

FREE BOBBY SEALE

FREE the NY 21

understand the
BLACK PANTHER PARTY

CONTENTS

THE PERSECUTION OF PANTHER LEADERS

- Bobby Seale
- The New York Panther 21
- Police Raids On Panther Offices

BLACK PANTHER PARTY 10 POINT PROGRAM

Aims And Goals; Programs

RULES OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

The Persecution of Panther Leaders

On October 19, 1969 the police stopped a car in which Bobby Seale was riding and took him to the San Francisco City Jail where he was booked on charges of unlawful flight. Bail was set at \$25,000. Immediately after posting bail Bobby Seale was arrested again, this time on charges of conspiracy to commit murder and conspiracy to kidnap and murder using a Connecticut warrant.

Shortly after Bobby Seale was taken in chains to Chicago even though at the time a San Francisco judge had ordered that he not be taken to Chicago.

In Chicago Bobby Seale joined the "conspiracy trial" where because he protested Judge Hoffman's decision not to postpone the case until he could be represented by his lawyer (C. Garry), as was his constitutional right, Bobby Seale was first bound and gagged, then sentenced to 4 years in jail for contempt and his case was separated from the other 7 defendants.

The Murder Trial of Bobby Seale

Bobby Seale, the 33 year old co-founder of the Black Panther Party was indicted August 27 in New Haven on three charges: kidnapping resulting in death, conspiracy to commit murder, and conspiracy to commit kidnapping.

The charges stem from the death on May 21 of Alex Rackley, a 24 year old party member from New York. Rackley's body was found in a riverbed in Middlefield, Connecticut on May 22. The police say that Rackley was killed because he was suspected of being an informer. According to the police, on May 17 or 18 Rackley was driven from New York to a New Haven apartment where he was held captive and subsequently murdered.

The Panthers say that Rackley was the victim of a police frame-up. They maintain that he was a party member in good standing and that his death was engineered by an infiltrator who was either a law enforcement agent or an agent provocateur. Rackley's murder was arranged to implicate Bobby Seale who was in New Haven on May 19 to deliver a speech at Yale.

In addition to Bobby Seale, 13 other Panthers have been indicted in the case. Five are undergoing pretrial hearings. Two have had their cases disposed of in Juvenile Court. Two are fighting extradition in Denver. Three have pleaded guilty. One of those pleading guilty is George Sams Jr., 23. In an 11 page statement given to the police Sams said Bobby Seale visited the New Haven apartment, spoke to Rackley, and said "off the pig", which Sams interpreted to mean kill Rackley. Bobby Seale has denied the charges, saying he had never met Rackley. It is Sams who the Panthers contend was an agent. Sams came into the party in 1968. The Panthers say that he subsequently expelled--for acts of violence.

Eldridge Cleaver, the party's Minister of Information wrote in the party newspaper that he discussed Sams at a meeting last July with Stokely Carmichael. Cleaver reported that Carmichael had become aware that Sams was an agent before Bobby Seale's arrest and had attempted unsuccessfully to notify Panther headquarters in Oakland. Sams has served three years in two New York institutions as a mental defective. He was released from Eastern Correctional Institute at Napanoch when tests showed his I.Q. to be 75, five points above the level for confinement.

The New York Panther 21 is accused of conspiring to blow-up five department stores, two police stations, a railroad right-of-way and the Bronx Botanical Gardens. They are also accused of possession of illegal weapons, attempted murder and attempted arson. In public statements previous to their indictment, the Panthers have consistently rejected "terrorism" implied in the above charges and emphasized the mass organization of Black people as the means to achieve their goals. The placing of the bombs in the above-named locations could only have resulted in the deaths of hundreds of the people they represent.

The Panthers were arrested and indicted on April 2, 1969, and have been held in lieu of 100,000 bail each ever since. For ten months they were held in different jails throughout the city of New York, making it impossible for their lawyers to meet with them to properly prepare a defense. They were kept in solitary confinement with the lights on 24 hours a day without mattresses. The two women were allowed four small sheets of toilet tissue a day. All were denied reading matter and adequate recreational facilities. Their relatives were denied full visiting privileges, and their lawyers were harrassed by jail officials. Finally, and only after much outside pressure, the men were placed in one prison under more "normal" conditions.

