

What sense does it make to go on supporting the party of Eugene "Bull" Connor?  
"Bull" Connor is STILL Kennedy's Democratic National Committeeman from Alabama.

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ORIGINALLY PROPOSED IDEA  
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President GOAL

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**LAMAR BARRON**

Acting Chairman, Mich. Comm.  
for a Freedom Now Party.



# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## About

# THE FREEDOM NOW PARTY

By LaMar Barron,  
Acting Chairman

Michigan Committee for a Freedom Now Party

**QUESTION:** *Are you people really serious about forming an "all-black Freedom Now Party"?*

**ANSWER:** Dead serious. We believe that our fight for freedom cannot be won unless we have a party of our own to express our political interests and power.

**QUESTION:** *Who are you, who's backing you, how strong are you?*

**ANSWER:** The National Committee for a Freedom Now Party is not connected with any other group, although we expect to recruit our members from all other groups in the freedom fight. The National Committee's headquarters is in Harlem, and affiliated groups are now being formed in various other states. Our acting chairman is Conrad Lynn, the noted civil rights lawyer; our corresponding secretary is Mrs. Pernella V. Wattlely; and the idea of the party was suggested by William Worthy, the newsman.

The first public announcement was made in Washington on Aug. 28, the day of the big march, where we issued a Call and a statement entitled The Declaration of Washington. Since we are just starting, we don't know how strong we are. But we feel we have made a good beginning because millions of people have already heard about us through TV and the press, and we are starting to get letters of interest and sympathy through the mail.

**QUESTION:** *But why do we need another party?*

**ANSWER:** Because both the Democratic and Republican parties are part and parcel of the white power structure that is determined to keep us down. Neither of them stands for Freedom Now, whatever they say. Both make promises to us, and invariably break their promises when they are in power and able to enact them.

That is the story of the last 100 years. We can't even get adequate representation in office through these parties. The President's cabinet is lily-white. So is the Supreme Court. Out of 100 U.S. Senators there isn't one black man or woman. In the House of Representatives, only 1% are black, and their allegiance is divided — part to us, and half or more to their white-controlled parties.

Here in Detroit, where we are one-third of the population, only one out of nine councilmen is Negro, and he has to toe the line or the white liberals won't vote for him the next time and he'll be ousted.

**QUESTION:** *Why can't we operate through the existing parties?*

**ANSWER:** We can, if our political perspective is limited to more gradualism and more tokenism. They can afford not to take us seriously so long as we restrict our choice between a Democratic Lucifer and a Republican Satan, and have nowhere else to go. They know we cannot control their parties, and never will.

But it will be different when we renounce both of them, break with both of them, and build an independent political movement of our own. Then they will be forced to offer us serious concessions.

We will take whatever concessions we can win, but we don't intend to stop with concessions. We intend, through our own party and with our own political power, to keep fighting until we have gained EVERYTHING that is rightfully ours, which means that we must work to abolish the whole racist system and replace it with another.

**QUESTION:** *But even if every Negro thinks the way you do (and that will take some doing) how can you talk about "our political power"? We are only one-tenth of the population, a definite minority.*

**ANSWER:** True, we are only one-tenth in this country. But over two-thirds of the world is colored, and the other nine-tenths in this country are beginning to feel the pressure of the non-white world majority, and that helps us enormously. But even one-tenth in this country, if united and determined, can produce profound changes here.

They say that in the Revolution of 1776 one-third of people were for the revolution, one-third against, and one-third undecided. When the Civil War started, only a small minority of the whites were in favor of emancipating the slaves. A minority, even a small one, can win, can get majority support for its goals, if it knows what it wants and the right way to go about getting it. Our enemies can be divided, some can be neutralized, undecided elements can be won to our side.

This is what we mean when we talk about "our political power." But we can't do it unless we have our own political party to unify and harness our political power.

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## SCHOOL BOYCOTT ?

Cont. from Page 1

longer willing to tolerate second class education for their children. The DCHR is ready to support a Detroit Boycott, however if this action becomes necessary before arrangements for a northern boycott can be completed.

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The Group On Advanced Leadership (GOAL) has issued a call for "thousands of unemployed persons and Negro parents of Detroit school children" to join in a mass "march - picket" on the Apprenticeship Training School, run by the Board of Education, located at DuBois and trombley.

To be held all-day Monday, October 28th the "march-picket" is designed to shut down the school, according to GOAL president Richard B. Henry, and force the city and the School Board to end what Henry terms "fall - behind - ism, stay-behind-ism, and never-catch-up-ism" in both jobs and education.

Henry said that a GOAL Education subcommittee, composed of Grace Lee Boggs and Reverend Harold Hunt, has produced figures showing that there are no Negroes at all enrolled in apprenticeship training courses for electricity, glazing, iron-working, pattern-making, and sprinkler fitting; only two out of 162 in plumbing, only one out of 22 in sheet metal working; only one out of 132 in printing, while carpentry, painting, resilient floor decorating, brick-laying and metal lathing "all together have hardly a handful"

"This is "never-catch-up-ism" at its worst," Henry said. "Last year the Committee On Equal Educational Opportunities called the Apprenticeship Training Program "obviously discriminatory." The Board of Education said the skilled trade unions are to blame because they bar Negroes. The Board did agree, however, to expell from the schools any union which did not pledge, by this term, to admit Negroes, but so far only the electrical union has been barred.

