Local Black Panther Leader Tells Goals

Members of the Black Panther party aren't black counter parts of the Ku Klux Klan and they aren't prejudiced, according to C. Lincoln Powell, minister of information for the Rockford Black Panther Party.

Powell said the party is willing to work with anyone toward the same goal — revolution against capitalism in favor of "democratic socialism."

"Big business is constantly gobbling up the little man," Powell said. "Poor whites are caught up in the same bag. They don't realize they are victims of the same exploitation as black man."

The revolution can be bloodless, he said, if business and industry leaders are willing to share their profits with workers instead of exploiting them.

He pointed to Zambia as a model of democratic socialism with Sweden close to it. He said Cuba "will be a shining example," when it overcomes the economic sanctions imposed on it by the United States.

Powell, 28, came to Rockford last June and has been organizing the party since January. He spoke freely in an interview with The Morning Star.

He said the party members aren't secretive because the party labels itself as the vanguard of the revolution and "you can't be a vanguard and be underground."

The staff members include Powell and Harold Bell, captain of defense; Monk Teba, co-captain of defense; Joseph Williams, security officer; Charles Hawkins, field marshal; Ronald Thompson, field marshal; and Delridge Hunter, minister of education.

One thing that is secret is the total membership of the Rockford party. Powell said there are seven staff members including himself and that the party has between 20 and 100 members.

PURGE POSSIBLE

But he said some of the members may be "purged" because they either don't believe in revolution or they are responsible and obligated to give up their energy and power to the wrong goals.

He cites a group of Panthers in New York who want to dynamite the Statue of Liberty as having the wrong goal.

"You don't accomplish anything by blowing up statues," he said.

The Panthers were organized in October 1966 in Oakland, Calif., by Bobby Seale and Huey Newton. Chapters have been formed in several major cities, and Eldridge Cleaver joined Seale and Newton as the most prominent members.

The party received publicity through speeches by Cleaver at the University of California and through shooting incidents with the police in Oakland and New York.

Powell admits that the Panthers do carry firearms but said they are intended for protection: "For me and for my family, and for the black community because my family lives there.

"We don't create conditions of violence, but we intend to protect ourselves," he said. "Guns are not toys. We don't have a bunch of paranoids running around carrying guns to feel like men."

He said the weapons are "tools for the revolution, when it comes."

He couldn't predict when the revolution will occur, but said it might be in five years if certain accommodations aren't met.

PARTY PROGRAM

When asked what accommodations he meant, Powell pointed to the 10-point program of the national Black Panther Party.

The program, as published in the Black Panther party newspaper is:

1. "We want freedom. We want the power to determine the destiny of our community."
2. "We want full employment, just wages, and equal opportunity in the labor market."
3. "We want an end to the robbery by the white man of our black community. (Forty acres and two mules was promised 100 years ago as restitution for slave labor and murder of black people. We will accept the payment in currency which will be distributed to our many communities.)"
4. "DECENT HOUSING"
5. "We want decent housing, fit shelter of human beings."
6. "We want an end to police brutality and murder of black people."
7. "We want an immediate end to police brutality and murder of black people."
8. "We want freedom for all black men held in federal, state, county and city jails."
9. "We want all black people when brought to trial to be tried in court by a jury of their black peer group or people from their black communities as defined in the Constitution of the United States. (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. "LAND, BREAD"
Uncle Powell spoke on LSD.

Concerning freedom, Powell said it means something different to blacks than to whites.

To blacks, it means freedom to "take part in and enjoy life" while to whites it means "to expand and exploit."

AMERIKKAN DREAM

Powell divides blacks into three groups: proponents of the black-to-Africa movement who reject white customs; black separatists, who do not reject the total values of the American system but believe in separate development of the races; and some Afro-Americans, who believe that "the Amerikkan Dream will come true for black people."

Powell said the country is not making progress for minority groups toward that dream.

"A revolution can never be effective if people believe there's a chance of change through the founded White Panthers in existing structure. Anybody with Detroit's a modicum of intelligence can see the system is not operating for the benefit of the masses."

He said the examples of Adam Clayton Powell, a U.S. congressman from New York, and William Dawson, a congressman from Chicago, prove that blacks aren't progressing.

"Operating within the system gets one man ahead, but the people in Harlem are still suffering."

And he said the recent elections of blacks such as Carl Stokes in Cleveland and Richard Hatcher in Gary aren't signs of gain for the black man.

"They can't act for the total benefit of black men when they deal with the power structure," he said.

He added that their elections do show that "black people are more aware of the problems that exist."

The problems, he said, are inherent in capitalism: the capital-
plan amount of racism," said Powell, who laughed at the mention of the New Negro-owned American Supermarket in Rockford. "If it's a way to solidify black and oppressed people, then it's a good thing."

REVOLUTION: The possibility always exists that oppressed people realize what causes their oppression they will rebel, in the opinion of Powell. Such a revolution, he predicted, would be similar to the American Revolution against England.

Plan for Free Breakfasts to Expand

Plans to expand a free breakfast program for children living in poverty areas on Rockford's west side were revealed Monday by Monk Teba, a member of the Rockford Black Panther Party.

"We don't know yet when it will be ready, but we plan to have a second breakfast center in the Pierpont (Avenue) - Pres- (Street) area," Teba said. "And hopefully by the end of the semester we'll have one serving the Fairgrounds Park area."

