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CHICAGOANS UNITE FOR COMMUNITY CONTROL OF POLICE



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SEE SUPPLEMENT OAKLAND - A BASE OF OPERATION, PART LXIV

CHICAGOANS UNITE FOR COMMUNITY CONTROL OF POLICE

DRAFT ORDINANCE TO HIGHLIGHT
JUNE 1st AND 2nd CONFERENCE

Bobby Rush, coordinator of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party and moderator of the upcoming Community Control of Police Conference, to be held on June 1st and 2nd in Chicago (see last week's issue of THE BLACK PANTHER) recently outlined a proposed ordinance for the establishment of community control of Chicago's police and explained the scheduled conference in terms of short and long range goals.

In a telephone conversation just this past week with THE BLACK PANTHER, Bobby detailed the control of police ordinance proposal, showing exactly how it would function. Minor points remain to be worked out for positive structure for ending police abuse of Chicago's citizenry.

"Of course", Bob Rush stated, "implementation of the ordinance is a long range goal of the scheduled conference, to be reached around 1975." He stressed that immediately after the conference a short range goal of campaigning for voter registration will begin. "We will have Community Control of Police petitions which 10% of all Chicagoans who voted in the last election (about 100,000) must sign in order for the ordinance to be placed on the ballot." Bob Rush further stated that about 600,000 people eligible to vote in Chicago are currently unregistered.

"We have filed suit to force the Board of Election Commissioners to deputize members of the City-Wide Campaign for Community Control of Police (as the movement is called) so that we can begin to register people to vote," he said. "The 600,000 unregistered people are mostly Black and poor."

"Another short range goal is to set up special ward and precinct structures and committees" he said. "Precinct Committees would conduct monthly meetings and investigate citizens' complaints of police abuse. Survival programs, such as food buying clubs and the SAFE program (Seniors Against A Fearful Environment - a program to protect Senior citizens against muggings, originally implemented in Oakland, California by Bobby Seale) would be established on the precinct level."

The far-reaching and progressive control of police ordinance proposed begins with:

The powers of the Mayor, Superintendent of Police, Police Board and

City Council...are hereby superceded in the following respects. This ordinance shall transfer the power of supervising and administrating the Chicago Police department and all its affairs to the citizens of Chicago at large via the following structures and provisions...

A. There is hereby created in each of the 21 police districts in Chicago a District Citizen's Police Board. Said Board shall have the powers, duties, composition, and shall be chosen as set forth below:

Each District Board shall have nine members. These members shall reflect the general composition of the population of their respective district. No member of any District Board shall be an employee of the Chicago Police Department nor hold any other public office.

The members of each District Board shall be elected by the residents of each police district commencing September, 1975...



The draft community control of police ordinance calls for the formation of Citizen's District Police Boards in order to set strict and just policies and procedures.

Candidates for members of the Police Board shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age by the date of the

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BOBBY SEALE'S MESSAGE TO THE CHICAGO CONFERENCE

Last week Bobby Seale flew to Chicago from Oakland, California, to attend the June 1st and 2nd Community Control of Police Conference sponsored by the City-Wide Campaign for Community Control of Police, held at the University of Illinois, Circle Campus.

Bobby took the place of scheduled speaker, Brother Huey P. Newton, who was unable to attend. Hundreds of Chicago residents took part in the conference workshops, and overwhelmingly resolved to begin organizing to end police brutality and murder of Black and poor people through establishing community control of the Chicago Police Department.

On being introduced, Bobby received a standing ovation. The following is excerpted portions of Bobby Seale's message to the conference participants:

"Power to the People...I want to say first, that Brother Huey P. Newton sends you his love, care and respect. He said he's very sorry he couldn't be here and I came to take his place."

Bobby then explained the organizing tactics of the people's campaign in Oakland, California, placing emphasis on methods of voter registra-

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"Until We're Free"

A powerful, yet tender and important new album by Elaine Brown. The songs on this album weave a beautiful tapestry of protest against the quality of life for Black Americans. Listeners will find themselves engulfed in a flow of emotion as Elaine's melodic voice works its magic. Once you have heard "Until We're Free," you will understand why Huey P. Newton says: "A consuming talent, a total dedication and a proven commitment are combined in Elaine Brown, making her the first, genuine People's Artist America has produced."