Pre-trial hearings began on February 2, 1970, but on February 25, Supreme Court Justice John N. Murtagh suspended these hearings, announcing that they would not be resumed until each defendant gave him a signed promise to "behave properly" in the courtroom. The Panthers have refused. Their contention from the beginning has been that their case is being handled in an unusual way that indicates to them that extraordinary measures are being taken by the New York County authorities to prevent them from receiving a fair trial.

Before proceedings began, Panther attorneys requested that Justice Murtagh disqualify himself on the grounds that 1) he was hand-picked by the District Attorney, and 2) he was prejudiced. The Appellate division rejected the appeal. Allen G. Schwartz, a former assistant district attorney for New York County, writes that the "Appellate Division knew...that in every case the D.A.'s office in New York County selects the judge before whom a case will be moved for trial." Moreover, Murtagh is a devout Catholic, a reserve colonel and Jesuit-trained. The Panthers are on trial for conspiracy "before a white Irish Catholic judge selected by a white Irish Catholic assistant D.A. (Joseph Phillisps) to hear the testimony of white police officers from a police department historically controlled and disproportionately populated by white Irish Catholics." The Panthers' outbursts in court which provoked Murtagh's ruling are directed to their right to the presumption of innocence until proven guilty before a jury of their peers as guaranteed by the Constitution.

A petition seeking the release of the Panther 21 on the grounds that Murtagh's halting of pre-trial hearings was unconstitutional was entered. Because of his ruling, the thieteen defendants are being held without trial and with bail set at \$100,000 each. Their lawyers argue that if the Panthers sign the demanded statement they will be indirectly admitting that they are guilty of unspecified criminal conduct. Justice Murtagh's measure is effective only against persons unable to make bail. This denies the constitutional guarantee of equal treatment before the law.

You have implied contempt charges. We cannot conceive of how this could be possible. How can we be in contempt of a court that is in contempt of its own laws? How can you be responsible for "maintaining respect and dispersing justice," when you have dispensed with justice, and you do not maintain respect for your own constitution? How can you expect us to respect your laws, when you do not respect them yourself? Then you have the audacity to demand respect, when you, your whole Great System of Justice is out of order and does not respect us, or our rights.

You have talked about our counsel inciting us. Nothing could be further from the truth. The injustices we have been accorded over the past year incite us, the injustice in these hearings incite us, racism incites us, fascism incites us, in short -- when we reflect back over history, its continuation up until today, you and your courts incite us.

.....We wish for a speedy and FAIR trial, a just trial. But -- we must have our "alleged" Constitutional rights. This court is in contempt of our Constitutional rights and has been for almost a year. We must have our rights first. The wrongs inflicted must be redressed. Bygones are not bygones. Later for that. 351½ years are enough. We must clean the slate. We do not believe in your appeal courts (we've had experience with 300 years of appeals generally, and 35 judges specifically). So we must begin with a mutual understanding anew. When we have our constitutional guarantees redressed, we will give the court the respect it claims to deserve -- precisely the respect it deserves.

.....in view of the collusion of the federal, state, and city courts, the New York City Department of Correction, the city police, and District Attorney's office, we feel that we, as members of the Black Panther Party, cannot receive a fair and impartial trial without certain pre-conditions conforming to our alleged constitutional rights. So we state the following: we feel that the courts should follow their own federal Constitution, and when they have failed to do so, and continue to ignore their mistakes, but persist dogmatically to add insult to injury, those courts are in contempt of the people. One need not be black to relate to that, but it is often those who never experience such actions on the part of the courts, who believe they, the courts, can never be wrong.

So, in keeping with that, and the social reality in which that principle must relate, we further state:

1) That we have a constitutional right to reasonable bail...We demand that, and the courts' consistent denial of that right is in effect in contempt of its own Constitution.

2) We demand a jury of our peers, or people from our own community, as defined by the Constitution.

3) We say that because the Grand Jury system in New York City systematically excludes poor Black people, it cannot be representative of a cross-section of the community from which we come. So in effect it is unconstitutional, and nothing more than a method of wielding class power and racial suppression and repression. We demand to have a constitutional and legal indictment, or be released, for we are being held illegally, by malicious and racist unethical laws.

