



**CENTER OF CONTROVERSY** — Earl Caldwell, correspondent of the New York Times in San Francisco was subpoenaed to testify before a Federal Grand Jury that has been investigating the Black Panther Party. The action by the fed-

eral government set off such a flap among the media that Attorney General John N. Mitchell backed off this week, stating that the government would try and meet with the media before forcing them to court to tell their sources. (Wide World Photo)

# Black Journalists Backing Reporter

**"We will protect our confidential sources by using every means at our disposal."**

The statement was made by more than 70 black journalists, who are resisting the Government's attempt to force them to appear before any investigation of law enforcement agency with their notebooks, or taped reports.

A full statement, expressing the views of the black journalists, is scheduled to be published this week. (Editor's Note: It appears on page 22 of this week's Amsterdam News.)

Earl Caldwell, a New York Times reporter, assigned to the publisher's San Francisco branch, has been subpoenaed to appear before the Federal grand jury in San Francisco. The grand jury is presently investigating the Black Panthers.

Because of the subpoena, directed to Caldwell, and not the New York Times, black journalists across the country, are supporting Caldwell's stand.

## Call In Press

Jack Greenberg, director of public relations for the NAACP Legal defense and Education Fund, Inc., Black Prospective, a membership organization of black journalist and black photographers held a press conference on Sunday.

In his statement, Greenberg, said that: "We think that the subpoena raised grave issues affecting all of us and we would like to make our position clear in the black community." Greenberg said further, "Earl Caldwell was subpoenaed as an individual — The New

York Times was not subpoenaed. Let us be clear about that, no matter what you may read elsewhere."

Caldwell took the position that he would decline to appear before the grand jury under the terms of the subpoena that was issued last week. Consequently, the New York Times gave the Justice Department a copy of the legal opinion under which Caldwell acted.

## Special Access

Greenberg told members of the press that he felt that Caldwell was subpoenaed because it was felt that as a black man, he has special access to information in the Black Community. "Thus the role of every black newsman and women has been put into question — are we — government agents? Will we reveal confidential sources if we are subpoenaed? Can our employers turn over our files, notes and tapes if we object?"

It was noted in the statement that several major news gathering organizations did, in fact, turn over their files to investigating agencies before Earl Caldwell was subpoenaed. It is of the utmost importance that our position as black men and women in the newsman business be reaffirmed to the Black Community.

In the meantime, Black Prospective, the organization of black journalists, has, with assistance from the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc, provided Earl Caldwell with his own attorney.