

EXTENT OF SUBVERSION IN THE "NEW LEFT"

Testimony of Allen Crouter and Paul Chambers

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1970

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE
ADMINISTRATION OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT
AND OTHER INTERNAL SECURITY LAWS
OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 9:30 a.m., in room 2300, New Senate Office Building, Senator Robert P. Griffin presiding.

Also present: J. G. Sourwine, chief counsel; Samuel Scott, associate counsel; John R. Norpel, director of research; and Alfonso L. Tarabochia, chief investigator.

Senator GRIFFIN. Well, we will bring the meeting to order. I'll ask you to rise. Do each of you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. CROUTER. I do.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I do.

STATEMENT OF ALLEN CROUTER AND PAUL CHAMBERS, DETECTIVE SERGEANTS, DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT INSPECTORIAL SERVICES BUREAU, INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, SECURITY SECTION

Senator GRIFFIN. How do you suggest we proceed?

Mr. SOURWINE. Sir, if it meets with the pleasure of the Chair, I think these men can operate as a team. They are both familiar with their subject and we can direct the questions at them as a team and let the appropriate person answer.

Senator GRIFFIN. All right, you proceed then.

Mr. SOURWINE. Would you identify yourselves respectively, for the record, and you first, Sergeant Crouter.

Mr. CROUTER. My name is Allen Crouter, a detective sergeant with the Detroit Police Department. I have been employed by them for 20 years. I am presently assigned to the inspectional services bureau, intelligence division, security section.

Mr. SOURWINE. Sergeant Chambers.

Mr. CHAMBERS. My name is Paul Chambers, a detective sergeant, and I have been with the Detroit Police Department for 17½ years, and I also am assigned to the security section, the intelligence division of the inspectional services bureau.

Senator GRIFFIN. Very well. Shall we proceed then to the next item?

Mr. SOURWINE. Yes, sir, DRUM.

Mr. CHAMBERS. During the fall of 1967, an organization known as the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement (DRUM) was formed at the Hamtramck Assembly Plant of the Chrysler Corp. This organization was formed by black workers allegedly to fight racism and oppression on the part of the company and the union.

At that time, General Gordon Baker was employed at the Chrysler Hamtramck Plant, and was the leading organizer.

General Gordon Baker was discharged by the Chrysler Corp., in May of 1968 for initiating production interruptions at the Hamtramck Assembly Plant.

Following his discharge, Baker led numerous demonstrations at the Hamtramck Assembly Plant, the largest being on July 12, 1968, at which an excess of 2,000 people gathered on the Jos Campau side of the plant. This resulted in a large number of black employees being absent from work on this date. Some of the demonstrators were observed carrying various types of weapons, bats, axe handles et cetera. The crowd became so unruly that the Hamtramck Police Department had to be summoned: they responded with approximately 40 men for crowd control.

Now, we have several pieces of literature here in exhibits that we would like to include.

Senator GRIFFIN. And also your statement refers to résumés about this General Baker?

Mr. CHAMBERS. Yes, sir; we have a résumé on each person we are going to mention in this report, and if you would so like, sir, we can give them to you.

Senator GRIFFIN. The several résumés and the exhibits referred to will be received for the record, then.

(The information referred to follows. Exhibits referred to in the testimony and not printed are retained in the files of the subcommittee.)

GENERAL GORDON BAKER, JR.

N/M; DOB 9-6-41, 1967 Gladstone, Detroit; 179 Cortland, Detroit.

Subject is a member of the Afro-Americans to end the war in Viet Nam

Subject is a member of UHURU. Uhuru is the swahili word for Freedom. The organization was started in March 1963 to combat racial discrimination in the ghetto sections of Detroit. One of the founders was Luke Tripp. The group professes the use of violence.

In October 1968, subject attended a YSA meeting at WSU.

Subject, formerly was connected with RAM, (Revolutionary Action Movement) and was its leader.

RAM was organized in 1963 by afro-americans with the objective to gain freedom for their people in the United States. RAM had geared its program to that of education and political revolution, that would seize power.

Subject is not only active in demonstrations sponsored by the LRBW, but attends rallies and demonstrations against the war in Viet Nam.

Subject made a tour of Cuba in September 1964.

Subject is the chairman of the membership and circulation committee of the LRBW.

In August 1966, subject was arrested for carrying concealed weapons in a Motor Vehicle, (rifles). Received 5 years probation.

Senator GRIFFIN. Can you tell me what is the significance of General Gordon Baker? Is that really his given name?

Mr. CHAMBERS. That is his name, sir.

Senator GRIFFIN. All right.

Mr. CHAMBERS. It is not a rank.

