

INTERVIEW WITH MASAI

EVO: Not long ago, you and Chairman Bobby Seale went on a lecture tour in the Scandinavian countries. What can you tell me about this? Masai: It was quite an educational trip. We found that most whites and blacks had an erroneous set of ideas about the Black Panther Party. Everyone was convinced that we were racists. They didn't understand that we were a political party. They thought that at worst we were a gang, at best a self-defense group. For us the trip was very educational and the reception we received was very good as far as the broad masses were concerned. The governments weren't quite as happy and therefore we had pigs follow us wherever we went. Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. Even though the governments were pretty uptight about our visit, there weren't any overt objections. The US Government did try to prevent the trip by delaying my passport. Even though in the beginning we were being considered a racist bunch of lunatics and strictly a-political, it was worthwhile because people were so misinformed about the Black Panther Party in particular and the struggle of the black people in America in general. They didn't know if there was leadership and weren't aware of the masses having a say at all. The fact that Stokely Carmichael had been there a month before us and confused things because of his deviations from the Party line, blowing at rampant racism and cultural nationalism. This was especially confusing to the representatives of the various revolutionary groups represented in the Scandinavian countries.

EVO: Isn't Stokely Carmichael the Prime Minister of the Black Panther Party? Masai: He is still the Prime Minister and no official steps against him have been taken as yet. The things we learned give some indication that his deviations might be quite serious. An investigation of this is taking place. EVO: You are talking about the confusion abroad regarding the Black Panther Party's position. Surely you are aware that the same exists here. You are being lumped together with the various cultural nationalists - the La Roy Joneses, the Karingas, the Muslims. It seems that all too few people are aware of your political stance - to quote Eldridge - "For a black man it is far more important to read Marx rather than learn Swahili." This is not known to many and I think it is necessary to enlighten people as to exactly where the Black Panther Party stands. At what point did this involvement occur? Since when was Mao's Red Book quoted as the Party's guideline and your own racist position put forth?

Masai: What you said is correct, from the Party's inception these were our guidelines. We had our 10-point Platform and Program and Chairman Mao's Quotations. Our mottoes were taken from the Red Book. We had both long before we had any guns. Through practice we proved that we worked with every group that was willing to work for just causes for the broad masses of people. The inherent contradictions built into the so-called Black Liberation struggle weren't quite obvious then to many people. Without study it would be impossible for them to understand it. But the Party studied the Red Book since its inception.

EVO: Would you mind going into the 10-point Program? Masai: Our's is not a sterile program. We see the need to keep it a living creative thing because it comes from the people. The people's needs and knowledge are constantly progressing to a higher level. Point 1 - we want freedom. We want the power to determine the destiny of our black community.

Point 2 we want full employment for our people.

Point 3 we want an end to the robbery by the white man of our black community. About two months ago tricky Dick Nixon, the punk slazy coward that he is, came up with a little cancerous scheme that he called Black Capitalism. Now we are hip to this we ain't going for it either. We want to put an end to the robbery by the capitalists - no matter

what his color. Black, white, pink, purple, striped or polka dot. They think they can change the conditions. They are crazy. We are not mechanical, one sided or superficial. Our program is based on realities, on dialectical materialism, the basic needs and desires of the people. We use it that way and apply it in the same manner. When they try to change things around and stick Black Capitalism on us, it won't work either. You see one of the places they specifically want to make a bastion of Black Capitalism, just happens to be Oakland, Calif. We know this isn't a coincidence either.



Point 4 we want decent housing fit for the shelter of human beings, not underprivileged animals.

