

FIRST NORTH CAL GREGORY - FOR - PRES HEAD -

QUARTERS OPEN

BUT WE NEED BREAD!

And Volunteers!

If you've heard DICK GREGORY speak while he was on tour in California we need not tell you why this campaign headquarters is opening. If you haven't, perhaps you can gather why a huge grassroots movement to draft Gregory as an independent write-in candidate and as the Peace and Freedom Party's nominee has developed, by reading today's article in The Berkeley Barb today, April 26, 1968.

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The mood of Dick Gregory's Berkeley audience last Friday night was best revealed when they gave him a standing ovation after he said, "when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce the people under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such a government. . .

The same mood is apparently shared by the San Diego County Peace and Freedom Party, which voted wholeheartedly in an emergency Tuesday night meeting to endorse Gregory as the PFM presidential candidate.

San Diego PFM then wired each county chapter of the party, urging them to endorse Gregory as swiftly as possible. Some PFM organizers stated that the survival of the Peace and Freedom Party, especially on a national basis, may depend on Gregory's speedy nomination.

He already has the endorsement of the PFM Black and Brown Caucus (ed. note, Gregory's candidacy was proposed at the Founding Convention by the Brown-Black Caucus).

Early this week the first Northern California headquarters of Dick Gregory for Peace and Freedom PRESIDENT OPENED IN Berkeley temporarily at the home of Joel Clark (849-4923).

Gregory's personal commitment to non-violence has audibly bothered some radicals, but much of their hesitance over his PFM candidacy has been dispelled after they heard him talk as militantly as H. Rap Brown.

'One time we measured progress by how fast black people climbed up,' Gregory told his Berkeley listeners. 'Now we gauge progress by how fast this system comes down!'

Supporters of his candidacy note that Gregory has already brought word of Peace and Freedom to students and others on about 75 campuses in 25 states during the past 90 days, with a militant stand on both the war and the black liberation struggle.

With the Peace and Freedom nationwide organizing drive currently getting bogged down in difficulties of communication and co-ordination, Gregory's coast-to-coast campaigning can bring rapid life to PFM on a national scale, his backers point out.

Gregory's attitude toward activist style politics is revealed both in his own participation in demonstrations and in his support of the Black Panthers and anti-war protests.

Although he could probably cop a plea next month, he will instead go to jail for an expected 90-day sentence on a trespass rap resulting from a Fish-in on behalf of Indians in Washington state. He told about 1,000 listeners at the Berkeley Community Theatre last Friday that he was looking forward to spreading the word to his jailmates.

When he tries to explain to white youth where the Black Panthers and other black (Over) flip-off-here:--

and send your contribution to

DICK GREGORY FOR PRESIDENT COMMITTEE

2216 Curtis Street

Berkeley, California (Telephone: 849-4923)

I am enclosing \$_____ to get the campaign going in Northern California and across the United States.

I would like to help _____ (Name)
_____ (Street)
_____ (City)
_____ (Telephone)

DICK GREGORY FOR PRESIDENT COMMITTEE: Chairman, Joel Clark

Mike Allen, Ed Terry, Lucille Birnbaum, Julio Ramirez, Joe Shields, Joel Rosenthal, et al.

militants are at, he drives home the parallel of their position to that of the radical leaders of the first American Revolution.

'Give me liberty or give me death' is what Rap Brown says, Gregory told the Berkeley audience. 'The Black Panthers are just doing what Paul Revere did, saying, 'The Redcoats are coming! Get a gun!' Then he quoted the 'duty to throw off such a government' passage of the Declaration of Independence, bringing the audience to its feet.

He thanked the 'young folks' for exerting so much pressure on LBJ through anti-war protests on the streets that he had to drop out of the presidential race.

Each time he speaks, he makes it clear that his personal ethic is not something he wants to impose on the movement, and that armed self-defense and liberation struggles were made an American birthright in 1776.

His aim, he says, is the liberation of all oppressed minorities. "When Governor Reagan said he'd heard about my concern for Negro rights, I told him, I don't give a damn about Negro rights. What I care about is human rights!"

Joel Clark, Gregory's PFM campaign manager for Northern California, emphasized that the formal effort in support of Gregory (in Northern California) is just getting underway (ed. note: Gregory is already a write-in candidate for the presidency in every state in the U.S.; he is on the Peace and Freedom ballot in Pennsylvania and Kentucky; within a month he will be the Peace and Freedom candidate in many other states.) and needs IMMEDIATE HELP, BOTH VOLUNTEER WORK AND DONATION OF FUNDS.

The upkeep on the candidate himself will be minimal, since he will be living only on juices until the November elections.

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See also 'Telling it Like He Is,' Berkeley Barb, April 12, 1968

"Non-violence is not an obligation brothers. It's a favor. . . The white man has got to learn that because unless he does, the black man is going to burn him down, house by house, and city by city."

. . . Last week, when Chicago was in flames after Martin Luther King's murder, Gregory said, "if we took this country away from you tonight and put you in the same trick you've had us in, you'd burn it down to the ground."

Right now, from Good Friday through Easter Sunday, Dick Gregory will be kneeling in front of the White House in a total fast to exert whatever personal pressure he can against racism and war.

Although Gregory uses such means as 40 day fasts and follows a vow not to wear anything but work clothes until the war in Vietnam stops, he never puts down advocates of militant black power. . . . "They have scared the mightiest nation in the world to death. Why? Stokely doesn't have a missile. Rap Brown doesn't ^{even} have a canoe. Why? They told the truth. Stokely has been accused of reverse racism - - whatever that is. The real meaning of Stokely's message is I got a right to hate you the same way you hate me. This is an honest ethical statement. Stokely helped make the movement honest by giving the hypocrites a reason for copping out."

. . . "Our involvement in Vietnam began under John F. Kennedy," Gregory told one audience recently. "If you don't want to admit this, you're too dishonest."

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Gregory considers the test of sincerity of white radicals to be their concern not only for black people ("they're doing fine themselves," Gregory notes) but for Indians, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Poor Whites, and Orientals.

Today the Dick Gregory for President Committee sent the following wire to the President of Olympia Beer COMPANY in Olympia, Washington: PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT WE ARE CALLING UPON ALL CHAPTERS OF THE PEACE AND FREEDOM PARTY IN THE UNITED STATES TO EFFECT A BOYCOTT OF OLYMPIA BEER. THIS ACTION IS BEING TAKEN IN SUPPORT OF DICK GREGORY'S STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE TO INDIANS AND TO PROTEST THE 90 DAY JAIL SENTENCE THAT HAS BEEN IMPOSED ON HIM FOR PARTICIPATING IN A FISH-IN WITH MISQUALLY INDIANS IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON. WE ARE CALLING FOR THIS BOYCOTT BECAUSE IT IS THE WATER, AS YOUR ADS SAY, THAT MAKES OLYMPIA GREAT. THE USE OF THIS SAME WATER IS DENIED TO INDIANS - - WHO WERE ALREADY ON THIS CONTINENT WHEN IT WAS DISCOVERED - - ALTHOUGH THE USE IS GUARANTEED TO THEM IN A 110 YEAR OLD TREATY WHICH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS VIOLATING. WE INTEND TO CARRY THIS BOYCOTT AGAINST ALL CORPORATIONS LIKE YOUR OWN WHO ENLARGE THEIR PROFITS WHILE INDIANS STARVE, WHOSE CORPORATE ACTIVITIES BEAR COMPLICITY IN THIS VIOLATION OF NATURAL, HUMAN, AND LEGAL RIGHTS. JOEL CLARK, CHAIRMAN, DICK GREGORY FOR PRESIDENT COMMITTEE, PEACE AND FREEDOM PARTY, 2216 CURTIS STREET, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA. CC: DICK GREGORY; JANET MCLOUD, SURVIVAL AMERICAN INDIANS ASSOCIATION; ALL CHAPTERS OF THE PEACE AND FREEDOM PARTY, U.S.A.