

Stunned Legislature Meets With Gun-Toting 'Panthers'

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A stunned California Legislature surveyed its security precautions today while Negroes who burst into the Capitol bearing a variety of loaded guns at noon Tuesday were summoned to court.

Twenty-six youths aged 17 to 23 were arrested by city police with drawn revolvers and hauled to the police station in a paddy wagon shortly after they left the Capitol at 2 p.m. Tuesday.

They were accused of possessing two illegal sawed-off shotguns, brandishing weapons in a threatening manner, disrupting the Legislature in session and carrying a fully loaded weapon in a car.

At the Capitol today, support mounted among amazed and disgruntled lawmakers for tightening security and imposing more severe penalties on those who disrupt an Assembly or Senate session.

Armed Youth

It was a noon-hour session of the assembly that a dozen of the armed youths — members of the "Black Panther Party" — succeeded in penetrating briefly before they were ushered out and several of the loaded rifles, pistols and shotguns taken away by two state policemen in a mild struggle.

No guns were fired at any time, and the armed men took care while in the Capitol not to overtly threaten anyone with the guns. They remained silent except for a spokesman, Bobby Seale, 25, of Oakland. He said they appeared to defend their constitutional right to bear arms, criticized "racist Oakland police" and opposed a bill outlawing the carrying of loaded weapons in public.

No one could remember anything like it happening before.

Reaction ranged from simple amazement to anger. A Democratic Negro assemblyman from the Watts district of Los Angeles, Bill Greene — considered a militant advocate of Negro rights — commented: "This action was not militant, it was senseless. No person black or white can condone this action."

Rushing Wave

Jim Rooney, one of three sergeants-at-arms manning the swinging gates that block off the Assembly chamber door 50 feet away, said that suddenly "a wave of them just rushed in and shoved us out of the way."

He was knocked into a chair by someone in the traveling mob of about 50 Black Panther members, reporters and television cameramen.

The man presiding when the armed men burst into the rear of the chamber, Speaker Pro Tem Carlos Bee, D-Hayward, remarked later: "The Legislature is certainly upset by the whole episode. People must be identified and have passes to come onto the floor. Any citizen can get a pass and there is no reason for anyone to push through in this manner."

Assemblyman Don Mulford, R-Piedmont, author of the gun control bill the group protested, said he was "shocked beyond belief. It's a direct attempt to coerce me. This whole thing is an affront to the people."

When he testified for the bill Tuesday afternoon, Mulford referred to the "first time in California history an armed band forced their way through the gates and into the Assembly chamber."

Fired Guns

He reminded assemblymen of the time in 1954 that Puerto Rican nationalists fired guns from the gallery into the House of Representatives chamber in Washington, D.C., wounding five congressmen.

The bill was taken under submission. Mulford said he would seek to include a provision to make it a felony to disrupt a legislative house in session.

Even Gov. Ronald Reagan was involved in the incident, and it caused some worried moments for his aides, who already afford him more protection than previous governors.

Reagan was scheduled to lunch on the west Capitol lawn with an eighth-grade social studies class from Pleasant Hill. When word of the armed men spread through the startled Capitol, Reagan was kept in his office. He finally left by a side door and appeared on the upper Capitol steps just as the Negroes were leaving from the lower steps. They did not seem to be aware of his presence.

Asked for his reaction, the governor commented that "Americans don't go around carrying guns with the idea they're using them to influence other Americans. There's no reason why on the street today a citizen should be carrying loaded weapons."

He agreed, however, with the group's contention they have the right to bear arms. At present there is no law in California against possessing a loaded, legal gun as long as it isn't concealed.

Because of the confusion and presence of the armed men, the picnic was moved into the gov-

Speedy Long Asks Election Of U.S. Judges

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Speedy Long, D-La., has called for the election of all federal judges, including Supreme Court justices, rather than appointment.

Urging House approval of a proposed constitutional amendment to make such a change, Long said Tuesday that "the certain drift of the federal judiciary" away from "even remote connections with the will of the people of America has long since reached a point where remedies must be taken."

"Decisions of the federal courts in matters of social significance and in the area of criminal apprehension and prosecution have rendered the Congress and the various states impotent."

Thief Hits Police

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Someone has stolen Police Inspector Victor Short's car and \$300 worth of golf clubs in the trunk.

The car was taken from the parking lot behind the San Francisco police headquarters.

ernor's newly redecorated office and the youngsters sat on the carpet munching fried chicken.



JUST SAY "CHAR"