

DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 14 OF 16

FOLDER 25

**CLP SCHOOL BUSING ISSUES
1975**

In the Detroit area, the NAACP has been the key organizational leadership in the struggle of the Negro people for their liberation. In 1969, it led the struggle for community control of schools--decentralization. This was a positive step in that it answered the call of working class people for control over their schools. However, decentralization did not meet the needs for equal educational opportunity, nor did it encourage desegregation. What it did do was to foster segregation, turning what started as a step forward into a step backward. It was the NAACP who took a stand against the plan as it saw the lack of implementation of decentralization to encourage intergration.

Again the NAACP has taken the lead defending the rights of the Negro people; setting the pace for busing in Detroit. The national office is leading the struggle here due to the split between national NAACP and local NAACP (Detroit Free Press, March 10, 1975.). While local NAACP wish to support a lesser demand around school desegregation the national office is pushing for stronger demands, each pursuing different interest.

Using Detroit as a key, the national NAACP hopes to set a precedent for a major breakdown of school district boundaries on the issue of segregation. Michigan and Ohio are their prime target around desegregation, and will serve as pace-setters for the rest of the nation. Cross district busing would require a specific organization to handle it. Such an organization could serve as a base for presenting the demand for nationalization of education. We must put our support behind the national NAACP push for cross district busing as it serves the greater interest of the class in so far as it opens the door towards the nationalization of education. We believe the NAACP has good evidence to show that Westwood (100% Anglo-American) was developed as a special school district to isolate Inkster (predominantly Negro national minorities), and that such examples will support their stand on including some suburbs in the busing.

The present plan in the forefront is that of a Detroit only busing. This plan is seen as an "interim" measure and the NAACP plans to push for cross district busing in the Detroit area (Detroit News, March 23, 1975). The local NAACP leaders fail to unite with this plan of action. The reason behind this are tied in with the bourgeois forces of New Detroit, the School Board, labor faction in Detroit NAACP, Coleman Young and corporate powers.

Local NAACP leaders contain a small but strong labor faction. This faction is in alignment with the leadership of New Detroit and labor power in Detroit. The labor faction led by Oliver, Turner, Stepp, and Watts have aligned with the leadership of New Detroit (Larry Doss) and other labor power in directing the School Board and its office of desegregation through Margaret Ashworth, who is director of the Office. New Detroit has made sure that the School Board plan is the most conservative one possible.

There is a strong drive by corporate powers in Southeastern Michigan to establish some form of "metropolitan government" in this area--to develop a correspondence between the political units of the state and the industrial concentration area of the capitalists, which is planning to extend itself significantly beyond the Detroit city limits. This is especially evidenced by the policies of the Metro

Fund, (the financial arm of the metropolitan bourgeoisie). The Metro Fund, one of the strongest money coalitions in this area, favors centralized government for the metropolitan region at the expense of in-city Detroit power (and therefore at the expense of UAW influence). Naturally, labor powers are opposed to this, since the political strength which the UAW can marshal in this area is partially a function of its concentration in an autonomous Detroit. The battle for centralized control is being fought at all levels of state government. The Michigan legislature recently passed a bill allowing counties to elect "executive directors" who would have para-presidential powers within the county. Coleman Young and UAW are very much opposed to this...the Metro Fund is in favor. In our opinion, the school desegregation issue is part of this struggle, and it is a manifestation of some of the contradictions between the bourgeoisie and the labor aristocracy. First of all, the NAACP is obviously pushing for expanded school district boundaries and some form of metropolitan control over the schools. We know that the School Board and Coleman Young have made statements supporting a metro-desegregation plan. This seems contradictory at first sight, considering Coleman's position on a strong Detroit. One critical piece of this problem--a piece which is missing--is New Detroit's position on metropolitan desegregation. This piece is very important; New Detroit sets the "social action" policy for the bourgeoisie, yet its silence is an indication of its uncertainty. To understand New Detroit's difficult position, we must consider these factors; (a) Larry Doss strongly supports "community control"--he was involved in the original "decentralization plan" which divided the Detroit school district into 8 regions and perpetuated segregation...this probably means that he wants "community control" for Detroit as a whole, and so may oppose metro-busing; (b) because of New Detroit's policy of "solving social problems" it can't be against certain desegregation plans that would cause more "social problems"; i.e. it could oppose metro busing on the basis of fear of violence; (c) New Detroit represents some of the same interests as the Metro Fund, who are in favor of lessening the political autonomy of Detroit. New Detroit can't strongly oppose the wishes of the Metro Fund capitalists...but the labor interests of New Detroit do oppose any move to lessen Detroit power. These contradictions within New Detroit places it in a state of limbo regarding school desegregation in metropolitan area.

The split in the NAACP and the interest of various other bourgeois forces led to the organization of PRO Detroit, the coming together of some 39 Detroiters to work for effective and peaceful implementation of the court ordered plan. Pro Detroit was formed after all efforts to head of busing had failed. (Detroit News, March 26, 1975)

The NAACP PLAN PRESENTED April 1, is the most progressive of the two plans presented. This plan leaves only 28 already integrated public schools unaffected. The school board plan would leave untouched 131 schools. Whereas the NAACP plan "bets up a cluster of schools on the highschool level, ignoring present regional boundaries, the School Board plan attempts to maintain the boundaries. The School Board plan would bus an estimated 38,000 elementary school students while the NAACP proposes bussing nearly 45,000. Each plan also would require transferring thousands more junior high and high school students..." (Detroit News, April 2, 1975).

Neither plan calls for busing of kindergarten nor high school seniors.

According to the NAACP, its plan would allow for schools with enrollments ranging from 41.4 to 89.8 percent black. (Detroit News, April 2, 1975). The NAACP plan involves 84 more schools than the plan presented by the school board. Both the school board and the NAACP have been asked to agree upon a single plan by April 21, 1975.

The final decision as to which plan will go into effect in September will be left to DeMascio who has called in a team of so-called "masters" to help draft a final intergration plan.

One aspect of the busing plan that has been given very little or minor attention is the bi-lingual education struggle of the Latino community. Segregation is seen as undesirable in the long run. The Latino community is strongly opposed to any form of desegregation measures--including busing--that takes from them the gain they have made in bi-lingual education struggle. The language problem is the major problem in Latino education. They do not wish their children bused to schools without bi-lingual programs. In busing, we must demand full implementation of Michigan HR 4750 (a bill which provides for bi-lingual education programs in all school district with at least 20 children of limited English speaking ability).

Busing is an explosive issue. The bourgeoisie uses it to its advantage--to split the class. Due to the bribe of the Anglo American working class, it is difficult for many to accept busing. Busing is seen as a threat to their way of life--their good schools, good community, etc. But busing is a right of minorities in an effort to achieve better education. It is the fight of the Negro people for liberation.

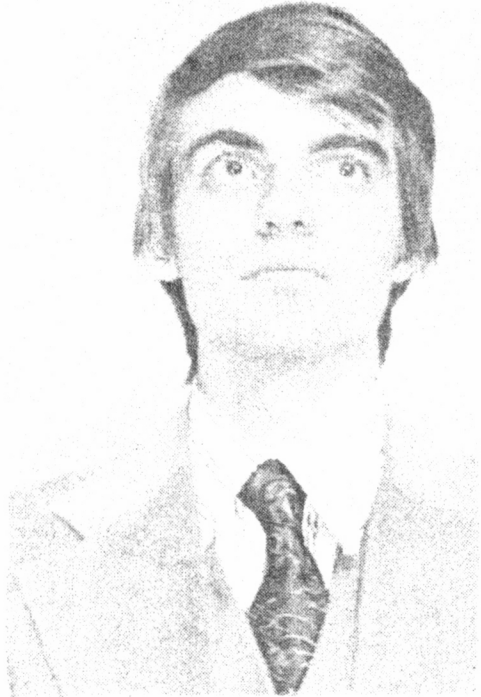
The NAACP is receiving some \$500,000 to "break the back" of northern school segregation". The money comes from the Rockefeller foundations, the Carnegie Corp. and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. The bourgeoisie has never had any constructive interest in the advancement of the working class movement. They have historically looked out for their own interest. The contributions they are now making to the NAACP must be looked at and analyzed from this historical aspect. They are funding busing because they are well aware that it will divide the class along national lines.

Our task is the unity of the working class around the issue of busing. All working class people must support the Negroes in their demand for better education, we must unite as a class to overcome the bribe at every level and raise the issue of busing to the revolutionary struggle of quality education of all working class children through the nationalization of education.

VOTE for STEVE BEUMER

SCHOOL BOARD - REGION 7

(says he's Hooper parent)



Steve Beumer attended Indiana University and the Labor Institute at Wayne State University. He is currently a member of Local Division 26, Amalgamated Transit Union, AFL-CIO. He is a member of the NAACP and active in the Detroit chapter of the Student Coalition Against Racism. He is active in the Socialist Workers Party.