4) We demand that the unethical practice of the police and D.A.'s office, in its production of evidence, lying, and misrepresentation be strictly limited by the introduction of an impartial jury of our peers at all pre-trial hearings, to judge all motions and evidence submitted, subsequent to a new constitutional indictment.

Therefore, since you have effectively denied by your ruling of February 25, 1970, our right to a trial, and since this ruling will effect the future of Black and white political prisoners, we have instructed our Attorneys to do everything in their power to upset this...ruling.

1. AFENI SHAKUR (Alice Williams), 22, was in the Manpower Training Program until August '68. During 1968 she worked as a teaching assistant in the public schools. As a youth she received an award from Mayor Robert Wagner in a citywide journalism contest for her outstanding research in a paper on juvenile delinquency. She is a poet, and has a poem printed in the "Anthology of High School Poetry." No previous record. Bail: \$100,000.
2. JOAN BIRD, 20, was a nursing student at Bronx Community College at the time of her arrest. She was also working as a teaching assistant at P.S. 175. She is a graduate of Cathedral High School where she had an outstanding record for four years. No criminal convictions. Bail: \$100,000.
3. CURTIS POWELL, 33, was employed as a research biochemist at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, engaged in cancer research at the time of his arrest. Dr. Powell holds a PhD in biochemistry, and was earning a salary of \$14,000 a year. Dr. Powell's wife Lena 24, was six months pregnant when he was arrested and subsequently gave birth to a premature infant, who died shortly after birth. Dr. Powell was denied the opportunity to speak to or visit his wife in the hospital despite her great need for comfort and help at that time. At every hearing the prosecutor has refused to address Dr. Powell as "Doctor", challenging the existence of his degree, although counsel has presented documents from Dr. Powell's employer and from his professor in Sweden where he earned his degree. No previous record. Bail: \$100,000.
4. ROBERT COLLIER, 32, was employed as a staff director of the Tompkin Square Community Center until funds were halted in January '69. A respected leader of the Lower East Side community, he was recommended by Percy Sutton to be on the Lower East Side Planning Board No. 3. At the time of his arrest the Urban Coalition was in the process of refunding the community center with Mr. Collier as director. Bail: \$100,000.
5. LEE BERRY, 25, is not even mentioned in the indictment. It is neither alleged that he agreed with anyone to do anything nor that he committed any overt acts. He is 70% permanently disabled due to Service-connected epilepsy and receives a veteran's disability pension of \$400 a month. At the time of his arrest he was in the VA hospital after suffering a severe seizure and was arraigned without any opportunity to obtain counsel. In jail he suffered several severe epileptic seizures, losing consciousness each time. He received only part of the medication he must take daily. Mr. Berry was recently transferred to Bellevue Prison Hospital where he still is, in critical condition. Bail: \$100,000.
6. RICHARD MOORE, 24, is a self-employed painter. In an effort to justify his bail, the prosecutor insisted Mr. Moore was unmarried although counsel produced a valid marriage certificate. Bail: \$100,000.
7. ALEX MCKIEVER, 19, is a student at Benjamin Franklin High School where he was president of the Afro-American History Club, and was

Pg. 6

due to be graduated last year. No previous criminal record.

8. EDDIE JOSEPHS, 17, was a junior at Evander Childs High School where he maintained good grades. No previous record. Bail: 25,000.
9. LUMUMBA ABDUL SHAKUR, 26, was employed by the Harlem Community Housing Council until the time of his arrest. His wife and three children have been left totally without resources. Bail: \$100,000.
10. JOHN J. CASSON (Ali Bey Hassan), 31, worked for the Black Panther Party while attempting to educate the community and organize around community control issues. No previous record. Bail: \$100,000.
11. WALTER JOHNSON, 24, has no previous criminal record. Bail: \$100,000.
12. LONNIE EPPS, 17, is a student at Long Island City High School and has no prior criminal record. Mr. Epps, who voluntarily surrendered himself after seeing his name in the newspaper is free on 10,000 bail.
13. MICHAEL TABOR, 22, is an artist for the Black Panther Party. Bail: \$50,000.
14. CLARK SQUIRES, 32, was employed as a computer operator for Data Processing International. Bail: \$50,000.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

The Black Panther Party is a political organization started a few years ago in Oakland, California, when two young men, Huey Newton and Bobby Seale made the irrevocable decision of dedicating their lives to end the oppression of Black People in the United States. They went into the Black Community and listened to the aspirations and complaints of the people. From this emerged the ten point program of the Black Panther Party. They then took this program back to the community and started building the Black Panther Party. Today there are chapters of the B.P.P. in all major cities throughout the country.