During the early months of 1969, another revolutionary group was formed to attack the Chrysler Corp. and the UAW. This group was formed at the Chrysler Eldon Avenue Gear and Axle Plant, city of Detroit. This group took the name of ELRUM, (Eldon Revolutionary Union Movement).

ELRUM's aims and goals are basically the same as that of DRUM. It is believed that the Eldon gear and axle plant was chosen as a target because—if they were successful in shutting down this plant, or if not completely successful and only slowed down production—they would hamper the productivity of all Chrysler plants in the United States.

There were numerous demonstrations at this plant in which General Gordon Baker took part.

We have some more exhibits which you have.

A circular was distributed during one of these demonstrations; and also on the Wayne State University campus. This circular was distributed by Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), pledging its support to ELRUM.

Exhibits 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 are indicative of the type of literature distributed by ELRUM since its inception until the present time.

On June 13, 1969, corporation papers were filed with the State of Michigan for the League of Revolutionary Black Workers. The incorporators were listed as: Grover D. Douglas, Ron March, Donald Jackson, and listed their office address as 9049 Oakland, Detroit, Mich.

The purpose of this corporation was to form an international group to negotiate the demands of its members and to do all other acts necessary to promote better working conditions; and to achieve self-determination for the black community.

This incorporation—under the name of LRBW, the League of Revolutionary Black Workers—came about as the result of a merger between the two groups: DRUM (Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement), and ELRUM, (Eldon Avenue Gear and Axle Revolutionary Union Movement).

The membership in the LRBW, is restricted to black workers; and was originally formed by the vanguard element of the Inner City Voice, a revolutionary and inflammatory newspaper.

Senator GRIFFIN. The exhibit 11 that is referred to here, do we have that? Is it here?

Mr. CHAMBERS. Yes.

Senator GRIFFIN. All right.

Mr. CHAMBERS. The Inner City Voice has an affiliate paper called "The Black Student Voice," that is distributed to students at predominantly black attended schools (exhibit No. 12).

The headquarters of the LRBW, at its inception, was located at 9049 Oakland, city of Detroit. This building also housed the Black Arts Development Center (BADDC); and is allegedly supported by the North Woodward Inter-Faith Council, which is comprised of Catholic and Protestant churches and Jewish synagogues.

The LRBW has also received financial support from the Inter-religious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO). The IFCO is reported to be a nonprofit organization which collects money from various religious institutions in the United States for distribution to organizations assisting underprivileged blacks. The officers of the LRBW are as follows: General Gordon Baker, Jr., Michael C. Hamlin, Ronald March, Aaron Pitts, Donald B. Jackson, Luke Tripp, Kenneth John Watson, Sydney Von Lewis, Charles Jesse Wooten.

Since the incorporation of the LRBW—they have formed the following groups:

1. JARUM, at the Chrysler Jefferson Avenue assembly plant.
2. MARUM, at the Chrysler Mack Avenue assembly plant.
3. NERUM, at the Detroit News (the daily newspaper in Detroit).
4. FRUM, at the Ford River Rouge assembly plant.
5. UPRUM, at United Parcel warehouse.

All of the aforementioned groups follow the philosophy of DRUM and ELRUM, and membership is also restricted to black workers.

6. CAD. RUM, at the Cadillac Motor Co.

Exhibit Nos. 12, a copy of ELRUM; 13, a copy of DRUM; and 14, a copy of CAD. RUM, are typical of the periodicals distributed by all the revolutionary union movements connected with the LRBW.

What might be termed a slogan of the LRBW is as follows: "Long live black people in this racist land, death to our enemies. Long live the league of revolutionary black workers."

This theme or slogan appears in almost all of the LRBW publications.

Senator GRIFFIN. If I may interrupt a moment, back here a little earlier in your statement you referred to the IFCO, the Inter-religious Foundation for Community Organization, reported to be a nonprofit organization which collects money from various religious institutions in the United States for distribution to organizations assisting underprivileged blacks. Do you have any more information about that particular organization? Is it incorporated as a nonprofit corporation in Michigan, for example?

Mr. CHAMBERS. Well, we have no specific information with us on IFCO.

Senator GRIFFIN. It would appear to be a rather key link in the financing.

Mr. CHAMBERS. IFCO is all around the country, it is a national organization.

Mr. CROUTER. It is a national organization.

Mr. CHAMBERS. As a matter of fact, it was involved with the black manifesto, gave an amount of money for that also.

Senator GRIFFIN. I see. The staff is aware of that. I was not. Perhaps a memorandum concerning that would be appropriate at some point.

Mr. SOURWINE. Yes, sir.

Senator GRIFFIN. I would like to suggest that to the staff.

Mr. SOURWINE. Very good, sir.

