THE
HOUSTON POLICE
MURDERED
CARL HAMPTON
Note how the noble swine men
To demonstrate their might
Lay still like snakes in heat of day
And then attack at night.

The Peoples Party Building
In racist Houston town
Is held by pigs who smirled while Carl
Lay dying on the ground.

By Victoria Smith

"It’s not because I’m in People’s Party 11 that I’m opressed, it’s because I’m black and in the United States."

Carl Hampton made that statement in a speech shortly before his death early Monday morning, July 27.

The 21-year-old chairman of People’s Party 11, a revolutionary black organization, was killed, not because he was in People’s Party 11 but because he was black, and in the United States, because he was a revolutionary whose interests reigned in his people, the oppressed people of the world.

Carl was shot down by pinioned snipers in an ambush Sunday night, July 27, near the Peoples Party 11 headquarters at Cooking and Tuba streets. He died in Ben Taub General Hospital about four hours later.

Several others were wounded in the battle, including other members of People’s Party 11 and a man from the John Brown Revolutionary League (JBL), a white organization. (People’s Party 11, JBL, and the Mexican-American Youth Organization formed a Rainbow Coalition several months ago.)

Carl was murdered, shot down in cold blood.

The leadership, the view the government’s officialdoms in the power structure of the city that Carl could not be permitted to live, the police wanted no time.

The Peoples Party Center had been functioning for 15th and 20th streets when Carl was killed.

We want to make clear from the start, because there is no doubt in our minds, that Carl’s death resulted from premeditated murder. Our facts, our knowledge of Carl and People’s Party 11, our understanding of the nature of repression in America lead us to believe that the "First Shot" that woke the slumbering gun battle that occurred Sunday night did not come from a People’s Party or JBL gun.

The events surrounding Carl remain somewhat another at this point. But we think that the Houston police department, as represented in the local commercial media, has lied to Houstonians about the incident. Maybe we can clear things up.

Around 6 p.m., Sunday, two brothers were arrested on weapons charges in an ambush just around the corner from the Center. Police had surrounded people at the Center several times in recent weeks.

Police had surrounded people at the Center several times in recent weeks. On one occasion Friday, July 17, the Houston police and People’s Party members and supporters held up each other for about 30 minutes.

We talked with Carl Sunday afternoon, after several hours before his death, and told him that two Party members had been held that week, that police had warned out for the arrest of him and two others, that police surveillance helicopters had hovered constantly over the headquarters.

Later that evening People’s Party held an immense rally outside the Center to gather support for the Party and for the brothers as they did.

A man who had relatives to People’s Party but is not a member gave Space City the best account we have of the events surrounding Carl’s death.

As Carl was addressing the group of some 150 people, Caride Duncannet, of the Central Committee for the Protection of Poor People, another militant black group, approached Carl and told him that an unmarked police car was parked a few blocks south of the Center.

Carl relented to the crowd. Two black men, armed with thermos, ran toward the vicinity of the church.

Some minutes later, Duncannet reported that there were two pigs on the roof of St. John’s Church.

Several police cars were parked in front of the church. Some police cars were parked in front of the church.

Carl was killed in the church. Duncannet’s next message was that some man had shot at the pigs.

Our witness said he heard a shot, but recognized as the unmistakable sound of a .22-caliber weapon, not a shotgun. The obvious conclusion is that the brother who had left for the church could not have fired the shot, since they were armed only with shotguns. People’s Party’s police, the Black Panther Party, forbids firing on police unless in self defense. Carl and another man ran down the street to check out the scene. Apparently, they moved into the street or into some position in which they were exposed. So they evidently crossed the street to hide in an alley near a business building.

Gunshots rang out. Most of the crowd in front of the Peoples Party Center dispersed and the rest, including members of JBL, JBL, and People’s Party, moved inside the Center to get their weapons.

The first shots were apparently the ones that killed Carl.

We witnessed moved across the street where he bended with Carl’s wife, Marla. He said to her JBL member, "Please help take out of the center."

Dorset later told KRTV-FM, People’s Radio, that three or four men were running toward the church, but behind a parked car. Others to his guns runned, behind him. There was an exchange of gunfire, and Dorset was shot in the arm.

"I’m the same tripic that get Carl into this," he said. It is also possible, however, that Dorset, because of his apparent hesitation, was the last man in.

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Who would not give their fellowman
The crumbs from off their plate
Who are terrified of freedom
(But think they know the word).
And jail those goddamn anarchists
And strike down tyranny!

But hear us pig Houstonians
In the City of Pollution
You'll now be aware of another word—
We call it REVOLUTION!

—Anonymous
Submitted following the murder of Carl Hampton July 21

Carl Hampton speaking at a rally in Hermann Park several months ago. Photo by Tree

"A Trap," Says Hope

The Voice of Hope, a black community newspaper published in Houston's Fourth Ward, has published an editorial stating that Carl Hampton's death was a political assassination, possibly involving two well-known local black ministers.