Point 5 we want education for our people that exposes the true dearest nature of American society. We want education that teaches us our true history and our role in present day society. This doesn't mean that we are hung up in Black Studies either. That's a new trick bag. We don't mean to get hung up studying Swahili for the next 16 semesters while we are being oppressed, suffer unemployment, low paying jobs, high taxes, high cost of living, war after war and police brutality. Just because they want to send us to school on a federal grant to get deep off into African studies, which has nothing to do with the hell we catch every day. On our trip we talked with many brothers from Africa, brothers who are actively involved in revolutionary struggles. These brothers are not hung up in Swahili or Arabic, nor are they running around like 17th century Zulu warriors. These brothers are trying as hard as they can to get deep into Marxism-Leninism and put it into practice. Very few of the African brothers that we met had what could be called a "Natural Hair". They just had hair. You couldn't call it one of those custom tailored natural heads. They never spoke Swahili and every time we told them that there were brothers here studying Swahili for the revolution, they burst out laughing. To them it was the funniest thing they ever heard. We say we want education that teaches us our true history and our role in society. The only role for a slave is to revolt. The only role for the oppressed is revolution.

Point 6 we want all black men to be exempt from military service. It is not that we only worry about black men. It is just that everybody else is saying "Hell no we won't go!". If there is one thing that the mother country radicals don't need it is help to stay out of the draft. They have already spoken for themselves. Various ethnic revolutionary groups such as the Mexican-American Brown Berets, the Chinese-American Red Guards, the Indian-American NACP and others have programs similar to ours because ours is a universal program. Our program was written specifically with the basic needs and desires of the black people in mind, but as I said it is really universal. Everybody who wants it can have it. It isn't the program of the Black Panther Party because we dreamed it up. It is so because it came from the people and as I said this was before we had guns.

EVO: Would you mind going into what became the central focal point in the current wave of rebellions in the colleges - namely the demand for Black Studies pro-

gram? Masai: The movement toward Black Studies in colleges and other Black cultural programs have become a fixation. At one point in the revolutionary development of our people it was a revolutionary step. Instead of taking it as a beginning step many of the cultural nationalist opportunist bootlicking onwads and freaks have latched on to it. Federally financed culture we don't need. There is hardly going to be a federally financed revolution. Most of the cats that propagate Black nationalism in the streets practice integration between the sheets. They support the worst kind of idealism. They and their society will inevitably become more and more reactionary. The education will not be relevant unless the masses will have community control over the institutions within that community. An outside teacher, no matter how well intentioned or how black oriented, cannot come in and teach the working class anything relevant to their own class struggle. That's what the struggle is, a class struggle, not a race struggle. If a bourgeois grad, a Negro with all the credentials from Fisk and Howard comes in, he cannot tell the field niggers anything about solving their problems. He hardly knows them, let alone help them. Education has to be revolutionary or it isn't relevant. Black Study programs, as approved by the different State school boards is nowhere near revolutionary. As a matter of fact it is a reactionary fixation trying to take the cultural throwback to 200 years ago.

EVO: How do you feel about the psychedelic culture?

Masai: I am opposed to any kind of idealism and metaphysical moonism or spookism. I am opposed to getting caught up in wishes and dreams. I don't think that psychedelic trips kill pigs. One may get loaded every now and then but the Party relates to what the masses relate to. We know that the system propagates psychedelic bullshit like they propagate racism because it is a throwback. It hampers and hinders the masses in their struggle toward a truly revolutionary consciousness. The cats that have the conviction that if everybody gets loaded on acid things will be alright, couldn't be more off base. From practice we have reached the conclusion that things don't necessarily get alright. We don't have the time for it. We experienced it. We got as high as we wanted to but we still know that we had the bloodsucking businessman, the demagogic politician and the racist pig cop on our backs. Changing our consciousness did not change objective reality. If anything it fucks up one's shooting eye. Therefore for us psychedelics are more of a hang up than help.

I heard a lot of mother country radicals say that they got hip through psychedelics. I say they got hip through nightsticks up at the demonstrations, through being beaten for having long hair, through being jailed because of their beards. They got hip through objective reality, through social practice and especially through the practice of class struggle, not psychedelics. EVO: Do you oppose a man's right to get stoned whenever he wants to, irrelevant of his political ideology? Masai: No, we wouldn't dispute that right by any means. People's right to get stoned. Just that the Black Panther Party is an organization that demands and must have at all times compact organization and strict discipline. We know that this is impossible on trips. Those out there that want to kill pigs by throwing flowers at them - that's up to them. We have different means and tactics to make the pigs act in a desired manner.

