

what do the Panthers stand for

THE ULTIMATE JUSTICE OF THE PEOPLE.

The primary Panther goal is "institutions which serve the needs of the people" To this aim they have established basic programs nationwide which address themselves to this problem.

1. **Education**—The B.P.P. has formed classes which teach black youth what they do not learn in school about the history of their country and its institutions. They have remedial programs which try to make up for the inferior, racist schools in the black community. Point No. 5 of the B.P.P. platform.
2. **Health**—Free clinics have been started by the Party to supplement the poor health facilities of the black communities. These clinics also attempt to combat such problems as rats and lead poisoning.
3. **Free Breakfasts**—The Black Panther Party developed its nationwide breakfast program for children so that they don't have to go to school too hungry to learn. As Eldridge Cleaver stated: "Breakfast for children pulls people out of the system and organizes them into an alternative. Black children who go to school hungry each morning have been organized into their poverty, and the Panther program liberates them, frees them from that aspect of their poverty. This is liberation in practice."
4. **Full employment for every man**—Point No. 2 of the B.P.P. platform states that "the federal government is responsible and obligated to give every man employment or a guaranteed income."
5. **Decent housing for all people**—Point No. 4 of the Party platform: We want decent housing, fit for shelter of human beings.
6. **Armed Self defense**—Point No. 7 of the platform declares: "We believe we can end police brutality in our black community by organizing black self-defense groups that are dedicated to defending our black community from racist police oppression and brutality."
7. **Organizing within the community**—In 1967 the Black Panther Party ran candidates for state and national offices on the principle that in order to serve the people you must know them. This is the basic organizing tenet of the Party which has, after three years, chapters in cities from coast to coast.
8. **Rapport with other organizations fighting the same battle**—The B.P.P. has established ties with the Mexican-Americans, Chinese-American, Puerto Rican, white working class and white student movements wherever possible all over the country. They have declared their understanding of the need for a united front against the real enemy—a racist, oppressive system. "As a first step we want a truce signed between black, white and brown working people, in the community and on the job, as we recognize that fighting among ourselves only serves the rich." (*Black Panther Party newspaper*)

The Black Panther Party regards itself as a socialist organization and believes that the means of production should be in the hands of the people. They declare that man can only live creatively when free from the oppression of capitalism.



THE COURT: Yesterday the Court told counsel —

MR. BLOOM: If I may, your Honor —

THE COURT: You may not.

Yesterday the Court told counsel that it has a formula for firmly maintaining the dignity of this court without in anyway sacrificing the rights of the accused.

I stated that I did not intend to use the formula for a week or two. This was in order to accomplish the end short of using the formula.

It is obvious that other measures will not prevail. The continued misconduct of the defendants persuaded me to use the formula without any further delay.

Frequently a formula is as effective as it is imple. If this formula proves to be effective as the Court believes it will be, it will in large measure because of its utter simplicity.

The Court declares these hearings to be recessed indefinitely. That, in essence, is the formula.

The trial of the charges before this Court was delayed for some ten months only because the defendants refused to proceed to trial.

Reluctantly and only at the coercion of the Court, the defendants professed to agree to proceed to trial on February 2, 1970.

The proceedings commenced at the request of counsel with the pre-trial hearings that are now being conducted.

The hearings are proceeding at a snail's pace and are being repeatedly interrupted by the contemptuous conduct of the defendants.

Although counsel claims to urge their clients to abandon such conduct, the defendants continue to defy the Court.

The defendants are unwilling to proceed with the trial of the issues before the Court under the American system of criminal justice and under the laws of the State of New York.

The Court and the district attorney continue to be ready to grant the defendants a fair trial to which they are entitled, but which they continue to reject.

Under all the circumstances, the Court has no alternative but to declare an indefinite recess in the hearings.

At any time counsel—counsel will have respect for the Court to which it's entitled.

MR' KATZ: I'm sorry.



THE COURT: At any time the defendants may make a motion in writing for a resumption of the hearings.

If the defendants and their counsel are sincere in wishing a speedy and fair trial, the Court expects that such a motion will be filed within the next forty-eight hours.

The court will give favorable consideration to the granting of such motion if—only if—it is supported by an unequivocal assurance that each defendant will give complete respect to the court during the continuance of the hearings and during the course of the trial to follow and an assurance that the defendants are now prepared to participate in a trial conducted under the American system of criminal justice. Such statement is to be signed by each and every one of the defendants.

If the motion is made and supported by such a written statement it will be granted and the hearings will resume promptly.

If it is not so supported the hearings will continue in recess indefinitely.

The defendants are entitled to a fair trial under the American system of criminal justice. Such a trial the court and the district attorney are ready to give them. The only thing preventing the defendants receiving such a trial is their continued refusal to accept such a trial.

The defendants are resorting to contemptuous conduct to obstruct a fair trial. In view of their conduct to date the defendants must give the court reliable assurance that they are prepared to accept a trial—and a fair trial. The trial will not be resumed until such assurance has been given.

This court is responsible for maintaining proper respect for the administration of criminal justice and preventing any reflection on the image of American justice. That responsibility will be discharged.

Counsel are advised that the hearings are now recessed indefinitely. You are not free to represent to any other court that you are actually engaged before this part of the Supreme Court until such time as an order is entered directing the resumption of the hearings.

Prior to that time you are not engaged before this court, and you will so advise any other court before which you represent any other person.

