KEEP ON WALKING, KEEP ON TALKING

Since its inception in New Orleans, the Louisiana State Chapter of the Black Panther Party has been under constant attack by the racist state administration of Louisiana. Beginning in the early summer of 1970, when the first office was opened (at 2333 St. Thomas Street, rented from Black alman of J.W. Strougther, under the strings of the fascist owner Judge Bargert), there was a public conspiracy with Governor John McKethen to evict the members of the Party, even after the rent had been paid in full. At that time pig McKethen's exact words were: "They will not get a foothold in this community."

Since that time, the New Orleans Police Department has tried every means in and out of their law books to murder members of the Party and stop the People's Survival Programs. On September 15, 1976, they attempted to murder fourteen members of the Black Panther Party at the People’s office on 3542 Piety Street. After many harassments in jail and attempted railroad in court, the murder attempt was proven unsuccessful, when a People's jury of ten Blacks and two whites voted a unanimous verdict of not guilty.

The New Orleans Police Department (N.O.P.D.) a few months after the September raid made another attempt to murder members of the Party, when they deposed the bodies of priests and a mailman in order to gain entrance to the office at 335 Desire Parkway, on Thanksgiving morning, 1976. Again their murder attempt was unsuccessful. Four of the six members of the Party, who were the victims of that assault, are now on the street (pending a federal gun violation trial on January 23, 1977). The seventh comrade, Larry Jackson, who is facing extradition (to San Francisco) to face trial on an old charge, is still being held pending the federal trial.

McKethen and company have seen, through these examples, that the people will not allow them to use illegality and tricks to railroad members of the community. Therefore, they have changed their tactics. They (the N.O.P.D.) are trying now to eliminate members of the Black Panther Party, one by one. On December 30, 1971, eight or nine burly pigs beat and brutalized Comrade Harold Holmes, the Coordinator of the Louisiana State Chapter of the Black Panther Party, the main office of which is in New Orleans, Comrade Harold is a 5'9", 135 pound brother, yet nine of these low-natured, sadistic pigs beat Harold until he was unconscious.

For the past four weeks, comrades from the Chapter have been arrested on the streets daily, on a variety of trumped-up charges. Comrade Harold, in particular, has been recently arrested nearly every other day, on such charges as interfering with police arrests, resisting arrest, using obscene language, and, even the unbelievable charge of assault on a police officer. After posting the high bond required for these charges, which were all put upon him after an arrest on December 28, 1971, Harold was again immediately arrested. Again he posted bond, for two other charges the pigs found, as he was waking out of the jailhouse. They "found" that he had missed two recent court appearances. This was very true. He was being held by them on the days he was supposed to appear in court. When he finally went to court, a Judge Bossetta dismissed the charges and the detachments for

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the missed court appearances. When Harold left the court to get his belongings from the jail's Central Lockup, he was met and harassed by a racist pig, who decided Harold was not going anywhere. This oversized pig decided he would attack Comrade Harold. When Comrade Harold defended himself, the pig called his buddies, who rushed to his aid to continue this attempted murder. Therefore, nine pigs in all joined in the beating. They kicked Harold about the head, face, groin and legs. Even though the pigs tried to beat Harold to death, they still were unable to count him among the broken men.

Among other wounds, Comrade Harold was believed to have had a fractured jaw bone. When he was taken to New Orleans' Charity Hospital, he was X-rayed. The X-ray confirmed that the Comrade's jaw bone had been broken. However, the hospital personnel refused to give him an treatment. He was then taken to the Flint-Goodridge Hospital, where he was told there was no broken bone. His left eye, however, had been completely closed, his lips had been busted, his face was swollen and badly bruised, and he was bleeding from his ears. He was barely able to walk or talk.

Comrade Harold Holmes is, however, still walking, still talking as he still struggles to bring an end to oppression. As they were unsuccessful in beating down Comrade Harold, they will be unsuccessful in beating down the idea and the action to gain total liberation.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Louisiana State Chapter
Black Panther Party

Nine brutal pigs haven't stopped Harold from walking or talking and struggling to end oppression.