

PONTIAC PRISONERS SUPPORT COALITION



NEWSLETTER

DEC 80

NO.13



A DAY IN COURT

AN INCIDENT

A mid-October scene of courtroom events vivifies the dynamics of the courtroom more than any analysis ever could.

Shortly after a false media report that a potential witness had been shot (see article on page), a potential juror asked to be excused claiming fear for his life. Much publicity followed this request and there were many rumors that this topic was being discussed among all the potential jurors.

Defense lawyers started the day by demanding that the current venire (jury pool) be brought into the courtroom and asked about the publicity. Miller refused but agreed to ask them one at a time as their turns occurred. The defense lawyers protested, saying this would get too confusing

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AN OVERVIEW

Cook County Court House is an intimidating structure. Judge Miller's courtroom is even more so. To get into the courtroom you must be searched twice, usually by guards who see it as their job to act tough. Once in the courtroom you are separated from the proceedings by a large bullet-proof glass wall. The wall is allegedly there to prevent anyone from aiding the escape of any of the Brothers. But with over 15 armed guards and the thorough searching everyone goes through to get inside, the likelihood of this happening isn't very great. Why have they built this wall? Aside from the obvious attempt by Judge Miller to influence the jury by making the Brothers look dangerous, one must also wonder if this wall is there

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INCIDENT...cont'd. from p.1

and allow each juror to lie about what he or she had heard. Miller nonetheless refused to change his mind.

A short while later a juror, call him Juror A, was dismissed for knowing the family of one of the defendants. Juror A had denied that anything had been said in the jury room about the danger of being a juror on this trial.

Juror B was then brought in and asked about the publicity about danger. He stated that Juror A (who had just left the courtroom) had been talking about this matter. Skip Gant, lawyer for Ronnie Newby, then left the courtroom to informally talk to Juror A our on the street to find out what was really going on in the juror's room. A few minutes later Gant returned furious.

A Sheriff's deputy had followed Gant into the street and told Juror A not to talk to Gant. As a result, the juror ran off frightened. In the courtroom Gant demanded once again that the judge order the prosecution not to interfere with the defense investigation. Miller refused Gant's request and four or five of the lawyers jumped up at once, demanding fairness from the judge and attacking the prosecution. Gant and Breen shouted at each other and then moved towards each other, ready to fight.

When all was again quiet, Gant again demanded that Miller "put his foot down". Miller said, "I am going to put my foot down, Mr Gant." Gant replied, "I know, on me." Miller responded, "That's right."