SUBVERSION: "We are subversive toward exploitation, fascism and any activities which tend to keep power which people should have out of the hands of the people," said Powell.

MAO: Panthers use the sayings of Chairman Mao Tse-tung for discipline only and not as an entire philosophy, Powell said. He suggested the best possible economic structure is democratic socialism similar to Sweden's.

BUSING: "Black people are oppressed everywhere in a black community," Powell said. He said poor black youngsters are bused to wealthy white schools first week of school, Teba said.

"Any hungry child who wants a free breakfast will be eligible to come to the centers each day where hot meals will be served from 6 to 8 a.m.

All the food used in the program is expected to come from donations. Teba said about 200 letters requesting donations from Rockford area businessmen will be sent out this week.

Again this year the West Side Community Organization (WESCO) has pledged help with the program, Teba said.

"A recent investigation of the West Side of Rockford revealed that there were no immediate doctors or medical facilities available," he said. He added that the investigation was cursory and did not involve a survey of medical needs.

Teba has asked volunteers to contact him at the Rockford Black Panther Party office at 259 S. Pierpont Ave.

Two Resign Black Panther Party Posts

Resignations of Delridge Hunter and Charles Lincoln Powell from the Rockford Chapter of the Black Panther Party were announced by a party official Thursday night.

Harold Bell, captain of the defense, released a statement saying that Powell, former lieutenant of information, and Hunter, former lieutenant of education, "resigned because of other commitments they had, and they were aware that with other commitments they were not able to work fully with the Black Panther Party."

Bell declined to specify the commitments of Hunter and Powell. 9-8-69

Hunter is a former ombudsman for Washington Community School whose contract was not renewed for this coming school term by the Rockford Board of Education. Reportedly, he presently has a job outside the Rockford area.

Panthers Ask Doctors for Free Service

Local doctors and health officials have been asked by the Rockford Black Panther Party to help establish a free medical center in southwest Rockford.

Monk Teba, who identified himself as a "field lieutenant" for the local Panthers, said form letters were mailed Tuesday to members of the medical profession. He said he has received no response.

Teba said the center, to be located at 601 S. Pierpont Ave., would be used primarily for medical checkups and simple medical treatments. He said the Panthers are asking for help in staffing the center and training workers.

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the Panthers make no distinction between white policemen and black policemen. NO DIFFERENCE
"If you shoot me in the back and you're black, it doesn't make any difference what color you are," said Bell.

He added that the party will accept police, but only if they're members of and controlled by the communities they serve.

"We don't want any black police running around our community if we can't control them," said Bell. "If we can control them, we can relate to them, but we can't relate to these madmen running around murdering and killing."

R. Chaka Walls, deputy chairman of the Illinois Black Panthers chapter, said the Panthers keep guns and are unafraid of violence. "Nobody in the world ever got liberation and freedom by expecting to have it brought to them on a silver platter," said Walls.

HAYE GUNS
"Hell, yes, we have guns—they (the police) have guns. What do you think we're going to do, go out there in the street and throw rocks and bottles at a guy with a 12-gauge shotgun? If you're going to be out there, be out there with something, that's the way we see it.

"We don't have anything now so we've got nothing to lose. The way the system's set up, we'll never get anything. The only way to get anything is to change the system."

Members of the Black Panther party told about 200 people at a rally Sunday afternoon in Blackhawk Park that the fight against oppression is the same in Rockford as it is in any other United States city.

"There's no difference between Rockford and Jackson, Miss.," said Field Lt. Monk Teba. "The only difference is the way you spell it.

Teba told the audience that "the tools we use in Rockford are the same tools we use against fascist pigs all over the country."

"The Black Panthers are willing to kill to save our people," declared Teba. "We've tried every other way to do it, but there isn't any other way. It's the only thing left."

FIGHTING BACK
"We haven't been fighting back unless we've been attacked. And we're being attacked because we're trying to serve the people," he said.

Harold Bell, defense captain, spoke next, and echoed some of Teba's thoughts on violence. "There's nothing wrong with violence," he said, "if you're using it to protect yourself."

He also addressed some of his remarks to plainclothes policemen or "pigs" as the Panthers call them, in the audience.

"I know we've got some pigs out in this audience," said Bell. "You just can't get rid of them. We don't want you occupying our communities, and we don't want you here."

He also told the policemen, who might not have been there at all, that the Panthers make no distinction between white policemen and black policemen.

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He added that the party will
About 130 school children have been fed breakfast this week by the Rockford Black Panther Party at the Greater New Hope Church, Pierpont Avenue and Preston Street.

Monk Teba, who identified himself as a "field lieutenant" for the local Panthers, said children in Southwest Rockford will be fed breakfast Monday through Friday on a continuing basis.

Teba said the food is donated by local businesses and money has been given for the program labeled the People's Community Breakfast.

"The Black Panthers have set up the program in such a way that it will continue to run with out us," Teba explained. "We're just making sure it can be run by the community."

Teba denied that Black Panther propaganda was being used on the children during breakfasts. "The only thing we talk about is the need to survive," he said. "We talk with the parents about food, clothing, shelter and medical attention."

Form letters were sent to Rockford doctors last month in an effort to establish a free medical center in Southwest Rockford asked by the Panthers.

Teba said the doctors thought the letter was "too intimidating" and no one has come forward.

"We're going to have to talk to doctors on an individual basis," he said. "We may have to go to other parts of the state. It's a shame doctors here won't move to help people who need medical attention."

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**Rockford Leader**

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