BILL BOYETTE WANTS NO PART OF THE PEOPLE'S SURVIVAL PROGRAMS

For over a month and a half (since July 31), brothers and sisters from the Black Panther Party and the Black community have picketed Bill's Liquor Store #2 in protest of Bill Boyette's and the Cal-Pac Tivera and Liquor Owners' Association's refusal to make regular weekly donations to the Black Panther Party-sponsored People's Community Survival Programs (See the Black Panther Party Inter-communal News Service, Vol. VI, Nos. 28, 29, 30, dated August 9, 14 and 21, 1971, respectively).

The boycott of his store has been initiated for primarily two reasons: One, because our people's needs as a whole, for survival under the oppressive American system of government -- the need to eat, to have decent clothing and shoes, quality medical care, etc. -- are so great that the programs the Black Panther Party has initiated to alleviate those needs require more help; and that help has to come from our own, our own who are able. Secondly, by contributing even the requested small weekly, minimal amounts, the Black Businessman, who depends upon the Black community for the survival of his business, could return some of his profits to those who deserve and need it -- his community, his neighbors -- and could advance tremendously the need for unity in the Black community.

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However, Bill Boyette still refuses to donate. Momentarily (last week) in a meeting with Huey P. Newton, Servant of the People, he admitted his mistakes and the Boycott of his store was ended. On Tuesday, September 13th, members of the Black community who were beginning to shop at Bill Boyette’s store again, because they thought he had returned to the Black community, were dismayed to find that Boyette had betrayed his family once more. Leaflets were being distributed in his store which denounced the Black Panther Party, the People’s Survival Programs, and the Servant of the People, Huey P. Newton. The community immediately resumed and continued support of the boycott.

Albert McKee, president of the Piedmont Realty Companies of Oakland, along with other Black Businessmen in the Bay Area have formed an “Ad Hoc Committee to Preserve Black Business”. The committee was formed not to defend the Black community, nor to fight the corporate monopolies that victimize and control black businesses as well as the rest of the community, but to preserve black businesses from the People’s control. We find this a sad commentary on the awareness and concern for unity in the community among these Black Businessmen, Bill Boyette, Albert McKee and the rest of those Black Businessmen should have formed an Ad Hoc Committee to preserve the Black Community. Rather than help to build the machinery which could become the liberating force for our oppressed community, they have chosen to be tools of the monopoly capitalist who would continue to divide and oppress our people. These Black Businessmen need not defend themselves from the Black Panther Party or the Black Community, for our fight is not with them.

This Ad Hoc Committee has absurdly
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charged that the Black Panther Party is demanding that only money be donated to the People's Community Survival Programs. This is not the case, for the Black Panther Party has always been willing to accept the actual commodities needed to maintain the People's Survival Programs, in lieu of cash or monetary donations. The contradiction has arisen out of the unwillingness of Bill Boyette, Cal-Pac and now this Ad Hoc Committee to donate either money or commodities, on a regular, weekly basis.

They are still attempting to shrewdly divert the issue. The issue is not the people's request for these small, minimal donations regularly, but their continued and persistent refusal to support, through their contributions, the Attica Defense Fund, the George Jackson People's Free Health Clinic, the Angela Davis Free Food Program, the David Hilliard People's Shoe Factory and the rest of our Community Survival Programs. They are aware that in order for these programs to be maintained and effectively serve the people, such donations are necessary, and they also know that they have only been asked to donate according to their capabilities - a reasonable request. On Friday, September 17th, Albert McKee, representing Bill Boyette and the Ad Hoc Committee, held a press conference at Bill's liquor store pledging continued support to Bill Boyette, but not the People's Survival Programs.

In spite of the refusal of some Black Businesses to donate, there are others who would serve the interests of the people and who are continuing to do so. And, on Saturday, September 18th, the Black Panther Party was able to distribute free women's summer shoes and free food to the people. A Free Food and Free Shoe Rally and press conference was held at the site of Bill's Liquor Store #2, a statement of our continued intent to serve the people and their needs was read by Deputy Minister of Infor-

mation of the Black Panther Party, Elbert Howard.

