

# DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 1 OF 16

FOLDER 34

BLACK AND POOR PEOPLES  
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH  
ORGANIZATION

Draft

## Black and Poor People's Scientific Research Organization

Goals: The super-exploited black worker is objectively in the vanguard role, therefore support must be concentrated on the workers organizations to keep the total movement from slipping into petty bourgeois deviations as is the tendency in student circles. The particular support argued for is a scientific organization covering the black workers scientific and technical flank similar to the legal flank already protected by a law office. The range of problems is to be at all levels of science: theoretical and applied.

Program: The leadership and final full authority for the organization is totally in the hands of the black workers organization. This includes the chief administrator and any governing board that might develop. White scientific and technical help drawn from the campuses are present to do scientific and technical jobs, make highly tentative suggestions and train black personnel to replace them. They are to be present at decision making meetings only if invited, if ever. The white experts are to be encouraged to be ruthlessly professional making unbridled criticism and self-criticisms of scientific and technical nature, but, basic questions of political judgement, including the direction of research, is totally in black hands.

The black and white technical staff is most interested in training young black cadre to replace all the white staff and expand the older black staff. To assure that the whites do not linger past their time, when appropriate, a white research team will be formed to work with the Appalachian super-exploited whites in the Cass Corridor. This group of super-exploited whites could potentially come in as equal allies, proportional to their numbers, unlike the white proletariat of say, Dearborn, who are not super-exploited and therefore not vanguard.

The research to be accomplished is of two orders. The highest priority is research suggested by the community, an example of which is the School's Decentralization Report. Deadlines, occasionally punishing ones, <sup>are</sup> set by the needs of the mass base of workers and their families in the community. The lower priority is the research suggested by the scientists and technicians directly. Before the organization permits this second order research, it must be reviewed. If researchers feel the need to do research in a particular area that the organization deems unnecessary, they must do this work on their own time. If the researcher feels the need to do research in a particular area that the organization ~~deems~~ pernicious, the researcher will be expelled.

The research is always to be accomplished with an eye to mobilizing the mass base of super-exploited workers. For example, so called traffic "accidents" are not accidents where white commuters are allowed to run down the children of black workers by the device of calling a black residential street an "arterial." <sup>Such</sup> deaths should be useful in arousing black <sup>worker</sup> mothers and ~~their worker~~ fathers on the streets where these "accidents" occur. ~~For contrast,~~ <sup>In contrast,</sup> research of this sort requires no further expanding. <sup>Theoretical</sup> work, even strategic work, such as the School's Report, requires "popularization," in many cases. ~~This step of propaganda and agitation should be done rather than using the tactical energy required for such a translation into plain ordinary language as a club to prevent the theoretical and strategic research necessary to win the revolution. When tactics obliterate strategy and theory, opportunism prevails and defeat is inevitable.~~ The scientific solution to the problem of translating technical language into popular language is to recognize that it is an enormous and complicated effort, rather than to write either "lofty" abstract articles to gather dust in academic cloisters, ~~on the one hand,~~ or to insist that all research be immediately popular in language, ~~on the other hand.~~ Popu-

larization should include special classes, re-writing for Inner City Voice, ~~Poster~~s, handouts, etc.

The apprentice-jourymen are to be treated as apprentice-journeymen. In any skilled trade the young are taught by case method. A skilled electrician, for instance, has assigned to him young men to learn the trade by acting as his assistants.

The relationship of the research organization with the other pieces of the black vanguard movement should be most cordial, cooperative and respectful of the divisions of labor of all pieces. The total structure and its parts always bend to the needs of the vanguard masses, of course, but in day to day matters procedures become relatively standardized. The projected relationships are as follows: The basically white intellectual community is the prime source of energy, especially financial and material, for the organization. That is, the intellectuals pump energies into the worker community rather than take them out such as the obscene bourgeois exploitation of misery in career oriented Ph.D. thesis, and <sup>the</sup> "study-to-death" ~~the~~ tradition of "liberal" intellectuals. Within the movement, substantial ~~legal~~ fees are paid to the legal arm for work in legalizing contracts from foundations and so forth. Considerable "profit" from such fees re-enforces the legal office. Publications should utilize Black Star facilities where feasible, re-enforcing both the publishing plant itself and book store outlets. For instance, a Black Star publication, say the Schools Report including Guidelines and perhaps some overview political remarks by leaders say in Parents and Students for Community Control, could be published in bound book form, and sold instantly. The Technical and Scientific Organization, utilizing its campus connections across the continent could generate required reading orders for students developing a huge direct mailing business for Black Star. Why should not black publishers be getting the financial bonus of the black study programs

in the colleges and universities of the continent, rather than white publishers <sup>having</sup> ~~of~~ anti-working class bias in cities like New York and Boston?

