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SPECIAL ISSUE

BLACK ON BLACK CRIME

THE CAUSES

THE CONSEQUENCES

THE CURES



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City and state officials cooperated with Chicago's Coalition of Concerned Women in their fight against crime. Panel chaired by co-founder **Connie Seals** (now executive director Illinois Commission on Human Relations) included (l. to r.) State Sen. Harold Washington, then Deputy Police Superintendent Sam Nolan and Deputy Chief of Patrol Fred Rice.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT *Continued*

as crimes and those responsible for either bringing these conditions about or aggravating them ought be viewed as criminals.

However, there is very little reason to believe that racial housing patterns will be changing drastically in the near future. There is little reason to believe that the unemployment picture will be getting better anytime soon; or that meaningful social policies aimed at improving the quality of life in Black communities are forthcoming.

The general directions stated above emphasize forces outside the community coming to our aid to do away with the problem; that elimination or alleviation of the problem rests with someone other than one's self or immediate community. There is nothing abnormal about desiring, hoping, and even demanding that the movers and shakers in the larger political arena do something about the problem. There is justifi-

fication for believing that this is a social problem and should be dealt with as such. Likewise, there was some justification for demanding forty acres and a mule! The problem is not wanting it. The problem is waiting for those things to happen; and waiting for others to treat problems that deserve more effective and immediate attention from every sector of the Black community itself.

Community Involvement

ONE OF THE most vital factors frequently overlooked in formulating equations to deal with crime is that of community involvement. Perhaps nowhere is this factor more critically needed and more absent than in the area of addressing the problem of Black on Black crime. Traditional approaches to crime control have been characterized by limited involvement from the public. Basically, there has been an over-



"Community Crime Fighter" award is presented to Chicagoan Homer Drew on behalf of the Coalition of Concerned Women by its founders, journalist Ethel Payne (l) and **Connie Seals**. The coalition was organized to fight Black on Black crime.