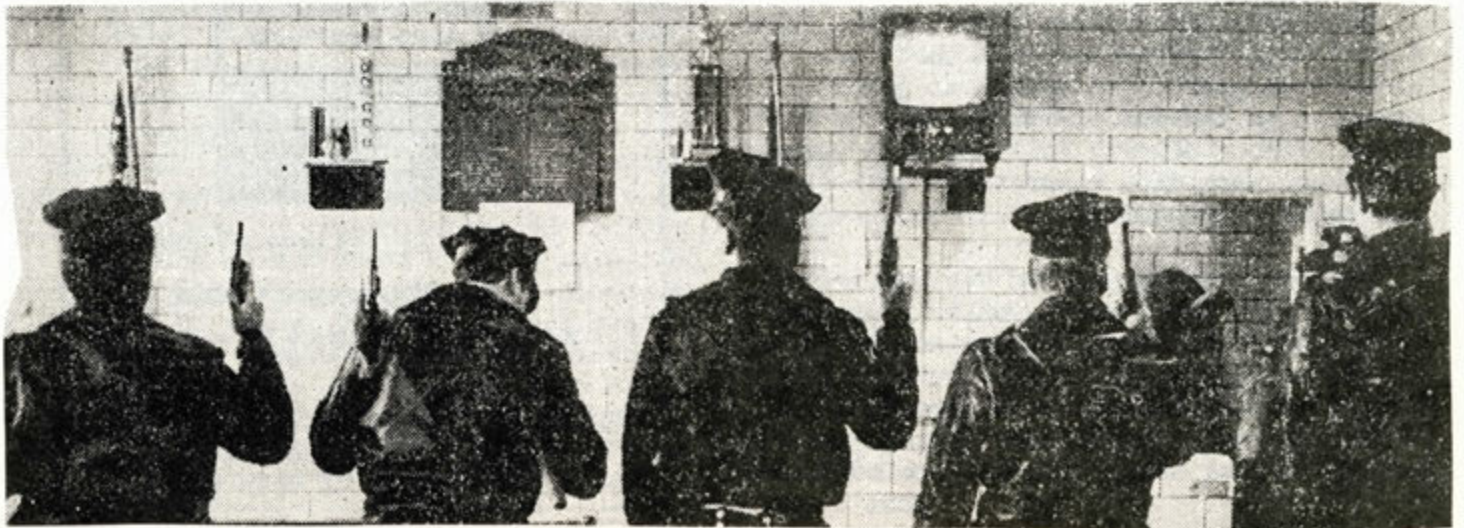
OVERVIEW...cont'd. from p.1

to keep the people separated from the trial.

For example, this glass wall makes it very hard to hear the proceedings. Perhaps the people aren't supposed to hear potential jurors say things like the only social contact they have had with Black people is that "I supervise some Blacks in the office I work at;" or, "as a child we had a Black nanny." In any case, this wall seems to be there to keep the Brothers locked IN and the people locked OUT.

Both Judge Miller and Prosecutor Baliunas are equally disturbed when people come to the courtroom to see what's going on. At one point, Baliunas asked Miller that a baby be removed from the courtroom because it cried a little. What with the glass wall Baliunas must have had to strain his ears to hear the baby as hard as I had to to hear what was going on in court.

The point is this. Miller has done all he can to make "his courtroom" look intimidating. People, both potential jurors and people who come to see the proceedings, are made to feel that they don't belong. But we do belong! With the Brothers' lawyers facing contempt charge after contempt charge, our presence is felt. Michael Evans, one of the Brothers on trial, was removed from court merely because he wanted to speak to Miller. We must let Miller know that the people are watching him and demanding that justice be carried out. COME TO COURT!



JURY SELECTION: THE FRAME-UP CONTINUES

Jury selection began on Sept. 17, 1980. Before selection started Judge Miller ruled that he would do all questioning himself. The defense had argued that it should be allowed to question the jurors because of the overriding importance in this trial of exposing racist attitudes. Judge Miller denied the defense's request but made assurances that his questioning would be thorough on the question of racism. In line with this he allowed the defense to submit those questions it thought needed to be asked to uncover racism. The defense submitted a lengthy list of questions and the Judge, over the State's strong opposition, agreed to ask most of them. The Judge, however, has not kept his word.

The questions submitted by the defense were designed to probe people's feelings about racism, gangs and prisons. That is, they were designed to expose jurors who might find the Brothers guilty not because of the evidence, but because of prejudice. This, of course, is precisely the purpose of questioning prospective jurors, and when Black prisoners and alleged gang members are on trial for killing white guards, thorough in-depth questioning is absolutely crucial. Moreover, the importance of this questioning became even greater when, after jury selection started, the press published a series of dishonest articles on prisons, the gangs and the shooting of witnesses. (See article on p.) In fact, it has become obvious that if the jury is not thoroughly screened, the Brothers have no chance of being found not guilty.

In spite of this obvious fact, Miller has more and more substituted his own questions for those submitted by the defense counsel. Miller's questions are designed not to expose racism, but to hide it. He asks questions like: "Would the fact that the defendants are Black and the victims are white make it difficult for you to render a fair verdict?" Prospective white jurors uniformly answer "No." What has been learned -- nothing.

This kind of "yes or no" questioning where the "right" answer is obvious exposes nothing about people's real feelings. It is their real feelings, however, which ulti-

mately will determine the outcome of the trial. It is only by getting people to talk about their experiences and relationships that real information can be brought to the surface. Without this kind of interchange, defense counsel cannot make informed or accurate judgements about which jurors could provide a fair trial. Judge Miller has refused to recognize this reality and has refused to ask probing questions.

