

PONTIAC PRISONERS SUPPORT COALITION



NEWSLETTER

SEPT '80

No.12



DIVIDED TRIAL TO BEGIN

Over defense objection, Judge Miller has granted a State's motion to divide the Pontiac trial in half. Now there will be two trials with eight defendants in each.

Judge Miller also announced that jury selection in the first trial will begin on September 15, 1980.

The Brothers argued that they should either be tried all together or individually; that is, that there should either be one trial or sixteen trials. The Judge, however, not only allowed the State's motion to divide the trial in half, but also allowed the division of defendants requested by the State.

The State wanted a particular division because its evidence is in conflict. The division ordered will permit the State to argue to the first jury that that set of eight defendants planned the uprising and then, in total contradiction, to argue to the second jury that that group was responsible.

Judge Miller's "cut the baby in half" wisdom, therefore, provided the best possible circumstances for the State and the worst possible for the Brothers. This ruling is totally consistent with all previous rulings during the pre-trial hearings.

CONTINUED ON P. 4

REBELLION COMMEMORATED

Just over 100 years ago, Pontiac Prison was constructed in central Illinois. Almost nine years ago, George Jackson was assassinated and Attica erupted; two years and one day ago Reidsville Prison rebelled; and two years ago, on July 22, 1978, Pontiac Prison rebelled. Today, 200 people demonstrated in front of the Cook County Courthouse in Chicago to commemorate the Pontiac Rebellion and to generate support for the 17 men facing death penalty charges stemming from the rebellion.

tried across the hall from the courtroom where the pre-trial motions for the Pontiac Brothers are being held. Delgado emphasized the commonality of the struggles of Black and Latin peoples and the need for each to support the other in their fights for liberation. Speaking on behalf of the sizable delegation that the National Committee brought to the demonstration, Delgado stated: "We are here today supporting the Pontiac Brothers in their fight for freedom. We welcome your support for the 11 POW's in their fight for freedom."



photo Lauren Deutsch / PPSC

"Big Jim Thompson, You Can't Hide"

For two hours the demonstrators marched in front of the courthouse chanting slogans designed to expose the link between Thompson and the frame-up:

Big Jim Thompson, you can't hide
We charge you with genocide
and
31 indicted, 17 may die
Big Jim's justice is a white man's lie
and
Repeal Class X, jail Jim T
Pontiac Brothers must go free
as well as several more.

After the demonstration there was a press conference and then a rally, with Lew Meyers of the National Council of Black Lawyers introducing the speakers. The first speaker was Jaime Delgado, of the National Committee to Free the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War. This organization is leading the support work for the 11 Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, alleged members of the FALN, now being

The Rev. Albert Sampson, prominent Chicago activist, spoke next. Linking the struggles of all the peoples of the world and encouraging the crowd to understand that it was not alone, he stated: "The people in Soweto know about the Pontiac Brothers, know about Puerto Rico."

Nazereth Gray, the mother of Albert Jackson, one of the 17, spoke on behalf of the family members present today. In a very moving speech she told the demonstrators, "I was down before I came today, but the size of the demonstration has picked me up." She also spoke of the agony of raising a son only to watch the state take him away and attempt to murder him. She detailed the day-to-day problems of attending pre-trial hearings in the courtroom specially constructed for these proceedings and the coming trial. "There are ten seats in the whole room and four are reserved for

CONTINUED ON P. 12

COME TO COURT

3

INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE GOING TO COURT

1. Before you go, make sure court will be in session! The best way to check is to call the People's Law Office (663-5046) the afternoon prior to the day you plan to go and ask about the schedule.
2. Court is being held in Room 502 of the Cook County Criminal Court Building at 26th Street and California Avenue. If you are taking public transportation, you can take the CTA Douglass 'B' train to California at 21st Street and the California Avenue bus to 26th Street.
3. Remember that the State does not want the Pontiac Brothers to have support. It is easier for them to carry out their frame-up if the Brothers are isolated and there is no one to observe, to protest, or to take the news out to their communities. Therefore, a series of obstacles may be placed in your way. One of them is the small number of seats provided for spectators, which may mean that everyone cannot be in court all the time they are there. White supporters should remember that the Brothers' relatives and other Black supporters are the most important support they can have. If there aren't enough seats, white supporters should try to rotate in and out to give everyone a chance.
4. It is important to make clear to the Brothers, the judge, the jury and everyone else which side you're on. Especially if you're white, make sure the Brothers know who you are. During pre-trial hearings supporters have been able to wear Pontiac T-shirts to court; that may be barred later on when jurors are present. Do what you can--a smile, a wave or a clenched fist of support to the Brothers will do the job. Try to sit on the same side of the courtroom as the Brothers unless it is filled.
5. