MARCH WITH GUNS

The Black Panthers Tell Why They Went to Sacramento

To get a clear picture of the significance of Black Panther Day — May 2, 1967, we will quickly run it down. The mass media has indulged in an orgy of distortion, lying and misrepresentation; it has refused to report the chain of events that led up to the Black Panthers' visit to the Capitol.

A KILLING
April 1, 1967, Denzil Dowell, 22, was killed by a racist cop on the Contra Costa Sheriff Department force. The news has failed to connect the outrage felt by the black community with the later actions of the Black Panther Party. The fact of Denzil's murder are as follows:

1) The doctor on the case told relatives that Denzil must have been shot with his hands raised.
2) The coroner's report stated there were six bullet holes, while the Richmond Independent newspaper said there were only three bullet holes.
3) The Coroner said that death was due to bleeding, yet no blood was found at the site of the body. The Dowell family was denied the right to take pictures of the body; to this day, Denzil's clothes, which would provide further evidence, have not been returned.

No clearer case of unjustifiable homicide exists. No entry had been made into the building that the killer-cop assumed Denzil had robbed. Denzil had a hip injury, which the cop knew of as he had arrested him before. Denzil did not have a gun — a trained protector of society could have detected this. So how could six bullets have been justifiable?

PANTHERS CALLED IN
The Black Panther Party was called into Richmond by the Dowell family. We found they had gathered 1200 signatures on a petition calling for a Grand Jury investigation.

Tuesday, April 18, the Black Panthers went around to see Richmond D.A. Nejedly. We voice-

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SUMMER
Where does the trouble begin

Everyone says, "Oh, there's going to be trouble this summer," and everyone who hears this nods his head. And what else are we to believe; all the big papers, all the TV station experts, in fact all the experts who have a chance to print or say something carry on about how much trouble we're going to have this summer.

This works very well for the experts. If there is trouble, they can say "I told you so." If there's no trouble, they can take credit for warning people so they could carefully take steps to avoid it.

But while the experts make out alright, as usual, a lot of other people have to suffer. If you are 16, and you read and hear everywhere that there is going to be trouble, you don't doubt it— you go out to find out where it is.

And if you are a policeman, whose job is to stop trouble, you believe the experts, too, and you go out to find out where the trouble is—so you can stop it.

So here we are. The calendar says it's almost summer; the experts say the natives are restless. And our phone starts to ring:

"Did you hear about the shooting out at 100th Ave.?"
"Will you come out and take a picture right now—we want a picture of the blood all over the street."

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Panthers March
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ed our grievances and he said he would do all he could to set up investigation procedures. The Panthers also would recommend to Sheriff Young of Martin County that he remove the sheriff from his position until the investigation was over.

On April 19, the Black Panther and community residents' groups have a meeting with Sheriff Young and Undersheriff Ramsey. The Sheriffs' department was also present but refused to allow Panthers into his office with guns, Ray P. Thompson of the Panthers group agreed to talk to the sheriff without guns present, because it was felt the sheriff was trying to add to his stature as a racist sheriff that the Panthers are willing to ex- hibit the courage of their convictions, and try to get the word out to the people to attempt to give the Dowell family visible support. This refusal led to frustration because Sheriff Young refused to remove the killer-cop pending an investigation. He also refused to give any assurance wh reduced to go and he wanted nothing to do with the community that he would exercise his powers in an unbiased manner. The policy that members of the police force be instructed to refrain from using firearms when there is no property involved in a suspected robbery. The citizens and Panther members who met for Self Defense saw this refusal as total lack of concern for black people who were up for a desire to guard against more unwarranted deaths.

"I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE UPSET"

Undersheriff Ramsey then made two ridiculous statements. First he said, "I don't know why you're upset. I didn't act. The first death we've had in the county." Secondly, Ramsey said, "If you people want the police required you should go through the legisla-
ture."

This is exactly what the Black Panthers did. Yet, in the as-
sembly, Undersheriff Ramsey spoke of the bad intentions of the gun bill. This time he said, "This kind of legislation will be neces-
Sary because they're the same story in Martinx wax with guns, causing a disturbance; today they're here and tomorrow they're there to show up next." He had forgotten his own advice.

