

In 1971 the United Farm Workers was boycotting lettuce and Safeway stores where still carrying non union lettuce. They asked the Black Panther party to help them close down Safeway stores in Oakland.

The Safeway Store located on 27th and West st was choice because they wouldn't donate to the Breakfast program across the street from St Augustine Church, home of the BPP Free Breakfast program.

The Safeway boycott came at a time in Party history when we had gone through a defect of many Panthers from the BPP. Some members choice to leave the BPP and join the Black Liberation Army. That defection happen in February and march of 1971 and it was a tense time in the BPP up until the Safeway Boycott. I was working at Central HQ's and all we did was security work.

So when the Boycott happen they let us out of the office, we had been locked up for a while and when we had the opportunity to get out of the office. James Mott, Micheal Torrence, Clark Bailey, and I Billy X where line captains and full of fire. We put revolutionary Enthusiasm into the line.

We were all about twenty years old at the time and we didn't walk the picket line we danced the picket line. We would have everyone fired up, we partied. So when the leadership came down to the boycott line they were surprised to fine the parking lot empty and comrades fired up and happy.

We had a car that would take people to another store down the street, to keep them from shopping at Safeway. The UFW picketers was surprised on how effect we were. We closed Safeway down in a few days.

Photo of Billy X in straw hat with sign. and Clark Bailey with sign.