

# THE BEAT GOES ON

NEWSLETTER OF THE

DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> COMMITTEE

REMEMBER FRED HAMPTON AND

MARK CLARK

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## THE CIVIL RIGHTS LAWSUIT

Good evening Brothers and Sisters and friends of the Black Community.

I would like at this time to inform you about the Fred Hampton vs. Edward Hanrahan Civil Rights Lawsuit. Technically it is correct to say the Ms. Iberia Hampton vs. Edward Hanrahan Civil Rights Lawsuit because it was, in fact, Fred's death that is the reason for such a civil rights action and Ms. Hampton, being the mother of Fred, had every right to file this important lawsuit. She filed it in January of 1970, only 20 or 30 days after her son was murdered while he lay asleep in his apartment at 2337 W. Monroe St. in the early morning hours of December 4th, 1969.

We, at the December 4th Committee, say Fred Hampton vs. Edward Hanrahan because people can relate to that, everyone who was in Chicago in 1969 remembers Fred Hampton.

The people can also remember Edward Hanrahan, although, since 1970 we have added as defendants in this civil rights lawsuit three federal agents. These were: a paid FBI informant on Chicago's westside named William O'Neill; Roy Mitchell, an FBI agent in the Chicago office; and Marlin Johnson, Special Agent in charge of the Chicago office. By the way, Marlin Johnson is now head of the Canteen Company here in Chicago and also on the Police Board that is now directing the newly enacted Beat-Representative program which is touring the Chicago poor and Black communities, flying the banner of Crime Control in your respective neighborhoods.

But, we say the Fred Hampton vs. Edward Hanrahan Civil Rights lawsuit because it was from Edward Hanrahan's office that the special gang intelligence unit was formed and from that special unit came the hand picked squad of 14 State's Attorney's police who attacked Fred's apartment at 4:30AM on Dec. 4th, 1969.

In order for you to better understand the reasons for Hanrahan's murder of Fred, it is necessary at this time for me to give you a brief history of Fred Hampton's political evolution from a teenager, as a member of the NAACP youth chapter, to being a member of the Black Panther Party which led to his death.

Fred was, at the age of 16, the head of the NAACP's youth chapter in Maywood, Illinois. This was during the time when the Civil Rights movement, with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at its head, was demanding equal right for Black citizens of this 200 year old government. Naturally, Fred at the age of 16, with an interest in equal rights for Black people, joined the youth chapter and upon joining that chapter, he began to organize and increase the membership of the Maywood youth chapter from 7 members to nearly 700 members. During his work with this chapter, Fred was responsible for organizing the people of Maywood to grant the poor and oppressed neighborhoods there a swimming pool, now called Fred Hampton.

The more and more work Fred did in the interest of Black people in Maywood, the more he understood the way this government worked to suppress poor people from raising their standard of living through employment and a good education. Because of Fred's organizing abilities, he posed a potential threat to the internal security of this country as it existed then and still exists, for the interests of the corporate ruling class.

He was a potential threat because he was exposing the police repression, the inhumane living conditions, the phenomenon of "last hired, first fired", of Black and oppressed people. He was exposing the contradictions of this government as they exist in the midst of a 200 year celebration of its independence from England. Fred was exposing the contradictions of this government as they exist in the midst of international detente, forced by the Vietnamese victory and other Third World countries' struggles and victories in gaining independence for their respective countries.

Fred didn't write about those contradictions, he didn't sing about these contradictions, he didn't dance about these contradictions but Fred spoke out about and against these contradictions to those of us that found ourselves under such conditions as bad housing, poor education, and imprisonment, and found ourselves literally victims of a fascist government.

As Fred outgrew the youth chapter of the NAACP, physically and mentally, and upon graduating from Proviso East High School with honors, he joined the Black Panther Party. Now, the BPP was founded by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale in Oakland, Calif. This organization grew into a national organization that came out of the civil rights struggle and the teachings of brother Malcolm X. Once the Chicago chapter office was opened, Fred began his work, again in the interests of poor and oppressed peoples, around some solid programs to provide survival needs to the immediate community and to further organize and mobilize Black and oppressed peoples around working together to provide the immediate community areas with free food programs, free medical service, and free clothing programs.

