

Cleaver to face charges

Associated Press
NEW YORK — Resigned to the possible imprisonment that he eluded for seven years as a fugitive abroad, Eldridge Cleaver, the once strident Black Panther information director, was to be taken to California today to face charges of parole violation and assault.

Cleaver was immediately arrested by FBI agents during a prearranged surrender Tuesday evening when he arrived from Paris aboard a Trans World Airlines jet. He said he had made no deal with the authorities. On his transatlantic flight, Cleaver was "unofficially" accompanied by three FBI agents, and at Kennedy Airport he was met by three more. As the one-time revolutionary sped

through customs, agents formed a human barrier against some 75 shouting and shouting reporters who mobbed the area, trying to interview him.

Cleaver, 39, was handcuffed and arraigned at U.S. District Court in Brooklyn, despite his attorney's objections that the handcuffs were unnecessary since Cleaver had returned voluntarily to this country to face the charges against him.

"I think a situation exists in the country now where I can have my day in court," Cleaver told newsmen in explanation for his return.

Cleaver was also served with a subpoena to appear Jan. 20, 1976, before a Senate internal security subcommittee. The subpoena was

signed by Sen. James O. Eastland, D-Miss., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. It could not be immediately determined why the subcommittee wanted Cleaver to appear.

In 1968, Cleaver was paroled from prison after serving nine years of a 14-year term for assault with intent to kill in California. He was rearrested a short time later following a shootout between Oakland police and the Black Panthers.

Scheduled to surrender Nov. 27 of that year for re-imprisonment on parole violation charges, Cleaver says he was already in Montreal by then, the first stop in a fugitive odyssey that took him to Cuba, Russia, North Korea, Algeria and France, among other places.

In a letter published Tuesday in the New York Times, Cleaver declared:

"With all its faults, the American political system is the freest and most democratic in the world. The system needs to be improved, with democracy spread to all areas of life, particularly the economic.

"All these changes must be conducted through our established institutions and people with grievances must find political methods for obtaining redress."

Cleaver's erstwhile Black Panther fellows disassociated themselves from him. David DuBois, editor of the party's weekly newspaper, told National Public Radio in Washington:

"We don't want our party to be associated with Eldridge Cleaver and we don't want the work of the party to be associated with Cleaver.

"His return to the country is not of concern to us beyond the fact that we are interested in guaranteeing... that he receives a fair trial."

Cleaver waived his right to an extradition hearing, opening the way for his return to California today to face the parole violation and assault charges. His wife and two children will join him on the West Coast in December.

Cleaver was held at the courthouse overnight. He was held without bail.

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Boy succumbs after 11 days on respirator

Associated Press
HOUSTON — Randy Harvey, 16, died Tuesday of head injuries after a respirator had kept him alive for 11 days.

The youngster was put on the respirator, or artificial breathing machine, at St. Luke's Hospital Nov. 7, shortly after he lapsed into a coma following a school scuffle in which police said he was struck on the head with an aluminum baseball bat.

A brief hospital statement listed the cause of death as "severe head injuries." An autopsy was ordered.

Theodore Steel, 16, has been held by juvenile authorities since Nov. 7 on a delinquency complaint filed by the Harris County district attorney and the Houston Police Department.

Authorities said at the time the complaint was filed Steel would be arraigned on a charge of voluntary manslaughter, if Harvey died.

Asst. Dist. Atty. Sara McIntosh said Steel will appear at a hearing next Monday in juvenile court where a judge will determine whether he is to be tried as an adult.

Police said Harvey, son of Edward Harvey, had gone to the school apparently to settle an argument on behalf of his younger brother.

Although the respirator technically kept the youth alive, his father said he considered his son dead. He said brain specialists said the youth's brain waves were flat and had advised the family there was no possibility for surgery.

There had been speculation about disconnecting the machine and the father had sought opinions on that action.

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