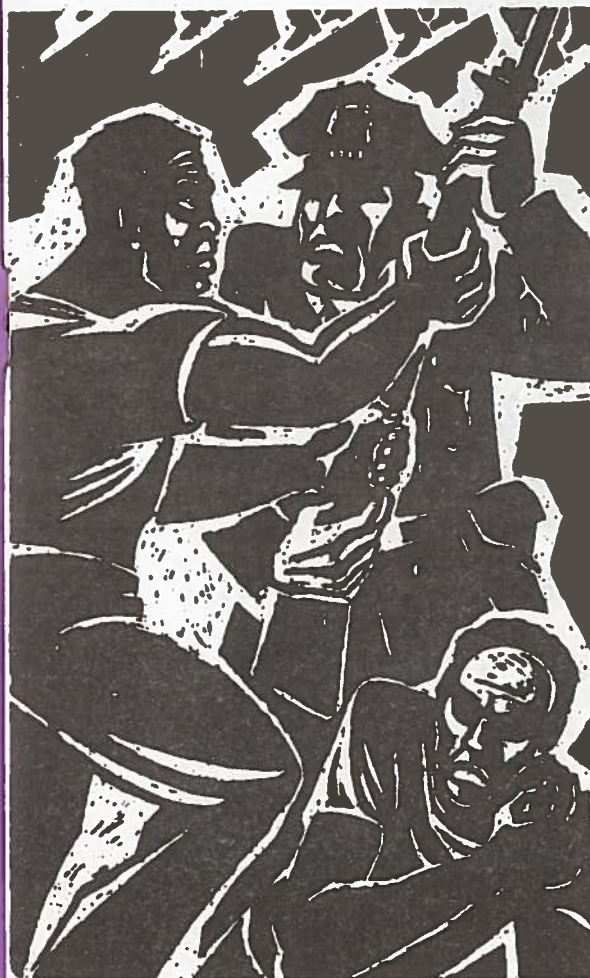


DECEMBER OFFENSIVE

NASHVILLE COALITION AGAINST POLICE REPRESSION



ACTION
JUSTICE



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NASHVILLE COALITION AGAINST POLICE REPRESSION



RONALD LEE JOYCE

Murdered November 23, 1973

COALITION AGAINST POLICE REPRESSION

DECEMBER OFFENSIVE

The Coalition Against Police Repression was formed at a mass meeting held at Mount Calvary Baptist Church, on November 28, 1973. There are about thirty organizations in the Coalition, an anti-racist unity movement in the Black community. The Coalition is focusing its attention on building the broadest possible participation from groups throughout the Black community so that we can be as representative as possible. This is a proposal for action, a plan of attack. It is necessary for us to consider what we want, what we're prepared to do to get it, and have a general understanding of how our current motion fits into the total world-wide struggle for justice, peace and freedom.

WHAT ARE OUR DEMANDS?

The event that sparked the motion was the brutal murder of our Brother Ronald Lee Joyce. His life was blasted away by an instrument of racist state power. We have to wage a struggle against state power gone mad by advancing a consistent struggle for democracy. The political leadership of Nashville - Mayor Beverly Briley - has been arrogant and insensitive to the needs of Black people, and has tried to shift the responsibility of the police force to the police chief. This is the type of cowardly politics that flows from a corrupt system, a system not reflecting the masses of people, but only certain powerful interest groups. We see this in the Nixon Watergate Scandal, and we see this in the Briley police scandal of Nashville. The political leadership is no longer able to exert the kind of leadership that we need, on the national level and the local level. Therefore, the people must take a more direct role in running the state.

We are demanding two specific things:

1. That the 4 policemen involved in the murder of Ronald Lee Joyce be suspended immediately without pay until there is a full investigation by a citizens committee; and
2. That this citizens committee be formed to select the next

chief of police and to investigate police brutality in general. The committee should have at least 50% Black membership selected by the Coalition Against Police Repression.

