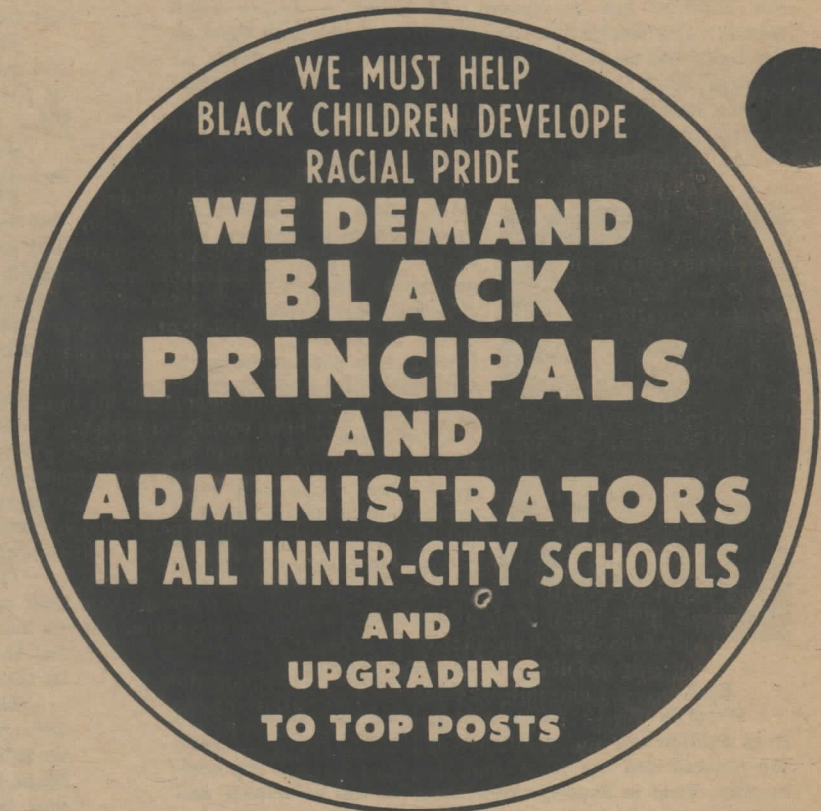


INNER-CITY PARENTS COUNCIL

AFFILIATED WITH THE INNER-CITY ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



We demand
BLACK HISTORY
in the Regular
Curriculum



**STOP PROMOTING
TO MAKE DESK SPACE**

Meets every other Monday at 7:30 p.m.

**CENTRAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

7625 LINWOOD

REVEREND ALBERT B. CLEAGE, JR., Minister

MESSAGE TO THE NATION

What Do We Owe Our Children?

By REV. ALBERT B. CLEAGE JR.

In every inner city junior high and high school today our children are in foment. At Knudsen Junior High school a few weeks ago the students ran pell-mell through the halls and some of them broke doors and windows. At Central High school last week the students left their classes because the black assistant principal was being transferred to Northwestern High school as a principal.

At Durfee Junior High school the students organized a boycott of the school cafeteria. And at McMichael Junior High school the students not only protested against the food in the school cafeteria but threatened to strike unless they got black history as a part of the regular curriculum and got rid of prejudiced teachers.

All of these demands mean one thing: that more and more black boys and girls are beginning to realize that it is impossible for them to get an education which will equip them to become the future leaders of the black community as long as our schools are being run by outsiders.



REV. CLEAGE

What is an outsider? An outsider is someone who lives outside the community and does not share the past, the present and the future life and problems of the community. That is exactly what most of the principals and assistant principals in our inner city schools are today.

They live in their homes in the outlying sections or suburbs of Detroit. They drive in to the inner city every morning on the expressway, full of apprehension and fear of our children. And every afternoon after school they drive back to their "safe" lily-white neighborhoods, grateful that they are one day closer to payday.

Most of these outsiders think of our children as little savages. That's how they talk about our children among themselves. The only kind of black people they feel comfortable around are those who think that everything white is right and everything black should get back and who spend their lives trying to identify with the white man.

They can't teach our children because they are afraid of them. They hide in their offices or even down in the furnace room so as to be unavailable if any trouble should occur. If they belonged INSIDE our communities, they wouldn't have to be afraid.

Administrators Must Be Accountable

The Board of Education and the school administration know that the situation in inner city schools is critical. They know this because the Inner City Organizing Committee has reported this fact to them regularly since last June 13 when the Parents Council of the Inner City Organizing Committee submitted a comprehensive report and specific recommendations for improving inner city schools.

Many of the black administrators who have recently been appointed do not accept the simple fact of their

accountability to the black community. They have been appointed because the black community has insisted upon their appointment, not because they have suddenly developed any new skills or abilities, and certainly not because the administration has developed any new awareness of the importance of black administrators.

These black administrators in the Detroit school system must understand their effectiveness in their new positions depends upon their ability to relate to the black community. They cannot accomplish the task for which they have been appointed — the achievement of peace in inner city schools — by trying to please the administration and the Board of Education.

They can only accomplish it if they are able to relate the schools meaningfully to the aspirations and demands of the militant black community.

The Role of Black Parents

Many black parents still do not realize how critical the situation is.

They do not realize that the reason our children are not learning is the simple fact that the school system is not designed to make it possible for them to learn. They blame themselves, they blame their children, they blame everyone but the white teachers and administrators who are the ones who have failed to create an environment in which black children can learn.

Fortunately there are a growing number of black teachers and administrators who understand that black consciousness, black pride, black history and black teachers and administrators are necessary before black children can be expected to learn. Our children must understand that they are part of a Black Nation which is engaged in a revolution to throw off the shackles of bondage and become a free people.

They must understand that they are an important part of this Black Revolution and that their ability to learn is therefore important not only to themselves but to their people. This is essential if black children are to take education seriously and to be motivated to learn.

Black children are now beginning to tell their parents, "If you had been willing to fight a long time ago, we wouldn't have to be fighting now for black pride and black history and black administrators in our schools. If you had fought for these things a long time ago, we could be sitting quietly in school now and listening to our teachers and learning."

No parent likes to hear this from his child, particularly when he has been working and slaving year after year to provide his children with a roof over their heads, food in their stomachs and decent clothing to wear. But whether black parents like it or not, these young people are telling the truth.

It is not enough for a black parent to provide his child with the physical necessities of daily life. He must involve himself in the Black Revolution. He must give his black child an understanding of his participation and his determination to create a society in which black people can walk with dignity.

If we have anything that is precious, it is our children. We cannot continue to stand idly by, letting the white man mess them up year after year. Every black parent, every black community resident, every black community organization must be ready to back up our militant black students and militant black teachers.

It is better for our children to be insisting on respect for black culture and the black community — even it means their staying out of school — than it is for them to be sitting quietly in a classroom letting the man drill white history and white literature and white geography into their heads.