

Monday noon, June 27, 1965  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEST CENTRAL ORGANIZATION  
3555 Grand River.  
831-5252

AT NOON MONDAY, JULY 27, REVEREND RICHARD VENUS AND MRS. HOWARD KING OF THE WEST CENTRAL ORGANIZATION WILL LEAD A VISIT TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS AT 1300 BEAUBIEN. A DELEGATION FROM THE 1700 BUTTERNUT PEOPLE BLOCK CLUB LED BY MRS. MARGRET SHINE, A WCO AREA VICE-PRESIDENT, WILL SEEK OUT POLICE COMMISSIONER RAY GIRARDIN CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING INCIDENTS:

IN SEPTEMBER, 1965, HOWARD KING, AGE 15, OF 1731 BUTTERNUT WAS BRUTALLY BEATEN BY PATROLMAN JAMES PARKER AND OTHER POLICEMEN AT THE SECOND PRECINCT POLICE STATION WHILE HE WAS HANDCUFFED BEHIND HIS BACK. HE WAS CALLED "BLACK NIGGER" AND OTHER PROFANE NAMES. ACCORDING TO KING HE WAS HANDCUFFED TO A HOSPITAL BED WHILE STITCHES WERE BEING PUT IN HIS HEAD. HE SUFFERED A BROKEN HAND AND A ONE AND A HALF INCH LACERATION IN THE HEAD REQUIRING 9 STITCHES. COMPLAINTS WERE FILED WITH BOTH THE DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION IMMEDIATELY. IT HAS BEEN EIGHT MONTHS SINCE THE INVESTIGATION AND REINVESTIGATION HAS BEEN UNDER WAY, YET NEITHER AGENCY HAS REACHED CONCLUSIVE FINDINGS. DURING THIS LONG PERIOD, THE POLICE OF THE 2ND PRECINCT HAVE BEEN HARASSING THE RESIDENTS OF KING'S NEIGHBORHOOD AND RECENTLY MADE A FALSE ARREST OF KING WITH CHARGES OF FELONIOUS ASSAULT. AFTER KEEPING HIM LOCKED UP OVERNIGHT HE WAS RELEASED BECAUSE CHARGES WERE UNFOUNDED, WITHOUT INDICATION WHO MADE THE CHARGES.

THE POLICE FAILED TO KEEP A PROMISE TO MEET WITH WCO FOR A PROGRESS REVIEW BOARD MEETING ON FRIDAY, JUNE 24, AFTER BEING TOLD OF THE UNREST BEING CAUSED IN THE COMMUNITY BY POLICE OF THE 2ND PRECINCT. INSPECTOR HARGE, WHO SAYS HIS DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN DURING CERTAIN "BUSINESS" HOURS, COULD NOT EXPLAIN WHY HIS DESK OFFICER, IN A PHONE CONVERSATION, TOLD THE HEAD OF THE 1700 BUTTERNUT BLOCK CLUB, WHO CALLED FOR AN APPOINTMENT, THAT INSPECTOR HARGE WAS OUT OF THE 2ND PRECINCT STATION AND WOULD NOT BE IN FOR SOME TIME. IN LESS THAN 10 MINUTES THE 1700 BUTTERNUT BLOCK CLUB PRESIDENT AND A DELEGATION OF PEOPLE FOUND INSPECTOR HARGE IN HIS OFFICE TALKING WITH VISITORS. WHEN ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION ABOUT THE ENTIRE SITUATION, INSPECTOR HARGE REPLIED: "SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF B&E IS DONE BY TEENS, AND YOU ARE TELLING ME ABOUT POLICE HARASSMENT!" WCO HAS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO COOPERATE WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT SINCE SEPTEMBER. HOWEVER IT IS CLEAR THAT THE POLICE AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION ARE NOT ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE INJUSTICES THE CITIZENS FACE AT THE HANDS OF IRRESPONSIBLE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN DETROIT. WE ARE THEREFORE DEMANDING THE IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL OF PATROLMAN PARKER AND THAT NEGOTIATIONS TAKE PLACE TO CREATE A CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD IN THE CITY OF DETROIT, BEGINNING IN THE SECOND PRECINCT.