

SUPPRESS YOUR LOCAL POLICE

1. When a society is in an advanced state of disintegration it can no longer rely on normal mechanisms of government. Larger and larger sections of the populace protest the policies of the state and withdraw their consent from it. It increasingly turns to the law of the gun. In this crisis power accrues to the state's military arm which, in turn, begins to emerge as a rival to the traditional ruling class. The difference between Germany and America is that fascism developed outside the state and then seized state power. In America, the forces of fascism already reside within the state.
2. A bourgeois democracy must develop an "invisible government" in order to wage imperialist war abroad. The institutions thus developed then begin to contend for control of the state itself (George Wallace and Curtis LeMay represented the coming together of these two factions in political alliance).
3. Kent State, as Boggs has observed, was My Lai at home. The growing power of the military/police is such that they no longer function as a mindless arm of the state. They now perceive their own interests and often move in opposition to and embarrassment of their erstwhile political rulers.
4. Thus the police question at home is rooted in the police state abroad. Its ascendancy mirrors the extreme crisis of American society.

5. The Black Movement must counter this threat by two strategies:

I. Political

The contradiction between black and white cops should be exploited. Blacks should demand the elevation of black police to supervisory positions. (As police commissioners in cities where black have the political power: Cleveland, Gary, etc., or as Co-Chiefs with separate jurisdictions where they do not.)

Legislative relief can be sought. In St. Louis, local Aldermen were asked to sponsor a Bill opening the Police Department to Community Control. It sought the following rights:

- a. The power to investigate all shootings of unarmed fleeing suspects,
- b. set up means whereby the state of Missouri will be liable to make amends for all police misconduct, such as shooting and killing unarmed fleeing suspects,
- c. create a new position of black Co-Chief of Police,
- d. get 50% black policemen in all ranks of the police department,
- e. the power to investigate and review police fiscal practices.

Thus significant challenges can be made to police practices through raising traditional reform issues: discrimination in hiring and promotional policies. Further an attack on non-residential hiring (there used to be a law in New York called the Landy Law which gave first preference in hiring to local residents) would also work in the black interest.

II. Military

At some point the black community must develop a counter-force either growing out of existing black police or as separate auxilary. E. G.

"The answer. . . is a special emergency force consisting of young men and women who would devote 2 or 3 years of their lives to serving the city. . . They would quickly be given sufficient knowledge of city government to spot housing violations and file complaints. They could move into a problem area, take it over house by house, and clean it up. They could provide police protection, collect garbage, patrol the streets, arrest narcotics pushers. They could collect the rent and make the repairs slumlords refuse to make . . ." (Edward Costikyan, Saturday Review, April 4, 1970)

6. Finally, the rebellions have proven that, with the exception of New York, local police are unable to control a rebelling black populace. Nor can the State Police, Highway Patrol, etc. The society's main trump, therefore, is the lily-white, Birch-infested, National Guard. (There are too many niggers in the Army for them to be sanguine about whose side they would be on in a pinch.) So we should consider the neutralization of the Guard at least as important to our ultimate safety as control of the local police.

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