From its beginning the B.P.P. has been under attack; the news media have constantly distorted their goals and their methods; the local and federal governments have escalated from brutality by the racist Oakland Police to the systematic repression by the police and the courts throughout the country. As of this date, 28 members of the B.P.P. have been killed, and a much larger number are in jail. There is a definite attempt by the U.S. government to destroy the B.P.P.. We must not sit by silently while genocide is perpetrated on the Black people.

MYTHS ABOUT THE PARTY

Many lies and distortions have been brought against the Black Panther Party by the police, the media, and the government to confuse all Americans and make repression easier. It is important that these lies be answered and the truth spread everywhere.

1. THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY IS NOT RACIST. In fact, the B.P.P. condemns racist black organizations, like US and the Black Muslims, as well as white racists. The B.P.P. is trying to build an inter-racial movement of all working and oppressed people to construct a socialist America. Virtually every issue of the Party newspaper, The Black Panther, repudiates racism, as does Eldridge Cleaver in his book, Soul On Ice.

2. THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY IS NOT SEPARATIST. The tenth point of the B.P.P. program calls for a plebiscite of all Black people in America, supervised by the United Nations, to allow all Black people to determine their status. The B.P.P. believes in self-determination, but does not support a separate Black nation. This

position is outlined in a letter from Huey P. Newton, a Panther leader, to Robert Williams, President of the Republic of New Africa, a separatist organization. This letter is available from the B.P.P.

3. THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY IS NOT ANTI-SEMITIC. The Party does not support the policies of Israel, but makes a distinction between political issues involved and the religious freedom of the Jews. The Party does not support existing Arab governments, but supports Palestinian struggles for self-determination. In the United States, the Party opposes all oppressors, regardless of race, religion or national origin. Sometimes this includes Jewish people, but as oppressors, not as Jews.. The Party is not opposed to Jews per se, just as it is not racist.

4. THE PARTY DOES NOT SUPPORT RANDOM ACTS OF VIOLENCE OR SENSELESS RIOTING. The Party began in Oakland, California, as a self-defense organization that followed local police in the ghetto to keep them from brutalizing and murdering Black people. The experience of Black people in this country has been one of repression. The B.P.P. is armed and trained in self-defense tactics. They are prepared to resort to this violence if and when it becomes necessary as a means of defense against further oppression.

THE PARTY AND THE WAR

The lies and repression directed at the Black Panther Party are intimately connected with the war in Indochina. The war overseas is also being waged at home, against all people who understand the oppressive nature of America and are acting to change it basically. The fact that the Party is not racist, but seeks a general mass movement of all people, makes it especially dangerous. The Black Panther Party seeks an end to the war in Indochina and sees that the same interests which are waging war are also oppressing poor and working people in America. It is one war. It is one issue, inseparable. All people who will act in a truly serious way to end imperialist wars and change America will face the same murder and repression as the Party has suffered. That is the meaning of the four dead students at Kent State.

We who are opposed to the war must also deal with the repression and murder of serious, revolutionary people. As Bobby Seale says, "To be a revolutionary is to be an enemy of the State, to be arrested for this struggle is to be a political prisoner."

END ALL OPPRESSIVE VIOLENCE

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE

The Black Panther Party regards itself as a socialist organization and believes that the means of production should be in the hands of the people. They declare that man can only live creatively when free from the oppression of capitalism.

THE SYSTEMATIC OFFENSIVE TO WIPE OUT THE PANTHERS

It is no coincidence that as the Panthers have grown and gained national attention they have increasingly become the victims of local, state and federal harassment. The growing threat of the Party to those whose interests are dependent upon a maintenance of a repressive status quo has brought about attacks of a yet more blatant and overt nature. In the last three years there have been 17 charges of conspiracy brought against approximately 100 members. These range anywhere from conspiracy to purchase machine guns, to blowing up the Bronx Botanical Gardens, to conspiracy to commit murder. The Party leaders- Bobby Seale, Huey P. Newton, David Hilliard, and Eldridge Cleaver- have been repeatedly arrested on suspicion and conspiracy charges.

