

NSM Information Release--

Citizens rally to defense of NSM

Detroit:

In response to increasingly clear evidence of police collusion in provoking and publicizing the so called "riot" on Detroit's East side, nineteen of Detroit's top lawyers have constituted themselves into an East side Defense committee to provide free legal counsel for the arrested persons. Led by one of Detroit's best criminal lawyers, Milton R. Henry, the group includes staff people from the University of Detroit Law School, corporation lawyers and Nathan Conyers, brother of Congressman John Conyers.

To date, the lawyer's committee has held three meetings, has assigned counsel to all defendants, and is gathering evidence on the many inconsistencies of police charges and behavior. For example, the police department, in clear violation of the recent Supreme Court ruling on the case of Dr. Samuel Shephard, has, for all practical purposes, already tried the defendants in the press.

In another development PAR(People Against Racism), NSM's group of white supporters in Detroit, held a mass meeting on August 19, where the people of Detroit were told the true facts of the case by NSM staff members Wilbert McClendon and Al Harrison. NSM executive director, Bill Strickland, bussing to Detroit because of the airplane strike, told the audience, "I do not see how this city, or this country can justify the arrest of black people in Detroit for "loitering" in a public street. I do not see how they can then redefine this act as "rioting" while they reluctantly arrest white rioters in Chicago for "disturbing the peace" and never arrest the members of the Nazi party. The riot act was read in Chicago, and defied. It was not read in Detroit, but people are charged with rioting. In Chicago the whites march with signs saying "Kill the Niggers"---and nothing happens. What would happen to black people if they took to the streets with signs saying "Kill whites?"

We are reprinting PAR's ad, as it appeared in the Detroit Free Press August 17 and 18.

*Shaw*