We must not let brutal murders go unpunished. There is great public outrage over this case of obvious overreaction - excess force, and the officers involved must be suspended. What Mayor Briley has done is re-assign them to office work. We want them suspended. This is a non-negotiable demand. We must have these murderers off the street, and off the police force until we have the grounds for final dismissal and the evidence is in to initiate criminal charges against them.

We must have more direct participation in the government process by the masses of people. This means that the chief of police must be hired only if there is a review process that establishes beyond any question that the new chief will be an anti-racist defender of justice, and sensitive to the objective interests of the entire community. Black people want crime stopped, and this means police brutality, intimidation, and harassment must stop as well as burglarly, robbery, and rape. Mayor Briley has a choice between the tactics of shoot-to-kill before all else, or a community based police system in which the people play a major creative role in policing themselves for the good of everyone. Briley is behind the corrupt system, so he is and has been

the guilty party. Our demand is for Briley to change his ways and begin to support a democratic approach to government and denounce his violent racist tactics.

WHAT ARE OUR PLANS?

The Coalition Against Police Repression must have a step by step plan for mobilizing the greatest quantity of people from all sectors of the Black community, and the entire city of Nashville as well. It will be necessary to engage in increasingly more militant action until there is a positive response to our demands. The police must be made responsive to the needs of the entire community. This must be achieved or they will have to resort to greater political repressive forms of control to contain our movement. This is a struggle for power and we must prepare to wage a courageous fight.

STEP ONE:

BLACK WORKERS UNITY RALLY

Wednesday night, December 5th, there will be a mass rally at 7:30 p.m. at the Labor Temple. This rally will have as its focus mobilizing the Black trade union movement, the political organization of the Black working class. All members of the Coalition are scheduled to attend this rally so that our brothers and sisters in the trade union movement will join us in large numbers and build the base of the Coalition.

STEP TWO: STUDENT STRIKE DAY

We must unite the masses where we are the strongest at this time. The students have provided the greatest physical force in the Coalition until now, and are the base of our power. Brother Ronald Lee Joyce was a student attending TSU. We must have a student strike in order to unify the masses of students around this issue.

This action will have one secondary demand, saving Black colleges. Black students must be united around these demands.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the key phrase is STUDENT STRIKE. This phrase must be put on leaflets, posters, sidewalks, walls in bathrooms, on blackboards, over public address systems, and in every conversation that you have. STRIKE FOR JUSTICE! STRIKE FOR DEMOCRACY!

STRIKE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6th!

All striking students will be asked to come together at 10:30 a.m. at the place where Brother Joyce was murdered. This will be for a unity rally and to get assignments to go into the Black community. Our STRIKE from school will be for the purpose of going into the Black community to get support for our movement to make the government process more democratic, and to stop the brutal murder of Black people. We are continuing the petition drive! All students will be asked to talk with people throughout the community so that the community will be united.

STEP THREE: BLACK BUTTON DAY

The next major action will be organizing teams of four people each to work shifts of three hours each from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Friday, and all day Saturday, collecting signatures and donations. The major goal is to raise \$1,000 for the Joyce Family Legal Fund. Half of this amount will come from selling 1500 buttons. Coalition fund raisers will have an official arm band to prevent misrepresentation. We will sell the buttons for 50¢ of which 38¢ will go to the Joyce Family Legal Fund, (the remaining 12¢ for the cost of the button).

On this Button Day we must cover every work place, every major traffic intersection, every major shopping area, every major public housing project, every Black residential area and every school. The purpose of this Button Day is to heighten the consciousness of the masses of Black people. We must work hard to convince every brother and sister that the movement for freedom and justice is a real movement. We must convince all of us that when racist madmen shoot us and hide behind a corrupt Mayor that all of us move in unity until justice is done. The death of Ronald Lee Joyce must spark us to build a movement that will force the fountains of evil to dry up under the heat of militant unity.

STEP FOUR: BLACK SUNDAY

We appeal to all ministers, and the Black media to rearrange their schedules to focus on the murder of Ronald Lee Joyce and the Unity Movement for Justice, and the Coalition Against Police Repression. We must combine sermons, notices in church bulletins, petition signing before and after services, T.V. and radio talk shows and sending teams of Coalition workers into the community. Our motion must be to let the ministers and the media, representing two powerful institutions in the Black community, unify the movement with a sense of direction and ultimate purpose.

The civil rights movement of the 1960's was born in the church and grew to be one of the greatest mass movements of all time. We must return to the church and seek guidance from the ministers, and allow the institutional leadership to play an important role in this struggle. But we must be mindful that many are called but not all choose to come. So when we look to established leadership to provide a way, the Coalition is on the move. As the old spiritual says, "Which side are you on? Which side are you on?"

**STEP FIVE: SELECTIVE BUYING AND BANKING CAMPAIGN:
CAIN-SLOAN, HARVEY'S, AND THIRD NATIONAL BANK**

Specific details to be announced.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1973

7:30 pm

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

KEAN HALL - GYMNASIUM

3500 Centennial Blvd.
Nashville, Tennessee

Program

SIGNING THE PETITIONS
EVERYONE

INNOCATION
REV. DOGAN WILLIAMS,
*Interdenominational Ministerial
Fellowship*

WELCOME TO TSU
DR. ANDREW TORRENCE
President, TSU

WHAT IS THE COALITION
ABDUL, *Coalition Chairperson
African Liberation Support
Committee*

WHY WE MUST STRUGGLE

COMMUNITY
MRS. C.E. MCGRUDER, *NAACP*

STUDENTS
MALIK KAMBON, *Peoples College*

MINISTERS
REV. KELLY MILLER SMITH
1st Baptist Church, Capital Hill

WORKERS

WALTER SEARCY, *City-Wide Black
Workers Organization*

"FOR MY PEOPLE" BY MARGARET WALKER
GWEN BOOKER
Fisk University, Freshman Class

WHAT MUST BE DONE

MOBILIZATION
JIM MOCK, *Citizens for a Safer
Nashville*

FINANCIAL MATTERS
BLONDELL STRONG
*Treasurer, Coalition Against Police
Repression*

SONGS OF OUR PEOPLES STRUGGLE
JOHNSON ENSEMBLE

ACTION PROPOSALS

STUDENT STRIKE
JERRY CARTER, *Fisk SGA*

TONY TURNER, *TSU SGA*

BLACK BUTTON DAY
CRAIG EDWARDS
Concerned Citizens for Justice

BLACK SUNDAY
REV. MICHAEL GRAVES

BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM
RICKI STEVENSON
Nashville African Liberation Comm.

TAKING PETITIONS TO THE PEOPLE
EVERYONE

WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF THE COALITION ?

The Coalition meets every week, and there is a mass meeting every week. The officers are Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. The committees are Mobilization, Research-Investigations, Fund-raising, Publicity, and Negotiations. All interested parties are invited to join as an organization or as an individual.

The Coalition wants to have a speaker appear before all groups in the Black community to explain the plans and solicit support for the movement. We hope your organization will endorse the demands and come to one of the meetings and make it known to the Coalition.

The Coalition brings together all aspects of the Black community, although it must seek roots in the Black adult working sector as well as the student youth sector in order to have a long life, to fight hard, and to go on to win even greater victories!

JUSTICE NOW!

JUSTICE NOW!

JUSTICE NOW!

LIFT EV'RY VOICE AND SING

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise,
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the
Dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of hope that the present
has brought us,
Facing the rising sun,
Of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers
sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears
has been watered,
We have come, treading our path thro'
the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright
star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on our way,
Thou who has by Thy might
Let us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray;
Lest our feet stray from the places, our
God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of
the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God, True to our native land.

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