

# No People At People's Party Rally

by Windel E. Culbreath

People's Party II, reportedly acting in conjunction with a Northeast Houston citizen's group, called for a public rally to protest what they called "the murder of Herman Potts." The rally was slated to be held near 6406 Laura Koppe Road at 4:00 p.m. last Sunday afternoon.

At 4:30 there were fewer

than 15 people assembled near the rally area. Those gathering scattered to nearby businesses and left the meeting area. Northeast Houston residents involved with organizing the rally stated they had been given permission by the manager of "Laura Koppe Motors" to stage a rally on an adjacent business property, but this permission was withdrawn one day be-

fore Sunday. They (organizers) related they were told by the manager of so-called "Laura Koppe Motors" that property owners controlling the lease to the reported "gaming" house or "used auto sales" establishment threatened to close him out if the rally were staged on the property.

This business establishment, located at 6406 Laura Koppe Road, is the same business location Potts managed before his death. This is the same establishment Potts reportedly exited from running before his arrest around the corner of Laura Koppe and Compton.

A rally notice distributed by People's Party II stated, "People's Party II is staging a mass rally at 6406 Laura Koppe Road at 4:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon, Feb. 7, 1971. The rally will be centered around the slaughtering of Herman Potts and the genocide that's being practiced on Black people. We urge every concerned person to attend this rally and show their discontent with the police brutality and murders that are being perpetrated against the poor and op-

pressed masses of people."

Potts died in the Northeast police substation Friday, January 22, 1971. Medical examiners reported his death was caused by a heart condition. Houston police officers reported they were aware of a breathing problem Potts complained about after his arrest and during the time they were booking him at the substation located on the Eastex Freeway. Reportedly, Potts died during the booking process at the jail.

## DID POTTS

"KNOW TOO MUCH?"

It is a serious charge to connect any person with murder. It is embodied with legal ramifications when public officials are held in contempt for actions of foul play that cause undue harm to citizens.

The terse and hushed ripples of accusations continue from the lips of Northeast residents who still say that Potts was beaten, and this beating led to his death.

The irony of this civic dilemma, if in fact those citizens who are stating they witnessed part of Potts' beating is true, then becomes the apathetic stance of Black communities, a lack of or-

pleaded that their names be left out of the newspaper? Reportedly, Potts operated a gaming house that was sometimes used as a facility to sell used automobiles. Some automobiles are still on the lot of his business in the 6400 block of Laura Koppe Road. Are these statements more than speculation, or just inklings of tangible frustrations coming from the lips of little people, people too little to organize a citizen's committee and report their grievances to the City Council or the Mayor?

## ORGANIZERS HESITANT

People's Party II, as an organization of influence, has been having extreme difficulty getting the positive side of their program together. The "Carl Hampton Free Health Clinic" is frozen in its progress with a "severe" need of funds for minor items such as plumbing repairs and initiating costs.

Topping this off, PP II spokesmen claim they are unable to secure nearly \$250 to bring a national newspaper from the printers to them. They claim this newspaper could support initial board and renting fees for their living quarters and the



Charles Freeman, second from left, advising NE area citizens of planned rally scheduled for last Sunday, February 7.