

Police And Panthers In Undeclared War

The lethal undeclared war between the police and the Black Panthers flared up again, leaving still another key Panther leader dead. Just before dawn, a team of 14 heavily armed plain clothesmen from the Cook County State's Attorney's office read a dinky West Side Chicago apartment, looking for a cache of illegal guns. Possessing a search warrant, the officers said that they forced open a barricaded door and were greeted by a shotgun blast. They returned the fire, setting off a furious ten-minute shoot-out with the apartment's occupants.

"There must've been six or seven of them firing," said Sergeant Daniel Groth, leader of the raid. "I asked everyone to lay down their ammunition and throw up their hands. A voice came from the back and said, 'Shoot it out'"

and with this, they resumed fire. If 200 shots were exchanged, that would've been nothing.

When it was all over, two Panthers were dead, and of the seven others in the apartment, four were wounded. One officer was wounded. The dead were Illinois Panther Chairman Fred Hampton, 21, and Mark Clark, 22, a downstate leader of the party. The following morning, in a similar raid, ten Chicago tactical-unit cops burst into the

South Side apartment of Panther Deputy Defense Minister Bobby Rush and seized a pistol and some ammunition. This time the apartment was empty, and there was no shooting.

State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan defended the raids as necessary "because of the viciousness of the Black Panther Party." But Francis Andrews, a lawyer for the Panthers, charged that Hampton had been "assassinated" by the police. Pictures indicated that Hampton had been shot

in bed; the Panthers claimed that he was asleep, the police that he was firing from the bed. Renault Robinson, president of the Afro-American Patrolmen's League, said that based on evidence at the scene of the shoot-out, his organization did not believe the official police version of the

incident. "We found no evidence that anyone had fired from inside the apartment," he said. "The fact that the door wasn't broken down indicated that someone let them in. If a two-way gun battle had been in progress, there's no way possible that policemen would've been shot"

Christmas Nuts Have Varied History

Nuts from all over the world go into your nut bowl at Christmas. Like Christmas

traditions, the nuts so popular at this time of year are a mixture of many varieties and different histories.

The English walnut, for instance, is not English at all. It originated in Asia centuries ago and was called "the food of the gods."

The round little filbert and the almond came from the Old World. Other nuts, so familiar at Christmas, the hickory nut, the black walnut and the chestnut, to say nothing of the pecan, are strictly American. The pecan is native to America and is found nowhere else. Two other American nuts worthy of mention are the chestnut and the butternut.

Although many nuts originated in other parts of the world, almost every variety known is now grown on American soil and experts are constantly searching for more kinds of nuts to transplant to this country.

Christmas

The minstrels played their Christmas tune,
Tonight beneath my cottage eaves;
While, smitten by a lofty moon,
The encircling laurels, thick with leaves,
Gave back a rich and dazzling sheen,
That overpowered their natural Green.
Through hill and valley every breeze
Had sunk to rest with folded wings;
Keen was the air, but could not freeze,
Nor check the music of the strings;
So stout and hardy were the band
That scraped the chords with strenuous hand.
And who but listened? till was paid
Respect to every inmate's claim;
The greeting given, the music play
In honor of each household name,
Duly pronounced with lusty call,
And "Merry Christmas" wished to all!

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