

TRANSCRIPT OF TALK BY BENNIE STEWART TO ABOUT 170 PERSONS NOV. 4, 1968

Brother Carmichael said some very beautiful things, about the prolonged struggle. It just so happens that the members of the BSU Central Committee have been analyzing how student movements have been functioning. Taking over buildings, holding it for two or three days, and then the thing is dead. Most of your leaders are ripped off and thrown in jail, or the masses are thrown in jail, and there's no one to lead them.

From our analysis of this, we think we have developed a technique to deal with this for a prolonged struggle. We call it the war of the flea. The war of the flea. What does the flea do? He bites, sucks blood from the dog, the dog bites. What happens when there are enough fleas on a dog? What will he do? He moves. He moves away. He moves on. And what the man has been running down on us, he's psyched us out, ~~me~~ in terms of our manhood. He'll say, "what you gone do, nigger?" You tryin' to be a man. Here he is with shotguns, billy clubs, .357 magnums, and all you got is heart. Defenseless. That's not the way it's gone go no more. That is not the way it's going to go any more. We are the people, we are the majority, and the pigs cannot be everywhere everyplace all the time. And where they are not, we are. And somethin' happens.

The philosophy of the flea--you just begin to wear them down. Somethin' is always costin' them.. You can dig it. --I talked with some of the students in my class. Something happens all the time. Toilets are stopped up. Pipes is cut. Water in the bathroom is just runnin' all over the place. Smoke is coming out the bathroom. X "I don't know nothin' about it. I'm on my way to take an exam. Don't look at me..." When the pig comes down full force, ain't nothin' happenin'. He retreats. When they split, it goes on and on and on.

Tomorrow we'll ~~talk~~ talk more about the flea, develop it some more. I've spoken to already various people about the flea, because this is our power. We should fight the racist administration on our grounds from now on, where we can win. When he disrespects our humanity, then he pays. That's it. He has to be educated to ~~know~~ our Friday and Saturday night philosophy. "Pig stepped on my shoes. I tole you about that. WHOP! (laughter) Din't I tell you to stop talkin' to my woman? WHOP" There's a particular brother in here. A young brother. I spent about an hour and a half talkin' to him, and he looked at me and smiled. He said "Man, you ought to know better." He said "You're out here on this white man's college campus, you can't be doin none of that. You're in the minority. You c~~an~~n't be..."

So I said "Look here, brother. Uhm, say we're 10 per cent. Do they ask the black community, say, well, they're just 10 per cent Negroes up there at San Francisco State College, so we're only gonna ask the black community for 10 per cent of their taxes. He'll no! It don't go like that. They get us all. And some of your mommies and daddies never have and never will be able to go to State, and some of your young sisters and brothers will never be able to..."

So what I said to that particular brother--I listened to what he was sayin', and told him to have a seat. Because I wanted to ~~listen~~ talk to him. And it just so happened that there was a brother that was much bigger

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than he was. And I asked him. I said, what would you do if that brother came in here with some lipstick, and just chalked it all over your jacket. He said "Man, I'll kick that motherfucker's ass!" (laughter).

I said "Oh no, brother. You can't do that. He's bigger than you."

"Don't make no difference. (laughter) You tell him that cat mess over me, he have to go down!"

It's principle, see. We're a minority here. We can't do this, we can't do that. The other thing I asked him, I said alright, we're out here on this college campus, struggling for humanity. Does that mean that since we're out here on this college campus, that a white boy can just walk up and just slap you down? No, it don't work like that. Your manhood, your respect, your dignity. You don't leave it home and walk out and catch the bus. It goes everywhere with you. That's the principle. And then, that brother could begin to see what's got to come down. And it just so happens when we spoke to Stokely earlier today in terms of tactics he was thinking right along the same levels. And it's got to be implemented.