The following is a statement by Mr. Beumer on his candidacy for the School Board - Region 7.

"The central thrust of my campaign is the fight for desegregation of the Detroit schools. This will be the main issue facing voters in the school board elections. My campaign will promote the fight for the total desegregation of the Detroit schools and surrounding communities as this is one of the means by which black students will get an equal education in the city of Detroit.

The true colors of the so-called "anti-busing" forces were revealed when they opposed Judge DeMascio's decision to bus 21,000 students. These racists have been on an offensive locally and nationally to oppose busing and desegregation. These attacks must be met with a counter-offensive by supporters of desegregation to guarantee the rights of black students to an equal education.

In my campaign, I will be campaigning to implement the desegregation plan now in effect, as well as campaigning to extend the plan to include all of Detroit and its suburbs. If elected I will turn my offices and resources into organizing centers to build a movement to fully win the right to an equal education for all black students.

---DESEGREGATE ALL OF DETROIT, INCLUDING THE SUBURBS!

---STOP THE RACIST ATTACKS!

For further Info. contact: Beumer for School Board - Region 7 Committee
6404 Woodward, Detroit 313-872-0322

Endorsed by: Socialist Workers Party

VOTE -FOR A BETTER DETROIT

The Detroit school district has been and is still being CHEATED by the State of Michigan. For many years wealthy school districts have received more State aid than Detroit. These funds went to pay for school transportation (buses), teacher pensions and social security. These same funds were DENIED to Detroit although Detroiters pay on an average 55% higher taxes than any other district in Michigan!

FACT: The State of Michigan paid for the teacher pension system in All districts EXCEPT DETROIT. The State paid the employer costs of social security in ALL districts EXCEPT DETROIT. Detroit until 1968-69 has had to pay these normally State paid costs at the expense of hiring 400 teachers. "Johnny can't read" because Detroiters pay \$4,000,000.00 per year to pay these past debts. THE STATE OWES DETROIT MILLIONS IN CHEATED TEACHER PENSION AND SOCIAL SECURITY FUNDS! *

THE 2 REAL ISSUES FACING DETROIT

1 Full State Funding

Full-state-funding, based on a graduated income tax system, is the only fair solution to the funding of education. Full-state-funding answers the questions of who can afford to pay and how we will meet the needs of our children at the same time.

- 1) Each child in every district would receive the same amount of money from the State for their education.
- 2) There would be an end to the vast inequality between wealthy and poor districts.
- 3) It would end local property taxes as the basis for school funding.
- 4) SENIOR CITIZENS and those who are on fixed incomes or low incomes would pay according to their ABILITY.
- 5) Full-State-Funding would raise the quality of education available in Michigan

2 Discrimination Against Detroit

Detroit is discriminated on by the State of Michigan for 2 main reasons. First, Detroit is made up of working class, poor people, and senior citizens, and the State feels justified in treating us unequally. Secondly, Detroit has a high percentage of Negro people and history has told the story of discrimination against these people.

The 1954 Supreme Court decision proved that "seperate but equal" has never brought equality to this countries national minorities. Only integration can ensure equal treatment.

These 2 issues are MOST IMPORTANT to our future. These issues effect the taxes we will pay, and the quality of education our children will receive, and yet, NO candidate has yet openly supported Full-State-Funding and Integration.

QUESTION the Candidates about these issues. GO to candidates night on *April 15* in Region 7.

ASK THE CANDIDATES THEIR POSITION, DEMAND FROM THEM WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW INORDER TO VOTE IN OUR BEST INTERESTS. THEN VOTE ON *MAY 18* IF YOU HAVE FOUND CANDIDATES WHO REALLY REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF DETROITERS.

✓ Region 7- April 15- Finny High School- 17200 South Hampton

over for more facts!



FACT: The State of Michigan would NOT ALLOW Detroit the same bonding powers for school building programs as enjoyed by ALL other school districts. 25% of Detroit classrooms are in buildings 50 years or older. Buildin and interest costs are 60% higher than when Deroit WANTED, and could meet the credit rating needed for such programs. *

FACT: Detroiters suffer the highest rate of UNEMPLOYMENT in the tri-county area, and yet Detroiters pay in local taxes 84.83 mills, the HIGHEST IN THE STATE. Detroiters pay on an average 55% higher TAXES, yet WE ARE IN DEBT, and our schools are years behing in providing education. *



FACT: The State of Michigan for years paid 75% of the cost of transportation of pupils for ALL districts EXCEPT DETROIT. 1973-74 was the first year Detroit received reimbursment for transportation. But Detroit had already gone into debt to pay for buses to transport our Handicapped and Special Education children to the tune of \$6,000,000.00 PER YEAR. THE STATE OF MICHIGAN OWES DETROIT MILLIONS IN CHEATED TRANSPORTATION FUNDS! *

(All facts are from the Detroit Human Rights Dept.)



