

MEMORIAL RALLY FOR CHAIRMAN FRED HAMPTON AND MARK CLARK
3:50PM Saturday, December 6, 1969, 201 South Ashland.

NOTE: P90: 10, 23

(PEORIA'S CHURCH)

CALVIN: I'd like to start the program, since the Deputy Minister of Defense is not Here, I'm Willie Calvin, and I'd like to just say that Chairman Fred manifested a lot of things in a lot of people. He tried to do as much as he could do in the lifetime that he had-- a very short life--but he understood very clearly that when a man has a life that he's serving and giving to the people, that all tests of revolution will confront him, and those he's not ready for he will have to become ready for. Chairman Fred understood very clearly that the pigs in the power structure had a manifestation of the black leaders and the Ku Klux Klan simply because they liked to raid peoples houses at night. They like to come up with all kinds of astronomical excuses for murdering people. We understood that very clearly in our party when we first started from the inception of our party, back in November of 1968, that some members of our party would be murdered in the hands of the fascist pigs. We still believe that today. I think in a lot of people's minds they're trying to ask themselves what is the Black Panther Party going to do from here since their chairman is gone? The Chairman got out of jail on August 14, 1969; our line was consistant then and our line is consistant now. We say that our party is for the people; our party is not for an individual. Our chairman said and he told us that he knew that someday his life would be in jeopardy; that someday he wouldn't be around as long as a lot of people would; that he had to do the job of a revolutionary now, because at a later date he might not get that chance. Our line is consistant--that we still move in a revolutionary manner, we still have our organizational structure, and we still have our program, and we're going to continue to move with our program. We're not stopping for anybody. (applause) It's been very clear now that the pigs in the power structure have conspired to murder all these revolutionaries that we have. They murdered a cohort of mine, ~~xxx~~ defense captain as me, Mark Clark--brother Clark--they murdered him. He was a defense captain down in Peoria, a hard-working, dedicated brother. We had just begun to get a basic understanding of each other when the pigs murdered him. They didn't give those bodies a chance to even get cold before they decided they were going to have another raid on the Panthers. They decided that this would be the best time to move, because they have mastered the art of tamperista(?) and that's the art of good timing. They said while these people are up in smoke, through the smoke-screen of the forest, we'll decide that we're gonna move on Bobby Rush, because he's another leader, another founder of the Black Panther Party from its inception. And they understand very clearly that, like Chairman Fred said, that you can kill a revolutionary, but you can't kill revolution. If you do, you come up with answers that don't answer and explanations that don't explain. And that's what the pigs are trying to do now. They're trying to explain some of the shit that went down when they murdered Chairman Fred on December 4 at 5 in the morning while the chairman was asleep in his bed. He worked so hard that a lot of times he didn't get a chance to get any sleep. This is why we know that it had to be premeditated murder. The pigs in the power structure had some spies with some of the other cohorts and informants and some provocateur agents to find out when it would be positive for them to move. Chairman Fred always said that sleep was the cousin of death. He always like to explain to the people where he was coming from. In essence what he was saying was that's all a lot of our people are doing now, they're sleeping, and when they wake up they're already gonna be dead. We're having too much bickering in the black community--in the colony--in Babylon. We're having a lot of bickering of the ideology and the philosophy of the people. We say that when murders have been committed all around the black colony of the community that that transcends all ideologies and philosophies. We have to come together as a united front, as a whole, to support one another in a front to combat this rising tide of fascism that we have here. (applause) We say that the people right along with the Black Panther Party is gonna seek vengeance for the murder of all our people and for the murder of Chairman Fred. (applause) We're not gonna allow these pigs to keep running around here like maniacs or warmongers to be trampling on the rights of the people. It shows a very great distinction that that pig, one of those pigs who were there on the attacking squad, he was ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ a former pig who resigned in the Fillmore Police Station, and they found out that he was working with the Klan, so Hanrahan decided that we have the Black Panther Party, and this man is a hired killer; we'll take him and put him in the State's Attorney's office and give him another

position, and maybe the people will not understand this, they won't be able to see this. These are some of the things that we have to look at historically. This is what's happening to us now. If we get lax on our job and we get less security conscious sometime and we start overlooking minor things that may lead to major things. State's Attorney Hanrahan has been trying to fill the people's minds with a lot of rhetoric and nonsense. He's come up with all kinds of repressive statements against the Party and against the people. He's also had the nerve to say that the arms that they found down by the waterfront belong to the Black Panther Party. We'd just like to tell him that we said from our inception that the Black Panther Party would never go down by the riverside until all the pigs in the power structure have been run into the sea. (applause) We say that if those arms belonged to us they definitely wouldn't be down by the riverside, they'd be in the hands of the people. We've always said that we were the advocates of the abolition of war, we don't want war, but war can only be avoided through war. In order to make another man put down the gun, sometime you have to pick up a gun. I think you have to look at the situation of people and get a basic understanding of yourself and you'll be able to understand that a lot of time you were scared to do things that you know might put you in the situation that Chairman Fred was put in. But we have to understand very clearly that a man gets tired of running through all his life. A man gets tired of thinking about the same thing, knowing that it's incorrect, knowing that it's wrong, and that the power structure is not serving the basic needs and desires of the people, and that he has a knowledge, possesses knowledge that can make a change in this society, one that will bring some new light to the welfare of the people and he don't do anything about it. We say that's the ideology of a man who's trying to find something that fits his cowardly nature. We're not about doing that in the Black Panther Party. A lot of people say "I don't want to die," but I say you can't compromise with death. You can't compromise with death, because it's gonna come anyway. A lot of times I just think about it and I like my life, but I don't dig what's going on no more. So I say that my life is not worth my being liberal, me being silent, and me just laying back getting high--not high off the people, but getting high and just doing nothing. I'm gonna continue to work for the people. I'm gonna work for the people until the day that I'm gone. I'm not gonna be running from the pigs in the power structure. Everybody in the Party's not gonna run from the pigs in the power structure. (applause) What makes our party so strong is that we have a unity of will and a unity of understanding. All the members in our Party were purged. We decided that there were some components in our party that wasn't functioning to the expectations, so we decided to purge all the people in the Party. Everybody in the Party that was purged, they understood very clearly why the purge was necessary. They didn't have any hang-ups. They're still working for the people. We say that we don't have to have a Black Panther Party with name or label as a subversive group; that all these people here they were not opportunists, they were not on an ego trip, these were servants of the people. Because those people had made a commitment that some people will never be able to make in a lifetime. That's why people in our Party are still working, they're still revolutionary, and they're still educating the masses of the people, because of that unity of understanding and that unity of will. And I say that goes to show you the manifestation of the love that some people have for the people. There's one thing I'd like to say. I was thinking about it when I came up here. I saw the press was here. They called yesterday and they said can we come down. I said yes. They said we have been kicked out of all of the rest of the places when we came. So I told the sister, I said well maybe we can invite them down there and kick them out of 201 S. Ashland, you know? I was just thinking about, I wasn't trying to be rude, I'm just telling you what was on my mind, because we know that the papers and the press are apologists for domestic imperialism, and they don't want to cover the situation objectively, and they're running around here worrying about that old faggot Spiro Agnew and all the comments and the statements that he's making, talking about the press is not being objective. They're not being objective for the people, they're not being objective for nobody but the pigs in the power structure. (applause) If you look at the situation objectively, you'll see that they're always here and they'll be taping for 40 minutes and you only get 2 minutes, and half of it's been cut. (applause) They don't have time to

They don't have time to cover the news the way they're supposed to. But it's gonna come to a time in the rising tide of fascism that we ain't gonna need no more newspapermen and cameramen (applause). But since you're here, if you conduct yourself like people and act like you're from this world and not from the astronomical world, we'll decide by the people whether we'll let you stay or not. (applause) See, a lot of people are having a real nice time now, but my mind has really been thinking because I've been doing a lot of practice. And I've been thinking of a lot of things that I know have been going wrong. A lot of people, from the statement that I'm gonna make now, they know where I'm coming from, they know what I'm saying is true. They might not be able to accept it in its total form, but I'm gonna skin it to you like it is. Chairman Fred had gotten very disillusioned with the white people in the peace movement. I just wanted to tell you because everybody is being so timid and cautious that they haven't had time to check out the criticism that they might have for themselves. But what he said was he couldn't understand how people who love peace so much could leave here and go to Washington and pass by Henry Horner where the Soto brothers were killed and not have a moratorium there. (applause) He couldn't understand why people would go all the way 4,000 miles or what have you, from here while Bobby Seale, Chairman of the Black Panther Party, is being chained and gagged. He couldn't understand that. (applause) We say in the Party that we work with all progressive groups because we believe that people being progressive it has to transcend all the ideologies and philosophies that they may have, as long as they're working for the good of the people. We're got gonna base people on their ethnic backgrounds or the social environment that they come from. We're gonna judge them by their deeds and not the rhetoric that they use. We say you only learn through practice and that if you don't have the correct theory for that practice, then your practice is useless and you have no use for it, and that the only thing you're doing is isolating the masses of people from the movement. You have to look at the historical situation of black people. And I say that black people's historical situation is that much different—it's different in a lot of ways from the historical situation of white people. I think a lot of people have the hang-up or the guilt syndrome that the Black Panther Party is not doing the most profound job, the most personified job that we could be doing in the black colony itself. We say that the criticism of a ~~xxx~~ weapon is much greater than the criticism of words and that we're always criticising our black people because we say that we have to create a situation there in the colony to create liberation in the colony and stimulate ~~xxx~~ revolution in the mother country. And that's why we criticise our people so much, it's because we love them so much. We say that if a man don't love you or if he don't have any respect for you and no will and determination for you, he'll never have anything to say to you. (applause) This is why we work so hard in our Party, because we know that we have some peace-loving people in the black colony that have been peace-loving people since ~~xxx~~ the inception that they came over there after the rock had fell on us. We always ~~xxx~~ said that it was lovely to love, but we say we're only going to practice brotherhood on those who practice brotherhood with us. (applause) I think that a lot of people really didn't get a chance to know Chairman Fred or Brother Mark Clark, but me and Chairman Fred and a sister who went to Canada a couple of weeks ago, we ~~xxxxx~~ stayed there for a week, and our line was consistent then, as it is now. And the same thing that we was talking about going on over here is going on over there. They were having struggles over there. The (?) people were having struggles. The Indian people that had been run off of their land, they ~~xxxxx~~ having some of the same problems that we have right here in Babylon. They couldn't understand that. They couldn't see it because they were suffering so bad from the ~~novasain~~ that Malcolm talked about so long that it was still on their minds; they were still high. They couldn't come off that high. But after Chairman Fred had got there and was able to run down the Party line and to be able to tell them what the Party was doing and what the people were doing over here in Babylon, they started relating to it much better. You see, it's a bad situation, because there's a lot of things that people don't even get a chance to hear about or see. As we were there, I had an opportunity to get a little rest one time, and I think it was one of the best situations I could have been in because it taught me a lot. The Chairman and myself were staying at a house, we were

