



*Demonstrators march in support of Black Panthers being held in the City Jail*

## ***Protest Backs Jailed Panthers***

By CHARLES BALFOUR

About 20 persons most of them young and the majority white—marched in front of the Eager street cellblocks of the Maryland Penitentiary yesterday afternoon in support of the Black Panthers being held in the adjacent Baltimore City Jail.

One of the demonstrators, Eric C. Hallengren, a former city school teacher who was the center of controversy in the wake of the Eastern High School disturbances last spring, said that the group wanted "to call attention to the upcoming political trials."

### **No Place To Walk**

Mr. Hallengren explained that the group was marching in front of the penitentiary because, with the construction of the new city jail wing, there was no place for them to walk in front of the jail entrance.

"The issues are the same," he said. "We want to focus on the fact that the people in there for the most part are from the poorer classes."

The demonstration, which got

under way about 4 P.M., is part of a two-day program sponsored by the Baltimore Coalition to Support the Panthers. The program is to culminate in a rally tonight.

Mr. Hallengren said that the demonstrations were intended to be "low key" in comparison with similar demonstrations this summer in New Haven, Conn., staged in support of a Black Panther Lonnie McLucas, on trial there on murder-conspiracy charges. McLucas was found guilty yesterday in that case.

### **Warden Unnoticed**

Signs carried by the demonstrators said that five Panthers were being held in the jail. Hiram L. Schoonfield, the City Jail warden, who left the institution unnoticed by the demonstrators, said that he did not know how many Black Panthers were in fact being held in the jail.

A total of 12 people were indicted by the grand jury in May in connection with the torture-murder last year of a man identified by Police as a Black

Panther. The indictments came after a massive police raid against the Black Panthers at the end of April.

The demonstration yesterday was peaceful, except for two minor incidents. Shortly after some of the first marchers arrived, they were yelled at by a middle-aged white man who was carrying a beer can. The man, was sent on his way by a city policeman.

### **Street Closed Off**

Sometime later, Preston L. Fitzberger, warden of the Penitentiary, closed off Forrest street to the demonstrators. The street on which the entrance to the Penitentiary is located has been closed to the public since spring and Mr. Fitzberger became concerned when the chanting demonstrators marched in front of the prison's South wing where recalcitrant inmates are held in strict confinement.

Both Mr. Fitzberger and Mr. Schoonfield said that they expected no trouble from the demonstration and had taken no special precautions.