

HONKY HARRASSMENT OF CHAIRMAN RAP

Since Rap has assumed the responsibilities of Chairman of SNCC in May of 1967, his term of office has been one long and continuous history of harrassment and intimidation by the system of "just - ice" in this country. In seven months the U.S. government has tried to charge Rap one quarter of a million dollars for his freedom from prison, only to snatch him up again and again and place him behind bars for "telling it like it is" to black people in this damned country.

Now in a New Orleans prison, Rap has loudly proclaimed, "HELL NO"!

"Being a man is the continuing battle of one's life, one loses a bit of manhood with every stale compromise to the authority of any power in which one does not believe. No slave should die a natural death. There is a point where caution ends and cowardice begins. Every day I am in prison I will refuse both food and water.

My hunger is for the liberation of my people; my thirst is for the ending of oppression. I am a political prisoner, jailed for my beliefs that black people must be free. The government has taken a position true to it's facist nature. Those who they cannot convert, they must silence. This government has become the enemy of mankind..." (A LETTER FROM PRISON) -Rap Brown

He has been starving now for one week. He has refused to eat, he has refused to drink. His stomach has shriveled from hunger, his mouth is parched from thirst. He takes no orange juice - he takes no water. Chairman Rap is slowly dying.

To understand the mental ordeal that the government of the United States has placed on Rap we have prepared this fact sheet enumerating the blows Rap has had to endure at the hands of this government. Read and understand.

July 24, 1968 - Rap is charged with inciting to riot and arson in Cambridge, Maryland. A nationwide manhunt is ordered by the F.B.I. to pick him up. In Washington Rap lays wounded from a honky bullet that creased his scalp in Maryland.

July 26, 1968-- Rap is arrested in the Alexandria, Virginia airport where he was preparing to fly to New York and surrender himself under a pre-arranged agreement with the F.B.I., an agreement which the F.B.I. later denied. Federal authorities claimed that Rap was fleeing to escape prosecution by the government of Maryland. This charge was dropped by the Justice Dept. 6 hours later so that Virginia authorities could "re-arrest" Rap on the steps of the federal court house in Alexandria on charges of being a fugitive from Maryland. His bail was set at \$10,000. He was released on bond that same day. On the steps of the courthouse, Rap said:

"...I consider myself neither legally nor morally bound to obey laws made by a body in which I have no representation. Do not deceive yourselves into believing that penalties will deter men from the course they believe is right. We stand on the eve of a BLACK REVOLUTION!..."

Aug. 1, 1967 - Rap is charged by the city of Dayton, Ohio with "advocating Criminal syndicalism". Under this charge Rap could be arrested in Dayton or anywhere else in the state of Ohio. This charge was pressed because Dayton officials accused Rap of causing a 2 day rebellion in Dayton.

Aug. 16-18 - Rap made a round trip from New York to New Orleans to prepare to speak at a Baton Rouge rally to be held on Aug. 20. Rap's home is in Baton Rouge.

Aug. 19, 1967 - Rap is picked up in New York and charged with carrying a weapon to and from New Orleans. (A federal gun law makes it a crime for a citizen under indictment to carry weapons.) If found guilty, Rap faces a 5-yr. sentence. Rap's bail was set at \$25,000. During his stay in prison, Rap sent the following letter to his black brothers:

(over)

"In the course of any movement that seeks to promote change be it religious, social or revolutionary, individuals because of their beliefs are unjustly made to suffer. For blacks, the historical alternatives for political dissent in America have been death, exile or imprisonment. I am no exception.

I am being held as a political prisoner. However, my confinement will not rebuild Detroit nor will it save America from its due fate. For as America has bestowed upon me in my 23 years her extreme disfavor, she has also through her inhumanity, racism, oppression and exploitation of both black and white, domestic and foreign, made herself an enemy of mankind. I am told that people across the country have recognized my imprisonment to be a sounding board which may in some way reveal their own fate. If it takes imprisonment or even death to expose America for what it is, then this is my destiny.

To all those who favor freedom I say thank you for your convictions and your contributions toward that end.

To all the black brothers and sisters across America who are caught behind enemy lines, I say the fight has not yet matured. Arm yourselves, for our freedom is yet to come."

BLACK POWER,

Rap Brown

Aug. 22, 1967 - Rap's bail is reduced from \$25,000 to \$15,000.

Sept. 5, 1967 - Virginia Governor Goodwin orders Ra to be returned to Maryland to face riot charges.

Sept. 13, 1967 - Rap returns to Alexandria, Va. to be present during court proceedings around his possible extradition to Md. He was re-arrested by Alexandria officials and placed in jail. Two different judges refused to set bail for him. Rap's lawyer, William Kunstler, appealed to the federal court in Virginia to set bail.

Sept. 18, 1967 - Bond was set at \$10,000, and Rap was released on his own recognizance, but in the custody of his lawyer. In granting the bond, the judge confined Rap's travel solely "to the district in which his custodian (Mr. Kunstler) resides (southern district of New York) except when traveling for the purposes of trial or legal hearing or in preparation for defense of any charges against him." The judge later added that "...he (Rap) is not going anywhere to make speeches because he is going to have to stay in Mr. Kunstler's district, except when going to and from trial and going to the defense of these matters". Rap became a political prisoner, confined to New York City as a result of this ruling.

Jan. 11, 1968 - Rap visits the Cuban mission to the UN and while walking into the Cuban-owned building is shoved by American police inside the building. A short time later, Rap, along with the first secretary of the Cuban mission, Mr. Viera, were blocked from leaving the mission by a Yankee policeman who brandished his billy club and told them "You're going nowhere". Rap's later attempt to file a citizen's complaint against the police was denied in court while the police were allowed to complain about Rap.

Feb. 19 - 18 - Rap flew to San Francisco, Calif. to consult with his lawyer, William Kunstler, who was attending a meeting; later he flew to Los Angeles to consult with Atty. Malone, another of Rap's lawyers and one of the best gun laws attorneys in the country.

Feb. 20, 1968 - Rap was arrested in N.Y. and charged with violating the bond regulations of Sept. 18th by traveling to Calif. Bond was set at \$100,000.

Feb. 21, 1968 - Rap returned to New Orleans for a hearing before the Fifth District Court on charges that he had violated the bond agreement of Sept. 18. During a court recess Rap went over to the black F.B.I. agents who had followed him in Calif. and expressed the hope that the agent's children grew up to be a better man than he was. The F.B.I. agent later told the judge that Rap had threatened his life and his children's lives. Two new bonds were then set on Rap totaling \$180,060.

Feb. 23, 1968 - Rap is taken from N.O. to Richmond where the \$10,000 bond set for him on 2/18 is revoked. Rap now owes the gov't \$10,000.

Feb. 24, 1968 - Rap is returned to Louisiana where he is now imprisoned.