

200 Demonstrators Chant 'Free Huey'

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ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

When [Huey Newton] entered Canada, he was detained by immigration officials under terms of the Immigration Act. According to Canadian immigration official Gerry Schrok, it is a common procedure for fugitives from justice, such as Newton, to be detained until a hearing by the special inquiry board can determine whether such fugitives can be allowed to enter Canada as visitors or whether they fall under the "prohibited person" status. Schrok said that, if after the hearing this week is held it is determined that Newton falls under the "prohibited person" status, he will continue to be detained until he can be extradited to the United States, if it is determined he is a guest, the Canadian government will permit him to stay in that country for whatever time he has applied for.

FULL TEXT

The familiar "Free Huey" chant of the '60s was revived by the more than 150 supporters who turned out in front of the Canadian Consulate in San Francisco to protest Newton's detainment by the Canadian government.

Among those participating in the demonstration were members of the Black Panther Party, sympathizers, parents, children, and teachers of the Oakland Community School.

Huey Newton, who is the chairman of the Black Panther Party, fled to Cuba in 1974 while awaiting trial on charges of having killed Katherine Smith, a 17-year-old, and having pistol-whipped an Oakland tailor.

However, Newton, who fled because he felt the charges against him resulted from FBI and CIA conspiracies against him and the Black Panther Party, believes the political climate in Oakland will be more favorable to him once Lionel Wilson takes office as mayor and, since John George is an Alameda County supervisor, there is a chance for fairness and justice in the county.

Newton wants to return to the United States.

According to the Black Panther Party, Newton received guarantees from the Canadian Embassy in Havana, Cuba, that there would be no attempt to extradite him or arrest him enroute to California. In addition the U.S. Justice Department and the state of California allegedly had an agreement with the Canadian government whereby Newton could spend up to ten days in Canada so he could confer with his attorneys.

However, when Newton entered Canada, he was detained by immigration officials under terms of the Immigration Act. According to Canadian immigration official Gerry Schrok, it is a common procedure for fugitives from justice, such as Newton, to be detained until a hearing by the special inquiry board can determine whether such fugitives can be allowed to enter Canada as visitors or whether they fall under the "prohibited person" status. Schrok said that, if after the hearing this week is held it is determined that Newton falls under the "prohibited person" status, he will continue to be detained until he can be extradited to the United States, if it is determined he is a guest, the Canadian government will permit him to stay in that country for whatever time he has applied for.

Schrok confirmed the fact that Newton had applied for bond and that it was denied because of the fear that he might flee from Canada, just as he did from California. This rationale seemed strange, considering Newton entered Canada voluntarily.

Shelton Otis, a San Francisco attorney who has been retained for the last four weeks to represent Newton, said that it was relayed to him that Newton was being held because of an assault charge in Canada, but "the charge does not exist." Even though Otis went to Canada after the rally, he will not be allowed to represent Newton in

Canada, because he is not a member of the Toronto bar. So Newton is being represented by a Canadian attorney, Paul Copeland.

Black Panther Party leader Elaine Brown said the Canadian government has breached the good faith that the party and Newton have kept with it, she added that the Canadian Consulate has . . . very nasty and vague to me and other members of the party regarding all of our attempts to find out any information regarding the detainment of Huey Newton. Brown regarded the grounds for denying bond to Newton as a farce. She reaffirmed the fact that Newton entered Canada voluntarily.

Also representing Newton are Paul Harris and Fred Hiestand.

Photo (Five-year-old Irene Mattson, who is in Group Level 4 at the Oakland Community School, was one of the participants in the demonstration in front of the Canadian Consulate in San Francisco.)

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