The defense has repeatedly protested this kind of procedure. Judge Miller's only response has been to order them to stop making the same objections. This position led to his finding Marianne Jackson, one of the eight Black attorneys, in contempt of Court. Many of the other lawyers then requested permission to withdraw from the case on the grounds that they could not adequately defend their clients if they were threatened with contempt when they did so. This request was also denied.

Miller has also been abusive to the Brothers when they have attempted to speak for themselves. On several occasions he has even had the Brothers who tried to speak removed from the court room. Miller says

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PPSC photo

Attorney Marianne Jackson addressing the November 9th meeting of PPSC.

Cont'd. from p.3

Miller has also been abusive to the Brothers when they have attempted to speak for themselves. On several occasions he has even had the Brothers who tried to speak removed from the court room. Miller says that as the Brothers have lawyers to talk for them, they should keep quiet. This overlooks the fact that it is the Brothers and not the lawyers whose lives are on the line. It is unreasonable to expect men who face the electric chair to sit meekly by when they have something to say which may influence whether they live or die. Further, Miller's tone and attitude toward the Brothers is consistently demeaning. He treats them not as men, but as objects. His attitude shows a lack of respect which will certainly be communicated to the jury.

What must be clear is that Judge Miller's actions are another aspect in the continuation of the frame-up. From July 22 until today, a constant part of the frame-up has been the cover-up. First, immediately after the rebellion, the prison was placed on deadlock. One of the results of the deadlock was that prisoners could not consult with attorneys. Next, from the date of the in-

dictments until today, the State has balked at giving defense attorneys access to State's witnesses. Today, during jury selection, this pattern continues with the blocking of attempts to get real information from potential jurors.

The theme is constant and consistent - no access to clients, no access to witnesses, no access to jurors. The reason is clear: the state knows that hidden witnesses and prejudiced jurors are its best hope for conviction.

Judge Miller is now the focus and the key in this part of the State's frame-up strategy. It is Judge Miller whose rulings during jury selection keep this strategy of darkness moving along. It is Judge Miller who finds defense lawyers in contempt for demanding access to crucial information. And it is Judge Miller who is really in contempt - in contempt of the Brothers, of the lawyers and of the truth.

The task now for supporters of the Pontiac Brothers is clear. We must reveal Judge Miller for what he is - not a fair even-handed dispenser of justice, but a part of the State's frame-up.



SF DEMO

More than 50 people demonstrated their support to free the Pontiac Brothers in San Francisco on Wednesday, November 12. The demonstration was organized by Prairie Fire Organizing Committee.

Speakers at the demonstration included Mrs. Marie Tolbert, mother of Pontiac Brother Cavin Tolbert; and Ahmed Obafemi, Eastern Vice-President of the Republic of New Afrika (RNA). Two days after the demonstration a community forum was held in support of the Pontiac Brothers where these speakers once again were heard. Around 80 people attended this spirited event.

A statement sent to the demonstration by a group of Black prisoners in San Quentin that make up the Editorial Board of Arm the Spirit, a revolutionary prisoners' newspaper, read in part: "This attempt at a mass legal lynching of Afrikan (Black) people cannot be separated from the racist attacks on Afrikans in Buffalo or Atlanta, or the brutal police murders of Melvin Black, Eula Love, the two youth in Brooklyn two weeks ago, or the many other acts of slaying of our people, whether they operated under color of the law or not."

The Pontiac Brothers also sent a statement to San Francisco, which stated: "Our small voices will rock throughout this nation, as our cries of freedom for us, and all political prisoners, will be heard. Your strength, courage and support make us swell with pride. We know we are not fighting alone in a one-sided battle as we walk into the halls of the white man's justice system. We can walk tall - proud - knowing that today our voices are walking, chanting somewhere on a beautiful street in San Francisco, demanding that the Pontiac Brothers be set free."



WHO'S IN CONTEMPT?

During the first two months of trial (jury selection is considered the beginning of the trial) three of the Pontiac Brothers' lawyers (all of them Black) have been charged with contempt of court by Judge Ben Miller.

On October 1, Marianne Jackson, the only Black woman lawyer on the case, was held in contempt when she did not sit down and shut up during a debate with Miller about his failure to question the prospective jurors adequately.

