

February 13th, (FYI and Party History)

Greetings All: It's About Time BPP Alumni Committee held it's first fundraiser for 2011. We had a " Bus trip to Reno". I would like to thank Clark Bailey for driving the bus and Eunice for being the host. I was drafted into being the DJ and I had them dancing on the bus going and coming. A number of supporters and Party members made the trip, some even coming from the Bay Area. The bus ride was great; the sun was out with snow on the ground in the mountains and snow covered pine trees. Thanks to Clark and Eunice, we made some money. Photos are attached and plans are being made for another trip in March. We are also going to do a number of Black Panther Party Bus Tours for the 45th year celebration in the city of Oakland.

February 1971 was one of the worst periods in Black Panther Party History. The Party was under full attack from the Nixon Administration and the media. It was also 40 years ago when Eldridge and Huey had that big falling out on Jim Dunbar's Radio show. Huey ends up expelling Eldridge and the entire International Section. That event changed the Party from that day on. A number of people left the BPP and a few offices left the Party during this time (Los Angeles, New York, New Jersey and the San Francisco office). Find out the role the FBI played in breaking up the Party. There were interparty contradictions already at play like the controversy over Huey's Penthouse. For more info please check Curtis Austin's book "Up against the Wall" pages 297-326.

I was working at Central Headquarters at that time. I didn't know the FBI was using my name as a person calling the Algiers office for Donald Cox. One day June Hilliard came to the office and asked me why I was calling DC. I told him I never called DC and didn't even know the number. He believed me because he never brought it up again. This happened in January 1971.

Other events happening in February 1971 include the opening of the San Quentin Prison Branch of the BPP, becoming the first chapter from prison, followed by the Angola Prison Chapter in Louisiana. On February 10th, the High Point Community Center came under attack by the High Point North Carolina Pigs at 6am in the morning.

Also in February 1971, the Lumpen (the BPP singing group) performed at a number of events, like Pauley Ballroom on the UC Berkeley campus and a big show at the Showcase Nightclub.

One of the cadres overlooked by many in Party history was our photo Department. Overdue credit should be given to Ducho Dennis, Sister Lauryn Williams - the first sister to be a photographer for the Party, Tony Jackson, John Bunchy Crear, Melanie King and Donald Cunningham to name a few.

This month, 40 years ago, the trials of the Soledad Brothers, Angela Davis, New York Panther 21, Bobby Seale and Ericka Huggins were going on. Many of you have found my Face Book Page under Bill Jennings. I have a lot of information there also. I want to send a Shout Out to John "Bunchy" Crear and Micheal Torrance who are very ill.

BJ



