



PIGS --- PANTHERS

It is undeniably true, that in the cities of "Babylon" fortunate enough to have a branch of the Black Panther Party, a day does not pass where there isn't at least one instance of Police--Panther antagonism. To many people, I'm sure that this phenomenon must seem perplexing. Why is it that the police are always raiding Panther pads, vamping on their offices and harassing the Panthers in their various duties of serving the people? Do the police antagonize this group merely because they are Black men and women, and exhibit their pride of this in all of their actions? Or do they fear the Panthers because they represent certain threats to their security?

To understand this antagonism between the two groups, we have to examine objectively their purposes, tactics, and legitimacy. Their purpose would be why they exist; tactics would be the means they use to achieve the purpose; and legitimacy would answer whether their existence was valid or not.

On every police car, one can read the words, "To protect and to serve". The question that arises here is, "To protect and to serve who?" Well, if we remember that Babylon today is a racist, fascist oppressive state, we can begin to answer that question.

One aspect of American society consists of the oppressor-oppressed relationship. As we live in a capitalist environment, the

masses of the public are exploited at the hands of a few individuals that control and hold all of this nation's wealth. More people are waking up to the facts of capitalism's true nature, and as these people do so, they see that capitalism is the oppressor. Once this is realized these aware segments of our communities then move to further the destruction of this capitalist state. That puts them in direct opposition to the government, which perpetrates and tries to spread capitalism and imperialism throughout the world.

As capitalism is very individualistic, the perpetrators of this system have no regard for the people. Their only interest is in making money, and they will use any means to achieve this goal. The capitalist has even gone so far as to distort the Constitution. Some people actually believe that we are living in a country that follows the doctrine: "Government of the people, for the people, and by the people". The system of today comes no where near this. Do you think that the people would exploit themselves? Obviously there is some discrepancy here between the way this country is supposed to be run, and the way it is being run.

No, there are no limits to the means the capitalist will employ to increase his wealth. He's pit different racial groups against one another, so that the people will be busy fighting and hating one another, rather than realizing that it is capitalism that they should fight and hate. He's enslaved one group

of people, and tried to exterminate another (the Indians). The capitalist is completely unscrupulous in his quest for power and money.

From this basic understanding, we can see who the police are to "protect and serve". They are in our communities to protect and serve the interests of this capitalist, exploitative state. They have no conception of what it would be to protect and serve the people, because they are merely an extension of the state that exists to keep the minorities in a state of neo-colonialism, and all people oppressed and exploited. This means that they must not allow for any disturbances of the status quo, which would be detrimental to the interests of the capitalist state.

On the other hand, the Black Panther Party has seen through the screen of madness that the capitalists have created to keep our minds from dealing with why this society is in the situation that we find ourselves. The Panthers therefore, work to bring about a revolution that will free all peoples from the oppression of capitalism, racism and imperialism. They are working to establish a society in which every man will be free to determine his own destiny.

Here lies one antagonism between the two groups. Police, who represent this capitalist state, are working for, and in the interests of a few individuals. Panthers are

working for, and in the interests of the people.

In the area of tactics, we have many examples of both groups. As the function of the police is to make sure that the people act according to the needs and wants of the state, their means of reaching this end is through fascism. Terror, intimidation, brutality and murder have become the order of the day as the police try to keep any progressive or dissenting elements from developing in our communities.

In sharp contrast to this are the tactics that the Panthers use. They feel that through setting correct examples for the people, and by educating the people, their purpose will be fulfilled. For example, after the Party initiated the Free Breakfast Programs, many communities realized the need and validity of such programs, and moved to establish their own Free Breakfast or Lunch Program. This can be attributed to the correct example set by the Black Panther Party.

Dealing with legitimacy, the Constitution is based upon the idea of the power of the people to enjoy certain "inalienable rights", and exercise these rights. Supposedly it is the people that direct the actions of the government and sanction its authority. Today, the Constitution has been distorted and we find, "Government of a few, for a few, and by a few". In light of this, the police, in their present role, as arms of this type of government have no right in our com-

munities. They are not, in these fascist times, living up to their motto, or the U.S. Constitution, and are therefore illegitimate bodies in our society.

The members of the Black Panther Party are of the people, for the people, and their actions, programs and direction is governed by the needs of the people. They see the police for what they are--oppressive forces that are keeping the American people in a repressed state. This is why they must fight the legitimacy of the police's presence in our communities. The move for decentralization of the police department is just one means of attacking the existence of the hostile occupying troops.

There could be nothing but antagonism between the police and the Panthers, as they serve different groups, with different interests. One (the police) functioning only to keep the people oppressed, exploited and mere pawns in the Man's game--and the other (Panthers) trying to free the people and move to a society where men individually, determine their own destiny, and collectively, their type of society.

Think about the phrase, "All Power to the People". The founding fathers realized the beauty of the essence of those words and based the Constitution upon them. We must all realize their beauty, and live to make them become a reality in this country.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE
Candy