On Oct 29 Skip Gant was ordered to show cause why he should not be held in contempt for failing to appear for court for four days. Skip's motion in response details how the inadequate and unequal compensation set by Judge Miller has left him unable to maintain his legal practice and his family, and forced him to attend to other business. Four legal associations, the Cook County Bar Association, the National Conference of Black Lawyers, the Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the Chicago Council of Lawyers filed briefs with the court supporting this position and attempting to explain to Judge Miller what the costs of maintaining a legal practice in Chicago are. Miller nonetheless refused to open the question of the fee schedule for argument in connection with the contempt citation. A further hearing on the contempt is pending.

On Nov 7 Leo Holt was held in contempt for leaving the courtroom without Miller's permission after unsuccessfully arguing for an early adjournment because of an urgent legal obligation he could not meet under the full-time court schedule imposed by Judge Miller. On Nov 12 Leo was again fined for contempt for refusing to sit down and shut up during arguments about Miller's failure to provide office space at the courthouse for the defense which was promised about six weeks earlier. At this point, Judge Miller went further by referring the matter to the Bar Association for possible disciplinary action. Leo Holt is one of the most experienced and respected criminal lawyers in Cook County. The level of conflict developing in the courtroom is an indication of the intolerable bias and racism the defense lawyers are forced to confront.

from the kamps

The following is a letter from Michael Evans one of the Pontiac Brothers who is currently on trial for his life at Cook County Courthouse.

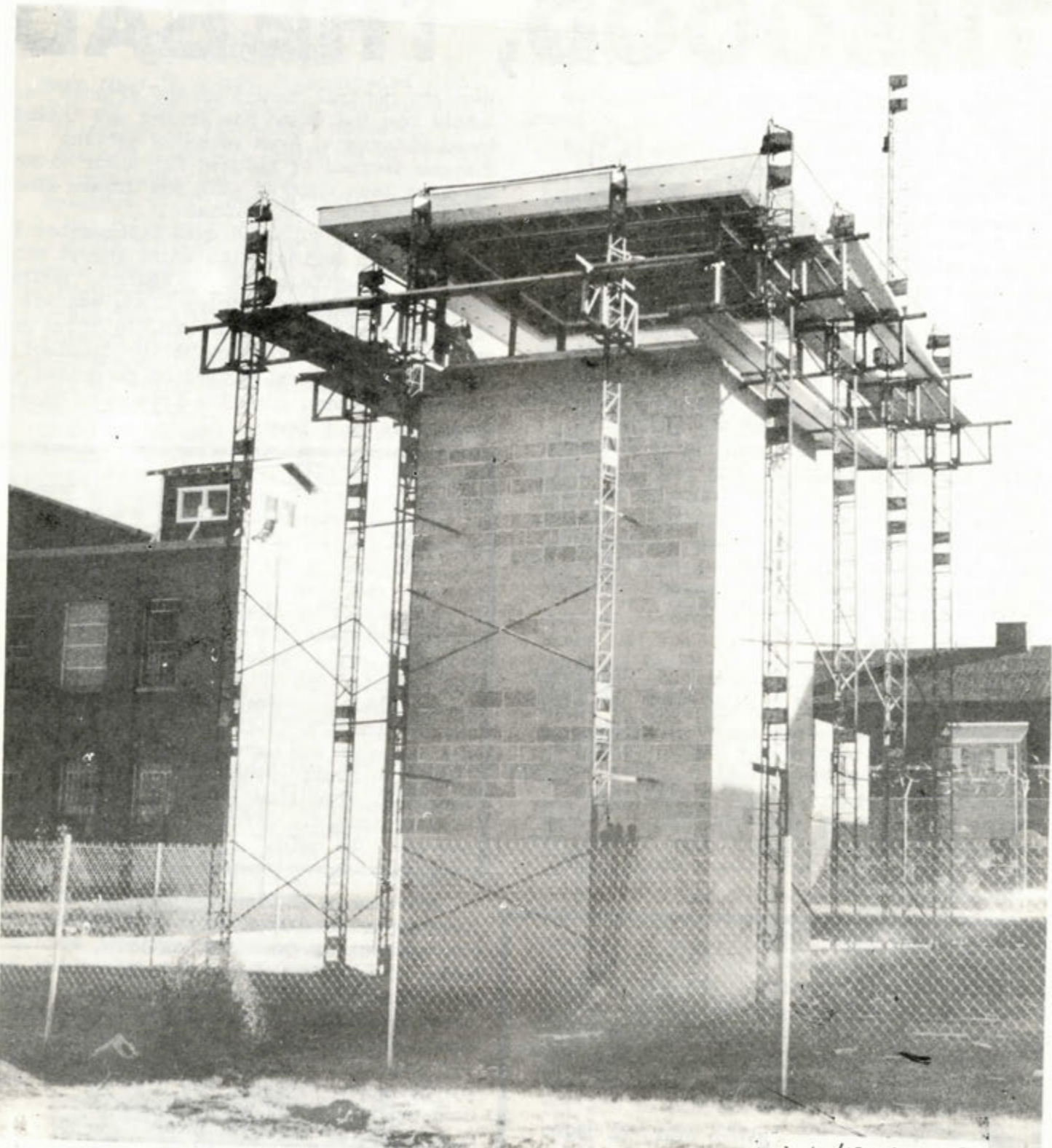
Two years, three months and some days have went past since the unfortunate rebellion at Pontiac Concentration Camp occurred. Since July 22, 1978 much has been said in relation to prisons. There is no telling how many people there are outside of the walls who at one time or other knew nothing about prisons. But there are many today who have enough knowledge to sit and hold conversations pertaining to the subject of prisons. Fellow human being, why is it that men behind the walls have to rebel in order to get the people on the other side of the walls to see that human rights are constantly being violated consciously and unconsciously? Why is it that history as it relates to the condition behind the walls? These conditions are never exposed to the world, the public until lives have been lost of loved ones or friends, and an "Iran crisis" happen behind the walls? Why must millions of dollars be spent every year, only to