I think that the brother also said some very positive things about the general and the specific. It is time to lay that principle down and for us to back that principle up. Malcolm X. laid the foundation as it were for black leadership. Huey P. Newton came down and demonstrated that if a man is going to be a man, he's got to back the principle up. If we're not ready to back up no principle, then we can forget it. We can go back to playing. What kind of man is a man who is going to allow some dude to kick him in his ass and slap him around all the time? How can we respect this person as bein' a man? He's got to back up the principle. And the tactic that has to be employed has to be that of the flea. Gnawing all the time. Here and there. It's here one time. It's there another time. Constantly just wearin' him down...not in large masses, but twos, threes and fours. Constantly, it's costin' him.

This is what it's got to come down to. If we're serious. And we can do it. We can do it. The most important thing is when we say it can be done and escape the wrath of the oppressor. You watch all of these James Bond pics, Sherlock Holmes, the white man always gets his man. But we're gonna do away with that mess. We want to see action goin' down, and people goin' to class and gettin' with that exam. And boom, you walk out, WOW MAN, what happened? Oooo, who could do something like that? Right in the middle of exams. BOOM. That's it.

And some of these racist pigs, who'se on the academic senate who think they are beyond the wrath of the people. They have to be educated too. See. Because sometimes when they just hop into their Mercedes Benz, it ain't gone start up all the time. (laughter) You dig it? See, then they begin to learn that they're not beyond the reaches of the people...we should move to control that. To consolidate. We must gain ground to consolidate controls. And that is the way that we have to be thinking. So once we control an area, we don't worry about it any more. We're movin' on.

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I'd also like to mention as I said before myself, George Murray, Colbert and Tommy Williams, we went down to LA. Students are running into the same problems. There we're ready to move. It's happening all over. Chicago, New York, Detroit. Our people are moving now to determine their destiny. Since we are the vanguard, we have to like Stokely said sharpen those contradictions and employ the correct tactic because as the past, sure, the radical whites--SDS at Columbia--they held it for three days. But when it was all over they swept up, got the money out of the petty cash funds, and started all over again. And we're talkin' about something that is continuous. Months. Years. Semesters. It's always happenin'. So our desires and needs are being met. Before ~~xxx~~ you leave, I would like to read these demands:~~xxxx~~

1. That all black studies ~~handouts~~ being taught in various departments be immediately a part of the Black Studies Department. And that all instructors in this department receive full time pay. What we are talking about is putting the course into a context which can be within our control, see, and not all spread out throughout the college. We don't have to worry about developing new courses in the creative arts, we don't have to worry about hassling with the racism in the history department, or the psych department. We got something that is right within our grasp that we can deal with and expand upon.

2. That Dr. Nathan Hare, chairman of the Black Studies Department, receive a full time professorship and comparable salary according to his qualifications. Nathan Hare, one of the heaviest black sociologists in this country, receiving a half a professorship, and you got some dumfounded, silly-assed racists making at least ~~xxx~~ \$18,000 a year. Who don't have a lick of common sense.

3. That there will be a Department of Black Studies which will grant the bachelor's degree in black studies...

6. That 20 full time teaching positions be allocated to the Department of Black Studies. The instructors that we need to get this thing off the ground. This past semester brother Harold Cruse, author of *crisis of the Negro intellect* <sup>was</sup> dyin' to come here. But because we had no faculty time and no money and Nathan couldn't make any kind of definite commitments, we lost him to the University of Michigan. Countless brothers we're losing because we have no control to hire brothers throughout the country. This has got to stop.

7. (replacement of financial aids officer)...that goes back to what Stokely's sayin'. Developing a principle, a program, so anybody who takes that position, whether he has a *quo vadis*, a process, a natural, talkin' this, talkin' that, he's got a specific job to do, and if he doesn't do it, he goes. period.

10. (George Murray)...We will determine who will teach us and who will not teach us. ~~xxxxxxx~~ And anybody who disrespects this, political consequences. It's a long struggle~~xxx~~ And once we get this tactic down if the leadership is wiped out, people got to go, you got the principle down it continues to go on and on and on...