"As far as the Board of Education is concerned," Henry said, "a union has complied if it "pledges" to be non-discrim-

inatory. It has complied if it admits one Negro. We say that is nonsense. Negroes will never catch up at that rate, never overcome the years of discrimination which have left us at the bottom of the economic scale."

To enter the apprentice training program youths must be between 17 and 26 and high school graduates. A youth must also be a member of a union and be working as an apprentice on a job.

"Within ten days," Henry said, "GOAL" lawyers will have taken steps to assure that every interested and otherwise qualified Negro youth is able to join a union. But the only thing we can do about getting them jobs is to force the city and the Board of Education to force their building and printing contractors to hire Negroes.

"Accordingly GOAL has written to the Board, the Common Council, And Mayor Cavanagh urging these agencies to tell their contractors that 40% of all their jobs must go to Negroes or these contractors will no longer get city contracts.

"This," Henry added, "is what is known as catch-up-ism and make-up-ism."

The GOAL president said the October 28 march-picket will back this "40-60 demand and also express Negro dissatisfaction with every aspect of second-class education.

GOAL is calling on individuals as well as churches and groups to support the picket-march.

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QUESTION: *But wouldn't we make both major parties more antagonistic to our cause by starting a party of our own?*

ANSWER: We must try to visualize what the real effects would be. This takes an effort, because as soon as a strong Freedom Now Party comes into the picture, the status will no longer be quo, and change will spread in all directions, including the present political parties.

Take the Democratic Party. Today it is the biggest party, partly because 75-80% of the Negroes vote for it. But suppose we stop voting for it and start voting for our own party? That would spell the finish of the Democratic Party as the No. 1 political power in this country. It would become a permanent minority party in the North and never again be able to elect a Democratic president.

The effect wouldn't stop there. What would happen to the other main source of Democratic votes - the unions? If the Democrats can't win without the Negroes and if the Negroes leave the Democrats, will the unions remain tied to a party that can't win? I doubt it very much. The unions would have to make a choice - stick with the Democrats who can't win, or break with the Democrats and help build a new party, probably a labor party. This, in my opinion, is what they should have done a long time ago; what they will have to do sooner or later in self-interest; and what the creating of a Freedom Now Party will encourage them to do sooner rather than later.

So there will be many, many changes when Negroes form a party of their own. The whole political setup will be transformed. Old alignments will be broken up and new ones will take their place. The two-party system is not sacred, and neither are the present parties. Old parties would die out, new ones would spring up. The Freedom Now Party would find allies with whom we could help to construct a new majority.

QUESTION: *But what about the meantime - wouldn't we be on the outside looking in, cut off from all political power?*

ANSWER: Not at all. Outside looking in is where we are now, and a little window-dressing here or there doesn't change that fact. But with a party of our own, we could make big political strides right away.

Nationally, we are a minority of one-tenth, but the picture is quite different in the big cities, which are politically crucial. There we are proportionally a much bigger minority and getting relatively bigger all the time as whites continue to flee to the suburbs. We are already a majority in Washington, D.C. In a few more years we will be near a majority in many other big cities.

Also, we may be a minority, but we are a compact minority, crowded together in the strategic big cities. That wasn't our idea or our doing - it was the white power structure that herded us together and keeps us together geographically through segregation. Thanks to this,

there are dozens of congressional districts, North and South, where we could elect Freedom Now Party candidates to Washington.

Instead of five congressmen in Washington, we could have 25 or 50 in short order - and they would be responsible to us, the Negro community, and not to white-controlled parties. Such a bloc of black congressmen and

congresswomen would not only HOLD but could WIELD the balance of political power, as William Worthy put it. The same thing could be achieved with state and local offices in the areas where we are concentrated - even though we are a minority and even though the old parties won't like it.

QUESTION: *But wouldn't it be "racism" to form our own party, when racism is just the thing we are fighting against?*

ANSWER: It never fails, whenever Negroes get together to do something about our plight through our own resources and under our own control, that white people come along and call it "racism" or "Jim Crow in reverse" and all that stuff. The powerful New York Times already has run an editorial attacking the Freedom Now Party move under the title "Racism in Politics."

To tell you the truth, I don't care much what whites say about this. It's not our welfare they are worried about, but their own. The same thing happened when the women were trying to get the vote and decided they wanted to control the suffragette movement themselves instead of letting men dominate it. What I am most concerned about is how Negroes view this question.

We are not racists; we do not want to oppress or exploit anybody because of their race or color. We are not anti-white; we know there are some whites who favor Freedom Now too, although unfortunately they are still few in numbers and power. We will gladly cooperate, after we have formed our own party, with any non-Negro persons, movements or parties that have the same goal we have.