The district attorney may move any other case on the calendar for trial in this part of the court. I will take a brief recess until such matter is moved.

MR. McKINNEY: May I make a statement, please?

THE COURT: The court is in recess.

MR. McKINNEY: I would like it on a point of personal privilege.

THE COURT: You have a right to make a motion before the court. The court is in recess. I will hear anything in writing.

MR. McKINNEY: I should like to express my objection to the Court's refusal to hear counsel, in view of the statements the Court has made.

(Hearings recessed)

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who are the PANTHER 21



What About Our City?

In New York City the Panther 21, rotting in jail under the most inhuman conditions for the past eight months, have personally experienced fascism in action. The Panther 21 are accused of conspiring to blow up five department stores, two police stations, a railroad right-of-way and the Bronx Botanical Gardens. These charges completely contradict the Panthers' consistent rejection of "terrorism" in favor of mass organization of black people. As they have stated, to blow up department stores, etc., would destroy hundreds of people whom the party represents.

The bails set for ten of the Panther 21 remain at \$100,000 each, even though most of them have no previous criminal record. To fully comprehend the absurdity both of the charges and the bails, one should become familiar with the backgrounds of the Panther 21.

1. **AFENI SHAKUR** (Alice Williams), 22, was in the Manpower Training Program until August '68. During 1968 she worked as a teaching assistant in the public schools. As a youth she received an award from Robert Wagner in a citywide journalism contest for her outstanding research in a paper on juvenile delinquency. She is a poet, and has a poem printed in the "Anthology of High School Poetry." No previous record. Bail: \$100,000.
2. **JOAN BIRD**, 20, was a nursing student at Bronx Community College at the time of her arrest. She was also working as a teaching assistant at P.S. 175. She is a graduate of Cathedral High School where she had an outstanding record for four years. No criminal convictions. Bail: \$100,000.
3. **CURTIS POWELL**, 33, was employed as a research biochemist at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, engaged in cancer research at the time of his arrest. Dr. Powell holds a Ph.D in biochemistry, and was earning a salary of \$14,000 a year. Dr. Powell's wife Lena, 24, was six months pregnant when he was arrested and subsequently gave birth to a premature infant, who died shortly after birth. Dr. Powell was denied the opportunity to speak to or visit his wife in the hospital despite her great need for comfort and help at that time. At every hearing the prosecutor has refused to address Dr. Powell as "Doctor", challenging the existence of his degree, although counsel has presented documents from Dr. Powell's employer and from his professor in Sweden where he earned his degree. No previous record. Bail: \$100,000.
4. **ROBERT COLLIER**, 32, was employed as a staff director of the Tompkins Square Community Center, until funds were halted in January '69. A respected leader of the Lower East Side community, he was recommended by Percy Sutton to be on the Lower East Side Planning Board No. 3. At the time of his arrest the Urban Coalition was in the process of refunding the community center with Mr. Collier as director. Bail: \$100,000.

5. **LEE BERRY**, 25, is not even mentioned in the indictment. It is neither alleged that he agreed with anyone to do anything nor that he committed any overt acts. He is 70% permanently disabled due to Service-connected epilepsy and receives a veteran's disability pension of \$400 a month. At the time of his arrest he was in the VA hospital after suffering a severe seizure and was arraigned without any opportunity to obtain counsel. In jail he suffered several severe epileptic seizures, losing consciousness each time. He received only part of the medication he must take daily. Mr. Berry was recently transferred to Bellevue Prison Hospital where he still is, in critical condition. Bail: \$100,000.
6. **RICHARD MOORE**, 24, is a self-employed painter. In an effort to justify the bail the prosecutor insisted Mr. Moore was unmarried, although counsel produced a valid marriage certificate. Bail: \$100,000.
7. **ALEX McKIEVER**, 19, is a student at Benjamin Franklin High School where he was president of the Afro-American History Club, and was due to be graduated last year. No previous criminal record. Bail: \$100,000.
8. **EDDIE JOSEPHS**, 17, was a junior at Evander Childs High School where he maintained good grades. No previous criminal record. Bail: \$25,000.
9. **LUMUMBA ABDUL SHAKUR**, 26, was employed by the Harlem Community Housing Council until the time of his arrest. His wife and three children have been left totally without resources. Bail: \$100,000.
10. **JOHN J. CASSON** (Ali Bey Hassan), 31, worked for the Black Panther Party while attempting to educate the community and organize around community control issues. No previous criminal record. Bail: \$100,000.

1. **WALTER JOHNSON**, 24, has no previous criminal record. Bail: \$100,000.
2. **LONNIE EPPS**, 17, is a student at Long Island City High School and has no prior criminal record. Mr. Epps, who voluntarily surrendered himself after seeing his name in the newspaper, is free on \$10,000 bail.
13. **MICHAEL TABOR**, 22, is an artist for the Black Panther Party. Bail: \$50,000.
14. **CLARK SQUIRES**, 32, was employed as a computer operator for Data Processing International. Bail: \$50,000.

THE COMMITTEE TO DEFEND THE PANTHER 21

Address
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Telephone
243-2260 or 243-2261

FREE THE PANTHER 21

MARCH FROM 72ND ST. MALL AT
CENTRAL PARK TO RALLY
speakers: from - THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY and

THE CONSPIRACY



NOON
SAT. APRIL 4