(The memorandum referred to above will be found in the appendix at p. 1291.)

Senator GRIFFIN. Excuse me. Why don't you go ahead.

Mr. CHAMBERS. The LRBW has gained the support of various groups throughout Michigan as follows:

In February of 1969 at a meeting of the Ford Club of the Communist Party, Tommy Dennis, chairman of the Michigan Communist Party, stated he had formed a working relationship with Michael Hamlin and General Gordon Baker of the LRBW. Dennis further stated that the MDCP was having some success in recruiting LRBW members—and were converting them to the Communist line of thinking.

At a meeting of the Auto Commission of the Communist Party (in March 1969), it was decided that the Communist Party would give their support to the LRBW.

At a meeting of the State committee of the Communist Party held in March 1969, it was stated that racial unrest existed in the automobile plants and should be used—as the Communist Party was in the business of revolution.

During February of 1969, a meeting was held by the Socialist Workers Party at their headquarters located at 3737 Woodward (Debs Hall). Aaron Pitts (on the central committee of the LRBW) was the featured speaker. Some of the statements made by Pitts were:

1. Revolution means that one puts his life on the line in fighting a racist society.
2. Revolution means you use any means necessary to obtain your objective.
3. Revolution means taking control of industry, religion, and education.

During March of 1969, a national meeting of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) was held in Austin, Tex. One of the more important “resolutions to come out of this meeting” was that the SDS was prepared to support black revolutionary groups by printing and distributing information about the organizations of black people. Specifically mentioned were the League of Revolutionary Black Workers and the Black Panther Party.

During May of 1969, a meeting of the Auto Commission of the Communist Party was held in the offices of “Glos Ludowy,” located at 5854 Chene, city of Detroit. Glos Ludowy—People’s Voice, Polish—actively supports the programs set forth by the Soviet Union, and has never faltered in glorifying programs initiated by the Soviets. During this meeting, a statement was made to the effect that black workers at the Eldon Avenue Gear and Axle Plant agreed with the Communist line; and felt that a “unity” of whites and blacks—against management—would accomplish their goals much more rapidly. It was further stated that there were still many in the revolutionary union movement that refused to embrace any whites into the LRBW.

The League of Revolutionary Black Workers now have their offices at 179 Cortland, and have maintained offices at this address since the fall of 1969. Utilities are registered in the name of Luke Tripp since October 1969.

Information received by this department indicates that these offices are well-equipped with office machines—and also a printing press—although most of their printed material is jobbed out.

The LRBW has not been overly-active in demonstrations during 1970: and it is believed that they are now devoting their time to organizing within the plants.

It should also be noted that ELRUM has remained very active in the distribution of literature as demonstrated by exhibits 16, 17, 18, and 19.

We have also brought for your consideration, photographs taken at the scene of the following demonstrations:

Photograph exhibit No. 1: DRUM demonstration, July 1968, Hamtranick Assembly Plant.



Photograph exhibit No. 2: ELRUM demonstration, January 27, 1969, Eldon Gear and Axle Plant.



Photograph exhibit No. 3: DRUM and ELRUM demonstration, November 1969, Detroit UAW Convention, held at Cobo Hall, city of Detroit.



It should also be noted that General Gordon Baker played a unique role in all of the above.

We have here also for your consideration, if you would like it, the incorporation papers of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers.

Senator GRIFFIN. It will be received for study by the staff.

Mr. CROUTER. This we would also like to have admitted, with the permission of the Chair. It is a periodical put out by the League of Revolutionary Black Workers in which it mentions their feelings toward the UAW and the UAW leadership.

Senator GRIFFIN. It will be so received.

(The material referred to follows:)

BLACK WORKERS PROTEST U.A.W. RACISM—MARCH ON COBO HALL

The leadership of the United Automobile Workers Union has concocted another plot to increase the wealth, power and prestige of the big time white racist union bureaucrats at the expense of the black community and the rank and file black union member. Walter Reuther and his company owned henchmen have called for a special U.A.W. convention to be convened on Nov. 8 & 9, 1969, at Cobo Hall.

The excuse the Reuther clique has given for holding this convention is "to raise strike benefits." Now we are all in favor of higher strike benefits for brothers struggling against the tyranny of the auto bosses, but we know that Reuther and his boys really are not concerned with the welfare of their own rank and file members. Quite to the contrary, workers who attempt to strike and carry on strong struggles against racism, for higher wages and better working conditions, find that they must fight their own union leadership as resolutely as they do the company. As a result, most strikes are wildcats in which the union provides neither strike benefits or fight for the rights of workers who are suspended, fired or otherwise face disciplinary actions.

We recognize that the real reason for holding this convention is to provide an excuse for the raising of your union dues!