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"COMMUNITY CONTROL OF AMERICA"

BOB RUSH, DICK GREGORY, FANNIE LOU HAMER, OTHERS, SPEAK AT CHICAGO CONFERENCE

(Chicago, Ill.) - Chicago's Community Control of Police Conference, held on June 1st and 2nd, attracted more than a thousand Chicago citizens of varied ethnic background who participated in workshops in order to set up a structure by which control of Chicago's police could be achieved.

Also, the conference was highlighted by an impressive array of speakers who had come to Chicago from near and far. They included: Bobby Seale, leading member of the Black Panther Party; Fannie Lou Hamer, southern activist; Dick Gregory, comedian - activist; mayor of Gary, Indiana, Richard Hatcher and many others.

The conference was moderated by Bobby Rush, Coordinator of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party and a campaign organizer for Chicago's City-wide Campaign for Community Control of Police. Bobby Rush set the tone for the successful two-day conference when he addressed conference participants assembled at the University of Illinois on June 1st. He provided some background on the control of police movement in Chicago:

"I want to give you a breakdown --some history--in regards to community control of police", Rush began.

"Back in August of 1972, we initiated a conference for community control of police which was held at Holy Angels Church, on the southside of Chicago. Over 5,000 poor people attended. At that conference we gave away 5,000 bags of groceries, 3,000 pairs of brand new children's shoes and administered Sickle Cell Anemia tests. This was a conference that escaped the attention of the establishment media, but it happened.

"Also, at that conference we took notes, synthesized them, and came up with a basic ordinance, some basic principles for community control of police..."

"We decided that December 4, 1972, was a strategic time (Chicago police murdered Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, two members of the Black Panther Party, on December 4, 1969) to officially launch the campaign, with a memorial service for Fred and Mark."

Bobby then described other points in the development of the control of police campaign and called attention to the importance of the scheduled workshops.

Renault Robinson of the Afro-



DICK GREGORY spoke of the need for community control of Chicago's police.

American Patrolmen's League (AAPL) also spoke. Robinson is a member of the Chicago Police Department, who, after seeing from the inside police corruption and policies toward Black and poor people, formed the AAPL. He has been harassed, threatened and even arrested on occasions by the Chicago Police Department, which is trying to fire him and other members of the AAPL.

He answered the questions of the conference participants with undisputable knowledge. In reply to a question about Chicago's traffic court, Robinson said:

"Let me tell you something about that traffic court. Last year they turned over \$34.5 million. That supports the entire court system--all those folks that walk around there in little jackets, shuffling and carrying on. And that money is not anywhere in the city budget. That (\$34.5 million) goes into the 'slush fund'.

"Now you know why you get stopped when you're riding down the street. Now you know why they have ticket quotas, because they've figured out with a computer: 'If we give so many people tickets, at the end of the year we'll have made so much cash money'...\$34.5 million--and 99% of it is coming out of your pockets."

Sister Fannie Lou Hamer, a Black southern community activist who has long been involved in her people's struggle, was also on hand, giving her support. In her address she said:

"...We can start right here in Chicago and make this a city that's decent for people...When I hear about the corruption that's going on here in Chicago and other cities... (I know that) this is a sick country, America is on the critical list.

"We must make this a decent place
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BOBBY'S MESSAGE

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tion that were used and called attention to Chicago's voter registration regulations:

"Here in Chicago...when it comes down to registering people to vote... if I'm not mistaken, you have to go down to the courthouse to register to vote or some other local institution of government, and you have to line up and wait. That's the state laws here. In California, we have a different situation. We can deputize registrars in a matter of 1 hour. If we can put together 30 people, 50 or 100 people inside of a church, the Alameda County Board of Registrar's office will come down and teach a class for 1 hour and have everybody raise their hand, swear the people in, and make them deputy registrars.

"They can then go out into the community and knock on the doors and actually solicit people to register to vote. You do not have that here and that is a problem.

"On the one hand you're talking about, here in Chicago, placing a proposition, measure or initiative on the ballot for community control of police. But you need a state referendum, measure or proposition to allow for people in the community to become deputy registrars so that they can go out into the community and in fact register people to vote, so that people in the community can participate in the political process, in the electoral process.

"Now this method of making the people go to the courthouse to register to vote is an old, fascist, racist method from the South to the North to the East to the West. It's been used on Black people consistently in the South, where you have to first go to your courthouse, police station, or fire station and register to vote. If people don't go down there they can't participate in the electoral process. If we hear any politician talk about government and our people participating in government, and that we have a democracy and that the word democracy means government by the people, if they talk that, then it's necessary for you, the community, move on them to support the fact that you the people should have the right to organize non-partisan and partisan groups and have people become deputy registrars in the thousands to be able to go in the community and register millions of people.

"They cannot talk about government of the people, by the people, for the people, they cannot talk about the word democracy, or democrat or a people's republic or whatever, without recognizing the fact that millions of people in this country do not even



BOBBY SEALE spoke to over 1,000 Chicagoans who gathered to end police brutality and corruption through community control of police.

participate because of the restraining framework."

Bobby then turned his speech toward the police:

"...Their real power is manifested in the organized guns and force. But we're saying that the people in this community, the people in this country, don't have any control over that organized guns, force and power. We're

COMMUNITY CONTROL

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for all of us, because until it's made better, it's not a safe place for any of us. All of our children...suffer because of the things that are going on now.

"It's good to organize. It's good to try to get some control. But it certainly means that you're going to have to gain some political power. One of the places not to ignore... (is the church). The Church is a moving force. That minister can move a lot of people in your direction. This will be a powerful force in keeping people from being shot. It will keep police from walking into buildings and just shooting people down..."

The audience also heard Brother Dick Gregory, who brought some hard truths to them. He spoke of police turning their backs on certain crimes committed in poor ghettos:

"At five years old in the Black ghetto of St. Louis, Missouri, I knew what a hustler looked like and I knew what a dope pusher looked like. And at five years old I just could not believe I was that much more smarter than the police.

saying that the capitalist, the racist, and others have the control over it. And we're saying that we want to change it, that we want to revolutionize it, turn it over into the hands of the people, for a new process to occur. We're saying we want community control.

"So what you're doing when you put the initiative on the ballot is unifying so many people in opposition to the corruption of this system, in opposition to the brutality, in opposition to all the exploitation. If that isn't our goal, I don't know what is.

"I say this is humanity, we are part of humanity, we're going to be significant to it, we're going to have to involve the masses of the people. You do not gain power to the people, you do not gain government of the people, by the people and for the people, until the people start to learn how to control those institutions of government, be it the police department or whatever, until we make it function for ourselves. We are not going to survive, we are not going to live long enough unless we begin to change things and we better participate for the next 4 years, for the next 6 years, for the next 10 years, because the movement has a job... We have a job of implementing people's power in Chicago and this country. All Power to the People and thank you very much."

"At six years old, I saw the cop... standing on the corner, laughing and joking with the pimps. At six years old, I saw the cop stick his head through a car window where the dope pushers were sitting, and they held a jolly conversation. I'm not six anymore, I'm 41 years old, and I keep hearing white folks in American saying to Black folks, 'Why don't you have respect for your local police?'. That's the first time I realized white folks was crazy.

Brother Gregory perhaps summed up everything as best anyone could when he said:

"When you look at the police structure in America, I hope you see more than the police—(I hope) you see America. Today you're talking about community control of the police; tomorrow we've got to talk about community control of America..."

Organizations that support the City-wide Campaign for Community Control of Police include the NAACP, the Illinois Black Political Caucus, the American Indian Movement (AIM), Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity), the League of Black Women Voters and the National Defense Organization (which includes more than 700 political and social organizations from across the United States).