come to the act of a rebellion, against animalistic treatment? In 1712 in New York, the first rebellion here in the new country was caused because of inhuman treatment. These same conditions exist today here in what we call the U.S.A. that were existant in 1712. Could it that history truly repeats itself, that generation after generation, must live in the same foul manner as they did two hundred years ago to Attica, where forty three were lost to the same conditions that existed in Pontiac six years later or today for all we know. Why is it that after every rebellion the news media go to the extreme to get the public to define those charged with the matters related to the rebellion as animals? These are just many of the questions needed to be answered. But in order to get to the bottom you must start from the top, investigate the entire executive system. from (Governor) Thompson down to your correctional officer. This is the only possibility I see for those that are concerned for human rights. And now I ask, why should your tax dollar be depriving you and yours? And you should know how it's being spent and what benefit is being gained from your dollar. You have all the right in the world to know of your dollars that you as a citizen pay out of your working days. There is no doubt it is being misused somewhere, or you would not see rebellions as you do. Families wouldn't have to fear a Class X felony cause he would have paid his debt to society and you would have gotten your money's worth for his or her rehabilitation.

The only face that will make these conditions within the prison's walls change, will have to come from you all the tax payers. To see that people don't walk around with the concept "bury him or her, throw away the key on him or her." Your dollar will only grow to more dollars if they throw away the key.

Humanity I think is or should be a concern of some one. And those behind the walls need that concern for human rights. The concern for humanity could be my life or officer Doe's life in the next rebellion. We don't need an Attica, in the state of Illinois. It's bad enough we had a Pontiac rebellion.



photo/Alarie Mack

This photo, taken in Dec. 1979, is of a gun tower under construction at Pontiac Prison. These are the "improvements" Thompson, Franzen, et al have produced as a response to the rebellion. But the rebellion was a response to racism and other intolerable living conditions. And more gun towers won't stop more rebellions. As the Brothers at Attica stated, "We are men, we are not beasts, and do not intend to be beaten and driven as such." This was the message of prisoners ten years ago. It is the message of prisoners today. Thompson, Franzen, and the rest must understand it.

8 THE GOOD, THE BAD

Since July 22, 1978 PPSC has constantly battled to make the truth about Pontiac known to the public. For over two years we were not able to force one positive story into the "popular" media. Now that the first trial has actually begun, the dynamics of our interaction with the media have changed. As a result, the case of the Pontiac Brothers is in the media quite a bit these days.

Some of the publicity has been favorable, some has been unfavorable, and some has been downright disgusting. Some of the publicity has been generated by the prosecution; and some - both good and bad - has been generated by the natural tendency of the "public".

Since PPSC is in the process of intensifying our media campaign, and since issues of publicity are the dominant topic of argument in the courtroom as jury selection proceeds, it is hoped that the following information will both bring our readers up to date as well as highlight the important issues currently being contested in the courtroom.

The Good

Since jury selection started on September 15, the Sun-Times and Tribune have had reporters covering court daily. The Chicago Defender, which serves the Black community, has also had frequent articles. This coverage has enabled people to keep up with major events happening in the courtroom. Furthermore, The Reader (Chicago's free weekly) and The New York Times have also recently run prominent articles.

FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES

The guard who had survived the attack (Danny Dill) made several demands on the state as a condition for testimony. He wanted a promise of lifelong employment with the state, a job for his father, round-the-clock police protection and permission to carry a weapon at all times.

Then he began to change his story of whom he could pinpoint as having attacked whom. It became clear to the state attorneys that if they were to build a case it had to be with testimony from prisoners.

The Defender carried a six part series that detailed events around the Pontiac cases from July, 1978 to the present. These articles, written by Michelle Young and Cynthia Farenga, were accurate, thorough, and informative.

Once the central thrust of the article was to detail how the state had bribed and intimidated witnesses, even recently getting charges dropped or reduced for their witnesses who have been charged with new crimes since being released from Pontiac.

PPSC, which supplied some information for the Defender series, also asked Robert McClory to write an article for The Reader. McClory's article appeared on October 3 and was the front page story. It covered, in "five acts," events from the rebellion, to the deadlock, to the bribes and threats used on potential witnesses. McClory, like the Defender, emphasized this last issue.

FROM THE DEFENDER

The prosecutors have intervened on behalf of another potential witness who was arrested following his release on parole. In that case, a more serious charge against the man was dismissed after Assistant State's Attorney Thomas Breen informed other assistant state's attorneys of the arrested man's status as a Pontiac witness. The arrested man then pleaded guilty to a lesser charge. "Breen said that all he and his partner (Algis Baliunas) did in the cases of the arrested witnesses was to 'bring to their (other law enforcement agencies) attention' a man's role in the Pontiac trials. 'We did not actively intervene,' he said."

On October 22, the New York Times ran a lengthy article that broke the silence from the national press. The article, molded after the Reader piece, focused on the lack of credibility of the state's case. Among other issues, the incredible "testimony" of Danny Dill, a guard who was attacked during the rebellion, and who is the state's only on-the-scene witness, was highlighted and laughed at.

The Tribune and Defender Ads

Since May PPSC has been involved in a jury education campaign. Our intent is to inform potential jurors in Cook County about the Pontiac cases; death qualifying juries; compositions of death juries in this county; and how nearly all-white juries, white judges and white prosecutors convict Black and Latin defendants.

During our campaign we've distributed 50,000 tabloids with the information above.

AND CHANNEL 7 9

On September 17, the day jury selection actually began, we took out a third of a page ad, based upon the tabloid, in the Tribune. The same ad, sponsored by People United to Save the Pontiac Brothers, appeared as a full page in the September 15 issue of the Defender.

The ads, which cost about \$6,000, reached tens of thousands of people with information from the tabloid. The Associated Press did a story on the ads, and newspapers in at least three cities picked it up.

FROM THE READER

Of the 49 witnesses the state plans to introduce at the trial, 43 were immediately given 90 days good time just for agreeing to talk; 33 got another 90 days off for giving especially helpful information; 28 were released from deadlock and sent to other prisons; one was granted executive clemency and a commuted sentence. Thanks to special treatment, at least 25 inmates were paroled by Spring, 1980.

