



drum

VOL.. I NO.. 6

DODGE REVOLUTIONARY UNION MOVEMENT

BLACK UNITY

Black Unity

In the late 1950's black brothers in Montgomery Alabama under

the leadership of the late Martin Luther King decided to put an end to segregated buses, they united and formed car pools and walked back and forth to work in order to de-segregate the public transportation system in that city. They were victorious even with the constant harassment of the Klu Klux Klan and the white bigotted police force who were constantly bombing cars and sniping at the black brothers who were walking. The white business owners even moved so far as to fire the black brothers and sisters who participated in the boycott. These black brothers and sisters united to de-segregate the buses and with black unity and with

black determination they held on to victory.

Again in the late 1950's black brothers and sisters united throughout the nation to de-segregate lunch counters and to end discrimination in job hiring. Led by S.N.C.C., CORE, NAACP, and S.C.I.C., they opposed this through economic boycotts and sit ins. They too even though they were harassed by the Bull Connors, the Lester Maddoxs, and the General Andersons held on through black unity and black dedication too victory.

In monroe North Carolina in the early 1960's Robert F. Williams led the black community with a program of black unity and black dedication to successful and self-defense tactics against local Klu-Klux-Klan terror.

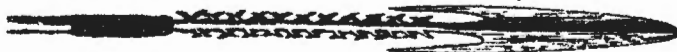
These are just three examples of how black unity was used to destroy racism, segregation and

discrimination. DRUM was formed for the very same reasons. While the black workers have aided in ending discrimination in their social lives they have yet to unite to end discrimination at work. DRUM was conceived for this purpose we of DRUM saw the need for black unity to put an end to the racism that now exist here.

While our ranks have grown we are still not strong enough to put an end to these conditions as of yet. We know that DRUM is appreciated because we never see copies of DRUM discarded or

on the floor we know that our black brothers are awaited the next edition of DRUM. While we fully realizes that no-one has ever gotten 100 percent participation in anything, with 80% of our black brothers supporting DRUM we can and will be successful.

JOIN DRUM.....



Drum Program

Drum Program

The racism in this plant is no accident, it is no mere circumstantial affair, it is a historical systematic development, it is part of a pre-planned design, it is a thing that has been thought out in advance. We black workers must therefore systematically oppose it historically, resolutely, and throughly. This is our task and we must be prepared, and are, to undertake it. Black people have been struggling for 400 years, our forefathers have raised a glorious and resolute struggle, they have fought with tooth and nail, they have opposed oppression in all of its shapes and forms, they have met armed resistance with whatever means at their disposal, they have fought at every crook and turn. It is now our solemn duty to carry our struggle forward to the gates of industry.

The struggle at these gates will probably be one - the most bitter of all our struggles. It poses problems heretofore almost untouched. We realize that our effort will have to be a constantly creative endeavor. Many of our methods will have to be new, already we have met with much stiff opposition. Brothers we appeal to you again for your unfaltering support, we will make mistakes and many of our tracks will have remade but in the end we will persist and we will win. We realize further that the nature of our struggle is one of immediate sacrifice, that being a struggle between black work-

ers and white racist plant owners and operators, that our ranks will be intimidated, that our jobs and our livelihood will be constantly at stake and that blood more than likely will be shed.

But, have not we been intimidated before, have not our jobs and our livelihood been at stake before, and have not our blood been shed in the past. Let it be understood freedom does not come painlessly. Freedom like birth comes through blood, sweat and pain.

Drum holds up that banner and portion of the U.S. Constitution which reads: 'But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security'.

We hold that black workers for four hundred years have bore the brunt of abuse and that no greater system of absolute despotism has ever been placed upon a people than on the de-humanized Afro-Americans of which the black worker is its back bone, and that now we must carry out our solemn duty. Every government is merely the political extension of its underlying economic system. By opposing the racist exploitative economic system that exist at Hamtramck Assembly Plant, black workers are approaching the essence of our problem. It is because of these above stated facts that these are asking our black brothers to for the bitter days ahead. It is only through black unity and persistent revolutionary struggle that these conditions of oppression can be toppled. It is only through this struggle that black workers may in any sense conceive of any type of future security.

If Walter Ruether can withdraw from the A.F.L.C.I.O, and skilled trades can systematically withdraw and gain sanction from the U.A.W. then we as black assembly workers

should definitely have the right to negotiate our contract. Walter Ruether has portrayed an image of equality and justice for all but yet his racist staff (international representatives) comprise less than one percent black personnel. Out of 1073 staff members only 74 are black while black workers make up about 25% of the entire U.A.W. membership and hold down about 90% of all of the menial jobs. This is wrong. The U.A.W. constitution states that wildcat strikes are prohibited, but it also states that every member is entitled to 100% representation. Which is the lesser of two evils? It is obvious that if each worker received 100% representation there would be no need for wildcat strikes, but no one gets even 50% representation from the U.A.W. This dilemma did not begin overnight it was a conscious effort. How can black workers receive any representation when the U.A.W. con-

stitution is made up of lies and contradictions.