During his work with the Black Panther Party from 1968 up until his death, Fred managed to bring together several youth groups from three distinct areas of this racist Chicago. The Young Lords, a Latino youth group, the Young Patriots, a white youth group, and the Black Peace Stone Nation, as well as the Westside Disciples.

Now if anyone before thought that he was just running off at the mouth, I'm sure you can see what a threat he posed. He brought the youth groups together for one major reason.... Stop fighting each other, get together, and let's do some work in the interest of our poor communities. Let's make them a better place to live without crime, dope, and rape of our sisters. That was the only reason.

Shortly after the rainbow coalition was formed, the Chicago police department and Edward Hanrahan with his Gang Intelligence Unit began a shoot to kill campaign, with Mayor Daley's blessing. I won't recall for you all of the particular overt and covert incidences but, at least five of those killings occurred in the Cabrini Green community, including the deaths of the Soto brothers. Fred immediately and enthusiastically began to organize that particular community around the need for the community to control the police. According to the constitution of the United States, all American citizens have a right to protest, have a right to speak out against the existing government, and all American citizens have a right to carry arms. As soon as Fred urged the Cabrini Green community to protect itself from the physical attacks of the police with the program of Community Control of the Police, local authorities, instead of bringing Fred to the courts for a political offense, if he committed one, brought Fred to the courts on a trumped up charge of supposedly robbing a Good Humor ice cream truck of \$71 worth of ice cream. With the use of the judicial system, Edward Hanrahan, cooperating with the national government's FBI and CIA, sent Fred to prison in Menard, Illinois. With Fred out of the way, with a young Black leader out of the way, who could "unify and electrify" the west, north and south sides of Chicago into forming coalitions, the States Attorney's office, in unison with the FBI and CIA, escalated its aggression against and upon the BPP. On June 4, the FBI raided the westside party's office under the pretense of looking for a fugitive, named George Sams, who we found out later to be a hired informant of the FBI. While looking for this fugitive, the FBI proceeded to steal money, the people's money. They stole the Party's documents and they stole a list of contributors to the Black Panther Party. The right to confiscate these materials and properties of the Party were not included in the search warrant. This was a clear indication to the party members that the national government's

highest intelligence agency was involved because these were and are some of the same espionage and covert tactics the CIA used in Vietnam, Cambodia, Chile, throughout the mother country Africa, and these are some of the same tactics the CIA is still using in South America. On July 16, 1969, local law enforcement agencies provoked another incident which resulted in the death of NPP member Larry Roberson, one of the persons for whom the medical center was later named. This time the only excuse given by the police was a "shoot-out". One month later, on July 31, 1969, with Fred still in jail and the counterintelligence program in full swing --- the local law enforcement agencies stormed the westside party headquarters again but, this time the very young revolutionaries were beginning to understand and to carry out the true meaning of Community Control of the police in self-defense. Five policemen were injured and two Panthers. In August of 1969, Fred was back on the streets again. While the local aggressors were recovering and licking their battle wounds Fred was preparing his appeal of the prison sentence given to him of 2-10 years for the \$72 icecream robbery. The police had greeted him with open arms and vowed not to let the fascists return him to prison.

During this time through all of the attacks upon the party's offices and members, the survival programs were still being held. The Medical Center was about to be opened and the party was busy collecting medical supplies, soliciting the help of medical personnel and preparing the building where the center was to operate. On October 4, 1969, the fascists were back again with a new excuse to raid the party's headquarters. They said that they were responding to reports of "sniper fire". Again the police destroyed the office, they stole money, and this time they set fire to the food and medical supplies that had been gathered for the free survival programs to the community. On November 13, 1969, another staged shootout between a group of police and two Panthers resulted in the deaths of two law enforcement agents and one Panther -- Spurgeon Jake Winters. Winters was the second person the medical center was named after. Today, Brother Lance Bell is still serving a life sentence for this attack upon him and Spurgeon.

Throughout all of these heavy attacks, and only a few weeks before Fred was to return to court to argue his appeal of the 2-10 year sentence, Fred continued to expand the Illinois Chapter's effectiveness through-out the state of Illinois. There were two more branches of the party about to begin work in their respective communities. One in Rockford Ill. and one in Peoria. Field Captain Mark Clark from Peoria was here visiting and learning from the Chicago chapter's headquarters, and on December 4th, 1969, Hanrahan's police raided Fred's apartment, shooting Mark Clark in the heart as they burst into the apartment, and assassinating Fred while he lay asleep in his bed at 4:30 AM.

