

BRAIN POWER

by
Frank B. Jones

America is now in the throes of revolution. Black people are demanding changes in the political-economic structure of American society. Changes that will facilitate a more equitable distribution of the wealth of America. Our demands are the results of an increase in ethnic awareness and the realization that we, as Black people, have been covertly disfranchised from our rights. We will no longer accept a position that grants us less than the dignity and respect that our humanity requires.

To oppose the past systematic oppression of Black people, we have instituted several revolutionary courses of action. We now have Black oriented cultural nationalism, political parties, religious nationalism, paramilitary organizations, etc. All of these activities are directed towards the same goal -- Black liberation. The rallying cry of the Black Liberation movement is "Black Power", a phrase that is used to express our desire for and our determination to achieve self-determination.

Black power is not enough. A new cry must be added if we are to gain lasting results from our revolution. This new cry must be for brain power. We must liberate the power that rests within our mentality if we are to remain free of oppression. Without knowledge we will be unable to disting-

ulish between opportunity and oppression. Our present status in America is the result of enslavement of the mind more than it is a result of enslavement of the body. The dehumanization of Black people was a mental or psychological process, and we must now reverse the operation and assert ourselves mentally as well as physically.

Brain power is needed to give direction to our physical activities. The militants among us all praise the works of Fanon, Debray, Mao Tse Tung, Che Guevara, etc., but little mention is made of the mental perception required to produce the philosophical principles of revolution. Brain power is needed in military operations to compute the trajectory of mortar shells, to locate the most damaging position for placing explosives on a bridge to be destroyed, to handle the electronic equipment used for coordinating communications, to properly handload ammunition, ad infinitum.

Brain power is needed in time of peace to build bridges, to perform surgery, to fill prescriptions, to design communication and transportation systems, to program computers, etc. It would be wasted effort to gain full equality if there is no one capable of filling the positions that will be made available by a revolution. If we must fight to gain equality, we want to have people who are capable of using that equality for the benefit of those who had to fight. We must unite our brains and brawn.

It is incumbent upon all of us to prepare ourselves physically to fight, and mentally to reap the benefits of our fight. We have seen the frustration of being prepared and having no opportunity, e.g., the Black man with a college degree performing mental labor. Let us not reverse the situation by gaining the opportunity and not being prepared. We should con-

time to pursue Black Power, but
we must realize that without brain
power, Black Power is only skin
deep.