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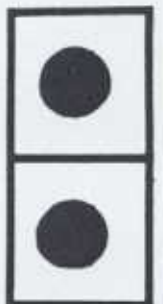
New Orleans- MESSAGE FROM A ROOFTOP



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Vote April 17th
**BOBBY SEALE FOR MAYOR
OF OAKLAND**

**ELAINE BROWN
FOR COUNCILWOMAN**



New Orleans- MESSAGE FROM A ROOFTOP

It is believed in some circles that history places all phenomena in its proper perspective. If this is so then it must be said that the annals of knowledge will record the American Experiment as the most abject failure in man's quest to establish a culture in which reason and compassion prevail.

America amassed its riches and power on the sweat and blood of Black people. It is a violent, merciless country. The psychotic nature of America is of course manifested in its interrelationships with other governments. It is the "American Way" send aid to earthquake victims in Nicaragua, while U.S. B-52's drop thousands of tons of bombs in Vietnam. Domestically, the social order is the most appropriate testimony to the insanity of America's rulers. Racism is an essential part of the sickness that afflicts this country. America's hatred of Black and other non-white people has produced a bloody portrait which the progressive people of the world observe with horror and condemnation. We are the victims of the American Experiment.

What white America cannot comprehend is the law of nature which shows that for every action there is an

equal and opposite reaction. The slavery and oppression that we face in this country gave rise to the Black liberation struggle. Our struggle has won many victories and suffered some setbacks. It has been hindered and divided and has come under many forms of attack from white America, but it cannot be stopped.

Mark James (Jimmy) Essex understood these things and decided to do something in his own way. He grew up in Emporia, Kansas, and after attending school he joined the Navy. It was there that he was awakened to the raw reality of racism. He was harassed and mistreated by Navy police. He acquired a part-time job and for the first time was faced with discriminatory employment practices. He had to request permission to do things which white sailors did freely. The Navy court-martialed Jimmy Essex on charges of being AWOL (absent without authorized leave) and gave him a general discharge. The general discharge and the fact that he was Black later prevented him from obtaining employment. Jimmy was deeply affected by his experiences in the Navy and by the hunger, deprivation and oppression that he returned to face in the Black community.



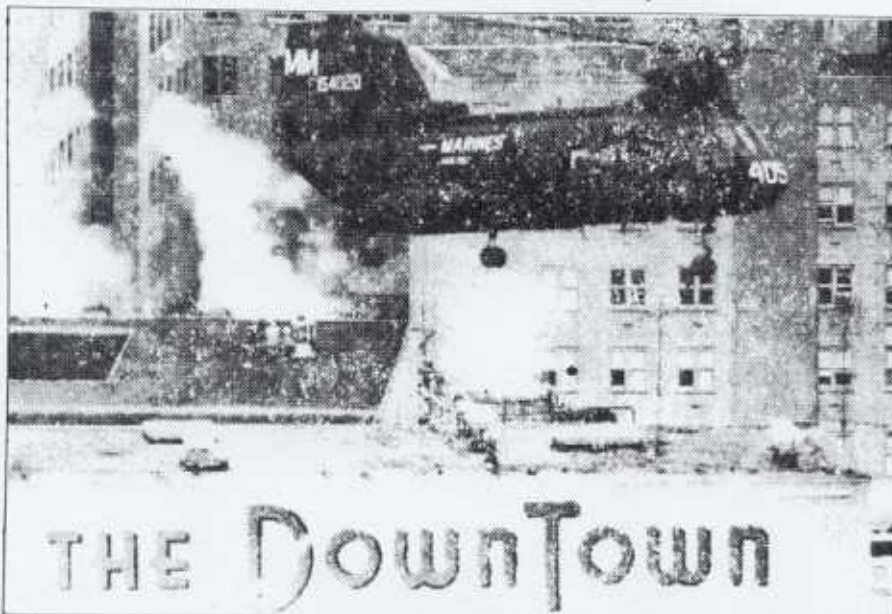
JIMMY ESSEX will be remembered as a fallen victim of America, who delivered a powerful message against racism and oppression.

When he took up residence in New Orleans, Jimmy Essex was a changed man; he had dedicated his life to the struggle for freedom. His desire to take vengeance against the society that has oppressed Black people for 400 years; his desire to receive retribution for the injustices he suffered in the Navy; his need to retaliate for the murders of two Black students at Southern University in Baton Rouge and the murders of countless other Black people; his desire to make overall changes, led Jimmy Essex to the roof of the Howard Johnson Hotel in downtown New Orleans. In his possession was a .44 magnum rifle.

