

HUEY IS MY BROTHER TOO!

By Cec Levinson

This is the first in a series of articles on Huey P. Newton and the Black Panther Party: their relevance to, effect on and possible and inevitable consequences to the future of the white as well as the Black and "Third World" communities. "Third World" is used here not as a political entity, but as an identification of oppressed colonial peoples.



On October 28, 1967, in Oakland, Calif. a white cop shot a Black man. (Nothing new happens all the time in these United States.) The Black man was then arrested for shooting the cop. (Same old American story; except this time the cop was dead and the white folks got real uptight about THAT.) The Black man's name was Huey P. Newton. (WHO?) He was Minister of Defense of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense. (WHAT?) In October, 1967, very few people knew the answers to these questions.

Today, little more than one year later, the Black Panther Party is known throughout the world, and deeply revered in colonial and liberated, formerly colonial countries; Eldridge Cleaver is a household word, and the names Huey Newton and Bobby Seale are familiar in homes from coast to coast. Why? Why is it that in one year, a small group of young Black men from Oakland, Calif. grew into an internationally known organization with nearly 50 chapters and thousands of non-affiliated people thinking, sometimes shouting, "RIGHT ON!" And why is it this organization of all the radical groups springing up across the country that has been singled out by the Establishment, through their legalistically brutal arm, "the court system" and their militarily brutal arm, the police, for a frontal attack? And why, finally, did it all begin with Huey P. Newton? It wasn't - isn't - the guns, the arming for self-defense; it isn't the phony "black racist" charge. It is something infinitely more powerful, more compelling, more persuasive. What? The answer is simple, frightening, and will, one day, be studied as part of American history, exemplifying the behavior of a dying society fighting for its life.

Huey P. Newton is a MAN! A man dreaded by his enemies because he is a powerful enemy. A man beloved by his friends, by his people; a man loving of his friends, of his people. Huey Newton is a man, inherently complex; but within that complex are two outstanding components, the combination of which spells death to oppression, to capitalism; a combination which instills fear, hatred in the inwards of the colonizer; - love,

dedication in the hearts of the colonized.

Huey Newton is a political being; a man born of the people and committed to them. He is knowledgeable in the ways of the enemy, in the system of the enemy, in the tactics and politics of the enemy. He is a revolutionary! He knows that only by dealing a death blow to the enemy and its economic-political system can freedom be attained and retained by the people. He knows that only when the basic means of production are clasped firmly in the unyielding hands of the working people can those people determine their own destiny, write the guidelines of their lives and guarantee the freedom necessary for the future of their children. Huey Newton knows that only a socialistic form of government can insure these ideals, and he is committed to the formation of such a society. This alone makes him dangerous to the forces who rape profits sown by the labor and talents of the working people, who keep the white worker "in hand", non-protesting, through a vicious network of carefully conceived and cleverly publicized lies of "white superiority", (Color that RACISM) and national supremacy, Color that BLOODY PATRIOTISM). This alone is enough to terrify them into silencing him, those who bleed to death colonial peoples, the Black Colony, here. By God! What do "they" want? Are they not better off than other colonial peoples? Are they not satisfied with Thurgood Marshall, with Sidney Poitier, with JULIA? Huey's voice is heard thunderingly; NO! We will never be satisfied with starvation, with tokenism, with slow, torturous psychological death, with physical murder, with GENOCIDE! We will be heard! We will fight! We will win! -- HOW?

Huey knows the answer to that question, and it is this that makes him not only dangerous, but deadly. The answer is simple and Huey knows that; the answer is obvious and Huey knows that, too. The answer is inherent in the one force, the only force that can change that HOW? to NOW! The People! An organized people, a fighting people; a people dedicated to change, to the overthrow of ALL oppression, all tyranny; a people knowing that it is they who can, who must

govern themselves; a people knowledgeable in the politics of capitalistic oppression, recognizing it in all its subtle forms; a people knowing that their destinies are one with the working peoples of the world; with the colonized peoples of the world; a people ready for and committed to - REVOLUTION.

And Huey knows something more, Huey knows how to bring that message to the people. Huey knows how to talk with the brothers and sisters on the street and make them understand that their lives are intertwined with the lives of all oppressed people and that it is only they - themselves - who can change this system which, in truth, oppresses - ALL.

Yes, this stifling, dead capitalism imprisons the minds of all who come under its influence. No one is truly free. NO ONE! Who can honestly say that He has made the choice of where to live when where he lives has been determined for him by the prejudices hammered into him since his birth? Who can claim, "I do as I choose and go where I choose with whom I choose" when all of his so-called "choices" have been chosen for him by his parents, his schools, his churches - all programmed by the gigantic capitalistic computer to do as its feeders demand? How many of us work at a job which best uses our talents, to which we can give freely because we're happy with it? Few! Our jobs are chosen for us by the "success values" instilled in us by this same insidious computer. We are all computerized - to think, or more correctly, not to think, but to ACCEPT what the system NEEDS from us for its own propagation. We are programmed from the moment we are born to accept what we read, what we are taught in the compulsory computerized institutions, what we hear from our parents (programmed a generation before). We were, indeed, in danger of fulfilling the prophecy of that beautiful longshoreman-poet, Mike Quinn, of becoming MUGWAMPS; unthinking animals, crawling on all fours, mindless beings, doing our "job" for the continuation of the system in which only a very few chosen ones, (carefully nurtured through artificial insemination, perhaps) were permitted the luxury

of walking on 2 feet.

But there came along a new generation of minds that questioned, that fought the computer, that thought, then whispered, then screamed, "THERE MUST BE SOMETHING BETTER!" and a young Black man, Huey P. Newton, who carried a gun and evolved a philosophy and a program, who said (and the people felt it), "I am ready to die so that my people will be free", and The Black Panther Party which said, "Think! Study! Organize!" And the people listened.

We ask the question: Why has The Black Panther Party ignited the imagination and rekindled the hopes of the Black people of this country, and an increasing number of whites? There have always been answers to the questions posed by oppressed and colonized peoples. Dr. W.E.B. DuBois had the answers and they were correct; Paul Robeson sacrificed a life of wealth and fame to bring his answers to the people and they were correct. Huey Newton studied the teachings of these men and of others: Marx and Garvy, Malcolm and Che and Mao and when they became one with his own life, with his experience and knowledge of the Black Colony, he had a program and that program related directly to the lives of the people, so that they could understand and accept it. And he built a political party to organize and carry out that program and the people accepted and looked to that Party for leadership.

When Huey Newton and Bobby Seale sat down to formulate a program, a guide to action for The Black Panther Party, they did it armed with theory and knowledge and love - and one thing more; an understanding of the brother and sister on the street, the people without whom there would be no change; the people who would educate and organize and ultimately fight the revolution; the people who inevitably would win and then, with victory, would design and build the new society; and it is that society, that new world in which we will fulfill the prophecy of Che Guevara: "WE SHALL MAKE THE MAN OF THE 21st CENTURY: WE OURSELVES."

