

CARTON 1160

THE GUARDIAN

"HALL OF FLOWERS INCIDENT"

NOV, 1968

ALLEN, PAMELA
ALIOTO, JOSEPH L.
CLEAVER, ELDRIDGE

2017/193
c

GUARDIAN 20th ANNIVERSARY MEETING

William Rose: "North Korea - The Next Vietnam?"

Elbridge Cleaver: "Revolution - the U.S. and the Third World."

November 21,

8 P.M.

Hall of Flowers

9th Avenue & Lincoln Way

Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

\$2 (\$1 students)

\$2.50 (\$1.50) at door

SF Chronicle

Cleaver Rally Denied Use Of S.F. Hall

A radical newspaper's permit to hold a public meeting in the city-owned Hall of Flowers was canceled yesterday after officials learned that the program was to serve as a fund-raiser for Black Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver.

The International Committee to Defend Eldridge Cleaver announced the event would go on as scheduled at 7 o'clock tonight in the privately operated California Hall, 625 Polk street.

Mayor Joseph L. Alioto, who took personal responsibility for the late decision to cancel a permit, said the city's Recreation and Park Department had not been

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Thurs Jan

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City Cancels Permit For Cleaver Benefit

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told that Cleaver was to speak.

The permit was issued last September 11 to Weekly Guardian Associates, Inc., publishers of the independent radical newspaper, National Guardian. The purpose of the event, as listed on the signed application, was for an "anniversary meeting, movie and speeches."

"I do not feel there was sufficient disclosure for the city to make a decision on who was to use the Hall of Flowers," Alioto said.

"The city has no objection to the use of the hall for expression of unpopular political views. But when we are dealing with a speaker who counsels the shooting of policemen and other acts of violence, as Eldridge Cleaver has done, we have a right not to let them do it."

Pamela P. Allen, who

made the application last September on behalf of the National Guardian, declared at a press conference that there was no effort to conceal changes in plans. She said Gerde Speck, secretary of the Hall of Flowers, had been kept fully informed.

Mrs. Allen said the Guardian decided to invite the Committee to Defend Eldridge Cleaver to become a co-sponsor of its program two weeks ago after learning that Bill Rose, the paper's foreign editor, would be unable to come to San Francisco.

Mrs. Speck replied, in a telephone interview, that she had been advised at no time that Cleaver was to speak. She said she had been informed that the plans to show a movie had been dropped and that some changes in the program would be made.

The city made its ruling so late, Alioto added, because it was only Monday afternoon that a letter on the Cleaver meeting was turned over to the Recreation and Park Department. The notices had been widely distributed last week to potential audience throughout the Bay Area.

"I want to make it clear we are not concerned with the political ideas expressed," Alioto said. "If the National Guardian wants at any time to hold a fund-raising affair which does not involve the use of personalities who exhort the public to criminal violence, they can use the Hall of Flowers for it."

In a statement issued at its afternoon press conference in the editorial offices of Ramparts, the Cleaver committee replied that the cancellation was "nothing more than an attempt by city bureaucrats to screen the use of city facilities to screen their political purposes."

The committee said in a formal statement it would sue the city for financial damages resulting from the sudden shift of its meeting to a new hall.

Author Jessica Mitford Treuhaft, master of ceremonies for the meeting, said in a statement last night that Mayor Alioto was guilty of a "flagrant denial of freedom of speech. 'How can he now keep a straight face when he exhorts the students and blacks to preserve law and order?'" she said.

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