Staff: Pieces for the staff are already in existence. The apprentice-journeymen have emerged starting in the beginning of the summer from the Black United Front at Michigan State University. The team has already learned much about data gathering and shows great discipline and "staying power." The Detroit Geographical Expedition and Institute has developed an excellent black cartographer, Robert Ward Jr. who is in the program at Michigan State University. A black editor, Yvonne Colvard, a journalism senior at the University of Michigan has also been <sup>discovered</sup> ~~developed~~ by the Expedition, but <sup>as</sup> ~~a~~ politically ~~s~~ sensitive a job as editor should be definitely screened by the parent black workers organization. Needed are: ~~a~~ black photographer, <sup>a</sup> computer programmer, and eventually replacements for the white staff members. The three white staff members suggested for the program are all developed out of the Expedition and have shown the greatest loyalty and willingness to come geographically out of their campuses to serve the vanguard community. These three are <sup>Eileen Van Tassell,</sup> ~~Helen Ventess,~~ a biologist on the faculty of Michigan State University; John Masterson a mathematician on the same faculty; and William Bunge, a geographer temporarily partially employed at Western Ontario.

Budget: It is agreed that monies are to be overwhelmingly found in the white academic community, not taken from the black vanguard community. Immediate fund raising includes a direct appeal to all faculty members in Southeastern Michigan for monthly pledges (at least ten dollars per month) and for pledges to write project proposals to foundations, provide honorariums for visiting lecturers and so forth. The financing provides a mobilization of the white academic community's subjective commitment, that is, it concretizes sentiment, moves it to action and thus deepens the commitment rather than letting it molder like a raisin in the academic sun.

The parent vanguard political organization could be most helpful in signalling to the black professors on campus that it would be irresistible if the white faculty members were approached face to face to support the black research foundation. With a fund drive, (an organized campaign by black academics on campus), an immediate budget of tens of thousands of dollars per year is realizable. Perhaps fund raising in this untapped territory should be one of the high order priorities of the appointed black director of the projected black research foundation. It also gives the director a good reason to project himself publically, as heading up the funding drive, (on Hainey's People, in the Michigan Chronical and so forth), so that the black leadership is mass established immediately.

Facilities, including mailing address, phone, meeting room and desks are an initial necessity. Perhaps the space could be donated till financing becomes more stabilized. A phone must be listed in the new organizations name. An answering service might do initially. The black director should be salaried. If the academic fund raising campaign proves as successful as it should, this salary might be available within a month. The rule of salaries agreed upon by the whites is that if they are family providers, their salaries must not exceed that of a black automobile worker. Masterson is securely employed at Michigan State University. Bunge is temporarily employed. Van Tassel is employed till August of 1971 and is unmarried and therefore, after that time, does not need full salary. The whites are urged to make their salaries in the white academic community wherever possible. Bunge has growing income potential as an author and might be self sustaining after midsummer of 1971, when his temporary employment collapses. So the outlook is that the whites will need probably only one partial salary and that not until the summer of 1971.

Generally, it is recommended that capital equipment purchases be put off. For instance, <sup>c</sup>Computers are available <sup>at</sup> for no cost across the

continent. The better computer cost millions of dollars. Obviously these free-to-the-foundation gigantic machines are way beyond the means of the projected black foundation. However, IBM card sorters, cartographic equipment and eventually telephone lines that feed directly into the continental gigantic computers, that is, a fully developed research facility, totally equipped, is an intermediately realizable goal. This equipment, again, can probably be provided from the white academic community at no black expense. For instance, a phone call or two from Gwendoly Warren, who is in close contact with white academic geographic leadership, should be enough to fully equip a cartography center, minus a copy camera and such a camera is available at Black Star.