POLICE PETITION

Someone must have touched a nerve ending. Because, ever since the National Committee to Combat Fascism filed their Community Control over Police Petition a couple of weeks ago, the Gazette has been gossipedly attacking the Berkeley youth culture. The petition itself is of course the Gazette as a continuation of what the youth culture stands for. It is the first step in a long-range plan to turn Berkeley into the nation's first "Marxist-Leninist" city.

Armaged with questions taken from the Gazette, comments from people I know who have reservations about voting for the Community Control Amendment, I want to present six arguments against the police department plan.

As for the police, the police are a "sink" into the dark ages, a return to the "scollot system" and control by an elite. How do you respond to this?

As for the police, the police are a "sink" into the dark ages, a return to the "scollot system" and control by an elite. How do you respond to this?

As for the police, the police are a "sink" into the dark ages, a return to the "scollot system" and control by an elite. How do you respond to this?

As for the police, the police are a "sink" into the dark ages, a return to the "scollot system" and control by an elite. How do you respond to this?

As for the police, the police are a "sink" into the dark ages, a return to the "scollot system" and control by an elite. How do you respond to this?

As for the police, the police are a "sink" into the dark ages, a return to the "scollot system" and control by an elite. How do you respond to this?
SUMMARY OF BERKELEY POLICE CONTROL AMENDMENT

This amendment to the City Charter would give control of the police to community elected neighborhood councils so that those whom the police should serve will be able to set police policy and standards of conduct.

The amendment provides for community control of the police by establishing separate police departments for the three major communities in Berkeley: the Black community, the campus community and the predominantly white area. The departments would be separate and autonomous. They can by mutual agreement use common facilities. Each department will be administered by a full-time police commissioner(s). The commissioners are selected by a Neighborhood Police Control Council of fifteen members from that community elected by those who live there.

The Councils shall have the power to discipline officers for breaches of Department policy or violations of law. They may direct their police Commissioner to make changes in Department-wide policy. The Council can recall the Commissioner appointed by it at any time it finds that he is no longer responsive to the community. The community can recall the Council members when they are not responsive to it.

All police officers must live in the Department they work in.

MAP OF PROPOSED BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENTS
CAUTION! DO NOT CIRCULATE THIS PETITION UNTIL YOU HAVE READ CAREFULLY
THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW:

1. Do not circulate this Petition UNLESS YOU ARE A REGISTERED VOTER IN THE CITY OF
BERKELEY.

2. Do not allow a person unknown to you to sign until such person has first answered YES to
the question: "Are you a registered voter in Berkeley?"

3. Do not permit any person to circulate this Petition for you. Each signature must be se-
cured by the person making affidavit on the last signature page that all signatures were obtained
in his or her presence. After you start to circulate this Petition no one else may take over your
job.

4. Do not leave this Petition in an office, plant or home to be signed in your absence. All
signatures must be made in your presence.

5. Circulators must not write anything in any column on the signature pages, except that
circulator may sign his or her name once in the regular manner as a signer of the Petition.

6. When soliciting signatures have a fountain pen or indelible pencil along for convenience
of signers.

7. EACH SIGNER OF THIS PETITION MUST:
   (a) In the first column write his or her name EXACTLY as the signer is registered. A
married woman must sign her own given name. For example: Mary M. Smith
must so sign, and not write Mrs. John J. Smith. Mr. Smith must sign John J. Smith,
and not merely J. J. Smith. The Smith's unmarried daughter must sign her full given
name, using her title Miss. In short, the Petition must be signed exactly as each
person's name appears on the registration rolls.
   (b) In the second column write street and number of residence. Do not permit dittos.
Post Office Boxes are not allowed.
   (c) In the third column write the day and month of signing. The date may be abbreviated.
As an example, January 1 should be written like this, 1/1 or Jan. 1. Do not permit
dittos.
   (d) PUT NOTHING IN THE LAST COLUMN MARKED PRECINCT. Leave that column blank.
   (e) Do not permit signers to use ditto ("") marks any place. Ditto ("") marks are illegal.

8. This Petition and all its Sections (any printed form identical with what you are now
reading is legally termed a "Section") in its entirety of pages and all of them are to be
returned to the sponsor (name and address below) so that further provisions of the law
applying to Initiative Petitions may be carried out.

9. IT IS A FELONY FOR ANY PERSON TO WRITE ANY NAME IN THIS PETITION OTHER
THAN HIS OR HER OWN. A husband may not sign for his wife -- nor a wife for a husband --
nor for any other member of the family -- nor for any other person.

10. When you have secured all your signatures, take this Petition to any Notary Public, or to
any officer authorized to administer oaths, and execute the Circulator's Affidavit. Under
Article IV, Section 1, of the California Constitution, the affidavit of any person soliciting
signatures hereunder shall be verified free of charge by any officer authorized to administer
oaths. A Notary Public can usually be found conveniently located in your neighborhood in most
real estate or lawyers' offices, or at banks.

After the petition is notarized return at once to:

Peace and Freedom Movement                   Black Panther Party
2214 Grove Street                            4421 Grove Street
Berkeley, California                         Oakland, California
A Community Service Officer would be assigned to deal with any number of community problems. He could function both as a police representative, and/or service officer who would be concerned about identifying and working through crime producing situations.
Berkeley Petition For 'Cop Control'

A group of Berkeley citizens yesterday presented petitions asking that a plan for "community control of police" be placed on the November ballot.

