

DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 3 OF 16

FOLDER 18

EWSC STATEMENT ON
RACISM

"... it isn't the American white man who is a racist, but it's the American political, economic and social atmosphere that automatically nourishes a racist psychology in the white man."

Malcolm X, Autobiography

A basic complaint against all civil rights laws and ordinances and the government agencies set up to enforce them is they don't really attack the problem of racism at its source.

Racism is rooted in an economic system that creates and maintains racial discrimination as a means of keeping workers divided and unable to join together to fight for what is theirs.

But Civil Rights laws and agencies usually attempt only to smooth over and settle individual cases of racism. We heard recently of a man who took large amounts of a new improved brand of aspirin for a brain tumor. His

This is true, but historical examples are explosive reinforcements of your point — mention, e.g., that 15 million black Africans died on slave ships to the "New World."

(2)

Civil Rights

headaches went away for awhile but they always returned harder than ever. Finally, he needed major surgery. He may die.

IP For whatever it's worth the four men fired last May 27 for their participation in the Eldon Workers Safety Committee (James Edwards, Alonzo Chandler, Robert McKee and John Taylor) have signed complaints with the Michigan Civil Rights Commission against Chrysler, the U.R.W. International and local 961 protesting their discharges as racially discriminatory.

IP The complaint against Chrysler states black workers at Eldon are discriminated against by being put in the dirtiest and most dangerous jobs and departments in the plant. ~~Some~~ Protesting dangerous working conditions at Eldon automatically

③

Civil Rights

means protesting this form of racial discrimination. Firing men for protesting unsafe conditions amounts to firing them for protesting Chrysler's racially discriminatory hiring and job placement practices.

The complaints against the local and the International state they failed to adequately represent the discharged workers and so helped Chrysler in its racist practices.

It'll be interesting to see whether the Civil Rights Commission will investigate the case quickly, thoroughly and aggressively and help get these men back into Eldon. But the real question is whether civil rights laws and agencies are really able to deal effectively with the problem of racism in America, whether they're really responsive to the needs of the people.

maybe you should have brought out the 'class' racism — to manage — meant all workers are 'niggers' to be put in their place and be told what to do — I don't think Chrysler would go to a white workers' funeral either. IP you right-fully aimed your argu-ments at blacks, but whites have very few civil rights in this pig society — they just think they do. IP Your case is proof they don't. The whites and blacks have to be convinced they're being fucked over together. Even if only blacks read your article, (over)

this would be effective. The day when you have blacks going out recruiting whites, you know you're making progress.