

# BLACK PANTHERS PICKET A SCHOOL

## Anti-Integration Party Would Boycott P.S. 139 in Harlem

By THOMAS A. JOHNSON

Harlem's recently formed Black Panther party, an anti-integration group of articulate young militants, staged its first direct-action demonstration yesterday—picketing a local school. Twelve of its members were promptly arrested. The charges included disorderly conduct.

Representing what appears to be one of the most enthusiastic of Harlem's youth-oriented "black power" organizations, the Black Panther members are attempting to organize a boycott of the old and decrepit Public School 139, on 139th Street between Lenox and Seventh Avenues.

"Many of the brothers [party members] went to this school," a party official said as he watched a picket line of 15 in the afternoon that replaced the demonstrators arrested during the morning.

Officials said 80 per cent of the school's 1,200 pupils attended, and said most of the absences were normal for the first day of school.

Their boycott demands include the placing of more Negro educators in supervisory positions, the teaching of African and Negro history and the promotion of the neighborhood-school concept so that "the administrative structure reflects the ethnic composition" of the neighborhood.

### Parents' Position

The local Parents Association has long advocated similar reforms, but it does not back the Black Panthers, although some parents do.

Black Panther officers refuse to discuss the number of members, but observers estimate their hard-core enthusiasts at about 30, with almost 100 members in all.

An amalgamation of convenience with the New York Congress of Racial Equality was broken recently when a Panther member got into a fist fight with a white CORE worker during a joint demonstration.

The party does, however, have the backing of the black nationalist Harlem People's Parliament, made up mostly of the African-robed Yoruba Temple.

With basement offices at 2409 Seventh Avenue, the party got off to a running start with a series of mass rallies and fundraising affairs; the publication of highly detailed position papers; the inauguration of the Malcolm X Liberation School (for members only) and the boycott.

They look to the chairman of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, 25-year-old Stokely Carmichael, as their "elder statesman." They took their name from the black panther symbol of the Lowndes County Freedom Organization that Mr. Carmichael founded in Alabama in 1965.

The party is governed by a 15-member committee with an average age of 24, and plans elections of permanent officers in November. At present Eddie Ellis, 25, a former Haryou organizer, speaks for the group.

### Leaders Write for Magazines

Like several of the party's leaders, Mr. Ellis is a freelance writer. He and Ted Wilson, 24, and Larry Neal, 27, also party leaders, have contributed to such organs of militant Negro thought as The Liberator and they plan to write for a similar magazine now in preparation called Pride.

Other leaders include Donald Washington, 30, a former aide to the late Malcolm X, and Walter Ricks, 27, an organizer for Haryou's Neighborhood Boards.