



## REFORM OR REVOLUTION?

A Black child sits in a classroom and stares aimlessly out the window. In front of the class with her back turned, a teacher addresses the class and at the same time writes arithmetic problems on the blackboard. The teacher teaches, using examples and talks about taking 14 apples and dividing them with 7 friends and ending up with 2 apples apiece. At the sound of the word apple, the Black child's face looks up and he seems to know what she's talking about, but soon his mind returns to the 14 apples and he wishes he had something to eat. The teacher in the meantime drones on and on about remainders and quotients. The result of this is that the child falls farther and farther behind. The root cause of this problem is not mental incapacities or cultural deprivation, but HUNGER.

It's a vicious circle that Black people are caught up in this country. They TELL US, you're hungry because you're poor . . . You're poor because you haven't got the best jobs . . . You can't get the best jobs because you're uneducated, and you're uneducated because you didn't learn while you were in school, and you didn't learn while you were in school because you weren't interested. And every time the teacher mentioned 5 apples or 6 bananas, your stomach growled. How can a person be expected to pay attention and learn about history, math, science and other subjects that are abstract to his reality when his mind is concentrating on a very real and concrete problem? Where is the next meal coming from? The people have cried for relief without getting it for too long. The BLACK PANTHER PARTY standing as a true representative of Black people's desires and needs, realizes that this vicious circle and chain of events must be broken, it cannot and must not be allowed to continue. In the words of our chairman Bobby Seale,

"THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY is going forth to make sure the desires and needs of the people are answered."

The chain was broken: a free breakfast program was born in Oakland.

The breaking of this chain opens up a new era in the Black colony of Afro-America. The important aspect of this era lies not merely in the fact that the chain was broken but in the manner in which it was broken. The capitalists ruling class of this country knew that this hunger existed and had the means on hand to eliminate it. The proof of this lies in this government's own congressional report on hunger in America. At the same time that it acknowledges this hunger, the federal

government pays some of its Senators not to grow food on their land and also destroys thousands of tons of wheat every 2 years. What happens though is that to give away wheat would lessen the price of wheat on the open market and profits would be in danger. So the ruling class sees this food give-away as certainly not in their best interests, which is always measured in dollars and cents and never in human suffering or lives.

The vacillating Black bourgeoisie class who claim to have made it on their own and who have historically paid lip service to the oppressor

and rejoiced at having "escaped" from the ghetto, knows that this hunger exists. All the civil rights organizations with their middle class orientation know that this hunger exists and have resources and manpower to do something about it, but instead of concentrating on the real and important needs of the people for food, the class weakness of bourgeoisie society surfaced and their true allegiances showed themselves. These people and their organizations indulged in subjectivism and petty bourgeoisie individualism and went off chasing a false dream of integration into a sick society and a moral instead of a political problem, and our children went to

In Oakland, California, the people under the leadership and guidance of the BLACK PANTHER PARTY smashed this evil chain, took destiny into their hands and moved to collectively feed their own children and this is where the important aspects of this undertaking lie. Our party knew along with anyone else who had eyes to see and ears to listen, that our children were going hungry. But this is where our party differs from previous parties and groups that claimed to have the peoples' interests at heart. Our party is a revolutionary party made up of activists and is a party that courageously follows the examples of putting words and ideals into action as exemplified by our founder and Minister of Defense, Huey P. Newton. Huey P. Newton holds that a machine is not functional unless it produces what it is designed to produce. Our party took this basic desire and need of our people and brought it into reality working alongside the people. Thus combining theory with practice.

To the halfbaked, the narrow-minded and the avaricious fool, this may seem as though the BLACK PANTHER PARTY now endorses reform action and is no longer interested in revolution. What these persons fail to see is that by developing a blueprint that the people can use to solve their problems and by showing that it can be done, our party takes another step forward on the path of successful revolution.

Unlike the bourgeoisie and petty bourgeoisie groups that operate on federal funds and poverty grants and breed nothing but distrust and disunity, unlike pork chop nationalists organizations like the Los Angeles based US which openly goes into business with the capitalist class riding on the backs of the people, exploiting and oppressing the people and murdering to weaken the peoples' revolutionary camp, the core of our party comes from the workers and the masses and all our actions are designed to strengthen the people's revolutionary camp and not the enemies' reactionary camp. Our party correctly understands the necessity of our people taking part in collective socialist actions and ridding ourselves of all selfish petty bourgeoisie individualistic tendencies through hard work and self-sacrifice. The party members and parents are there five days a week at S. Augustine's Episcopal Church on 27th and West every school morning from 7-10:00 a.m. and feed an average of 130 children a day. THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY realizes the responsibility and the burden we bear. Our pilot program will soon be extended throughout our communities to every single child who wants it. Our party is of, by, and for the people; and can never divorce itself from the interests of the people.

All power to the people

Black power to Black people

Panther Power to the Vanguard.

Landon Williams