Drum says re-write the constitution.

Drum says add additional black representatives.

Drum says to extend U.A.W. funds to the black community.

Drum says create a youth program to filter young ideas into worker-management relations.

Or Drum says later for the existing bureaucratic structure.

We are appealing to all of our black brothers to meet our resound-

ing persistent call - Join Drum - Unite or Perish. - We Will Win.

FIRE DEPT.

Have you ever dug the Ham-

tramck Assembly Plant Fire Department. It like all the other fire departments around the country and like all of the other Sop Departments at Hamtramck Assembly Plant is lily white. As a matter of fact one has to be a Greek or a Polish god to get a job in the fire department.

How many fires have you seen on plant premises? How many fire alarms have you heard? How many times have you seen the lines stopped because of fire? How many times have you been sent home because of fire damage done to the plant?

The answer to these questions is probably none. But yet all along there has been a fire department in existence at this plant.

All of this time there has been some white racist foreman on the pay roll at the Hamtramck Assembly Plant making more money than any us and guess what they have been doing? Nothing.

Once in a while they walk around the plant and check the fire extinguishers every now and then they check the sprinkling systems. But other than that they walk around, lay up and get over in a big way.

For year upon year these white racist bigots lay up and chew the fat and get paid for it. And at the same time if a Black brother punches in late, by a minute or two, he is rushed to the superintendent offices and given time off. He is then escorted out of the plant by two or three plant protection guards as though he had robbed a bank. The superintendent sits back in his offices, smiling all over themselves with at the dire

plight of the Black workers.

How can the Black Worker receive any kind of justice? The double standard system is one of the most vicious systems of exploitation in existence: whether the color of a man's skin detracts what type of wages can a worker earn, it furthermore dictates what type of work he does to

make those wages and also what type of little methods of harassments he must bear in order to do that work.

Black brothers change must come. The objective conditions in the plant alone are enough to led to an enraged uprising by black workers.

JOIN DRUM

Inspection

Robert Neeme came to Hamtramck Assembly seeking employment on Thursday June 6, 1968. He filled out an application and was told that his application had been accepted, and that he would be called as soon as there as an opening. That night Robert received a telegram to report on Friday June 7, 1968, for a physical, for they had found a job opening for him. Robert being the nice clean cut white boy that he is was given a job in Dept. 3200 inspection.

DRUM has no quarrel with with Robert, we fully realize that he has the right to seek employment anywhere and to accept any position offered to him. But how is it that most of the jobs like this go to more white workers than Black Just what is going on in the employment office? If they are not placing new hirees by color, then what are they doing?

Eight out of '0 jobs of all applicants are Black but the other two are getting all the jobs like this.

This is a highly explosive situation that exist predominately

now in the body shop where all the heaviest and dirtiest jobs are. All of the young Black hirees are

complaining about the fact that new white workers are put on inspection and that they are placed on spot welding.

In answer to their complaints they are told to wait until they get 90 days. The new Black workers on top of being harassed and discriminated against, they are not even given their pay on time, in some cases, in other cases they are given vouches, in still other cases they are give the excuse to come to the pay roll offices on Saturday, while the company knows that it is closed.

DRUM feels that the employment office should state that they are discriminating, and to stop handing

us this bullshit about Chrysler Corporation being an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Black Worker is not the fool that he has

thought to have been.



TRANSPORTATION

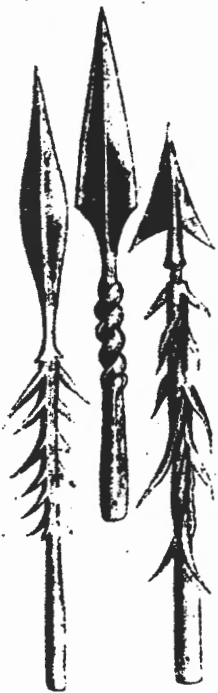
TRANSPORTATION 3352

Everyone has heard the song, "I wish I was in Dixie." Well we have Dixie right here, complete with all the white bigots necessary to maintain a productive plantation. Can you believe that this (the transportation dept.) is 80% black in working forces but with all white foremen. The dept. superintendent, Art, claims that none of the brothers among this 80% are qualified to be foreman. So he turns to the streets in the suburbs to hire white supervisory personnel who have never seen the inside of a plant.

Just the other day, Milton, the Monster was sent to dept 101 to pick up some ~~DRUM~~ DRUM and got lost and damn near could not find his way back. After about an hour, the general foreman, Al Yavas, another white racist, had to go looking for him.

Yavis's whole staff of office employees are, of course, lily white. It seems to us that out of 10 foremen and four clerks one could be black. What do you think?

JOIN



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