

# NEW ORLEANS BLACK CANDIDATES STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL

Larry Jones is a candidate for the House of Representatives in the 97th District, 7th Ward in New Orleans. He is certainly not running for office because of money. As a recent college graduate in the upper 1% of his graduating class, he would be an easy mark for the new thrust of white, capitalist businessmen, looking for a "well-educated" Black man to place in a window and willing to pay a high price for that. He works in the community, by his choice, for \$84.00 a week. He was born and reared in the St. Bernard Projects. Their population is 100% Black. The people in the projects have known Brother Larry all their lives. They are fully behind him and supporting him, because he is a part of them. Larry Jones has proven through practice that he is with the community body and soul. The people have seen by his work in the community that he is truly a people's servant.

The Louisiana State Chapter of the Black Panther Party interviewed Larry one week before election (It will be held November 6, 1971). When asked to comment on the People's Survival Programs that are being instituted by the Black Panther Party, Larry responded with:

"First, I would like to commend the Black Panther Party for accepting the role as the vanguard in the Black community. Anytime we're a minority in a racist society, it becomes obvious that you must develop your own programs, in order that you may determine your own destiny. In America, where we have dilapidated housing, dehumanizing prisons and antiquated welfare programs, it becomes obvious that the oppressor is not about to set you free; that you must procure your freedom on your own. Therefore, I would support any program that is about the business of helping Black folks in determining their own destiny."

QUESTION: Since you have been running for the House of Representatives, Larry, on an all Black ticket, have you been receiving any type of harassment?



BROTHER LARRY JONES

ANSWER: "No, I'm living in the community where I grew up for the last 15 years. I call myself the people's candidate because it is the welfare mothers who are raising money for this campaign, the dope addicts who are passing out leaflets and literature whereby I can win. So, I am the people's candidate. The people are acting as my protector. My campaign Headquarters is adjacent to the St. Bernard Housing Projects (an area that is 100% Black), where unemployment runs rampant at a rate of 35 - 40%, people who are aware of the inequities in a system that breeds racism. And, the people prevent any harassment."

QUESTION: Larry, what led you to endorse an all Black ticket?

ANSWER: "Well, Louisiana is a state where Blacks constitute one-third of the population; a state where we have 105 State representatives and only one Black; a state where there are 39 Senators and no Blacks. And all down the line, Blacks have been denied representation in government. Therefore, it is incumbent upon me to endorse as many Blacks as possible,

whereby we can use the state legislature as a forum to hear out the grievances of the Black community. Also, the Black candidates who are in the race were born out of a concept, a concept that began July 16th and 17th, with a convention in Baton Rouge (Louisiana). It was the first convention of this kind since Reconstruction, whereby Black people throughout the 64 parishes of Louisiana came together in a common cause, to unify the Black vote throughout the State. Therefore, I endorse any candidate who is about the business of unifying Black folks throughout the State, throughout the country and throughout the world. So this is more than an election, it's the coming age of the Black community, the coming of age whereby Black folks will become sophisticated enough, politically, where we can see that white folks historically have been running political games, making all kinds of promises which are never kept. I know we are coming of age where we can see through these types of political dealings. Now we are saying, we are not going to rely on white folks to take care of our business. We are going to start taking care of our business, ourselves. I think that the Black concept is that, So, when Black people go out on election day and vote for Sam Bell for governor, they're really not voting for one man, they are voting for a concept, a concept that provides dignity and respect in the Black community. This is what we are telling white folks: We don't want to deal in that kind of a bag any longer; we are going to deal in a perspective of unifying Black folks around issues. Unifying Black folks to deal with things on our own perspective game plan, and not theirs."

Johnny Jackson, Jr., is another people's candidate running for election in Louisiana, as the representative of District #101, in the lower Ninth and Eighth Wards, a predominantly Black community - (55%). He has, however, been under constant fire and subjected to harassment. This comes from the

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