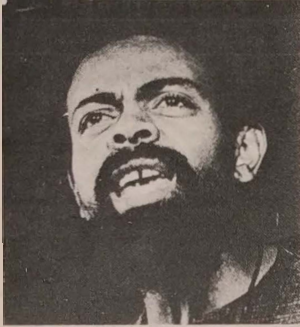


Black Womens United Front and National Black Assembly Meetings Analyzed!

RAISE!!



Amiri Baraka

TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS and developments of the very recent week have been the Black Women's United Front, which had its organizing meeting in Detroit, Jan. 25, and the most recent meeting of the National Black Assembly, in New York City, Jan. 31—Feb. 1.

The first meeting, was called as a result of the Afrikan Women's Conference, held in Newark in July, at which the overwhelming majority of women called for the formation of a Black Women's United Front, which would be anti-racist, anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist in content. Six organizations volunteered to act as a Task Force to call the organizing meeting, and do the conferring that preceded it for several months. These were, besides C.A.P., YOBU, AARP, BWC, PASOA, and the Ethiopian Students organization. Representatives of these organizations met several times before the organizing meeting and discussed what should be the general guidelines the meeting should adhere to, and what direction they thought the front should move toward.

The Detroit meeting itself was eminently successful, with some 500 women and men registered, as official participants and a constant and generally high level of discussion going on.

Besides an overall structure, and the agreed upon central task of organizing such fronts in all the major cities where

there were delegates represented, key to the discussion was whether or not a Black Women's United Front was, in fact, necessary, or was it a Black United Front that needed to be put together. This position was particularly expressed by the speakers from AARPP, in a somewhat surprising move, since they had sat on the task and met several times without asserting this position. But the view that emerged from the body as a whole was that a Black Women's United Front certainly was necessary, to struggle against the triple oppression, by class, race and sex, which black women suffer under.

Another point that was made repeatedly is that the ALSC is a functioning and highly successful black united front, which should be supported by all progressive black organizations. There was some male chauvinism, usually associated with narrow nationalist organizations, which thought that "women don't need no separate organizations" but that reasoning is faulty, since women, especially black women, must mobilize to struggle against male chauvinism, (or female collaboration) and bourgeois feminism, as part of the overall struggle against capitalism, from which they issue in the first place. Male chauvinism is an ideology supported by capitalism just as is racism, and only the ultimate destruction of capitalism will see this ideology, which is really a duplication of the boss-worker production relationship within social relations, (i.e. man-woman relationships with the man as boss and the woman as worker) destroyed. The same is true with racism!

The women's lib movement, i.e. Bourgeois feminism, simply seeks to get women (mostly white & bourgeois) into capitalist society as equals. The Black Women's United Front seeks to draw black women into the movement to destroy capitalism not to join it. Bourgeois nationalism is the same as bourgeois feminism, it seeks merely to get blacks into the capitalist system, as equals. Revolutionary nationalism seeks to mobilize black people and draw them into the movement to destroy capitalism, which is the only method of achieving black liberation.

The Black Women's Front, which will

have another national meeting May 3, to elect its national steering committee will be an important new organization of struggle linking the black liberation movement more directly to struggle for socialism. Importantly, there was very little struggle around the anti-racist, anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist principles of unity, the BWUF put forward, and this is a direct opposition to those who keep saying that black folks are not ready for anti-capitalist ideology. Black people tried to burn the United States to the ground in the sixties, certainly they are ready for anti-capitalist organization! Whether or not black people are ready to deal with socialism was the essential topic of discussion in the most recent meeting of the **National Black Assembly**. This arose, because after a New York Times article containing descriptions of the Congress of Afrikan People's recent commitment to the ideology of scientific socialism, letter from Assembly President, Ron Daniels, sent to all the assembly members questioned whether this writer, who is secretary General of the

National Black Assembly, should remain in the leadership of the NBA since he was "an avowed communist." Daniels, who has called himself a nationalist and panafricanist, now takes on the role of a red baiter, which is an innovation in the black liberation movement. What is equally spectacular is that Daniels, has always had the reputation of a progressive brother, but now, seemingly out of a desire to relate to black elected officials, most of whom have never supported the NBA, and have tried constantly to undermine it, he is sent out to do battle with black socialists. Some of the black elected officials inside the NBA have said outright that they couldn't remain in the NBA with "a communist in the leadership," but when Hannah Atkins, a state assemblywoman from Oklahoma resigned as treasurer near the end of the Jan. meeting, we asked how could she remain in the Democratic party with George Wallace, yet have to resign from the NBA because of communist Baraka?

And for all the verbal mickey mouse

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that came from Daniels, and several other anti-communist speakers during the meeting, most of whom were democrats or corrupt labor & antipoverly hustlers, the real material cause of a lot of the discomfort such types felt in the Assembly, was the fact that a resolution was passed that the NBA would run a **presidential candidate in 1976 who would be anti democrat and anti republican and black!** The position we put forth is that to make this strategy of any value, there would have to be work done throughout 1975 building coalitions with third world and multinational organizations interested in supporting the same strategy. There would have to be issues conferences to develop a coalition platform with which to attack the corrupt democrats and republicans, which are two factions of the same party! And finally a coalition convention would have to be held, in 1976, instead of the black political convention, in order to rally the whole combined constituency around the hopefully anti-depression anti-repression platform and candidate, to forcefully pose a serious, meaningful, politically educating alternative to the forward-to-fascism bourgeois parties.

The narrow nationalists objected to the coalition strategy, the democrats, of course to the whole process. It was obscene to watch the black democrats urging the narrow nationalists against the coalition strategy, when they gain

their livelihood from a exploitative bourgeois "coalition," called the democratic party. There were also some AFL-CIO corrupters opposed to the 1976 coalition convention for the same reason. Yet, and we pointed this out at the meeting, all these people are willing to let us call our convention in 1976, and "be black for a couple of days" but then they will all leave and go directly to a coalition convention, i.e., the democratic convention, and select a bourgeois candidate, who, by the way, will be white!

To point out the unprincipled opposition of many of the instant nationalists to the coalition convention idea, even when some sincere nationalists proposed that we have two conventions, a black one, and then a coalition convention, to back the candidate, the democrats urged many unsuspecting black patriots to vote against it. But we have to get past our blind aversion to reality, and stop being used by the lackies of the democratic party. Thereby helping them sell our people out. Because they will be the ones who come around the black communities peddling Scoop Jackson in 1976, just like the peddled McGovern and LBJ! The National Black Assembly would do well to committ itself to supporting a coalition strategy for '76 which saw issues conferences held with multinational and third world organizations, and a platform put together and a can-

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didate selected that would be anti-depression antidepression and fight against the democrats and republicans, and begin to form the mass movement necessary to finally build the mass base of movement that could ultimately smash racism, by smashing its parent, capitalism!