

S n c c

November, 1966



notes and comment

BLACK WOMAN

Her body is like new brown bread,
Under the Woolworth Mignonette,
Her body is like a honey bowl,
Whose waiting honey is deep and hot,
Her body is like summer earth,
Receptive, soft and absolute

.....anonymous

Historically, the image of the black woman has been stereotyped either as an exotic young body or a motherly Aunt Jemima. The nefarious Moynihan Report brings the defamination up to date. What image does the black woman of today have of herself? What role will this image play in the building of Black Power?

One facet of this image passes you occasionally on the street. The astonishingly regal beauty of the confident black woman with a natural, broadcasting to the world, as she goes by, her pride in her blackness. Inwardly she suffers all of the frustrations of her brothers in the struggle, with one addition. Will Black Power give her the same freedom as her brother - an equal partnership?

There has never been a true revolution in which women did not fight side by side with their men. Black brothers today, in rushing to establish their own black identities, tend to forget one component of the man's brainwashing that they must erase - the fact that white society has set women aside in a second-class position. Up to this point, the black man has copied this attitude.

This second-class status is parallel to the status of racial discrimination but is based on an entirely different set of prejudices. It is based on the theory that there is a sexual division of labor - women cook, type, change diapers; men drive trucks, run businesses, dig ditches. The entire theory is a lie, which can be proved by an examination of other cultures.

Unless the black man is prepared to accept the black woman as a full partner there can be no Black Power Revolution in this country. The black woman of today is ready to fight for Black Power but there can be no compromise. The black woman of today demands full freedom in the new society that she will help to build.

BROTHERS, THERE IS WORK TO DO

"The great question is.....not what governments prescribe, but what they ought to prescribe; for no prescription is valid against the conscience of mankind. And the conscience of mankind knows no distinction between Greek and barbarian, rich and poor, slave and master. Men are equal in rights as in duties, and human legislation can neither detract from the one nor add to the other.

....Lord Acton

As black leadership is systematically removed from the black community through character assassination, jail, the buy-off, murder and all those schemes which white America uses to maintain the status-quo of white oppression, we must seriously take the time to settle our family squabbles and sit down together as brothers to discuss and work out our common destiny.

When we do this, we must beware of the white mans tricks to distract us such as the recent, do-nothing civil rights bill and those phoney calls for 'unity' from black men chosen by our white oppressors to be our 'leaders' who do not and cannot represent us. We must not lose sight of our goal - political, economic and social control of black communities by black people.

Right here and now, in Chicago, we must begin a complete political re-organization of the black community begining with the removal of the 'silent six' black aldermen. These overseers of the black community for the white man downtown are up for re-election February 28, 1967. The time is short. We must plan together now to undermine for once and for all their strangle-hold on our community. We must work block by block to build independent constituencies and to form our own independent black parties.

We must all learn how to be 'leaders' for each other so that when the white man eliminates one of us, ten spring up to take his place. Do not be misled by the lies of fearful white men with guilty consciences, Black Power is YOU.

ATTEND THE BLACK POWER FORUM

A couple of months ago, SNCC called a Black Power unity meeting. There was such a great response, it was decided to continue to meet weekly, for further discussion and planning. The BLACK POWER FORUM is a black only meeting and is currently being held every Wednesday night, 7:30, at the ACT office, 413 East Oakwood Blvd. just east of South Park.