

HOUSTON BRANCH IMPLEMENTS PEOPLE'S FREE PEST CONTROL PROGRAM

A vicious cycle of indecent housing, unhealthy foods, inadequate clothing and medical care, pests and rodents running rampant plague poor and oppressed communities daily. This vicious cycle fostered by capitalist exploitation fathers the American

Empire's highest disease rate which is, of course, in the Black community.

Rats, roaches and fleas that travel from house to house in the community and wretched and inhuman conditions that Black and poor people live

in are responsible for thousands of deaths each year. For instance, rats are carriers of at least eleven different species of intestinal parasites that may be transmitted to man. Tape worms, round worms, trichinosis, and rat bite fever are only a few. The most potent and harmful disease that is transmitted by these monstrous pests is called bubonic plague. Also, fleas belonging to the pulicidae (parasitic) family can transmit bubonic plague from animal to animal and from animal to man. The fleas contract the disease from biting an infected rat.

The most common symptoms of this disease are: a burning sensation in the eyes, swelling of the tongue covered by a white deposit, fevers as high as 102 degrees, vomiting, splitting headaches, delirium, thickness of speech, and a limping gait that conveys the picture of drunkenness.

Another well known pest in the Black Community is the cockroach. Scientific experiments have shown that cockroaches often feed on cholera dejects and corpses of tuberculosis victims. Although the cockroach does not carry disease germs, they are instrumental in spoiling food by nibbling it and dropping excretions on it.

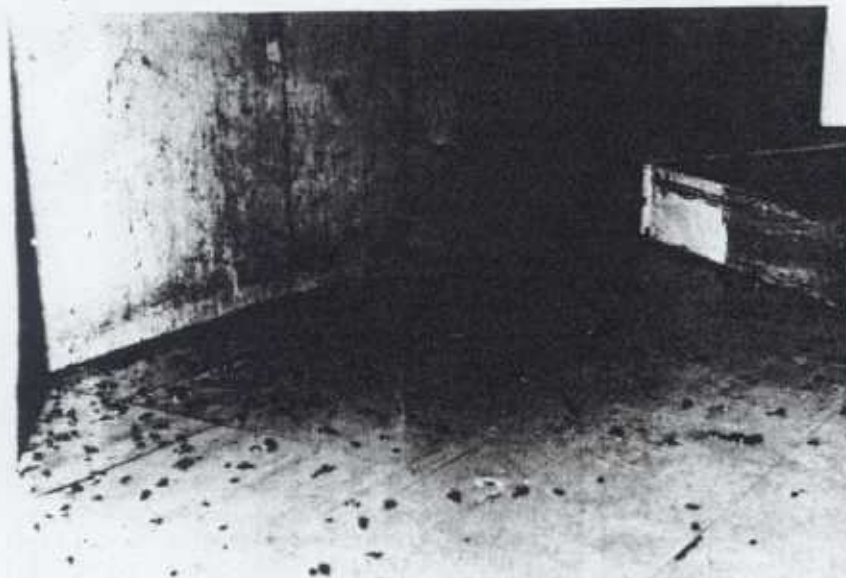
As is natural to this capitalist economy, which feeds on poor people's every misfortune, exterminators who are equipped with the skills and tools to control or eliminate pests charge excessive prices for their work. Thus, the exterminator makes a house free of roaches and rodents a luxury and not a human right. Therefore, the Houston Branch of the Black Panther Party has implemented a People's Free Pest Control Program. The labor, provided by Party members, and the pesticides are absolutely free. To defeat capitalism and re-introduce humanity to society, we will continue to serve the people body and soul.

For further information, call (713) 224-3682

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE
Houston, Texas Branch
Black Panther Party



Comrade from Houston Branch rids house of disease-carrying pests.



Decent housing is a human right.

JOHNNY COWARD SHOT, AS HOUSTON BRANCH OPENS



Houston pigs have been after
BROTHER JOHNNY COWARD
for over three years.

The present situation prevailing in the U.S. today is exploitation of the poor, political oppression and racist injustice, which result in the captivity of a large number of Black and other oppressed people. Consequently, brothers and sisters are constantly locked-up for crimes they have not committed, or shot down for committing crimes against "property", in order to survive the wretched and inhuman social conditions under which Black people are forced to live.

Johnny Coward, who has been exposed to police harassment for at least the past six years, was shot on Saturday morning, October 9, 1971, at approximately 2:00 a.m. This was less than one month after the official opening of the Houston, Texas Branch of the Black Panther Party, of which Brother Johnny is a leading member. He was shot and then beaten by two fascists of the Houston Police Department.

One of the first confrontations Johnny had, however, with Houston fascists occurred as far back as December 7th, 1968. At that time, two sadistic and insane vice squad policemen tormented and viciously beat him. As a result of those beatings, Johnny suffered fractured ribs, brain damage from intensive blows to his head, and lost

his right eye, which these monsters had kicked out.

Later, even after realizing that Johnny had not committed any crime, the pigs collaborated and trumped-up the charge of aggravated assault against a police officer. Immediately, Johnny's lawyers filed a suit against the two pigs responsible for so viciously beating him. Realizing the case against them had some validity, the pigs resumed and intensified their harassment of this Brother. Finally, they succeeded in charging him with burglary and felony theft. As a result of these trumped-up charges, Johnny spent one year and fifteen months in the Harris County Jail.

The pigs' attempts to murder this Brother did not end here, however. During the July 26th shoot-out which resulted in the police murder of Brother Carl Hampton, Johnny Coward was wounded in the foot by the racist pigs, who had stationed themselves on the rooftops of St. John's Baptist Church. They were there hovering over the people during an out-door community meeting. The blast that tore off half of Johnny's heel was from a shotgun, loaded with Double "O" buckshot ammunition. Johnny Coward, who by now had joined People's Party II (now the Houston Branch of the Black Panther Party), did not let these vicious acts of attempted murder stop him. He continued to serve the people body and soul.

The Houston Police Department was not yet satisfied by blinding Johnny Coward, shooting off half of his foot, or constantly railroading him to jail on fabricated charges. Because of this,

on October 9th, they attempted to murder him. Not only did they shoot him, but, while he lay wounded, viciously beat and kicked him. Ronnie Latson, an eye witness to what actually took place, said that he first heard gun fire. At that point, he said he got out of bed and looked out of his window. Seeing Brother Johnny in the alley between the apartments, Ronnie said he then saw two pigs approach Johnny Coward and shoot him in the side. Ronnie further stated that after shooting him, the two pigs began kicking and beating the Brother, as he lay wounded on the ground. Ronnie, fearing that the pigs would beat the Brother to death, shouted out in defense of Johnny, telling the pigs to leave him alone. One of the pigs responded to Ronnie's protest by yelling, "You come out of that apartment, and you'll get the same thing..."

People began coming out of their homes to investigate. Seeing this, the pigs dragged Johnny through the alley and took him to Ben Taub Hospital, where he remained in critical condition until he was transferred to the County Jail and held in the hospital ward there. He is still there.

This is just another glaring example of how the fascist U.S. state brings down more and more brutality and oppression on the people each day. But Johnny Coward has survived, because he is strong; he lives to fight for the people another day.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE
FREE JOHNNY COWARD
Houston, Texas Branch
Black Panther Party

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THE ATTICA DEFENSE FUND
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c/o BLACK PANTHER PARTY

P.O. BOX 397

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or **ATTICA DEFENSE FUND**

c/o BLACK PANTHER PARTY

P.O. BOX 8641

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