Under the plan, Berkeley would be divided for police purposes into three zones — largely white, black and campus areas. Each zone would have its own police department, governed by a police control council elected by zone residents.

In addition, all police officers would be required to live in the zone where employed. At the present time, the police department has no residency requirements.

SIGNERS

According to Mrs. Cec Levinson, of the National Committee to Combat Fascism, which sponsored the drive, more than 15,000 registered Berkeley voters have signed the petitions. It takes approximately 10,000 signatures to place an issue on the city ballot.

Mrs. Levinson told a crowd of about 50 that gathered at Berkeley City Hall for the presentation of the petitions at "this proposal is a way to achieve power for the people."

"If this proposition passes in November," she said, "for the first time the people will be able to control the police. For the first time, the police will serve the community, not control it."

HAYDEN

Tom Hayden, founder of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), said in a brief speech that "this plan is a last chance of those who say they want peaceful change."

"If this proposition wins, we won't have the police calling in Frank Madigan (the Alameda County Sheriff). If Madigan comes in, we'll be able to arrest him."

He was cheered.

PROFESSOR

Anthony Platt, professor of criminology at the University of California's Berkeley campus, also spoke at the rally for the proposal.

"Under this plan, civilian control of police will finally be achieved," he said.

He said passage of the proposal would aid police morale.
Nation's eyes are on Berkeley as police control up for vote

(First of a Series)
BY JUDY BASTON

BERKELEY — When residents of the city go to the polls April 6, they will vote on what is perhaps the most radical and far-reaching proposal for community organization ever to be on a municipal ballot.

Up for a vote in Berkeley is the issue of community control and decentralization of police, and there are strong indications that vote is being watched by community activists and police personed nationally.

There is the feeling that as Berkeley helped pioneer much of the student protest era with the 1964 Free Speech Movement, it could also indicate a direction for the future with this police proposal.

An investigator for the Justice Dept.'s Crime Commission who is touring the nation to investigate police community relations said recently that in every place he has gone, from Pittsburgh, Pa., to Des Moines, Iowa, people are talking about the Berkeley measure.

The measure would divide Berkeley into three basic communities, the black community, the campus area community, and the hill area north of the campus. These are basic definitions, not total distinctions.

For example, the black community flatlands area of the proposal is about one-fourth white; the campus area contains students, street people and many older Berkeley residents.

People in each of these areas would set police policy and conduct through police councils. Based on their population, these councils would include 15 persons, elected from 15 different precincts, areas that would be a little larger than current voting precincts. The black and hill areas would have two such councils — and the campus area, which is smaller, one council.

Councils would choose commissioners to carry out the day to day policy matters. Two commissioners would be from the black area, two from the hills and one from the campus. These commissioners would assume many of the current functions of the police chief.

Each council would create grievance machinery for complaints against the police and will have disciplinary powers over members of the department in that district.

Perhaps the most significant feature of the proposal is the requirement that each police officer must live in the area he or she serves. Currently all but 35 Berkeley police officers live outside the city.

MORE FAMILIAR

Living in the communities would, backers of the measure say, make the police more familiar with the community’s problems, as well as more hesitant about indiscriminate, arbitrary arrests of persons among whom he lives.

The budget would still be appropriated by the city council, and distributed to the three departments on the basis of how many persons reside in the areas they cover. Agreement between the three departments for operation, maintenance and staffing would be possible, as would be possible, as would sharing of equipment and laboratories.

The amendment would also make it possible to maintain or cancel any of the department’s existing agreements with groups such as military intelligence, the county sheriff’s department, the FBI or CIA.

Most opponents of the measure have chosen as their target elements of the proposal’s structure — they claim the boundaries are inaccurate on this or that street, the proposal would be awkward to implement, it would be costly, etc. But some heavy artillery of political rhetoric has also been turned against the measure.

A group calling itself One Berkeley Community — with Mayor Wallace Johnson as chairman and the city’s Negro vice mayor Wilmont Sweeney as a co-chairman — wrote a letter to Berkeley attorneys calling the measure “an invitation to anarchy . . . an instrument dedicated to destruction, in the same anarchistic sense as the bombing of a building.”

Other critics of the measure accuse it of promoting separatism, and creating differences where there are none, ignoring the essential distinctions between communities that do exist in Berkeley.

DELLUMS BACKING

Rep. Ron Dellums (D-Berkeley-Oakland), is helping lead the campaign for the proposal, and has directed his attention to the claims the proposal would create false boundaries:

“We already live in a nation that has at least 4,400 police jurisdictions, and it poses no problem,” Dellums said. “You travel through Emeryville or Oakland, or El Cerrito or Albany or Piedmont, and there are no barbed wire fences, no ‘checkpoint Charles’.

“We already have a heavy artillery of political rhetoric,” Dellums emphasized, “it was involved in the historic discrimination of housing patterns in the city of Berkeley, discrimination in the economics of the community, and the educational levels of our community.”

Fifteen thousand people signed the petition to get the measure on the ballot, Dellums emphasized, and “any time 15,000 people move in the same direction, it is the responsibility of the community and the leadership to listen very carefully to what is being said . . . .”

(Next week: a look at the campaign)