

Self Determination

WEST CENTRAL ORGANIZATION

3535 GRAND RIVER near TRUMBULL

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Phone 831-5252

MAILING ADDRESS

P. O. Box 1004-A
G.P.O. Detroit, Michigan
48232

June 27, 1966

Officers:

REV. R. VENUS, President
MR. A. DIVERS, V.-President
MISS E. RYAN, Secretary
MISS L. LASKY, Corr. Sec.
MR. C. GIBSON, Treasurer

Trustees: TO: Mr. Burton I. Gordon
Michigan Civil Rights Commission
FR. F. GRANGER 900 Cadillac Square Bldg.
MSGR. C. KERN Detroit, Michigan
MR. L. MURPHY

Commissioner Ray Girardin
Detroit Police Department
1300 Beaubien
Detroit, Michigan

Gentlemen:

In September of 1965 Howard King was, according to his version of the incident, clubbed, hit on the head, and so brutally abused by Detroit Police Officers, that his hand was broken and an inch and a half laceration on his head requiring nine stitches was suffered by him. His cousin, Henry Jackson, was also arrested and abused by the officers involved. The full details of this incident are well known to you.

The Citizen's Complaint Bureau and the Civil Rights Commission have investigated and reinvestigated the incident, but the combined final report has not yet come out.

The reports to date of both investigating units, we understand, ignore the testimony given to Sgb. Jason by Officer Johnson, and well known to you and to this organization, completely verifying the details of his injuries and treatment as reported by Howard King and denied by Officer Parker and other police personnel implicated by Officer Johnson.


We further understand that Officer Parker, as of Friday last, was being transferred to another precinct.

You are hereby informed that this evasion of the problems involved, and of Parker's abusiveness, is not acceptable to the many people who know of this entire incident and are alarmed and concerned about it. Further, it is not acceptable to this organization and the people for whom it speaks.

We insist that the police officer implicated in the abuse of Henry Jackson and the injuring of Howard King by Johnson's testimony be brought to the Police Trial Board charged with violation of his rights as a citizen, with uncalled for physical abusiveness, and with such other violations of duty as this situation involved. We further demand that at their trial the other offending officers, Sgt. Jason, and Officer Johnson be required to submit to lie detector tests as to their full testimony referring to this incident and the testimony they have produced at the investigation level, and all of such testimony. We further demand immediate suspension of the implicated officers and their dismissal from the police force after full trial.

Unless these precise requirements are met by Wednesday, July 6th, we assure you that the entire details of this sordid incident and the identity of all the personnel involved at all levels and your attempted whitewash of it will be released to the members of the press, including the full details as known to us of the implicating testimony of Officer Johnson.

Sincerely,



Reverend Richard Venns
President, West Central Organization

Copies to: Judge Edward S. Piggins
Mayor J. P. Cavanagh
Mr. Hubert Locke
Inspector Carl Haffernan
Inspector Harge