I think the racist and fascist reasons for murdering Fred Hampton are very clear to all of us. What we are attempting to do today in the court room after many years of government officials' cover-up of Fred's death, is to expose the documented truths of the FBI, the CIA, the state, the county, and the local law enforcement agencies' illegal acts of murder of American citizens who at one point in time or another, begin to exercise their constitutional rights to speak, to assemble (join and organization), and to carry arms. These rights of Fred Hampton were taken away and these rights of many black and oppressed peoples who belonged to national and local organizations of the late 60's and early 70's were taken away not through the "due process of the law" but by shooting these brothers and sisters down in the streets, by railroading them off to the prisons of this country, not on any political offense but on false charges ranging from murder to disturbing the peace.

Today, the American government finds itself in the courts not only with charges against those political prisoners they have kidnapped but they are finding themselves more and more in the courts with charges brought against them by the loved ones, by the community groups, and by the individual citizens that have been affected by the governments' fascist police, the national guard, the FBI, the CIA, and right wing organizations who have committed crimes against citizens exercising their constitutional rights of free speech, the right to assemble, and the right to carry arms.

As the December 4th Committee continues to meet with you in public, such as at this affair, we hope to progressively fill you in on what has happened over the past six years in the civil rights lawsuit's pre-trial discovery period, beginning with the Grand Jury Investigation. We will also include this information in our newsletter, this being the first edition. The December 4th Committee is a not-for-profit organization and we will welcome any cash or in-kind donations to us so that we can continue to take the lawsuit to trial on November 3rd this year. Your participation can be given especially by coming out to the trial once it begins in November. We hope that you will help us to lay Fred peacefully in his grave and we hope that you will help us to prevent such illegal acts from happening to any other little Fred or Frederina who takes the notion, at the age of 16 or 76 to exercise his or her constitutional rights.

# **ATTICA COMMEMORATION**

**SEPTEMBER 9-13, 1975**

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Here is a list of events following the fatal December 4, 1969 raid on Fred Hampton's apartment by 14 policemen with the Cook County State's Attorney's office.

December 4 1969--Former Cook County State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan held a news conference claiming persons inside the apartment fired several gun shots at raiding policemen. It was later discovered that only one shot was possibly fired from inside the apartment. In late December an autopsy, conducted by an independent coroner, was conducted on Fred Hampton's body and traces of a drug was found.

January 6, 1970--A special coroner's jury was impaneled to look into the events of December 4. On January 23, the coroner's jury returned a verdict of "justifiable homicide" in the deaths of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark.

January 13--Seven persons in the apartment at the time of the raid were indicted by a Cook County grand jury. The indictments were later dismissed.

May 15--A federal grand jury called to investigate the raid released a report critical of Hanrahan's handling of the raid instead of returning indictments against Hanrahan and others involved in the raid.

December, 1970--Barnabas Sears heads a special county grand jury which later indicted Hanrahan and other involved in the raid for obstruction of justice. In November, 1972, Judge Philip Romiti acquitted Hanrahan of all charges.

June, 1970--The People's Law Office, the Center for Constitutional Rights, and the NAACP filed four civil rights lawsuits on behalf of the families of Mark Clark and Fred Hampton and the surviving Panthers.

February, 1974--In the trial of a former Chicago policeman, it was revealed that William O'Neal, chief of Panther security in Illinois, was a paid FBI informant. Another witness testified that O'Neal had talked about drugging Hampton

O'Neal's testimony provided the first concrete link between the FBI and the raid. The FBI, CIA and other federal government agencies including the White House, were further tied to activities against the Panther Party and Fred Hampton when government documents were released under the Freedom of Information Act. As a result of the new information the federal government was included as a defendant.

U.S. District Judge Sam Perry, who is hearing the suit has set November 3 as the trial date. Currently attorneys representing the lawsuit have been involved in a pre-trial discovery process. Judge Sam Perry is also considering motions to have evidence of criminal activity on the part of law enforcement officials turned over to a county grand jury investigating police spying activities.