

ARMED NEGROES PROTEST GUN BILL

30 Black Panthers Invade Sacramento Legislature

SACRAMENTO, Calif., May 2 (UPI)—With loaded rifles and shotguns in their hands, members of the antiwhite Black Panther party marched into the state Capitol today. A leader announced they were protesting new gun legislation scheduled for consideration by an Assembly committee.

The 30 young Negroes, including five women, threw the building into a turmoil, but no one was hurt. At least a dozen pushed into the Assembly chamber, where the lawmakers were in session.

The demonstration ended after a brief confrontation with the state police and a further tense showdown with city police outside the building.

The Panthers, mostly from Oakland and other San Francisco Bay area cities, walked through the west door of the Capitol with their guns in full display. Some wore black or dark blue berets with bandoliers of shells draped across their shoulders. Others had pistols on their hips.

The full name of the group is Black Panther Party for Self Defense. The party's state headquarters is in Oakland and the estimated total of 40 members are loosely associated with similar groups in New York City, Detroit and Tennessee.

Lawmakers Startled

When the Negroes pushed into the Assembly chamber, some lawmakers were startled while others did not notice them. The youths were ejected by sergeants-at-arms because Assembly rules forbid weapons in the chamber. California has no law against displaying weapons openly.

As they left the Capitol the Panthers were met by the state police, who began confiscating their weapons but later decided state laws had not been broken and returned the weapons.

The group walked away from the Capitol as Gov. Ronald Reagan emerged with a group of schoolchildren for a picnic.

"This is a ridiculous way to solve problems that have to be solved among people of goodwill," said Mr. Reagan. "There's no reason why a citizen should be carrying loaded weapons on the street today."

The Panthers were intercepted a few blocks from the Capitol by a squad of city policemen armed with riot guns and pistols. As the party chairman, Bobby George Seale, 30 years old, came forward to talk with the officers, the group was disarmed and taken to jail. Some were charged with violating the Fish and Game Code,

which prohibits loaded guns in a vehicle. The others were held for questioning.

During the Capitol appearance, Mr. Seale read to newsmen a statement signed by Huey P. Newton, 25, the party's Minister of Defense.

It called on Americans, and Negroes in particular, "to take careful note of the racist California Legislature, which is now considering legislation aimed at keeping the black people disarmed and powerless at the very same time that racist police agencies . . . are intensifying the terror, brutality, murder and repression of black people."