staying with some people there in Canada; we didn't know anybody there. So a lot of people had got together and they were having a meeting. And we were in the other room and they didn't know we were there. They thought we had left and they thought we were asleep. And this brother Jake Winters had just been murdered, and we had been talking about that to the people down there, and how hard we were working for the people. And we were talking about the situation that we had so much love manifested in us through the people that we were ready to give up our lives to work for the people. And these people had no knowledge of the Black Panther Party. They didn't know what we were about or what we were doing, because they had never seen or heard or gotten direct knowledge from the Black Panther Party. So they said "well, they might be the CIA or the FBI," you know? And here are people who are working for the good of the people, who are not rich. Chairman Fred hasn't bought a house or a home. Chairman Fred didn't own a car when he died. Chairman Fred, the only thing that he ~~was~~ owned was that manifestation of the love that he had for the people that couldn't nobody in the world ever take away from him, that was the only thing he had. (applause) See, a lot of people, I think they get the wrong conception. The brother even had ~~enough~~ nerve enough to tell me, he said "you're not famous because they only call you by your last name." I said that I'm not an opportunist and I'm not on an ego trip, and when the Chairman is talking I do a lot of listening because I think it's beneficial to listen when the Chairman is talking ~~because~~ because he's talking about something that is for real and then I don't need to be talking, because he always said that you have ~~two eyes~~ two eyes, a nose and you have two ears and one mouth and we got too many people talking and not enough people listening sometimes. He said you should try that solution and maybe you'll be able to come up with something that will be concrete and based on the desires of the people. And that's what I try to do. That's what the people in our Party try to do. We get a lot of criticism from a lot of people. I got some criticism last night from a sister who wasn't doing anything at all but criticising. The only thing she had on her ~~mind~~ mind, she said "You all let Chairman Fred get ripped off." I said, "Sister, we have worked so hard, and we have worked just as hard with the Chairman as anyone else in the world. We were with him when a lot of people didn't even care about him. We were with him when a lot of people didn't even know that he existed or what he was talking about. And we haven't seen you around sister; we don't even know what you're doing, and as Chairman Fred lies there in a state of mourning, that he had a knowledge that there were people in the Black Panther Party, and he understood very clearly ~~that~~ they were moved to struggle to a higher level than there is now, and that he had a lot of respect for those people and a lot of love for those people, and that if he were here today, I think he would slap you upside your face." Because we say that we believe in direct experience and we don't believe in everything that someone tells us. That's why we believe in investigation and study, because a lot of people like to get us hung up in a lot of astronomical ideas, ~~an~~ alot of things that are not relevant to the needs of the people. For the people who just came in, I'd like to make the announcement again that the memorial services for our Chairman will be held tomorrow at 10 o'clock 10 to 10 at the 3646 W. Roosevelt Road at the Rayner Funeral Service. That will be tomorrow, so everyone who wants to come down there to get a chance to take a last look at our chairman, the chairman of the people, they'll get a chance to do that. Also, our Deputy Minister of Defense, Bobby Rush, as you know, the pigs vamped down on his crib, but he escaped the slaughter by the hands of the pigs because he wasn't there, and he just said that he was out doing something that would be more benefitting to the people, and that's why he wasn't there for the inception of the racist dog pigs that decided to commit murder against him also and that he turned himself into the people this morning. We believe that the people are the only ones who will be able to give you a fair and just trial, so he went down to Operation Breadbasket this morning and he was placed under a people's arrest and the people took him down to the jail and he said that we got word that he'll be here and he's alright and he'll be able to talk to the people again. (applause) The next speaker, I know very little about him, to be frank about it, but his name is Gus Savage, and we'd like for him to come up and say a few words to the people. Right on, Gus. Power to you, brother. And I'd like to say to the people that we have to be strong.