It is impossible here to include the entire history of police harassment against the Black Panther Party. The following statistics have been drawn from the complete list in the Feb. 21, 1970 issue of The Black Panther. The paper enumerates 410 separate cases. We have organized some statistics to give you an idea of the tactics used that go under the name of law and order.

HARASSMENT OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY AS EVIDENCED BY
CONTINUAL POLICE RAIDS ON PANTHER OFFICES

- SEPT. 68--OAKLAND, CALIF.--The headquarters was the scene of a police shoot out the night Huey Newton was sentenced. The police were on duty and admittedly drunk.
- OCT. 68--DENVER, COLO.--Panther office shot up in police attack on Black community and Panthers.
- OCT. 68--N.Y., NEW YORK--Police harassment at Panther headquarters over use of bullhorn.
- DEC. 68--NEWARK, N.J.--Police bomb Panther office.
- DEC. 68--DENVER, COLO.--Panther office raided (Dec. 7)
- DEC. 68--DENVER, COLO.--Panther office again raided on Dec. 21 (\$9000 damage and \$500 stolen)
- DEC. 68--DES MOINES--Police attack Panther office.
- APRIL 69--DENVER, COLO.--Party headquarters were attacked on three occasions: office shot up-office raided- office raided (\$9000 damage, \$150 stolen)
- APRIL 69--LOS ANGELES--Panther office attack.
- APRIL 69--JERSEY CITY, NJ--Panther office attack.
- APRIL 69--DES MOINES--Panther office totally destroyed in bombing.
- APRIL 69--SAN FRANCISCO--Police attack on Panther office re: sound equipment use. 8 men and 5 women were arrested on charges of (1) illegal use of sound equipment (2) inciting to riot (3) unlawful assembly (4) failure to disperse and (5) swearing in public.
- MAY 69--LOS ANGELES--9 Panthers arrested in connection with raid on office.
- JUNE 69--INDIANAPOLIS--7 Panthers arrested in headquarters and charged with disorderly conduct.
- JULY 69--PEEKSKILL, NY--Police attempt to burn office.
- OCT. 69--CHICAGO--Third police raid on office. 7 Panthers arrested; bail set on each man at \$10,000.
- DEC. 8, 69--LOS ANGELES--Police raid on office; 11 charged with con-

spiracy to commit murder and conspiracy to possess illegal weapons.

PANTHERS HAVE PAID ALMOST \$5½ MILLION DOLLARS IN BAILS AND FINES SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE PARTY TIL 1969.

This is a partial list hurriedly compiled from the complete list printed in The Black Panther of February 21, 1970, available from the The Black Panther Party, Ministry of Information, Box 2967, Custom House, San Francisco, Calif., 94126.

HARRASSMENT AND REPRESSION OF BLACK PANTHERS

- May 1967 - Bobby Seale- Arrested for carrying gun near a jail.
Convicted June 1969 three years probation.
- Feb. 1968-Bobby Seale-Conspiracy to commit murder (police broke door of home without search warrant). Charge dropped.
- Aug. 1969-Bobby Seale-Kidnapped by FBI, charged murder, torture, kidnapping and unlawful flight (Fed charges)
- Aug. 1969-Bobby Seale-Released on \$25,000 cash bail, arrested as left courtroom on state warrant - charge "fugitive from justice" and rearrested.
- Aug. 1969-Bobby Seale-Denied bail on new charge.
- Oct. 1969-Bobby Seale-Brutally beaten, chained and gagged by Federal marshall by order of Judge Hoffman inside court room for demanding his constitutional rights.
- Oct. 1967 - Huey Newton- Murder, assault with intent to commit murder and kidnapping (wounded by police). In Sept., 1968, sentenced 2-15 years; now in prison.
- Dec. 1969 - Dave Hilliard- Charged (Fed indictment) threatening life of president.
- Aug. 1969 - Richard Smith- Curfew violation, released to parents.
Richard Smith- Same- following week, released to parents.
Richard Smith- Arrested crossing incorrectly at intersection.
Richard Smith- Arrested investigating arrest of two sisters.
Richard Smith- Arrested selling papers, for littering, jaywalking or just walking.
- Jan. 1968- Eldridge & Kathleen Cleaver- Police broke down door of home without search warrant.
- April 1968- Eldridge Cleaver- Conspiracy to commit murder, police ambush and wounded. Parole revoked. In exile.
- Aug 1968- Kathleen Cleaver - Refused entrance to Japan.
- Sept. 1968 - Los Angeles - Panther arrested for 10 traffic warrants, \$100 bail. Nine suspended, one \$10 fine. Panther arrested, no ID, later traffic warrant, \$15 bail. Two days later ticket suspended. Panther arrested for harboring charge dropped same day. Panther arrested for suspected robbery. Charge dropped same day.
- Nov. 1969 - Elise - Arrested while putting up posters, which were torn down by police; crowd gathered; Elise told people to go home, was arrested for saying "All power to the people."
- Nov. 1969 - Regina Burruss- Beaten re above incident for asking why sister was arrested, clubbed in legs and stomach (she was pregnant). Others also arrested and beaten.

Jan. 1969 -- Fred Hampton -- Charged with failure to appear in court. \$7000 bail.

March 1969 -- Fred Hampton -- Aggravated battery. \$1000 bail set.

May 1969 -- Fred Hampton -- Charged stealing ice cream. 2-5 years. Released on appeal bond.

June 1969 -- Fred Hampton -- One of 16 Panthers indicted. Charged with conspiracy and kidnaping. \$100,000 bail.

Dec. 1969 -- Fred Hampton -- Attack on home, Hampton and Mark Clark killed, others wounded, others arrested.

April 1969 -- 21 Black Panthers charged with conspiracy to blow up department stores, a police precinct, railroad rights of way, and the Bronx Botanical Gardens. Three are out on bail while the others have been kept in jail waiting for \$100,000 bail.

June 1969 -- Panther member -- Disorderly conduct. Harrassed by police while selling papers. \$25 fine.

June 1969 -- Jesse White -- Disorderly conduct. Police tried to take leaflets. Stopped in car and searched. \$25 fine.

July 1969 -- Vernon Bowen -- Stopped in car by police, threatened with arrest for no registration and faulty tires.

Aug. 1969 -- Robert Moore -- Selling papers without permit.

43 Panthers have been detained for trying to sell their Panther papers.

BLACK PANTHER 10 POINT PROGRAM

1. We want freedom. We want power to determine the destiny of our Black Community. We believe that black people will not be free until we are able to determine our destiny.
2. We want full employment for our people. We believe that the federal government is responsible and obligated to give every man employment or a guaranteed income. We believe that if the white American businessman will not give full employment, then the means of production should be taken from the businessman and placed in the community so that the people of the community can organize and employ all of its people and give a high standard of living.
3. We want an end to the robbery by the CAPITALIST of our Black Community. We believe that this racist government has robbed us and now we are demanding the overdue debt of forty acres and two mules. Forty acres and two mules was promised 100 years ago as restitution for slave labor and mass murder of black people. We will accept the payment in currency which will be distributed to our many communities. The Germans are now aiding the Jews in Israel for the genocide of the Jewish people. The Germans murdered six million Jews. The American racist has taken part in the slaughter of over fifty million black people; therefore, we feel that this is a modest demand that we make.
4. We want decent housing, fit for shelter of human beings. We believe that if the white landlords will not give decent housing to our black community, then the housing and the land should be made into cooperatives so that our community, with government aid, can build and make decent housing for its people.