Concerning what the news-
papers have reported, the Black Panthers were escorted to the Assembly by a hoard of TV men with cameras, and the Capi-
tola Police. There is an observer box in the Assembly and it was to this area that the Panthers, the members of the Dowell fam-
ily, and the concerned citizens were directed. The first words that came from the Assembly speaker's microphone were, "Will the guards please keep the Press and the cameras from entering from Assembly?" If it was the men with guns who upset the Assembly, then the first thing coming from the speaker should have been, "Will the men with the weapons remove themselves from the Assembly?"

NEGROES WITH GUNS! That was the only issue at that Assembly.
The antique racists in the power structure were "disturbed" not because of any overt threat, but because of the actions of the Black Panthers; they were disturbed by the concept of white racist pay- chokes in whom they suffer nightmares of the armed masses someday rising in upon them while they are in the act of plotting their characteristic assaults against the life, liberty and pursuit of happi-
ness of the people. In the crags of their panic they know that they fully deserve the full wrath of the people.

THE COLOR OF POWER

To these disturbed gentr-
men, Negroes and guns just don't go together. This reaction was similar to that of white America generally to the slogan of BLACK POWER. The logic of the racist just can't put these two words together.

Somebody was trying to "slog," BLACK WEAKNESS, it would appear very logical and ac-
ceptable to racists. So would the headline UNARMED NEGROES INVADE THE CAPITOL. The point is that in America the color of power is white and black is the color of weakness.

What was clear from the ap-
ppearance of armed black men at the capitol is that blacks are no longer ruled by fear, that not only are blacks still ready to die but now they are ready to kill.

From another point of view, the hysterical reaction of the legislators was ludicrous, be-
cause if the Black Panthers had come to the capitol with evil intentions, there would have been a lot of dead cops and legisla-
tors. The Panthers are an or-
ganization dedicated to defending black people from the wanton aggression of the cops in particu-
lar, and this white racist society in general.

Franklin Recreation Center
June 17th
6:30-9:30

Mrs. DeLois Mackey
The Galindo's

Fund Raise
East Bay Cultural Day
Live entertainment by the Black Arts
Art and Jewelry Exhibition

Hope to see you there!
SUMMER being sued for $100,000 because of police brutality

“Just like last summer,”

Policemen do seem to be the first to get jumpy. Some weeks ago, a Sheriff’s deputy in Contra Costa county killed a young man who was supposedly trying to rob a liquor store. The account of that shooting by the Black Panthers (see their story about their march to Sacramento in this issue) is evidently quite correct.

This is backed up by an official report from the City of Richmond Human Relations Office.

The report finds that the incident would have ended much differently if Richmond Police had been involved—they rarely use shotguns, it says “for the last 12 years, no Richmond Police officer has fired a shotgun at a person.” There seems to be little question that a warning shot or the use of a different weapon would have meant that Denzel Dowell would now be alive.

But the important finding in this report is that the officials—in the Sheriff’s Office, the Coroner’s office, the DA and so on—did not try to move to help the Dowell family in any way.

Does Anybody Care?

I am going to lay myself down on a tree and many a man hereafter will come forward and pound in a nail. I don’t have to sign my name, the author is known to all. I don’t have to reveal the time and the place and the characters—those facts are already known to all. The place is always and forever OAKLAND, the time is now and the faces of the characters change from Bailiwick to Bailiwick but the words they are saying are the same words... only the faces change.

Many things lead up to a crucifixion and the price is just as cheap as it ever was. 20 years ago, death row was 800 miles away. 800 miles in the dark. 800 miles but it was only a dream. 800 miles but it was only a dream.

To each that query comes whispering back until the sound is so soft we can only hear the blurred ROAR.

One by one they pick the pawns off the table. Mark is in jail. Baker’s pumping gas. Many a bootstrapper sold out a long time ago, and so have a lot of others. The residue is foaming and fermenting and when the wine is ready, the bottle will be uncorked.

Hel p
Anyone hear? The uncorking is coming. HELP, help help. Help, my God. Help. Dried bloodstains on Mr. Young’s car the morning after his arrest.

Neither this picture nor the picture of the head wound have been retouched in any way.