But we want to control our own destiny, whoever we cooperate with, and that means we want to control our own political movement, work out our own political policies and tactics, have our own leadership. The best way to assure this is by having our own all-black party. This will also safeguard us against betrayal by whites, which has been the sad story of our people the last 100 years. We call this self-reliance, not racism.

We believe in the equality of races, but until conditions of genuine equal opportunity are achieved, we think the best way to promote equality is through our own independent, self-controlled political action. Meanwhile I am not going to lose any sleep if white liberals don't understand or like it.

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# CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Bethel A.M.E. Church**  
585 Frederick Street (Tr 2-3667)  
Rev. J. Lawrence Roberts D.D.  
Morning Service -- 11A.M.

**Central Congregational Church**  
7625 Linwood at Hogarth (Ty 8-0772)  
Rev. Albert B. Cleage Jr. Minister  
Morning Service -- 11A.M.

**Central C.M.E. Church**  
7411 Tireman  
Rev. Homer Draper, Minister  
Services -- 11A.M. & 5P.M.

**Christland Missionary Baptist Church**  
6580 W. Warren  
Rev. C. L. Branch, Minister  
Services -- 11A.M. & 7:30 P.M.

**Dexter Ave. Baptist Church**  
13500 Dexter (To 9-0710)  
Rev. W. R. Haney, Minister  
Services -- 8A.M. & 10:45A.M.

**East Lake Baptist Church**  
728 Conner Ave. (Va 3-9750)  
Rev. Clarence Gadson  
Morning Service 10:30A.M.

**Ebenezer A.M.E. Church**  
4225 Brush (Te 2-6943)  
Rev. Hubert N. Robinson, Minister  
Morning Service 10:30A.M.

**Grace Chapel A.M.E.**  
865 Tennessee  
Rev. George B. Horry  
Services -- 10 to 11A.M. & 7:30P.M.

**Greater Christ Baptist Church**  
3544 Iroquois (Wa 4-6900)  
Rev. Jacob C. Oglesby  
Morning service 11:00 A.M.

**Hartford Ave. Baptist Church**  
6300 Hartford Avenue  
Rev. Charles Hill, Minister  
Morning Service-- 11A.M.

**Holly Cross Baptist Church**  
6220 Linwood (Ty 4-1673)  
Rev. J. H. Porter  
Services -- 11A.M.

**King Solomon Baptist Church**  
6125 14th Street (Ty 8-3700)  
Rev. T. S. Boone, Minister  
Services 11A.M. & 8P.M.

**Lomax A.M.E. Zion Church**  
13009 Dequindre (To 7-1755)  
Rev. G. Alexander Brooks  
Services 11:00 A.M.

**Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church**  
535 E. Palmer (Te 2-1824)  
Rev. Stephen P. Spotswood, Minister  
Services -- 10:45A.M.

**Metropolitan Church of God**  
2705 Joy Road (Ty 7-6566)  
Rev. James E. Massey, Minister  
Morning Service -- 11A.M.

**Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church**  
3712 Preston (Lo 7-8241)  
Rev. Collis Odell Stewart, Minister  
Services -- 10:45 & 7P.M.

**Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church**  
3705 12th Street  
Rev. Henry W. McCreary 11  
Services -- 11A.M. & 7P.M.

**Mt. Zion Baptist Church**  
3535 Van Dyke (Wo 2-9323)  
Rev. Robert W. Wright, Minister  
Services -- 10:45A.M.

**Golden Dome Cathedral of Light**  
8101 Mack (Wa 1-7810)  
Minister - Rev. Ordie Burns  
Morning Service .. 11:00 A.M.

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**QUESTION: Some practical points: Where will you get the money to operate a political party?**

**ANSWER:** The only place it can come is from the dimes and dollars of the people who agree it's a good idea and worth sacrificing for. Our initial Call says: "ALL blacks who wish to be free will be equal, andequally welcomed, as members: workers, employed and unemployed, clergymen, students, professional men and women, agricultural laborers, tenant farmers, trade union members."

**QUESTION: Do you plan to run a ticket in 1964?**

**ANSWER:** We hope to have congressional and local tickets on the ballot in a number of states in 1964, but it will depend on how many people join up before then. Meanwhile, we are building the skeleton of the party; later we will put flesh on it. After local groups are organized, we will begin planning for a national founding congress or convention.

**QUESTION: What will be the platform of the new party?**

**ANSWER:** That will depend on what members and delegates decide at the founding convention. Meanwhile, our Call stressed three things: 1. "To at last TAKE our freedom, with our own nationwide political party." 2. "To create the basic economic changes needed to guarantee well-paid jobs for all. It's not enough to call for 'equal opportunity' when jobs, decent housing and schools are scarce even for whites." 3. "To end racism, exploitation and colonialism - in Africa, Asia, Latin America - and in the United States, north AND south."

And now, if I may end with some questions of my own: What do you think? Where do you stand?

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