

Ralph Moore Rejects "Deal"

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"In response to this secret 'deal,' Ralph, a true servant of the people, said:

"Judge Di Risio and the people who are holding his strings are denying me the right to serve the people, which is all we've done since our beginning here in 1971. And at the same time they're saying that the people have no right to survive, because that's what the Black Panther Party has done — provide programs to help the people survive the economic depression we are in.

"What kind of government is it that will attack, tooth and nails, an individual or organization whose only activities have been that of serving free breakfasts to needy school children; giving thousands of full bags of groceries to the poor communities; providing free child care for mothers who work to make ends meet; being the first to introduce the problem of Sickle Cell Anemia and the first to do mass free testing for the disease; providing free new clothing for people in need, and providing free transportation for people to go see their friends and relatives in prisons? What kind of court



Brother RALPH MOORE (with bullhorn), Chattanooga, Tennessee, Black Panther Party coordinator currently serving jail sentence on trumped-up extortion charge.

system is, it that would deny me the right to participate in such programs?

"I cannot accept Judge Di Risio's deal because I refuse to sell out the people. The people have been denied life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The people have not seen any freedom, justice and equality. You've got to give the people what they want.

"It is my belief that to make this sacrifice for the people is heavier than ten Lookout Mountains, but to give in to and appease the powerful people who are misusing the people is lighter than a canary feather. I'll take my stand with the people.

"There will be no justice in American courts until the people are the judges. All power to the people." □

Free All Political Prisoners

Ralph Moore Rejects "Deal" Offered By Judge

(Chattanooga, Tenn.) - Brother Ralph Moore, falsely imprisoned coordinator of the Chattanooga, Tennessee, Branch of Black Panther Party, was secretly offered a suspended sentence in exchange for his agreement to cease his community organizing activities with the Party, Chattanooga Branch recently closed.

A press release issued by Chattanooga Branch said that following a secret meeting between criminal court Judge Di Risio and several local Black Panther Party ministers, Di Risio offered "deal" to Brother Moore. Brother Moore is serving a two-year sentence in Hamilton County Jail on a trumped-up extortion charge growing out of a 1972 Black Panther Party - led boycott of local Red Food Store.

IN JAIL

Brother Moore has been in jail since last February when the Tennessee Supreme Court rejected his appeal of the 15-year conviction. The rejection of the appeal came four days after Brother Moore qualified as a candidate for Chattanooga commissioner of public works, elective county office.

In another major development in the case, the state of Tennessee rejected a motion by Brother Moore that he be released from jail because the state's extortion statute is un-Constitutional, vague and broad.

The state's response, filed by Assistant Attorney General V. Henry Haile, said that the state opposes Brother Moore's request to be released on bail while his habeas corpus (a law stating that a prisoner be given an immediate hearing or be released from jail) petition is argued.

The press release states in part:

"We see this (Di Risio's offer) as not only an attempt to destroy the Black Panther Party in Chattanooga, and a means to stifle the Black community's struggle for self-determination, but it confirms our belief that the only crime Brother Ralph committed was his being a member of the Black Panther Party. This is a violation of his Constitutional rights.

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