Point 7 we want an immediate end to police brutality and the murder of black people. The reason this is spelled out is that until last year many people thought that we were exaggerating. They said "sure pigs brutalize black people a little bit, but it isn't as bad as you say." But then what went down here in Chicago looked like the charging Light Brigade and this time got the white fellows. And then the shit hit the fan. The middle class was really shook up. There were their sons

and daughters getting their heads caved in. It was 500000 outrageous but it wasn't news to us. We are hip to the educational process.

What you are getting is a cram course. We went through the process for 200 years. Now the white middle class and the intellectual radicals are getting their cram course in instant oppression. It manifests itself in its highest form in pig brutality. As I said before - ours is a universal program and the oppressed white will have to reach the same conclusions as we did - sooner or later. Point 8 we want freedom for all the Blacks held in Federal, State CI

City and County prisons and jails. Once again we were accused of being one sided, which isn't true. The thing we know is that none of us ever had a fair trial. It is impossible the way the court system is set up. We also know that pretty much of the same applies to the working class whites because this is a class society. Point 9 we want all black people brought to trial to be tried by a jury of their peers, members of their own black community, as defined in the constitution, it might be best to use the paper it is written on as toilet paper so that the whole country can wipe its ass with it. As far as social practice is concerned, it ain't worth shit. Point 10 in summation - we want bread, land, housing, education, clothing, justice and peace. Our main political objective is a UN supervised plebiscite in which only black colonial subjects will be allowed to participate for the purpose of determining their national destiny. If people aren't hip

politically they question the word "colonial". The ghettos are colonies and are occupied by a pig occupying force. They may call it city police or county sheriffs but in reality they all are an occupying army.

We don't need such abstract notions as integration or separation. It is impossible to integrate the slave with the slave master. Neither is it possible to separate the oppressor from the oppressed without destroying the essence of each. If you really want to get rid of slaves - the greatest and easiest way is to kill the slave master.

EVO: Do you consider yourselves as equals with your fellow conspirators?