The Bad

After the July 22 demonstration, Peter Nolan, a journalist for WMAQ TV (Channel 5, NBC), presented a damaging "viewpoint" on prime-time television. Nolan's response was something clearly representing the state's perspective. With pictures of the demo behind him as he spoke, it was apparent he was responding for Governor Thompson, Correction's Director Franzen and the prosecution.

Nolan stated in part: "I suppose that since the protest days of the 1960s there have been dozens of trials where the defendants anointed themselves with titles and numbers such as the Chicago 7. And in most of these cases the crimes committed had something to do with a political protest. Civil rights, resistance to the draft, or the Viet Nam war. Things like that. I submit to you that the Pontiac 17 case has nothing to do with politics."

Channel 7

Jay Levine of Channel 7, the ABC affiliate, is apparently all heated up and running hard for the "racist newsperson of the year" award. In September, ol' Jay did a "news spot" in which he stood in front of the state's model of the prison and lamented the fact that "we, the taxpayers, were being forced to spend so

much money just to kill these bloodthirsty prisoners when it was clear all along that everyone knew they were guilty. Since this was a news spot and not an editorial comment, no response was possible. Then, on his Oct. 17 Friday midnight show, Levine had a leading Klansman, in full uniform, as his special guest. Levine pointed out that although the KKK was a controversial subject they too had a right to be heard on his television show (a right of course not granted to the Pontiac defense). Every time the live audience hooted and booed, Levine stepped in and ordered them to "behave".

The Gangs Again, and again and again and...

Whenever the prosecution has floundered, it has revived the gang theory to give substance to a substance-less case. And the media have been more than willing to cooperate - sometimes in fact, leading the charge. During the days preceding the indictments, the state built an elaborate "theory" of gang leadership of the rebellion. Bob Weidrich of the Tribune, and a staunch New Right supporter, was more than willing to help. He wrote some 30 articles in three months detailing how the "gangs controlled the prisons" (see PPSC Newsletter #3).

Now that the state's case is once again encountering great difficulties the prosecution-media partnership is at it again. On July 31, 1980 Pontiac Brother Frank Frizell Jr, one of the 14, was found beaten
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to death just days after he had been acquitted of all charges. Despite overwhelming evidence that his murder had nothing to do with the Pontiac cases, both the Tribune and The Sun-Times deliberately distorted the situation to suggest a non-existing relationship. (See PPSC Newsletter #12)

Then, on Oct. 5, just a few days after jury selection started, The Sun-Times was at it again with another series (this one in 3 parts starting on Sunday) on Black gangs. What a coincidence that this series should begin just about the same time as jury selection. And what another coincidence that The Sun-Times refused to print our ad (for which we were willing to pay them a huge amount of money) because they did not want us to influence the jury!!!

A few days later a Black man named Ben Johnson (also known as Ben Robinson) was shot. Once again the media tied Johnson's shooting to the trials suggesting that he was shot because he was a witness against

the Brothers. Although the police denied that such a relationship existed, and although Johnson had withdrawn his testimony against the Brothers, the media persisted.

In addition to hoping this propaganda will have an impact on the courtroom proceedings, the prosecution no doubt has other goals in mind. Namely, to prey on and intensify the racism of white people and, most importantly, to drive a wedge between the Black community and the Brothers.

Conclusion

So there you have it - the good, the bad, and Channel 7. *As the case continues, media coverage will no doubt expand and intensify. We urge our readers to protest unfair media coverage and to notify PPSC about such coverage as well as about the protests against such coverage. The "free and public" press has never been free or public to the Pontiac Brothers. Perhaps if we work together we can alter this relationship just a little bit - just enough to suggest to the public what the truth about Pontiac really is.



photo/Alarie Mack

THE PONTIAC FRAME-UP

On July 22, 1978, prisoners at Pontiac State Penitentiary in Pontiac, Illinois, rose up against the inhuman conditions and racism of the prison. The causes of this spontaneous rebellion were so obvious that the director of the Illinois prisons said, "It came a year later than most of us anticipated. You can only crowd so many people into a warehouse for so long before something happens." 3 guards were killed and 3 others injured; damages were estimated at \$4 million. Many prisoners were injured by guards and National Guardsmen retaking the prison.