"The Ang I issue, which hit the streets as we were going to press, proclaims: "Several things occurred along the 1000 block of Dowling Street which clearly indicate that repressive police were made to efficiently crown the work of the youthful, dynamic leader of Peeples Party II.'"

"The city's response to these concerns is by itself a major issue. The Voice of Hope points out several peculiarities about this incident: the usual traffic of pedestrians was absent from the streets, several businesses, including Church's Fried Chicken across the street, closed early and the usual Sunday night service at St. John's Church were not held. It was from the rooftops of St. John's Church that Carl Hampton was shot.

But, according to Hope, "Arranging to have the street named after me was just part of the scheme. What we all needed was somebody to move bodies to get Carl Hampton into the trap."

One suspect, according to Hope, is Willis "Fais" surrounded the place. Anyone coming from or going to the office was stopped and questioned. The regular pigs at the hospital, we understand, had been talking and had set a trap prior to the shooting about how they were looking forward to busting out Dowling street.

Carl's surgery was guarded by armed police who were, we believe, exchanged heavy put on the back after it was all over.

Carl died shortly before 2 a.m.

It was strange. We hardly talked with Carl that afternoon, and suddenly he was dead.

Carl did tell us something interesting things that morning. For one thing, the function of Duncanfield's statement to City Council came up, the statement in which he pleaded that the People's Party, Center area was assumed and that the people would not be permitted to enter the area. The commercial people by Duncanfield's statement as representative of the position of People's Party II. The publicly, Duncanfield is loved man, he has never anticipated the social justice puzzle and left it, in their minds, that they remained themselves on Dowling Street. Similar effort to prevent a possibility.

The local(477,648),(704,750).
Remember Carl
Get It Together

RALLY
Sunday, August 2, 4 p.m.
Erinmore Park
Eugene Bozek

COALITION FOR THE DEFENSE OF PPII

Cont. from 3

Carl was obviously critical of this statement and he reiterated the Party’s position on the question of police in the black community. “If police act like police, we aren’t going to bother them, we’re going to keep along with our work. When they start bothering us, it’s going to be a different story... if we’re going to act like police in our community, they’re going to act like police and protect the people, if not, they’re not going to be in the community, that’s all.”

Carl was also concerned about the rumors spread by police about the Party, particularly the one that accused People’s Party of outing little children out of front of the Center with guns. Carl said that this was just nonsense. We ourselves had been by the Center several times during the week and never saw any children with guns.

Carl emphasized again and again that People’s Party was not about to promote confrontation with the police, that the main purpose of the Party was to provide needed services for the black community people, from free breakfast for children’s programs to medical clinics to community control of police to the cooling of potential riot situations.

A potential riot situation did exist Thursday, July 3, in the area. Carl said, “The community was getting frustrated, and the People’s Party organized a discussion to cool things down. The organization has maintained that riots are futile and self-defeating, that they result only in needless deaths.”

Carl articulated his attitude towards self-defense, violence and the police pretty well in a statement he made Friday, July 3—“It’s the night of the first significant instance of police harassment of the Party. I want to say that what happened that night, and it also clarifies what the Party does in such a situation.”

“Basically, what happened was that a brother was standing in front of the office selling the Panther paper to cars passing by. Two police cars came by and told the brother, they asked him what he was doing selling those papers. The brother told them that he was selling them for People’s Party.

“I asked by that time I walked out of his car; Carl was just arriving at the corner and I asked the police officers, who was they harassing the brother, since he had a constitutional right to sell the paper. When I asked this policeman, he got piss off and he jumped out of his car. And he asked me, well, the police officers, who is they harassing the brother, since he had a constitutional right to sell the paper. When I asked the policeman, he got pissed off and he jumped out of his car. And he asked me, well, who am I? And at that time I was wearing a .45 revolver, you know, in a shoulder holster, and he looked at the gun and he asked me, well, what was I doing with that gun, you know?”

“So I told him that I wasn’t breaking any law. So he started coming toward me like he was going to grab me and get my gun or whip my ass or do something, so I stepped back and he went for his gun and I went out at my gun and we were just at a stand-off. So then another brother got his shot and came out and told him that he shot me. He was going to get his ass burned away.”

“The pigs were upset in the car and he called another cop and it seemed like it was planned because it didn’t take the pigs three minutes to get there. There were many there, there were many cops. What are experts, rifles experts... you know they had everything.

“Then they had to have this planned from the very beginning when they started harassing the car. And this is what that went down, we defended ourselves. We told them that we would defend ourselves. So many people mobilized that, you know, they split. Some brother out there finally talked him into leaving.

“No law was broken, we didn’t break any illegal weapons in here, just a brother out trying to sell papers for the organization and got harassed by the police. We said and we still say again, if police act like police, we’re not going to bother them, we’re going to go along with our work. Dig? When they start bothering us, it’s going to be a different story. We’re not going to let them harass us in the community and continue to look our ass, we’re saying no more killing our ass. If we’re going to have police in our community, then they’re going to act like police and protect the people, if not, they’re not going to be in the community, that’s all.”

“Those pigs were out there smiling and happy, they try to worm you, this pig was going to shout me. He went over to the statement to lay out what happened that night, and it also clarifies what the Party does in such a situation.”