Bill Boyette glovered from behind his cash register and made malicious statements about the Black Panther Party to the press. He had to make them to the press, for the people were busy trying on their new shoes from the David Hilliard People's Free Shoe Factory and receiving much needed groceries from the Angela Davis People's Free Food Program.

Boyette made the statement that "a leopard can't change his spots..." and "the Black Panther Party is trying to change their image...they were carrying guns and rifles last year...they're just trying to look nice, but we know what they're like." Yes, we are doing the same thing that we did last year and the year before that. The Black Panther Party is continuing to serve the needs and desires of the Black community. The Free Breakfast Program began in November of 1968, and since that time we have built Free Clinics, Free Shoe Factories, Free Food Stores and Free Clothing Programs. We are still determined to defend and serve our community.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE
BUT BILL, WHY DO WE EVEN HAVE TO ASK?

Boyette refuses to donate to the Angela Davis Free Food Program, the David Hilliard Free Shoe Factory, the Attica Defense Fund and the George Jackson Free Clinic, too.

The following is a letter we received from a member of the community in response to Bill Boyette's continued refusal to support the people's community survival programs:

The Black Panther Party boycott against Willie Boyette, owner of Bill's Liquor #1 and #2 in Oakland, has aroused strong, but understandable, reaction from various interested and disinterested segments of the community.

This is a healthy reaction as we've at least achieved some semblance of thought among an otherwise dormant and unconcerned spectator of the poor, the middle class, and of course, the self-styled Black Bourgeoisie.

Much has been said in this particular action of "extortion", "pocket lining" and too, the Minister of Defense... living in the lap of luxury...at the expense of Party members and those whom donations for the Survival programs have been solicited. These are camouflage as they tend to be a verbal jousting match of a very important issue: Hunger.

Does hunger exist in the ghetto? Kids run rat infested streets without shoes? Without clothes? No need for medical care? If the answer to these are "no", then there is no need for a boycott of what genuinely could be described as a parasitical, exploitative Boyette, and those like him around the country.

What Boyette, and those others who feed upon the poor must be taught to realize is that the situation is a two way street; simply put, "it takes some to get some". There is an underlying obligation upon those who can, to see that others do not starve, do not walk ashamed, nor unclothed. More so, those whose very livelihood is benefited from welfare checks, unemployment compensation and strike pay should be highly responsive to the fact that Blacks are "their thing" and, without the system per se their businesses are passe.

Bill Boyette, is typical of Black America--a hard working, lucky Black Cat that happened to be in the "right" place at the right time. Lucky--Lucky indeed--for now Bill sees no difference in exploiting those that can afford his product least--for the sake of profit--then do the distributors who supply him his products aimed specifically at the "biggest" market.

The real question, without rhetorical by-play is responsibility. Does Boyette, and other Boyettes have any responsibility to the poor from whom they extract profits?

Perhaps not, if a Black man doesn't understand the plight of a ghetto dweller, to whom do we address the question. Our common goal, irrespective of motive must be the survival of ourselves. Surely that, within the framework of "Boyette's" understanding, must be economy meaningful.

Bill Boyette cheerfully--as do his counterparts--contribute to the March of Dimes, the United Crusade, and other Tax Deductible Charities if their tax returns are to be believed yet, these organizations are at best, racist, very costly, in terms of administrative expense--and have really no real thrust toward the Black poor community.

The Chamber of Commerce for instance, invites Boyette to participate in "a worthy undertaking" and without the hesitation he responds.

The Black Panther Party invites Boyette to participate in a survival matter and it becomes extortion.

Bill, and all the other Bills, we've got to get together. For your sake as well as ours. We need to plan as do you, a method of feeding kids in an orderly fashion like you eat everyday, they'd like to as well; our position is not quantity, in terms of money, but consistency.

Pocket timing? Rip off? Bill you know the answers--it's convenient for you to hide behind untruths, but why should we even have to ask?