Pg. 11

Pg. 11

5. We want education for our people that exposes the true nature of this decadent American society. We want education that teaches us our true history and our role in the present-day society. We believe in an educational system that will give to our people a knowledge of self. If a man does not have knowledge of himself and his position in society and the world, then he has little chance to relate to anything else.
6. We want all black men to be exempt from military service. We believe that Black people should not be forced to fight in the military service to defend a racist government that does not protect us. We will not fight and kill other people of color in the world, who, like black people, are being victimized by the white racist government of America. We will protect ourselves from the force and violence of the racist police and the racist military, by whatever means necessary.
7. We want an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and MURDER of the black people. We believe we can end police brutality in our black community by organizing black self-defense groups that are dedicated to defending our black community from racist police oppression and brutality. The Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States gives a right to bear arms. We therefore believe that all black people should arm themselves for self-defense.
8. We want freedom for all black men held in federal, state, county and city prisons and jails. We believe that all black people should be released from the many jails and prisons because they have not received a fair and impartial trial.
9. We want all black people when brought to trial to be tried in court by a jury of their peer group or people from their black communities, as defined by the Constitution of the United States. We believe that the courts should follow the United States Constitution so that black people will receive fair trials. The 14th Amendment of the U. S. Constitution gives a man a right to be tried by his peer group. A peer is a person from a similar economic, social, religious, geographical, environmental, historical, and racial background. To do this the court will be forced to select a jury from the black community from which the black defendant came. We have been, and are being, tried by all-white juries that have no understanding of the "average reasoning man" of the black community.
10. We want land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice and peace. And as our major political objective, a United Nations supervised plebiscite to be held throughout the black colony in which only black colonial subjects will be allowed to participate, for the purpose of determining the will of the black people as to their national destiny.

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind

Pg. 12

Pg 12

requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But, when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.

The primary Panther goal is "institutions which serve the needs of the people." To this aim they have established basic programs nationwide which address themselves to this problem. EDUCATION -- The B. P. P. has formed classes which teach black youth what they do not learn in school about the history of their country and its institutions. They have remedial programs which try to make up for the inferior, racist schools in the black community. Point No. 5 of the B. P. P. platform. HEALTH -- Free clinics have been started by the Party to supplement the poor health facilities of the black community. These clinics also attempt to combat such problems as rats and lead poisoning. FREE BREAKFASTS -- The B. P. P. developed its nationwide breakfast program for children so that they don't have to go to school too hungry to learn. As Eldridge Cleaver stated: "Breakfast for children pulls people out of the system and organizes them into an alternative. Black children who go to school hungry each morning have been organized into their poverty, and the Panther programs liberate them, free them from that aspect of their poverty. This is liberation in practice." ORGANIZING WITHIN THE COMMUNITY -- In 1967 the Black Panther Party ran candidates for state and national offices on the principle that in order to serve the people you must know them. This is the basic organizing tenet of the Party which has, after three years, chapters in cities from coast to coast. RAPPORT WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS FIGHTING THE SAME BATTLE -- The B. P. P. has established ties with the Mexican-American, Chinese-American, Puerto Rican, white working class and white student movements wherever possible all over the country. They have declared their understanding of the need for a united front against the real enemy -- a racist, oppressive system. "As a first step we want a truce signed between black, white, and brown working people, in the community and on the job, as we recognize that fighting among ourselves only serves the rich." (Black Panther Party newspaper)

RULES OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY
(National Headquarters, Oakland, California)

Every member of the Black Panther Party throughout this country of racist America must abide by these rules as functional members of this party. Central Committee members, Central Staffs, and Local Staffs, including all captains subordinate to either national, state, and local leadership of the Black Panther Party will enforce these rules. Length of suspension or other disciplinary action necessary for violation of these rules will depend on national decisions by national, state or local committees and staffs where said rules of the Black Panther Party were violated.

Every member of the party must know these rules verbatim by heart and apply them daily. Each member must report any violation of these rules to their leadership or they are counter-revolutionary and are also subject to suspension by the Black Panther Party.

THE RULES ARE: (Edited in this pamphlet)

No party member can have narcotics or weed in his possession while doing party work.

Any party member found shooting narcotics will be expelled from this party.

No party member will USE, POINT, or Fire a weapon of any kind unnecessarily or accidentally at anyone.

No party member can be DRUNK while doing daily party work.

No party member can have a weapon in his possession while drunk or loaded off narcotics or weed.

No party member will commit any crimes against other party members or BLACK people at all, and cannot steal or take from the people, not even a needle or a piece of thread.

The Ten Point Program and Platform of the Black Panther Party must be known and understood by each party member.

Each person will submit a report of daily work.

Political Education Classes are mandatory for general membership.

Every one in a leadership position must read no less than two hours a day to keep abreast of the changing political situation.

"If you know, teach; if you don't, learn."