

Panther Outlines 10 Point Programme

"A pig is a pig, is a pig. Until they start acting like human beings by their practice, not by their theory."

Chaka Walls, Deputy Minister of Information for the Illinois Black Panther Party spoke to about 200 people in the SUB on Tuesday night.

For Chaka, and Jewel Cook, Communications Secretary, Fredericton was the last stop on a Maritime tour. They spoke to four universities, and high schools and the black community in Halifax.

Chaka began his speech by outlining the Black Panther Party's ten point programs. The program evolved out of a poll circulated in black communities by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale, co-founders of the Black Panthers in 1966. The poll asked the black people how they felt oppressed and what conditions they felt were necessary to remedy the existing situation.

The demands of the program are:

1. Freedom. The power to determine the destiny of the Black Community.

2. Full employment for Blacks. If the American businessman will not provide this, the means of production must be taken from the businessmen and placed in the community.

3. An end to the robbery by the capitalists of the Black Community. This includes the monetary equivalent of the "forty acres and two mules" promised one hundred years ago as restitution for slave labour and mass murder of black people.

4. Decent housing, for shelter of human beings. If white landlords will not accommodate this demand, the housing and the land should be made into cooperatives so that the community, with government aid, can build decent housing.

5. Education for blacks that exposes the true nature of "this decadent American society", and that teaches Blacks their true history and their role in present-day society.

6. Exemption of all black men from military service.

7. An immediate end to police brutality and murder of black people. If the attacks persist, all black people should arm themselves for self-defence.

8. Freedom for all blacks held in prisons and jails on the grounds that they have not received fair and impartial trials.

9. The right of all black people when brought to trial to be tried by a jury of their peer group or people from their black communities as defined by the Constitution of the United States.

10. Land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice and peace. And as the major political objective, a United Nations-supervised plebiscite to be held throughout the black colony in which only black colonial subjects be allowed to participate, for the purpose of determining the will of the black people as to their national destiny.

Chaka continually emphasized the fact that most of the demands of the program

applied not only to blacks but to all people, regardless of colour, religion, nationality or creed, who are seeking their own liberation. He also stressed that the items were human needs, nor unreasonable demands — needs that must be fulfilled for the existence of a people.

Chaka stated that the black people know how to liberate themselves and that they refuse to accept suggestions from their aggressors on how their struggle should be conducted. He described the Free Breakfast for Children Program they have organized in numerous American cities, which feeds over 3,000 black children daily in Chicago alone, and Health Centres which provide free medical care for any black who is sick. The Panthers indict the American government for not providing these services. They believe that when a government cannot or will not supply these necessities, the people must take matters into their own hands and use any means necessary to provide the essentials of life.

The Black Panther Party charges the American government with genocide, by slaughter and by indirect methods such as starvation, absence of medical care, inadequate housing, and the advocating of birth control for black people on the grounds they "can't afford children". "We want to live like human beings," said Chaka.

The Fred Hampton Murder

Police raided a Panther house in Chicago in December, 1969. They surrounded the house at 4:30 a.m. on the pretext of looking for weapons. They arrived equipped not with tear gas, but machine guns, for the sole purpose of murdering the Panthers. Chaka said police came when they know the Panthers would be at home asleep (it was confirmed at the

inquest that police did have this information).

When Mark Clark went to the door "the pigs shot him twice through the door — once in the heart and once in the head. He died instantly." Police then broke in and dragged the brothers and sisters from their beds, Chaka told the group.

"The pigs shot one sister between the legs and stood another against a wall and shot her in the buttocks, with a shotgun. You probably find this hard to believe but this is what's happening in America."

Chaka also told about the murder of an 18 year old pre-medical student, who was shot six times in the stomach with a machine gun, and about the well-publicized murder of Fred Hampton.

The Panthers consider the inquest verdict of "justifiable homicide" a blatant and atrocious lie. Survivors of the raid have been indicted for attempted murder. "Although they didn't fire one bullet they now have to go to court and prove they're innocent."

Chaka attacked the news media as ideological servants. The function of a reporter is to present the facts objectively, he said, and let the people decide the truth. "They don't do it. They write lies. They are lackey, servants. The people are going to deal with them just like the pigs."

Chaka talked about the determination of the black community in general. John Soto, a 16 year old straight "A" high school student who publicly protested police repression, had his "brains shot out by two pigs as he was walking down the street." The inquest ruled Soto's death accidental. Soto's brother Michael, a Vietnam veteran, home on leave began talking to the black community about the killing of his brother. Four days later the police shot him on his own doorstep. In a subsequent event many policemen began firing into a

housing project, wounding children. The black people retaliated by shooting ten of the police.

"We say, 'A pig is a pig is a pig'", said Chaka, "until they start acting like human beings by their practice, not their theory." The Panthers realize that not all policemen are pigs, but the ones who are not pigs must show they are not by respecting the humanity of people and respecting law and order.

Chaka charged that the pigs involved in the above incidents were part of a task force set up by John Mitchell and J. Edgar Hoover to murder black people.

"We can't sit back and watch people fighting for self-determination be exterminated," Chaka said. The Panthers support any group that tries to overthrow imperialism, capitalism, and racism, such as the Quebec separatists, the Vietnamese, and the government of Ho Chi Minh. The Panthers view society in socialist terms, as basically a struggle between the poor and the powerful rich. Therefore all oppressed people must unify on a class level against the common enemy.

"There are only a few rich people in Washington who make it miserable for everybody. But the system is shrewd, they exploit people on different levels. "No matter how badly off a white man is, he can still compare himself to the "nigger", said Chaka. This is a manifestation of the "divide and conquer" ideology.

In closing, Chaka asserted that the "spirit of the people, all people, is greater than all technology." American's failure to win in Vietnam even with a vastly superior technical machinery, he cited as evidence.

"Revolutionaries are rare, we need them out of jail," said Chaka, asking the audience for donation. A total of \$100 was collected, and an additional \$250 donated by private

organizations and individuals.

In the discussion period which followed, Chaka clarified some of the issues that confused members of the audience.

He emphasized the fact that the Panther Party is not pro-violence. Constant unprovoked or unjustified attacks by the police have forced them to arm themselves for self-defense and survival. He said that the Panthers are launching no offensive attacks.

The party believes that the Revolution is still in the educational stages. Their main objective at present is to make the black people aware of the contradictions between what the American constitution states and what, in effect, is practiced. The Panthers feel they must first exhaust all legal channels in order to show the mass of the people that the courts are irrelevant. Once the black people are aware of the dichotomous situation it will be up to them to decide what to do to remedy it.

"You must never divorce yourself from the people", Chaka declared.

He also stressed the fact that the Black Panther Party is not racist. He attributed Stokely Carmichael's withdrawal from the party to his inability to see the Black Movement as part of a wider class struggle not an individual racial struggle.

The Panthers are campaigning for decentralization of police forms. The aim is to place control of police in the hands of elected neighborhood councils that will establish police standards and policies. Since policemen would have to live in the community, they would be responsible to the people in that area, and a mutual respect would ensue. The Panthers view the current police forces as occupational troops who are in the community to protect the interests of the bourgeoisie property owners.

