

SUMMARY

This cointelpro reference is to the "Downey Street" gang. When the cousins of La Marr and Leonard Donald were involved in a deadly shootout with the Cleveland Police Dept. as members of the Black Nationalists, with Fred Ahmed Evans, on Leonard Donald's 13th birthday July 23, 1967, all of Downey Street experienced a social awakening. One of their cousins was killed in that shootout, he was 17 years old, and the other was arrested and got out of jail 30 years later.

We were about 13 thru 15 years old when Leonard Donald, La Marr Donald and Michael Tookas went to the Black Panther office on Fillmore Street to get posters of Huey, Bobby, Eldridge, Kathleen, Bunchy and John. Those posters were put up on the garage where our basketball hoop was. We took the hoop down to put those posters up; they were larger than life in the middle of our street. We also formed programs such as free food and free breakfast programs while at the same time learning about the use of gun and gun safety.

All of this occurred before we ever "officially" met members of the Black Panther Party. The first of whom was Richard O'Neil (currently under indictment for murdering a San Francisco Policeman in the San Francisco 35 years ago as a member of the Black Liberation Army), who ultimately introduced us to Ellis White, who introduced us to Field Marshall D.C. After meeting Ellis and D.C., we realized that we needed "more seasoned" leadership, the leadership of the Black Panther Party. With that 12 of us from Downey Street left home at the ripe ages of 14 thru 19 to join the fight for Black Freedom with the Black Panther Party. Thus we began to work at Central Distribution and we rode around in the Party's 30-foot long black "Jack Barret" truck with Ellis White, picking up food and doing whatever was required of us. The point is the FBI was looking at the Downey Street gang before we ever joined the Party because we adopted the policies and programs of the Party. Therefore the obvious thing for us to do was to join the Party. Ultimately only Leonard, La Marr, Mack and Michael Tookas remained. Some 8 years later, we all eventually left the Party, but by then we had grown up in the party from teenagers to young men. In spite of all of the negativity I read from former leaders about the party, and the things that I personally knew to be questionable, I would do it all again. Like most of us, I'd do some things differently. But I'd never trade my life's experiences in the Party for anything else. My life in the Party was challenging, but fulfilling. My fondest memories were because of my family in the party, the Comrades. I learned a great deal from growing up as a Panther and I thank many of Comrades whom I worked with and even the Party's leadership for challenging me to be better.

The following excerpt is part of the attached cointelpro document, please see the text in bold-

- FBI agents attempted to convince landlords to force Black Panther members and offices from their buildings. The Indianapolis Field Office reported that a local landlord had yielded to its urgings and promised to tell his Black Panther tenants to relocate their offices.
- 63 The San Francisco office sent in article from the Black Panther newspaper to the landlord of a BPP member who had rented an apartment under an assumed name. The article, which had been written by that member and contained her picture and true name, was accompanied by an anonymous note stating, "(false name) is your tenant (true name)" 64 The San Francisco office secured the eviction of one Black Panther who lived in a public housing project by informing the Housing Authority officials that she was using his apartment for the BPP Free Breakfast Program. **65 When it was learned that the BPP was conducting a Free Breakfast Program "In the notorious Haight-Ashbury District of San Francisco," the Bureau mailed a letter to the owners of the building:**

Dear Mr. (excised): I would call and talk to you about this matter, but I am not sure how you feel, and I do not wish to become personally embroiled with neighbors. It seems that the property owners on (excised) Street have had enough trouble in the past without bringing in Black Panthers. Maybe you are not aware, but the Black Panthers have taken over (address deleted). Perhaps if you drive up the street, you can see what they are going to do to the property values. They have already plastered a nearby garage with big Black Panther posters. -- A concerned property owner. 66

[COINTELPRO Document](#)