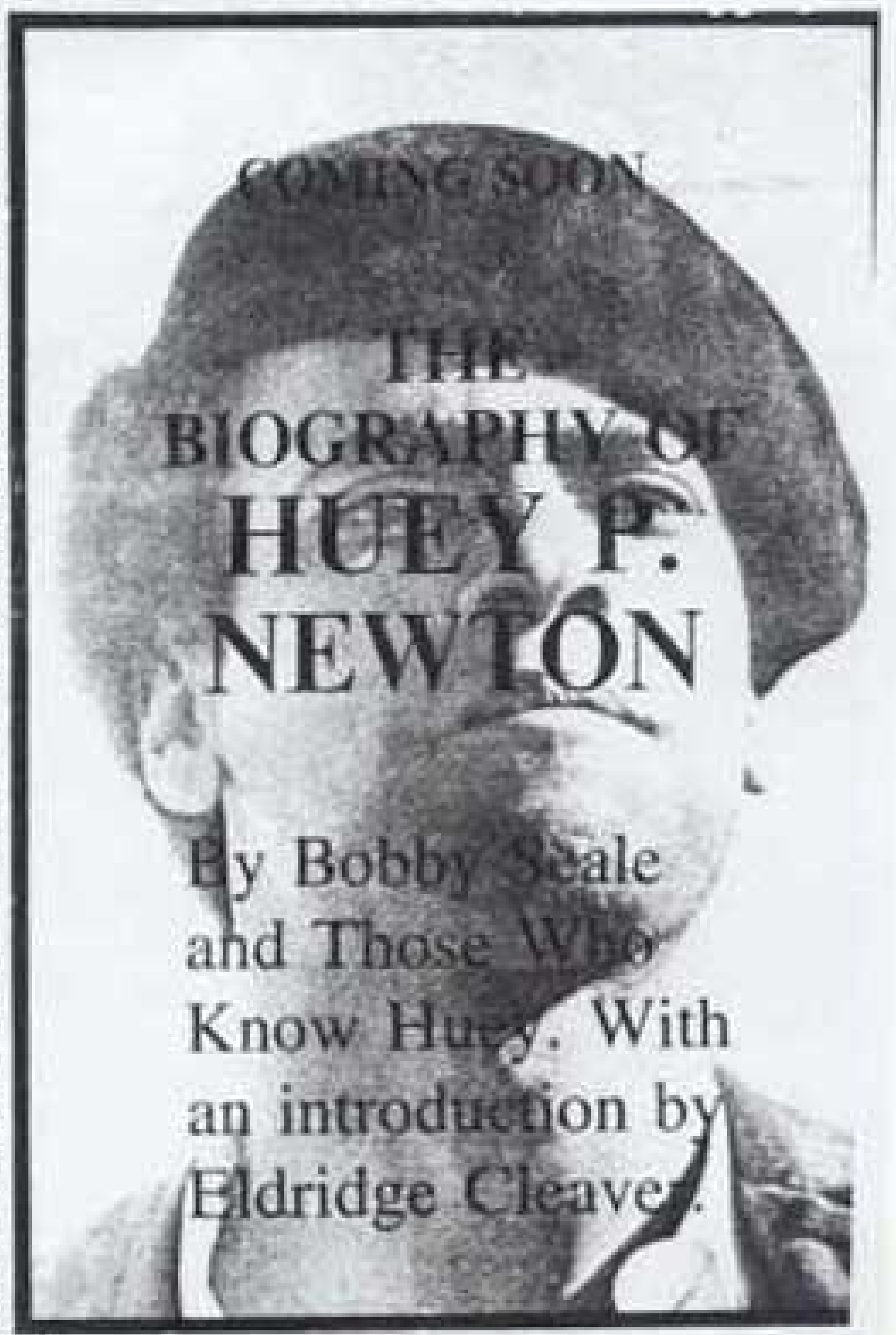
Masai: No we don't, reality points to that. We take the score and see pigs and Panthers going down. We do see a lot of other people getting

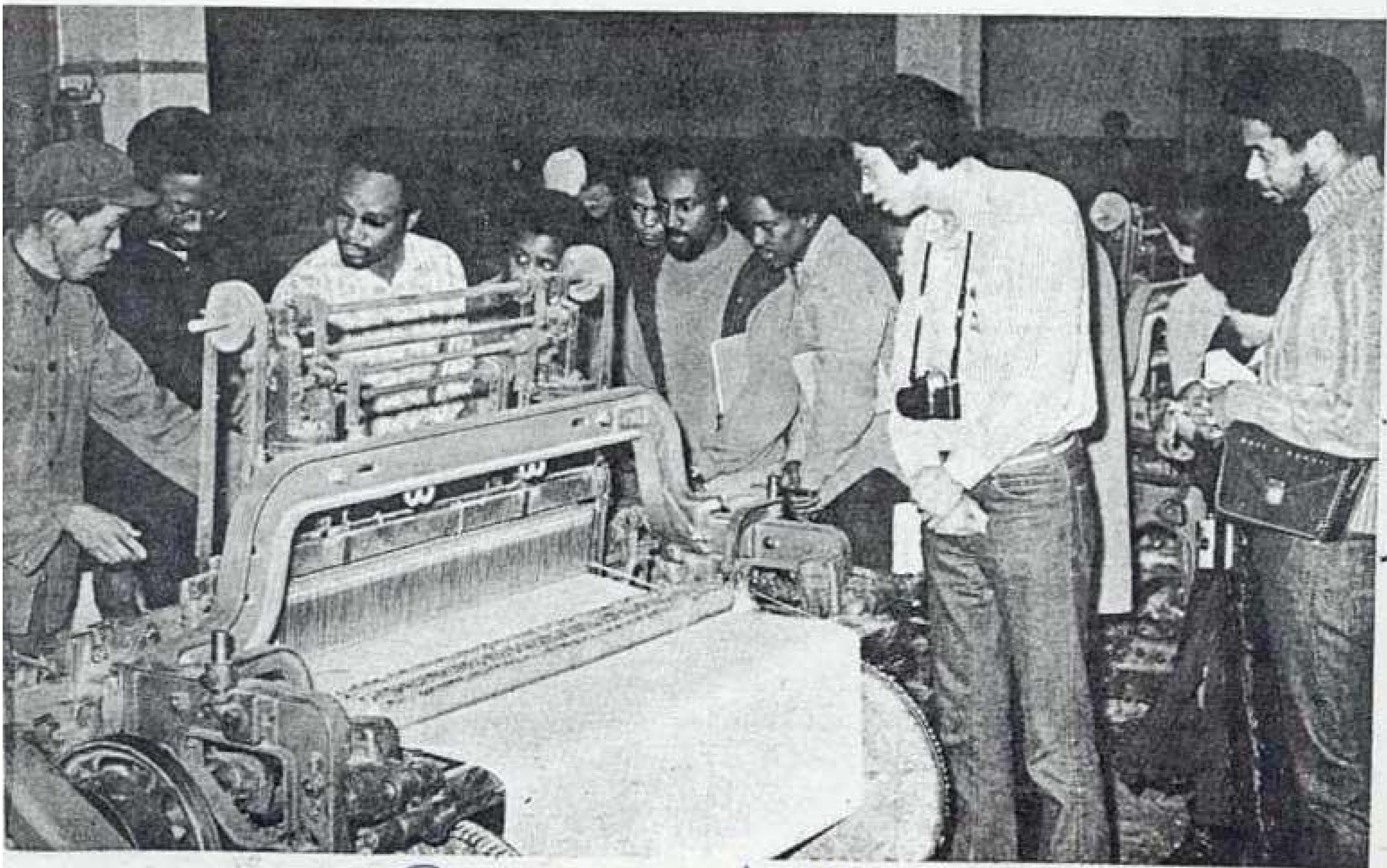
locked up but we don't see anybody getting buried. The pig has it in for us. Therefore we think that we are more of a thorn in his side than anybody has been for a long time. There has never been such a concentrated effort to kill off a leadership and the rank and file of an organization such as the one going on against us. Call us Red or Black or vice versa. We dig Chairman Mao, Ho Chi Minh, we have a profound love for Fidel Castro. I am not talking about their own individual ideological lines. We dig what they are doing. They resist and as long as they resist we have a chance to survive. People really get hung up behind the communist thing. To that we say that there are no hard core revolutionaries here. We just hope one day to measure up to Chairman Mao and Ho Chi Minh. As far as the others - the Progressive Labor Party, the Socialist Labor Party, the various breeds of Trotskyites, the SDS, the Yippies, the Hippies, the Stingers, the Singers, the Dropouts, the Up Against the Wall Motherfuckers - we don't see any of those on our level. Otherwise they would be going to the cemetery as we do. There is no vanity in me saying all this because we would like a whole lot of people to be on our level. The Vanguard role is not a pleasant one, but we aren't going to back up a bit. While they try to kill us off, we shall hit back as fast and as hard as we can. We are going to do that because that is the people's will. But we don't fool ourselves either that there is anybody for us to really count on now when the shit gets really deep for us.

EVO: A lot of people get uptight behind so called black anti-semitism. Where the Black Panther Party stand on this score?

Masai: Black people are not anti-semitic. Black people are anti-landlord, anti-pig, anti-demagogic lying politicians. That's all there is to it. There are some black so-called leaders who propagate this bullshit to get a little space in the papers and make some money by soliciting local businessmen, but you will find that working class people all over hate landlords, pigs and politicians. Therefore we say

"POWER TO ALL THE PEOPLE" submitted by Detroit Chapter, Black Panther Party





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