GUS SAVAGE: I want to thank you, brother Calvin. I want to say that I came, though I happen not to be a member of the Black Panther Party, I came not being certain with how much of their program there is with which I might agree, because I must admit not being fully cognizant of all aspects of their program. Also I'm a newspaper publisher and my papers circulate in the far south end of what is called the minkelined ghetto, meaning that my readers are in the main blacks who all too often see not the need for unity of all progressive thinking people today. But I came particularly for that reason, hoping that the word could somehow go forth that all of our freedoms are on the line when the Black Panther Party is under attack. (applause) There is no escaping, it is said by many of the political comentators, that it is likely that I may go to Congress and that perhaps that I should be on the campaign trail in the congressional district that I seek to represent and that perhaps there are not votes to be gained by associating with the cause that you represent here today. I wish to make this certainly clear that there are no need for congressmen and there are no need for laws if the police department need not obey them. (applause) I recall that there was a white man who put a bomb in a Goldblatts store this year, who killed two policemen when they came to arrest him, and that they spent the entire day begging him to come out without firing a shot. (applause) When they can go in after any black man with the purpose of shooting him down, the rights of not only all blacks, are at stake whether they live in Lawndale or in Chatham, whether they live in an apartment building or whether they live in a home, but also the rights of all whites are also at stake. (applause) The price of oppressing blacks any longer in America is to accept fascism for yourselves. We all rise or fall with the rights of people to be members of the Black Panther Party because that is the front line of defense of freedom. (applause) I come very appreciative of being permitted to say these few words, not merely in defense of the great hero Fred Hampton, for his shall be a legend that shall resound forever, but for my own children--the children of Chatham, the children of Morgan Park and Maple Park and your children, because if we stand idly by, if we were to think that somehow the white power structure would pass us over if we were to turn our backs on our fellow blacks, if we thought that somehow we would be saved if we did not cry out when such a grievous wrong is done, we would be foresaking not only the memory of a Fred Hampton... (end side 1)

There's a poem, Standards of Freedom, by the poet Lowell, and I can only recall the last two lines of that poem, they are slaves who dare to be in the right with 2 or 3. Though the BPP may be a minority here today, those who dare not come to its defense they are the slaves, they will be the ones who shall suffer most, if for nothing else for Fred Hampton's death to signal the needs of black, so-called middle class and all others, and all well meaning whites signal the need that regardless of our differences and what might be our various hangups, now is the time that we must all pull together and defend the rights of the least of us because in doing so only in that way do we defend our own rights. And I for one, and I for ones would not appreciate sitting in Congress or any other august body in a nation that could kill a Fred Hampton and not see rise the indignation of the majority of the people, black and white. That nation would not be worth representing. If I might have the liberty for my brothers to say, let me just say to the Black Panther members who I so admire for your courage, Right On and in your words all power to the people. I have the additional privilege of introducing a representative of the West Suburban Black Panthers. As I understand a very close personal friend of our great here, GREGORY LANAIR:"

GREGORY LANAIR: "Brothers, sisters, I come to you as you see, not as a speech on paper. There's something in my heart, in all our hearts. As a representative of the West Suburban branch of the BPP. I come to you to tell you that Fred's work will not be forgotten. We are now in the process of starting a Free Medical Center. I myself am going to try to take Doc's place and to pick up the banner that Fred and Doc and Mark dropped. I and the brothers here and the brothers out there and everyone else, we all need your support and I'm sure we're gonna get it and we're going to keep on fighting until we win. Furthermore, I'm sure that some of you in here have been down to these medical centers, have been sitting in the health centers day after day trying to get some proper health medical care and you've been given the run around. I myself have been in the hospital and I see people being shuttled and pushed around because they haven't got the proper money. I've seen people turned out of the emergency rooms because they haven't got any money. They're down on their knees sick, sick, dying, they haven't got any insurance, ads, and they're turned away into the streets. And this has to be stopped. And this is what we're trying to do and we're going to do it. We're going to do it and now