

PEOPLE AGAINST RACISM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Detroit Mayor Jerome P. Cavanagh was elected the first "Uptight Honkie of the Month," for the month of November, by a unanimous vote of members of People Against Racism (PAR).

In announcing the award, PAR Chairman, William T. Witt, said, "In line with our efforts to expose and combat racism, white supremacy and bigotry in the white community in all its forms, we have inaugurated the 'Uptight Honkie' award to give proper recognition to members of the white community who play key roles in continuing imperialism against people of color at home and abroad. Where possible and appropriate, we will attempt to present the award to the recipient in person, as well as publicizing the honoree throughout the community. We invite all citizens to submit nominations for consideration by PAR."

PAR cited the following recent efforts by the Mayor as those earning him the "Uptight Honkie" award:

--Pledging increased use of police manpower against the black population (euphemistically known as "the criminals in the streets" of the city, as reported in a Detroit News interview on October 16, 1967.

--Securing funds through a bond issue which will nearly double police armaments, including the purchase of 100 Stoner machine guns, which, according to the Detroit Free Press of November 5, 1967, is "one of the most brutal mutilating weapons in gun history.



Also approved for purchase were 150,000 rounds of ammunition for the Stoner gun, the largest amount of ammunition which the city will buy for any single weapon.

When the Common Council appropriated only \$5 million instead of the \$9 million requested, Cavanagh vetoed the action and demanded more money. A compromise of over \$7 million was agreed on, which unfortunately wiped out the "Detroit Air Force," which under Cavanagh's plan was to consist of one helicopter and one fixed-wing aircraft. Rumors that Cavanagh had sought to purchase large quantities of napalm have not yet been proven true.

--In what was perhaps his most revealing action, Cavanagh suggested that a tried and true solution for America's "minority" group problems--the creation of reservations used so successfully with American Indians--be applied in a new form to the Negro population. Speaking in Miami Beach, Florida, Cavanagh appealed to the federal government to "make rural life more attractive" by buying farms and selling them on "easy credit terms to sharecroppers. ...This would be far cheaper than transferring that same family to the welfare rolls of a northern city," he said. Cavanagh went on to describe the "reservation" proposal as "new, an "interesting idea," and "the right line of thinking." (Reported, Detroit Free Press, November 2, 1967)

--Most recently, Cavanagh has courageously suggested that Twelfth Street be renamed because of its "negative connotations." He did not suggest that the name of Detroit itself be changed because of its negative connotations. It has, however, been suggested that, because of its negative connotations,

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Cavanagh change his name.

In commenting on the award to Cavanagh, PAR Executive Secretary, Frank H. Joyce, said: "The Mayor has always been a leader, and it will be difficult to find a more appropriate uptight honkie. We do, however, select someone else for the month of December."

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