

## PEOPLES CLEARED OF WEAPON CHARGE

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Thursday, May 12, 1983

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**Raymond Peoples** , reputed founder of the Young Boys Inc. drug ring, was cleared Wednesday of a weapons charge in Detroit District Court.

Judge Rufus Griffin Jr. said he "just cannot believe the testimony provided to me" against **Peoples** by the arresting police officer.

Griffin cut off legal arguments, saying: "Let me go ahead and get ready to take the heat. I'm ready to make my decision .

Defense attorney Cornelius Pitts, claiming "they're out to get **Raymond Peoples** , but they can't get him on this case," had called upon Griffin to show "the moral fiber to withstand the assault that might be forthcoming" by dismissing the charge.

Griffin did order **Peoples** ' companion, George (Apple Jack) Blanks, 22, to stand trial for carrying a concealed weapon.

**PEOPLES** , WHO IS awaiting sentencing in federal court after pleading guilty to conspiracy to distribute heroin in connection with Young Boys, remains free on bond, even though he has four felony cases pending against him in state courts, including one from his arrest Tuesday in Southfield when a machine gun allegedly was found in a van in which he was riding.

Blanks, who is awaiting trial on an assault charge, also remains free on bond in the gun case.

Veteran legal observers explained that **Peoples** and most other defendants are entitled to bond if they have ties to the community and appear for scheduled court appearances . **Peoples** , who has been charged with murder and other crimes in the past, always has appeared in court when called upon, the observers said.

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Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 7C

Record Number: 8302110496

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