

MEMORANDUM RE: DEFENSE COMMITTEE

The events of December 4, 1972 involving John Percy Boyd, Mark Clyde Bethune and Hayward Brown precipitated a number of occurrences that still reverberate throughout the community, and indeed the country.

There is no need to recapitulate the events, or to describe the reactions in any detail here.

Suffice it to say a number of lessons were learned among them being:

1. The orthodox black community leaders and institutions were able to escape responsibility for making an ongoing structural response to the underlying problem of our community, namely the absence of an organization involving the masses of the community in programmatic work designed to produce empowerment.

2. The masses of our people evidenced in many ways the potential for building an organized opposition that struggles for power, provided direction is given.

3. This clearly discernible potential can be realized only if we unite in a formation that establishes a basis for activity that provides guidelines for continuous activity as well as an index for the measurement of our performance towards achieving defined goals.

The present criminal cases against Hayward Brown encapsulate a number of concerns shared by both us and the broad community, among them being (a) the origins, present practice and future of S.T.R.E.S.S. in Detroit, (b) the presence in our community of mind stultifying crime-breeding drugs and the almost paralytic inability

of our community to stop the dope traffic at its real local sources,
(c) the surrender of the responsibility for developing a practical
alternative course of productive work and study for young people in our
community that causes them to attach themselves to half-baked ideas,
individuals and organizations that contribute to their premature
deaths or incarceration.

A part of the present task of persons connected with
L.D.C. is to assist in the building of a Defense Committee committed
to insuring a fair trial for Hayward Brown, that results in his
freedom and a return of this young man to our ranks in struggle.

This necessitates that we do the following:

1. Members and supporters of the Coalition are conducting
the actual defense in court and investigation in preparation for
same.

The legal defense work requires monetary support that
we must solicit from the community.

2. The legal defense is not capable of success unless we
provide ongoing political education on a mass basis of the rela-
tionship of the case to the problems around which we build an
effective mass organization in this city.

This requires that we organize a committee of citizens,
black and non-black who will accept the responsibility of insisting
on a fair trial for Hayward Brown, while at the same time supporting
a community wide effort to expose the cooperation between narcotics
traffickers and law enforcement.

A broad range of support on these two points is possible
if we structure ourselves appropriately.

Specific steps:

1. The L.D.C. will volunteer the use of its office and a phone line to centralize and handle communications for the Defense Committee.

2. The L.D.C. will volunteer the services of its Staff Director, Gregory Hicks, to coordinate the Defense Committee in conjunction with those who will work on same.

3. The team of defense lawyers, having discussed this project with members of the family of Boyd, Brown and Bethune, will assist this effort in the following ways:

a) A letter signed by the attorneys will go out to "prominent" personages, advising them of the status of the case, their view of its importance, and requesting their becoming members of the committee.

(The defense lawyers cannot be on the committee itself for legal reasons).

This letter will go out from the law office by Wednesday, March 28, 1973.

b) Assistance in the establishment of a factual accounting of the status of the case legally on a regular basis, either verbally, in writing or both.

4. The L.D.C. will commit, at least one page of its projected newspaper to a report on the trial, as well as coverage of the work of the Defense Committee.

5. The L.D.C. would request cooperation from media-connected supporters in establishing a weekly report and analysis of the trial, i.e., W.C.H.B., Ditto, etc.

6. One page fact sheets on the situation will be printed monthly, and combined with an appeal for support.

7. A speakers program for the intermediate and high schools, and colleges, using L.D.C. members must be established as well as distribution teams for the literature, at plants, schools, and downtown.

All of the above is considered in conjunction with work in three other program areas:

A. An L.D.C. Newspaper.

B. L.D.C. Educational Forums in the community on a monthly basis.

C. Establishment of political action committees of workers who support our community struggles and whose work struggles we support.

A fuller discussion and more detail will be given at a general meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 31, 1973 at the L.D.C. office.

For the Coalition,

KENNETH V. COCKREL