

# WORKERS STRIKE TO CURE KAISER HOSPITAL

workers had to take to the streets. Kaiser Hospital's only concern has always been how much profit it could pull in for itself. The welfare of its workers and patients always ran a poor second and third to this.

Kaiser Hospital has a long history of exploiting its workers, and denying medical treatment to the Black, poor and oppressed community of Oakland. Money, above medical care, is the Kaiser motto and its practice. It is no different than any other racist hospital in America; they all operate in the same way.

Because the Black Panther Party supports the struggle of exploited workers, the Party participated, along with many community people, on July 5th, 1972, in the picket lines the striking Kaiser workers had formed. The Chairman of the Black Panther Party, Bobby Seale, and Minister of Information, Elaine Brown, led a group of community people and Panthers, all carrying signs in support of the Kaiser Hospital workers who had walked off their jobs, in the picketing, and then held a press conference. The Chairman said:

"As a candidate for Mayor of Oakland, I and Elaine Brown go forth to demand that the second class citizenship treatment that the Kaiser office workers are receiving from the money rich racist bosses of Kaiser be ended and that the community at large stand in support of the full demands of the workers. They were forced to walk off their jobs and strike. The major issues of dispute are:

- \*Seniority Rights
- \*Union Pension Plan; A Better Plan at No Extra Cost to the Employer
- \*Sick Leave
- \*Adequate Health Plan and Dental Care
- \*Maternity Leave Benefits
- \*Job Protection Against Loss of Work by Subcontracting
- \*Rights of Members to Have Steward Representation

"Kaiser has refused to provide its clerical employees with the comparable benefits given to salaried employees. The workers refuse to be treated as second class employees and we candidates for city offices of Oakland fully support them, one with the community people. Too long have we, the many millions, stood idle and let the racist exploiters of Kaiser, and others, treat workers and community people as degraded, second class citizens, even when employed and unemployed."

In closing, Chairman Bobby told  
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CHAIRMAN BOBBY AND ELAINE BROWN held a press conference in support of the exploited Kaiser Hospital workers.



The Black Panther Party, in unity with the striking Kaiser workers, offered to man the picket lines with 500 people.

There has been a workers' strike in progress at the Oakland Kaiser Foundation Hospital, located at Broadway Street and MacArthur Boulevard, in Oakland, California. The strike, conducted by about 900 members of

the Office and Professional Employees' Union, Local 29, was called in answer to Kaiser Hospital's unwillingness to meet the demands of its workers. This is not a surprising development, the fact that Kaiser

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the striking Kaiser Hospital workers that, whenever they requested, the Black Panther Party would man the ticket lines with 500 people.

Ironically, just as the press conference ended, a sister by the name of Brenda Hudson came up to Chairman Bobby and Elaine Brown, and spoke of the racist treatment she had just received from Kaiser Hospital. Sister Brenda Hudson had gone to Kaiser Hospital to receive treatment for a very bad recurring headache. She was told by a hospital official that she could not receive treatment here (although she has the "almighty" Kaiser Card), and that Kaiser Hospital was only taking in "extreme emergency cases", such as heart attack victims. Sister Hudson had been going back and forth to Kaiser Hospital until July 5th, when they decided to discontinue her treatment. In all

the time that she has gone there, she has not received one x-ray of her head, which means (other than the fact that the hospital has no concern for her life), that they cannot even diagnose what is wrong with her.

Brenda Hudson's headaches began at the end of last year, when she was involved in a car accident, her head having gone through the car windshield. Kaiser Hospital refused to see her then, even though she had Kaiser Hospital coverage. Instead, Brenda wound up going to Highland County Hospital, in Oakland, which is really no better than Kaiser.

So now, Kaiser Hospital says it is only treating "emergency cases", but they have never really treated Black and poor people in the first place. The Kaiser Hospital racist administration is turning patients away during the workers' strike to confuse the people. They want the people to

believe that it is the striking Kaiser Hospital workers' fault that they cannot receive medical attention, in order to create a division in the community, so that the Kaiser workers will not have community support. The insanity of this is that it is the hospital workers that are on strike, not the racist doctors. They are still at Kaiser, waiting for the strike to end, so that they can resume making big money profits. The Kaiser Hospital strike is nearing completion, a tentative settlement having been reached between Kaiser Hospital and Union Local 29 Kaiser employees, on the night of July 8th, 1972.

We hope that all of the striking workers' demands are met. If not, and they decide to continue the strike, we further hope that the oppressed community, in general, will stand in unity with them.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE