

# Serious Business

By DAN ALDRIDGE

"In the capitalist countries a multitude of moral teachers, counselors and 'bewilderers' separate the exploited from those in power."

## Community Control of Schools

On Sunday, Nov. 17, 1968, at St. Paul AME church, at 4 p.m., the Citizens for Community Control of Schools will present Rev. C. H. Oliver, chairman, Ocean Hill-Brownsville Governing board; David Spencer, chairman, Harlem Intermediate School 201 Governing board; Albert Vann, president, African-American Teachers association and assistant principal, Junior High School 271, Ocean Hill-Brownsville; Preston Wilcox, chairman, National Association Afro-American Education, and consultant, Harlem Intermediate School 201, and Kenneth Haskins, administrator, Adams-Morgan Community school, Washington, D.C.

These gentlemen are some of the leaders of the powerful east coast movement for community control of schools.

In a way, it is amazing that this idea (community control of schools) is just reaching Detroit.

As black people in Detroit, we find ourselves facing the same problems as our brothers elsewhere. Our children cannot spell, read, write, think analytically, or make important decisions. Our children do not know their history, heritage or understand their position in today's world.

Is there any question that the American mis-educational system has failed miserably?

The American educational system was not made for black people. It was made to perpetuate the perverted racist character of this colonialist-dominated society.

The "system" may use performance scores, teacher turnover, dropout rates, track system, districts, regions, or inadequate millage proposals.

Whatever the excuse may be, "Johnny can't read!" Either the system is producing strong young men and women who are capable of making the necessary decisions for the second half of the 20th century or it is not.

No excuses should be tolerated.

**THE AMERICAN** educational system has so mis-educated us that even in 1968, many of us do not know who we are.

We study about George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, and not Kwame Nkrumah and Sikou Toure. We are taught or trained to celebrate Columbus Day, when history reveals that the Chinese were in what is now the U.S. centuries before Columbus.

We are forced to study about England with her 55 million people and neglect the more than 800 million mainland Chinese.

We are afraid to think about either Socialism or Communism when capitalism has been responsible for the murder of over 150 million of us.

Yes, the educational system has failed and some of us (black and poor) are demanding the control of our schools.

Isaiah Robinson, chairman, Harlem Parents committee, in the September issue of Liberation magazine, reveals the frustration and misunderstanding which disturbs all parents who realize that the educational system is destroying their children.

**"THE REJECTED** black student understands, through bitter experience that the American public schools are organized and function for and have become captives of the white middle class of this society," Robinson says. "This group has worked pervasively and diligently in thwarting every demand or attempt at securing equal educational opportunity for black children.

"They operate as White Citizens councils, parents and taxpayers, education associations, unions, etc. They control all the boards of education across the country in order to maintain their economic position as colonial overlords. Posturing as liberals, they work overtime to obscure the basic fact that black children are being systematically shortchanged."

This discovery has led us to the following conclusions:

- The existence and maintenance of expanded regimentation and ghettoization of black people is for the express purpose of educational, political, economic and social exploitation.

- Forced, albeit illegal, segregation and discrimination through local, state and federal institutions are vital to effective colonial control, conditioning millions of black people for permanent childlike dependency.

- Current school systems are not responsive or accountable to black people. "Programmed retardation" has accelerated to proportions suggesting "educational genocide," coupled with the oft-repeated phrase, "you can succeed if you qualify."

- "This "educational genocide" is camouflaged by volumes of psycho-social gobbledgook supporting and justifying their crimes with those of "culturally deprived," "emotionally disturbed," "aggressive," "slow learners," "short attention and retention spans," "anti-social," "mentally retarded," "products of broken-home environment."

**WE HAVE COME** to realize that if this criminal cycle is to be broken, a new educational structure must be developed—a structure that will rehabilitate, not one that offers relief; a structure that is responsive and accountable to the needs and aspirations of the community served.

This means that we must devise tactics and strategies to forge new roles, new relationships, and new authority arrangements.

In short, the black community must control its own schools and determine its own affairs.

These are the realities of American education.

The time has come to give the Drachlers and the Rior-dans a rest.

They have polluted our minds for far too long. Hopefully, the Citizens for Community Control of Schools will begin to clean Detroit's stream on Sunday, Nov. 17, at 4 p.m. at St. Paul's AME Zion.

Maybe after we control our schools, we will not have to beg to pay homage to brother Malcolm!

## “Unbalanced School Budget in Inkster,”

Is the Inkster school budget, as submitted to the Board of Education of the Wayne county intermediate school district under the provisions of Public Act 32, Public Acts of 1968, a balanced budget?

Public Act 32 indicates that schools applying for emergency loans must present a balanced budget to the Board of Education of the intermediate school district for “review and approval” to continue their eligibility for additional emergency loans.

**The Board of Education of the Wayne county intermediate school district has ruled that the revised budget as submitted by the school district of Inkster is not a balanced budget.**

The board's position was based on Item No. 0390, “Provision for Loan, Public Act 32, to offset loss in State

Aid—\$175,663.”

The position of the Board of Education of the Wayne county intermediate school district is that the item listed in the budget of the School district of Inkster as general fund revenue, 1968-69, does not constitute “revenue.”

The Inkster Board of Education has adopted its revised budget as a balanced budget.

**Whether or not the Inkster budget is balanced centers around the interpretation of Revenue Item No. 0390 in the budget.**

To clarify which interpretation is valid, Intermediate School District Supt. William A. Shunck, has sent a communication to Dr. Ira Polley, superintendent of public instruction, Michigan Dept. of Education.

Shunck has requested a decision regarding the interpretation be given by Dr. Polley.