The gun battle which followed lasted 28 hours during which time the city of New Orleans was paralyzed. More than 700 police sealed off the area and surrounded the Howard Johnson Hotel. The police mobilized to carry out a search and destroy mission; to their astonishment they discovered they could not capture the roof. Brother Jimmy's unbelievable accuracy kept the police pinned down for hours. He had stationed himself in a concrete bunker near the edge of the roof; a position that was nearly impregnable. The New Orleans police brought their most sophisticated weapons to the scene; AR-15 automatic rifles and a marine helicopter, equipped with mounted guns.

In the initial stages of the gun battle six people were killed. Three of them were police officers including the Deputy Superintendent of New Orleans police. On several occasions the gunfire became so intense that it was impossible to determine its origin. Later it was concluded that the police

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The New Orleans police brought their most sophisticated weapons to the scene; AR-15 automatic rifles and a marine helicopter, equipped with mounted guns, in order to kill one Black man.

New Orleans- MESSAGE FROM A ROOFTOP

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were in fact shooting at each other. Meanwhile news reports flashed across the nation; a group of Black snipers had taken the roof of New Orleans Howard Johnson Hotel and had begun shooting; their only targets, police and white people. The arrogant police and city officials did not believe that one Black man could immobilize 700 heavily armed police and bring the metropolis of New Orleans to a standstill.

Louisiana Governor Edwin Edwards and State Attorney General William Guste made the usual claims of a national conspiracy. Guste went on to say, "there is an underground, national suicidal group bent on creating terror in America". He also ordered investigations into all the "extremist organizations" in New Orleans. This meant that the police were given license to harass and attack the progressive organizations in the Black community.

Meanwhile, the massive display of



When the police found the courage to storm the rooftop, they only succeeded in wounding five of their own men by shooting wildly, out of fear. The concrete bunker was empty.

police officers and equipment achieved nothing until Jimmy Essex darted out of the bunker and was cut down by the deadly fire of the helicopter's guns. The helicopter continued firing, even after he was obviously dead, with high velocity bullets which damaged his body almost beyond recognition. Jimmy Essex' body lay on the roof for 17 hours as the police continued shooting, assuming that there were other snipers. When the police did find the nerve to storm the rooftop and open the hatches, with their machine guns blazing, there was no one there. The concrete bunker was empty. Thirty officers concentrated their firepower at a utility building, also on the roof, and succeeded in wounding five of their own men with ricocheting bullets. The utility building was also empty. Police superintendent Clarence Giarrusso ordered an intensive room-by-room search of the hotel. This also proved fruitless. The police had been chasing "ghosts". When the shooting finally stopped, Jimmy Essex and six others were dead; seventeen other people were wounded.

There are many theories about the number of snipers involved. Several policemen and one man who was wounded have stated that they saw and exchanged shots with another sniper. This gives rise to the question: If there were other snipers, how did they escape? Jimmy Essex was not insane, he wasn't sick, his mind was not diseased and he definitely was not the fiendish killer that the police portray. The idea that he was part of a conspiracy is absurd. He was simply a 23-year old Black man who could no longer tolerate the anguish and misery that he had seen too much of. In his last desperate



The mother of JIMMY ESSEX: "My Jimmy did not hate the white man. He hated what the white man stood for."

act he was trying to give this country a message. That message was expressed by Mrs. Mark Essex, his mother: "Jimmy wasn't trying to become a martyr. He didn't want to be a hero. He just wanted to change things." She went on to say, "If this terrible thing will awaken white America to the injustices that Black people suffer, then some good will come from it." Jimmy's father, Mark Essex added, "We must cease provoking people to the point that they must seek revenge to get even with society. I blame society." To a question about Jimmy's alleged hatred of white people, Mrs. Essex responded, "My Jimmy did not hate the white man. He hated what the white man stood for."

We will remember Jimmy Essex as a fallen victim of America. His memory will serve as impetus for us as we struggle to bring about a new order. Inevitability is an essential element of cause and effect. If something new comes into being, something old must go out of being. This society has given Black people sufficient cause. It will be too late when America realizes that the effect it has caused is its own demise.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE