

# Local Black Panther Leader Tells Goals

Members of the Black Panther party aren't black counter-parts of the Ku Klux Klan and they aren't prejudiced, according to C. Lincoln Powell, minister of information for the Rockford Black Panther Party. Powell said the party is will-

ing to work with anyone toward the same goal — revolution against capitalism in favor of "democratic socialism."

"Big business is constantly gobbling up the little man," Powell said. "Poor whites are caught up in the same bag. They don't realize they are victims of the same exploitation as black man."

The revolution can be bloodless, he said, if business and industry leaders are willing to share their profits with workers instead of exploiting them.

He pointed to Zambia as a model of democratic socialism, with Sweden close to it. He said

Cuba "will be a shining example," when it overcomes the economic sanctions imposed on it by the United States.

Powell, 28, came to Rockford last June and has been organizing the party since January. He spoke freely in an interview with The Morning Star.

He said the party members aren't secretive because the party labels itself as the vanguard of the revolution "and you can't be a vanguard and be underground."

The staff members include Powell and Harold Bell, captain of defense; Monk Teba, captain of defense; Joseph Williams, security officer; Charles Hawkins, field marshal; Ronald Thompson, field marshal; and Delridge Hunter, minister of education.

One thing that is secret is the total membership of the Rockford party. Powell said there are seven staff members, including himself and that the party has between 20 and 100 members.

## PURGE POSSIBLE

But he said some of the mem-

bers may be "purged" because they either don't believe in revolution of capitalism or they want to dissipate their energy on the wrong goals.

He cites a group of Panthers in New York who want to dynamite the Statue of Liberty as having the wrong goal.

"You don't accomplish anything by blowing up statues," he said.

The Panthers were organized in October 1966 in Oakland, Calif., by Bobby Seale and Huey Newton. Chapters have been formed in several major cities, and Eldridge Cleaver joined Seale and Newton as the most prominent members.

The party received publicity through speeches by Cleaver at the University of California and through shooting incidents with police in Oakland and New York.

Powell admits that the Panthers do carry firearms but said they are intended for protection: "For me and for my family, and for the black community because my family lives there."

"We don't create conditions of violence, but we intend to protect ourselves," he said. "Guns are not toys. We don't have a bunch of paranoiacs running around carrying guns to feel like men."

He said the weapons are "tools for the revolution, when it comes."

He couldn't predict when the revolution will occur, but said it might be in five years if "certain accommodations aren't met."

**PARTY PROGRAM**  
When asked what accommodations he meant, Powell pointed to the 10-point program of the national Black Panther Party.

The program, as published in the Black Panther party newspaper is:

1. "We want freedom. We want the power to determine the destiny of our community."

2. "We want full employment

for our people. (We believe that the federal government is responsible and obligated to give every man employment or a guaranteed income.)"

3. "We want an end to the robbery by the white man of our Black Community. (Forty acres and two mules was promised 100 years ago as restitution for slave labor and murder of black people. We will accept the payment in currency which will be distributed to our many communities.)"

**'DECENT HOUSING'**

4. "We want decent housing, fit shelter of human beings."

5. "We want education for our people that exposes the true nature of this decadent American society. We want education that teaches us our true history and our role in the present-day society."

6. "We want all black men to be exempt from military service. (We will not fight and kill other people of color in the world who, like black people, are being victimized by the white racist government of America.)"

7. "We want an immediate end to police brutality and murder of black people."

8. "We want freedom for all black men held in federal, state, county and city jails."

9. "We want all black people when brought to trial to be tried in court by a jury of their peer group or people from their black communities as defined in the Constitution of the United States. (We have been, and are being, tried by all-white juries that have no understanding of the 'average reasoning man' of the black community.)"

**'LAND, BREAD'**

10. "We want land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice and power. And as our major political objective, a United Nations-supervised plebiscite to be held throughout the black colony in which only black colonial subjects will be allowed to participate, for the purpose of determining the will of black people as to their na-

tional destiny."

After the final point, the platform quotes the Declaration of Independence, concluding with: "But, when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them (people) under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government and to provide new guards for their future security."

Concerning freedom, Powell said it means something different to blacks than to whites.

To blacks, it means freedom to "take part in and enjoy life" while to whites it means "to expand and exploit."

**'AMERIKKAN DREAM'**

Powell divides blacks into three groups: proponents of the black-to-Africa movement who reject white customs; black separatists, who do not reject the total values of the American system but believe in separation of the races; and some Afro-Americans, who believe that "the Amerikkkan Dream will come true for black people."

Powell said the country is not making progress for minority groups toward that dream. "A revolution can never be effected if people believe there's a chance of change through the existing structure. Anybody with a modicum of intelligence can see the system is not operating for the benefit of the masses."

He said the examples of Adam Clayton Powell, a U.S. congressman from New York, and William Dawson, a congressman from Chicago, prove that blacks aren't progressing.

"Operating within the system gets one man ahead. Adam Clayton Powell made it, but the people in Harlem are still suffering."

And he said the recent elections of blacks such as Carl Stokes in Cleveland and Richard Hatcher in Gary aren't signs of gain for the black man.

"They can't act for the total benefit of black men when they deal with the power structure," he said.

He added that their elections do show that "black people are more aware of the problems that exist."

The problems, he said, are innate in capitalism: the capital-

ist works for his own benefit and steps on whoever gets in the way of profits. When profits drop, black men are fired first. When profits rise, workers get a small slice.

He would like to see government combine businesses "for the good of the people" in order to minimize competition.

"Too many companies don't see the people's needs. You can see this with all the strikes and picketing. People are pushing for a choice in their work ways."

**UNION VEHICLE**

He pointed to unionism as a vehicle for democratic socialism. But he said that blacks may increasingly turn to guerrilla tactics to hasten the downfall of capitalism and the revolution to democratic socialism.

"The black man has reached the Rubicon of his existence in America," Powell said. "We can't overthrow the system, but we can disrupt things till we get concessions. Black people are in key working positions in industries in large cities across the country — Philadelphia, Detroit, Chicago, Oakland."

Powell said the Black Panthers feel fellowship with whites who seek revolution. He said that Huey Newton, besides forming the Black Panthers, founded the White Panthers in Detroit.

# Local Black Panther Officer Defends Party's Policies

Fascists, policemen and the Rockford school board came under fire from the Rockford Black Panther party Sunday as its minister of information defined and defended Panther policies before about 200 members and guests of The Unitarian Church. RR 7-14-69

C. Lincoln Powell spoke to the mostly white audience during one of the church's summer substitutes for religious services. Other vacation programs will feature a jazz concert, play reading and film on LSD.

Powell, speaking primarily in answer to questions, drew a verbal picture of the militant black organization which claims about 7,500 members nationwide and 100 locally. Issues concerning the Panthers, he said, include:

**FASCISM:** Panthers and fascists are natural enemies, Powell said, since fascists practice racism and exploit the oppressed. The Panthers, he said, speak for the oppressed.

**RACISM:** "We are not a racist organization," he said. "We cannot come to our own people with racist ideas."

**POLICE:** The Black Panther Party's aim is not to eliminate

the police per se, but to eliminate those policemen with special racist interests, Powell said.

He called for community and neighborhood-controlled police forces answerable to citizens' committees. Powell indicated agreement with a woman in the audience who suggested Panthers should seek to change bad police practices rather than to

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preach hatred of all police.

**SCHOOL BOARD:** "We have a local school board which has moved in a fascist manner," Powell said. "They're setting themselves up as the only authority to determine who should be employed in the school system."

Powell apparently referred to the firing of fellow Panther Delridge Hunter from his job as ombudsman at Washington Community School. Hunter, who was in the audience Sunday, is minister of education for the Rockford Panthers.

**REVOLUTION:** Board member Dr. Robert F. Taylor, who opposed the firing of Hunter, asked Powell Sunday if any member of the Rockford Black Panther Party advocates overthrow

of the U. S. government. "Not to my knowledge," replied Powell.

**SUBVERSION:** "We are subversive toward exploitation, fascism and any activities which tend to keep power which people should have out of the hands of the people," said Powell.

**MAO:** Panthers use the sayings of Chairman Mao Tse-tung for discipline only and not as an entire philosophy, Powell said. He suggested the best possible economic structure is democratic socialism similar to Sweden's.

**BUSING:** "Black people function best within a black community," Powell said. He said poor black youngsters bused to wealthy white schools will still face discrimination and oppression.

**BREAKFASTS:** Powell denied claims that Panthers nationwide indoctrinate children under the guise of feeding them free breakfasts.

"As far as we're concerned, we're there to feed the kids," he said. "The Panthers establish the program. Who carries it on from there, is up to them. We don't distribute propaganda or give pep talks."

**B L A C K CAPITALISM:** "Black capitalism breeds a cer-

tain amount of racism," said Powell, who laughed at the mention of the new Negro-owned American Supermarket in Rockford. "If it's a way to solidify black and oppressed people, then it's a good thing."

**REVOLUTION:** "The possibility always exists" that as oppressed people realize what causes their oppression they will rebel, in the opinion of Powell. Such a revolution, he predicted, would be similar to the American Revolution against England.

## Plan For Free Breakfasts To Expand

Plans to expand a free breakfast program for children living in poverty areas on Rockford's west side were revealed Monday by Monk Teba, a member of the Rockford Black Panther Party. **RRS-26-69**

"We don't know yet when it will be ready, but we plan to have a second breakfast center in the Pierpont (Avenue) - Presington (Street) area," Teba said. "And hopefully by the end of the semester we'll have one serving the Fairgrounds Park area."

Teba said St. Elizabeth's Center, used last spring as the site of a pilot breakfast program, will be used again this fall.

The program is expected to be in full operation within the first week of school, Teba said. "Any hungry child who wants a free breakfast" will be eligible to come to the centers each day where hot meals will be served from 6 to 9 a.m.

All the food used in the program is expected to come from donations. Teba said about 200 letters requesting donations from Rockford area businessmen will be sent out this week. Again this year the West Side Community Organization (WESCO) has pledged help with the program, Teba said.

Expansion of the program, he said, may provide free breakfasts for students attending Washington, Montague, Wilson, Lincoln Park, William Dennis, and Ellis schools.

## Two Resign Black Panther Party Posts

Resignations of Delridge Hunter and Charles Lincoln Powell from the Rockford Chapter of the Black Panther Party were announced by a party official Thursday night.

Harold Bell, captain of defense, released a statement saying that Powell, former lieutenant of information, and Hunter, former lieutenant of education, "resigned because of other commitments they had, and they were aware that with other commitments they were not able to work fully with the Black Panther Party."

Bell declined to specify the commitments of Hunter and Powell. **Stas-22-69**

Hunter is a former ombudsman for Washington Community School whose contract was not renewed for this coming school term by the Rockford Board of Education. Reportedly, he presently has a job outside the Rockford area.

## Panthers Ask Doctors For Free Service

Local doctors and health officials have been asked by the Rockford Black Panther Party to help to establish a free medical center in Southwest Rockford. **Stas-22-69**

Monk Teba, who identified himself as a "field lieutenant" for the local Panthers, said form letters were mailed Tuesday to members of the medical profession. He said he has received no response.

Teba said the center, to be located at 601 S. Pierpont Ave., would be used primarily for medical checkups and simple medical treatments. He said the Panthers are asking for help in staffing the center and training workers.

"A recent investigation of the West Side of Rockford revealed that there were no immediate doctors or medical facilities available," he said. He added that the investigation was cursory and did not involve a survey of medical needs.

Teba has asked volunteers to contact him at the Rockford Black Panther Party office at 529 S. Pierpont Ave.

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#### NO DIFFERENCE

"If you shoot me in the back and you're black, it doesn't make any difference what color you are," said Bell.

He added that the party will accept police, but only if they're members of and controlled by the communities they serve.

"We don't want any black police running around our community if we can't control them," said Bell. "If we can control them, we can relate to them, but we can't relate to these madmen running around murdering and killing."

R. Chaka Walls, deputy chairman of information of the Illinois Black Panthers chapter, said the Panthers keep guns, and are unafraid of violence.

"Nobody in the world ever got liberation and freedom by expecting to have it brought to them on a silver platter," said Walls.

#### HAVE GUNS

"Hell, yes, we have guns—they (the police) have guns. What do you think we're going to do, go out there in the street and throw rocks and bottles at a guy with a 12-gauge shotgun? If you're going to be out there, be out there with something, that's the way we see it.

"We don't have anything now, so we've got nothing to lose. The way the system's set up, we'll never get anything. The only way to get anything is to change the system."

# Panther sees Rockford oppression

Members of the Black Panther party told about 200 people at a rally Sunday afternoon in Blackhawk Park that the fight against oppression is the same in Rockford as it is in any other United States city.

"There's no difference between Rockford and Jackson, Miss.," said Field Lt. Monk Teba. "The only difference is the way you spell it."

Teba told the audience that "the tools we use in Rockford are the same tools we use against fascist pigs all over the country." *SAR 6-8-70*

"The Black Panthers are willing to kill to save our people," declared Teba. "We've tried every other way to do it, but there isn't any other way. It's the only thing left."

#### FIGHTING BACK

"We haven't been fighting back unless we've been attacked. And we're being attacked because we're trying to serve the people," he said.

Harold Bell, defense captain, spoke next, and echoed some of Teba's thoughts on violence: "There's nothing wrong with violence," he said, "if you're using it to protect yourself."

He also addressed some of his remarks to plainclothes policemen or "pigs," as the Panthers call them, in the audience.

"I know we've got some pigs out in this audience," said Bell. "You just can't get rid of them. We don't want you occupying our communities, and we don't want you here."

He also told the policemen, who might not have been there at all, that the Panthers make no distinction between white policemen and black policemen.

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## Panthers Feed 130 Children

About 130 school children have been fed breakfast this week by the Rockford Black Panther Party at the Greater New Hope Church, Pierpont Avenue and Preston Street. RR 9-11-69

Monk Teba, who identified himself as a "field lieutenant" for the local Panthers, said children in Southwest Rockford will be fed breakfast Monday through Friday on a continuing basis.

Teba said the food is donated by local businesses and money has been given for the program labeled the People's Community Breakfast.

"The Black Panthers have set up the program in such a way that it will continue to run without us," Teba explained. "We're just making sure it can be run by the community."

Teba denied that Black Panther propaganda was being used on the children during breakfasts. "The only thing we talk about is the need to survive," he said. "We talk with the parents about food, clothing, shelter and medical attention."

Form letters were sent to Rockford doctors last month in an effort to establish a free medical center in Southwest Rockford asked by the Panthers. Teba said the doctors thought the letter was "too intimidating" and no one has come forward.

"We're going to have to talk to doctors on an individual basis," he said. "We may have to go to other parts of the state. It's a shame doctors here won't move to help people who need medical attention."

Teba said the center, to be located at 601 S. Pierpont Ave., would be used primarily for medical checkups and simple medical treatments.

# Rockford Leader Among Those Held

CHICAGO (UPI) — A 15-minute gunfight erupted today when state's attorney's police entered a Black Panther stronghold to search for weapons. Two Black Panthers were killed and four wounded. RR 12-11-69

The dead included Fred Hampton, about 22, Illinois chairman of the Black Panther party.

Among those being held by police was Harold K. Bell, 23, 317 Howard Ave., who is identified as the captain of defense of the Rockford Black Panther party. Bell was one of three persons taken into custody and held without formal charge after the gun battle.

Two policemen were wounded in the battle, which broke out when the authorities entered an apartment near Black Panther headquarters on the outskirts of Chicago's West Side Skid Row.

Fourteen men made up the unit that took part in the early morning raid. They had a warrant signed by Judge Robert Collins, according to a spokesman for the State's Attorney's office, obtained after sawed-off shotguns and other illegal weapons were reported to be in the apartment.

### OCCUPANTS SHOOT

When the authorities identified themselves, the spokesmen said, voices on the other side of the door began asking "who?" "who?" Then, he said, the door was opened and "eight or more individuals began firing with carbines, shotguns and handguns."

The apartment, according to the spokesman, belonged to a Fred Johnson, an alias used by Hampton. In it police said they found 12 shotguns, 8 pistols and 5,000 rounds of ammunition. He said Hampton was felled after he had shot at the authorities with a .45 automatic and a shotgun.

### PEORIA MAN KILLED

The other dead man was identified as Mark Clark, 22, Peoria, Ill. There had been reports earlier this year that the Panthers had attempted to organize young people in that downstate community.

Four persons were taken into custody after the battle, in-

cluding a woman identified as Deborah Johnson, 19, said to be about eight months pregnant.

Before the 15-minute gun battle ended more than 50 policemen had been called to the scene, near where rioting had occurred two years ago. They brought machine guns and tear gas but did not use them.

## Panthers vow oppression fight

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Bell, who survived a Chicago police raid last fall which killed two panthers, also addressed some of his remarks to plainclothes policemen in the audience.

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