Duane had sold the Black Panther newspaper, attended meetings and helped answer the phone on occasion, but he was too young to be an NCCF member. Ed Poindexter suspended Duane three times that year: for picking up a gun and shooting at a sparrow that flew in the window and for fighting with his brother in headquarters while high on drugs. His final suspension happened after he stole a riot shotgun out of a police car around July, 1970. Poindexter felt he was too immature to associate with the organization. Police had no probable cause to connect Duane to NCCF headquarters at the time of the bombing.