between the community and the prisoners. Then the community can find out the specific case of these brothers and check out the parole board and see how exact it is. We found out that many families and friends cannot afford transportation to these prisons. So we are trying to get them their loved ones. The result is that the prisoners feel that no one even cares about them that they are only the Percy of those sadistic pigs in prison.

Saturday July 18, 1970, the Black Panther Party along with members of the community gathered in front of the Community Information Center to go to Monroe Prison. The people were very happy with the burning program because it provided free transportation, establishing their relatives being held in the prison. It also gives a chance to establish some type of communication between the community and the prisoners. Some of the people helped prepare the food for lunch. We talked on the phone with the people in prisons, people are up to you and the will of the people is stronger than your technology.
PRESS RELEASE

LOOKING at the recent attacks on the Black Panther Party in Philadelphia and Baltimore the recent convictions of leaders of the Black Panther Party in Chicago and the recent attempt to kidnap Chairman Huey P. Newton is all the more reason for the Black Panther Party and the Organization of the Black Panther Party (O.B.P.P.) to issue a call to the Black community to take action immediately. This call is not to engage in any activities that may violate the law but to use all means at our disposal to ensure the safety of our leaders.

The Black Panther Party is a revolutionary organization that seeks to change the current social and economic order. We are committed to the struggle for black liberation and the end of imperialism. We believe that we must use all means necessary to defend ourselves and our organization.

The recent attacks on the Black Panther Party are a clear indication of the growing threat to our party by the ruling class. The ruling class is afraid of our organization because we represent the interests of the black community and we are fighting against the exploitation and oppression of black people.

We call on all black people to join us in this struggle. We need your support and your commitment to this cause. We need your help to ensure the safety of our leaders and the continued growth of our organization.

We will not be intimidated by the ruling class. We will continue to fight for the liberation of black people and the end of imperialism. We will not stand down to the ruling class. We will continue to fight.

The Black Panther Party is not afraid of the ruling class. We will continue to fight for the liberation of black people and the end of imperialism. We will not stand down to the ruling class. We will continue to fight.

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