The record of the Reuther gang does not even warrant a continuation of the present level of union dues. While profits have risen over 50% in the last ten years. Wages have not even kept pace with the rise in the cost of living. Speed up and increases in production standards have made automobile labor a living hell. Reuther is running a sweetheart shop. Hand in hand with Chrysler king pin Lynn Townsend, Billionaire Henry Ford II, and G.M. dictator Edward Cole, the Reuther clique helps extract billions of dollars in profits for the white racist monopoly capitalists of the automobile industry.

Reuther doesn't need anymore of our hard earned, blood and sweat drenched money. He needs to be overthrown, deposed and disposed of along with the cheap gang of cut throat thugs, bureaucrats, crooks and sellout politicians who hold on to his coat tails for dear life.

The U.A.W. needs a special convention. It needs profound changes in its leadership, its tactics, strategy and overall goals. A special convention should address itself to the pressing needs of the black production worker, and the black community. Any so called union convention which does not should be attacked and attacked vigorously by the Black community and the black working class. The time has come for the people to put a permanent halt to the sell out, power made games played by the Reuther bureaucrats at our expense.

LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARY BLACK WORKERS THE U.A.W. MUST END ALL RACIST PRACTISES

THE U.A.W. MUST END ALL RACIST PRACTICES WITHIN THE UNION AND FIGHT RACISM IN THE COMPANY

Walter Reuther and his henchmen are a bunch of phoney bigots. Reuther shed alligator tears when Martin Luther King was assassinated and piously marched to Selma, Alabama for "Negro Rights." Yet how many times has he cried over the bodies of black workers who have died in industrial accidents in Detroit auto

Mr. SOURWINE. Do you consider this organization to be subversive or violent?

Mr. CROUTER. Yes, sir; I would.

Mr. SOURWINE. How about DRUM?

Mr. CROUTER. Well, I think that any of them that belong to the League of Revolutionary Black Workers would, yes; I would have to consider them as such.

Mr. CHAMBERS. And DRUM was the first one.

Mr. CROUTER. DRUM was the forerunner and the others were formed after that. They all use the RUM portion with their initials of a particular plant they are trying to organize.

Mr. SOURWINE. Have you concluded with that portion?

Mr. CHAMBERS. We have one more, sir. We have a copy of the "Inner City Voice," which is the official organ of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers, dated July 15, 1970, in which it refers to, the headlines say, "Hail Brother James Johnson." He is the man who went into the Eldon Gear and Axle Plant and killed three employees, one of which was his supervisor, because he got laid off. It has articles in there about support DRUM, and murder in Highland Park. It talks about the New Bethel trial.

Mr. SOURWINE. Was Newton Henry involved in any of this?

Mr. CHAMBERS. No.

Mr. SOURWINE. May this be received, Mr. Chairman?

Senator GRIFFIN. It may be so received.

(The material referred to follows:)

[From the Inner-City Voice, July 15, 1970]

HAIL BROTHER JAMES JOHNSON

James Johnson, an employee of the Eldon Ave' Plant for the past 2 years, Wednesday afternoon, July 15, 1970 brought to an end, the months and years of degradement and harassment that he had received at the hands of management its lackeys at the plant. After the brothers voice was heard three (3) men lay dead on the nasty, filthy floors of this HELL HOLE called ELDON where they had sent hundred's of brothers and sisters to their deaths.

Brother Johnson who worked in dept. 78 on the afternoon shift, reported to work as usual Wednesday July 15, 1970, only to face management and yet another attempt to strip him of his manhood. Brother Johnson was told by his forman to work a job different from the one he had worked in the past, so that a man with less seniority could work his (Bro. Johnson) job. When Bro. Johnson protested and asked for his union rep., the forman charged Bro. Johnson with insubordination, after trying to explain his case and hoping for some form of JUSTICE, management maintained its charge and its position on the suspension.

It was then that Brother Johnson decided that Justice would be served and left the plant only to return minutes later to "RING THE BELL OF JUSTICE" for a representative of every reactionary element with-in the plant—"A HILL-BILLY", "A POLLOCK" AND A UNCLE TOM NEE—GROW!

Hail Brother James Johnson.

This article to be continued in the next issue.

[From the Inner-City Voice, July 15, 1970]

NEW BETHEL TRIAL IS OVER!

The malicious persecution of Clarence J. Fuller, Brother Chaka and Rafael Viera for the most part is over. A Recorder's Court jury composed of twelve black people and two racist whites—deliberated four and one half days before reaching the "just" verdicts of not guilty for both Chaka and Rafael. Both were charged with shooting two Detroit policeman outside of New Bethel Church, March 29, 1969.