THE STATE OWES US \$10,000,000.00 BASED ON JUST TWO POINTS, YET THE STATE SAYS DETROITERS MUST TIGHTEN THEIR BELTS IN ORDER TO PAY THE DEBT THAT ARE THE STATES RESPONSIBILITY.

Call or Write for more Facts:

* Human Rights Department
4th Floor
150 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48226

224-4950



Vote - May 18th, 1976

for Regional and Central Board members!

Labor Donated by Lets Make it Work - Region 7
Phone 822-6329

[1975]

Memo to the Det. Area

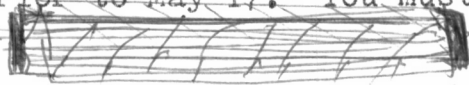
On Sunday, April 13th, at 4:00 p.m. - WUPES is holding a forum on busing at the North End Family center. The City Committee is commanding each and every comrade in the Detroit area to be present. The question of the struggle over busing is becoming the primary & fundamental question in the CLP, becoming the militant fighting vanguard party of the U.S.N.A. working class. Some comrades in our party have outright refused to carry out the party line on the busing issue. Others have vacillated & hesitated, left the WUPES forum in Feb. early because the busing issue was raised. Every comrade has been given a nuclei class on busing we are demanding that this class be studied in collectives or individual before the forum next Sunday. We do not want a situation in which we have comrades sounding like liberal do-gooders when speaking to the bussing situation. Lastly we are demanding that comrades do an all out mobilization for the WUPES forum on Sunday. We realize that this notice is late arriving but we want call-in's on radio & t.v. programs announcing the forum and wide spread distribution of the WUPES leaflet. We want as many contacts as possible - comrades should be society conscious and be prepared to take a militant stand on the bussing issue -

- Comradely -
City Comm. Bureau
Gen



TO: ALL UNITS
FROM: AGITATION AND PROPAGANDA
RE: MAY 17 MARCH ON BOSTON FOR BUSING

On Saturday, May 17, 1975 the NAACP is sponsoring a pro-busing march in Boston. Each comrade should publicize this march and attend if possible. Busses to Boston are available through the local chapter of the National Student Coalition Against Racism located on Wayne State's campus in the Student Center Building, Room 392 at a cost of 20 dollars. Also an area CLP leaflet must distributed prior to May 17. You must sign up for the bus by May 14, 1975.



→ ① NLG ← /
→ ③ NCBL

SUPPORT BUSING — STOP FASCISM

In the past few months, Boston has found itself in the midst of a severe political crisis. The struggle over bussing has set the tone and laid the conditions for any political action there. Everyone is beginning to line up on one side or the other. Either on the side of the anti-bussing forces, which represent not only anti-bussing sentiment, but sentiment directed against the Negro people, against labor, against anything that they term "un-American". On the other side are the forces of justice and equality; those people who are fighting for their very lives.

Daily these forces led by the Ku Klux Klan are spreading their vicious lies and nazi ideas. We must stop them! We cannot sit back any longer and view them as an isolated case; they represent a trend in the political scene that is dangerous to all. They are financed and backed by the same people who are responsible for unemployment, low wages, short work weeks, etc. Their backers are the rapacious capitalist class whose interests are the same.

The nazism of these people which is best expressed in their hatred of Negroes cannot go unchallenged any longer. We must fight against this growing trend, we must unite and fight against the building of nazism in this country. The situation is urgent; the lines are being drawn. Which side are you on? Will you fight with these nazis who are attempting to return the Negro people to slavery, to the lynch rope to the beatings and burnings? These people, who through their attacks on the Negro people are attempting to return the whole of the labor movement to the days of the 1920's! Or will you fight with history, fight with the progressive forces whose goal is equality and justice for all!

The choice you make will not only effect you lives, but the lives of workers across the country! The battlefield is in Boston now, but this battle will be raging throughout this country. Join us and march on May 17th in Boston at the NAACP march for Busing, for Equality, and for Integration!

JOIN US AT THE NAACP MARCH MAY 17

**Communist Labor Party of the United States
Of North America (C.L.P.U.S.N.A.)**

P.O. BOX 783, LINWOOD STATION, DETROIT, MICH. 48206