What Do We Do Now?

So this is the Party’s position, its purpose has been simple, honest and totally, revolutionaries. Serve the people. Educate the people. Arm the people. This is the Party’s purpose and it’s purpose is to set a precedent against American imperialism. A precedent that has overhead its millions of black people in America for centuries.

What could be more reasonable and necessary? Yet, what could be more threatening to the rulers of this country, who fear the power of the people more than anything? Even when that power is just budding, as it is in Houston.

This is why Carl was killed. The pigs acted fast, in an attempt to destroy it before it blossomed.

It was a hard thing to realize early Monday morning that Carl was dead. It is still. But death came as no surprise to many of us. Carl himself knew it was coming, and soon. He just felt that the thing he was bringing transcended the importance of his personal security.

People’s power is budding and blossoming all over this country, all over the world — in Vietnam and the rest of Southeast Asia, in Latin America, in underdeveloped nations all over the world.

And when American imperialism tries to pick off the buds and blossoms, new ones will grow back. The people are prevailant. That’s the situation, Marxists. But we should have the good sense to realize that the struggle won’t be as gentle as the blooming of a flower. The war of the poor people of the world against the American Leviathan is now and will continue to be the most important, the most difficult and the bloodiest in history. America will not relinquish control without a deadly fight.

Carl’s death and the events of Sunday night have taught many of us some very sobering reals.

And I personally have been more impressed with the seriousness of the whole thing in the process of writing this article.

You know, we really have a movement in this city and it’s happened in a little more than a year. Before that there was nothing, virtually nothing. It should be clear by now that the power structure in Houston doesn’t want us around — any of us, black, brown or white. And don’t doubt for a minute that the Houston pigs are ready and willing to kill any or all of us.

Right now the police are continuing to harass our workers. Watch them fly over our houses and of our bodies. A number of movement organizations, including Save the People, have been under police surveillance.

If there was ever a time to get serious. It’s now. If there was ever a time to get together, to suspend our ideological differences for a while, it’s now. That does not mean that individuals or organizations need or should compromise their antipathy or desert their constituen-

But we need to re-recognize our common struggle, if any of us are to be continuous in that
ORGANIZATIONS JOIN TO DEFEND PEOPLE'S PARTY II

Several Houston racial and liberal groups have joined together to form a Coalition for the Defense of People's Party II. The coalition has issued a statement claiming that Carl Hampton's slaying was not a setup, that People's Party members and supporters did not shoot first and that Hampton was angling for assassination.

A rally is scheduled for 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2, at Emancipation Park, E. 11th and Dowling, across the street from People's Party II headquarters. As we go to press, the following groups have joined the coalition: People's Party II, Mexican-American Youth Organization, UH MAYO, John Brown Revolutionary League, Space City Collective, Houston Welfare Rights Organization, Cooperative High School Independent Press Service, Texas Southern University student body, UH Committee for a

and another murder...

Two Houston police patrolmen vamped on the black community again Tuesday, July 28. This time they didn't even get the man they were looking for.

The cops spotted Archie Sayles of Brazoria, Texas walking down the street near the intersection of Tall and Holman. They thought that he resembled a suspect in a forgery case, and they tried to stop him on the street.

Sayles ran into a cafe, and tried to run out the back door. One cop ran through the front door and shot Sayles. Sayler then ran out the back door and was shot by the other cop.

Both patrolmen claim that Sayles was carrying a gun. Witnesses to the shooting, however, did not see Sayles with a gun.

The two cops were W.E. Reed, 25, and Paul Michna, 23.

TRAP...

Cont. from 3

Because of their "highly questionable behavior," says Hope, they shouldn't be trusted. "Each of these characters have clearly demonstrated that he is either a damn fool or a pimp for the 'man,' or both."

The Voice of Hope is published by Rev. Earl Alexander, who is co-chairman of the Black Coalition, an amalgam of mostly moderate black groups who have been meeting in protest of Carl Hampton's killing.

What Now...

Cont. from previous page

struggle at all.

Barrie Hall told KPFT radio Monday, July 27, "I feel that the movement in the city of Houston has to do at this point fight for its life. And that means by any means necessary. John Brown will not be leaving this city. I'm sure People's Party will not be run out of town. I'm sure MAYO and other people won't. So at this point we must be prepared to fight for our lives. And it is a war.

"If people ask what am I for, I'm advocating our survival and getting the truth to the people. And more of us will be shot, and more of us will be killed. But we just go on."

People's Party II may be having a hard time for a while. We can't let People's Party die as a result of Carl's death. We can't let things settle out the way they did after Lee Cline was killed. Anyone in this city who claims to be in the movement has to give People's Party time, money, and if necessary, armed support. Our support for the Party must be total and unequivocal.

One thing that really hit me, something I have known for years but hadn't thought much about lately, is that if we, as a people, don't live our lives fighting this American monster that killed Carl, that is killing people all over this world, that is destroying the planet, that is twisting people's minds -- well, then our lives aren't worth shit.