

ATTENTION, CITIZENS:

WHEREAS we have witnessed probably the worst racial clash in the history of the United States of America, and,

WHEREAS we have seen Negroes maliciously shot and killed by members of the police force of Detroit, we firmly believe that harmonious relations between the merchants who likewise have suffered due to reactions of the rioters suffering under excessive police brutality, and the Negro citizenry of this community, can be obtained:

WHEREAS we are mindful of the fact that the basic fault of any community must inevitably be traced to its economy after surface differences and prejudices have been examined. We therefore examine not only the surface indignities done to the Negro as a race due principally to his color but also to the basic indignities heaped upon him in its economy.

WHEREAS we have found as a result of our investigation during, after and before the riot that the fault of the community for inflaming the Negroes' resentment lay in the basic economy and structure of that basic economy, principally:

1. That Negroes prior to the beginning of the war were denied any semblance of equality of opportunity to work.
2. As a result they became in the main WPA and welfare charges.
3. As a result their morale dwindled along with their earnings and consequently over a period of years their community became impoverished due to high cost of living in sub-standard dwellings.
4. The jobs given Negroes by merchants doing business with the direct Negro market in no way compensated or established any semblance of fair return.
5. In most cases the Negro was overworked and under paid. Serving either as a merchant's excuse to ask for Negro patronage or as a flunky or handy man working cheaper than white labor could be obtained. (This act bears out that the necessity is the mother of invention that the need for work will against better judgment create cheap labor.)

The average Negro working in the Negro market has in the main with but a few exceptions been paid far less than white workers employed in similar stores doing similar amount of business.

The association finds as a result of this condition that the Negro has been denied in the Negro market equal pay for equal work.

WHEREAS we have talked with innumerable merchants doing business direct with the Negro market and

have been questioned as to what the merchants have done to deserve the treatment heaped upon them by the rioters the association has this to say in reply.

By way of information to the listeners and readers here the association has talked with better than five hundred Negroes in and near the Negro market who would serve as a proper cross section as to ascertain the reaction of the Negro market as a whole.

The answer of many of the Negroes and an exact tabulation of two hundred and ninety-five asked us in reply to the question, what have the merchants done for the Negro? These questions can probably be answered favorably on both sides as to what has been done both by the merchants and the Negro public. On one hand the merchant has a perfect right to mention the many personal favors he has done for Negroes and also the convenient location of his business for the advantage of the Negro. On the other hand the Negro might condemn the acts of some merchants that have been instrumental in over charging sub-standard quality; abuse of customers; and lack of equal pay to a brother or sister employed; they might even contend and rightly so in some cases that they have made rich men of poor merchants but these are surface differences which in any discussion could take hours of debate that would at no time settle what is undoubtedly the basic issue of any Nation, Assembly of Nations, State, City or Community—Equality or opportunity.

WHEREAS we have been asked and beseeched by merchants and citizens alike to present and suggest what could possibly be done to insure, and cement future relations between the two groups concerned, we have decided after careful consideration what undoubtedly will serve eventually as the answer to the problem that has presented itself to us here as a result of the riot. We nevertheless are cognizant of the fact that the problem created by this recent conflict has been brewing over a long period of time and is not a new problem to be determined by wholly new ideas. The problem and its answer have been one and the same and its partial answer is to be found in a great degree in the answers presented here. First, we wish to point out:

1. That the Negro is no foreign element to America and like every other citizen his heritage lies within its boundaries.
2. That the Negro has been segregated and discriminated against not as to ability or lack of ability but purely because of color.
3. We have seen the continued misuse of Negroes throughout the country and in and out of the Armed Forces and we have witnessed the spread of the Southern element and the K.K.K. to Detroit to fan the flames of white supremacy and race hatred.
4. We have seen the Negro businessmen denied because of color from doing business only in Negro districts or where the Negro market is largest.
5. Even in the market we have seen the Negro shunned as incapable because of color and we have likewise seen white merchants refuse to do business with him because of race and in most cases where doing business with white merchants it has been done at a scant profit which denies proper service. He has not been capable of entering into fair competition with a fair profit, surely because of color.
6. Innumerable of these charges and allegations will be denied but the fact remains that the return to Negro

7. Therefore, we find the Negro businessman with only a small interest in the economy of the community because he has been denied the right of concession and the right of competition because of color.

8. Consequently his interest in the protection of the district from vandalism and riots have become negligible. His desire for harmonious relations has broken with his morale and unless reminded could possibly lead to boycotting certain areas as a means of militant expression.

9. It is only with the desire of the protection of human life and liberty and investment that we set out again to cope with a problem whose answers have been presented time and again hoping the day of awakening and action has arrived as a result of the appalling catastrophe.

SECONDLY, the association wished to point out, without malice or prejudice or a desire to satirize but with the idea of better understanding the answers and proposals to follow that the damage done to Negro business along side other business in the Negro market was negligible. (The reason for this will be explained in the answer to follow.)

The association herewith presents the answers and

...wage scale of the em-
...of the establishments be raised in accordance
with the union wages.

2. That a union of retail clerks be established with a well-known civic or labor man used as conciliator.
3. We likewise recommend a similar association for the bartenders and waitresses of the area. Thereby insuring union labor support, and the continued friendly relations between employee and employer.
4. We recommend the promotion of Negroes as managers of stores and to be paid in accordance with their ability to perform their specific duties in accordance with the type of business and its possibilities.
5. We recommend the acceptance of reliable competent Negroes as partners in the various businesses thereby guaranteeing proper relations with the Negro market and returning a portion of its profits directly to its immediate community.
6. We recommend the advertisement of businesses in the Negro Journals which have a complete coverage of the Negro market and its confidence.
7. We recommend the alliance of meetings of the joint bodies of all accredited associations doing business in

the Negro market to interchange ideas and obtain understanding of its clientele.

8. We recommend the granting of all concessions to Negro businessmen prepared to do business and meet competition at a fair price. (Some of the possible concessions that could be granted will be presented for your discussion and approval.)

Here we pause to explain the necessity of this recommendation. Knowing that the Negro has begun to look to these business men for leadership we firmly believe that if the Negro market is aware of the concessions controlled by Negro businessmen he will have a better respect for his community and the type of individual he is doing business with. This understanding and resulting admiration will eliminate the possible wholesale destruction of property and recurrence of wholesale vandalism. When a man has nothing to lose or knows that his race has nothing to lose he becomes overly destructive in times of racial conflict and voices by action his entire resentment. This is why recently Negro business went unharmed. The appearance of Negro businessmen walking in and out of your establishment daily doing business will do more toward giving the Negro market respect and admiration for you than all the donations to charitable organizations or race relation organizations.

WHEREAS we agree that much can be done through these donations toward bringing about the beginning of understanding the answer lies in the basic economy of the community itself. This is the answer upon which the theory of race relation is built.

In order for a community to survive and prosper it must share in its wealth. As this nation could not exist half free and half slave neither can this community live with its business men half free and half slave.

A meeting called of the various associations of business men in the Negro market, we recommended as a possible step toward bringing these things about. This meeting could be called and held under the auspices of any

accredited organization interested in interracial work. The Citizens' committee headed by Rev. Charles Hill is one committee that has probably the greatest integration of whites and Negroes working for racial accord in the City of Detroit. This association known as the Paradise Valley Machine Operators association has presented these recommendations herewith in the interest of the continuation of harmony and business relation by all merchants in the Negro market; such as the:

BUSINESS CONCESSIONS
LAUNDRIES
CIGARETTES, CIGARS, CANDY
MAN OPERATED MACHINES
 (All Kinds)
COFFEE, DRIED VEGETABLES
CONDIMENT SUPPLIES
BAR KNICKKNACKS (Pretzels, Potato Chips, etc.)

WINDOW CLEANING SERVICE
CLEANING
DECORATORS — INTERIOR
EXTERIOR
CIGARETTE MACHINES
WHOLESALE CANDY
FRESH VEGETABLES
ACCOUNTANTS
BOOKKEEPERS

TAX EXPERTS
LAWYERS
BEER DISTRIBUTORS
MEATS
AUTOMOBILE — TRUNKS,
PASSENGER
REAL ESTATE
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
COAL DEALERS

Respectfully Submitted,
TONY VANCE, Executive Secretary

PARADISE VALLEY COIN MACHINE OPERATORS ASSOCIATION