The entire prison population was then put on deadlock — locked in their cells 24 hours a day without showers, visits, recreation, work, or basic necessities like soap and toilet paper. The deadlock continued for 8 months.

The "investigation" that was carried out under deadlock conditions consisted principally of attempts to coerce prisoners to testify against selected scapegoats by threats and bribery. Not until 3 months after the rebellion did State officials begin to claim that the prisons were "run by the gangs" and that the Pontiac rebellion had been a "gang" conspiracy. This phony story both took the responsibility off Governor Thompson and the State officials running the prison and placed it on Black and Latin prisoners and prejudiced the public against the men to be indicted.

Administrative charges were brought against 67 prisoners, each of whom was sentenced to a year in segregation and loss of one year good time without a single witness being presented.

On March 5, 1979, an all-white grand jury handed down indictments against 31 prisoners — all Black and Latin. 17 were charged with murder and 14 with other felonies. The State's Attorney had already announced that he would seek the death penalty for any prisoner convicted of murder, making this the largest mass death penalty case in the U.S.

WHO WE ARE

The Pontiac Prisoners Support Coalition is a broad-based coalition of community and human rights organizations. The PPSC is organizing in primarily white communities while other organizations are working in Black and Latin communities.

We share the conviction that the Pontiac Rebellion was a natural and predictable response to the inhuman treatment of prisoners, most of whom are Black and Latin.

We understand that this inhuman treatment begins on the outside, in the community, where Black and Latin people live with many different forms of oppression. Those men and women who organize against this oppression are warehoused into cages in overcrowded prisons and jails where slave labor, inhuman conditions and arbitrary rules are enforced by racist guards.

We know that the indictments against the Pontiac 31 are the product of a frame-up carried out under coercive conditions and not a genuine investigation.

The PPSC respects and supports the initiatives of prisoners, takes leadership from them, and unites with them on the following demands:

- * Abolish all inhuman and abusive conditions at Pontiac and other Illinois prisons.
- * Repeal Class X legislation.
- * Revoke the death penalty.
- * Expose the investigation and its coercive strategy to scapegoat prisoners.
- * End the deadlocks.

* Drop the indictments.

* Free the Pontiac Brothers!

We have taken responsibility for:

- * Educating white people about the racist nature of the prison system.
- * Combatting anti-prisoner, racist attitudes and practices.
- * Winning support for the demands of the prisoners.
- * Providing ongoing political and legal support for the Pontiac Brothers.

ACT NOW! WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

____ I want to work on one of the PPSC committees.

____ I can arrange for PPSC to show its slideshow or give talks to people or groups I know.

____ I enclose \$10.00 for a 1-year subscription to the PPSC Newsletter.

____ I enclose a \$ _____ donation to the Pontiac Brothers Defense Fund.

RETURN THIS FORM TO: PPSC
c/o Alliance to End Repression
407 South Dearborn Street, Room 1000
Chicago, Illinois 60605
OR CALL: (312) 427-4064

VICTORY: Case Dismissed

On Aug 27, 1980 Hurries Johnson was tried in a bench trial which lasted about 2½ hrs in Bloomington, Illinois. Judge James Knecht heard the testimony of ONE witness, a prisoner now housed at Joliet Correctional Center. Hurries' lawyer, Buddy Clark, cross-examined this witness for 1½ hrs, touching on his previous very serious criminal history and his reasons for testifying. Most notably, he received from the State and Illinois Dept of Law Enforcement (IDLE) 90 days good time before testifying (and hoped for and was due to receive 90 days after the trial). He also received a transfer to Joliet which is still a maximum security institution but at allows him to receive family visits which are very important to him and which he couldn't receive under deadlock at Pontiac. The State rested its case with the one witness. Buddy moved for a directed verdict of not guilty because the State had not sustained its burden of proving Hurries' guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The judge granted the motion. We won this one!

Of the 14 Brothers facing lesser charges, only the trial of Willie Hardy remains. As the others it will take place in Bloomington.

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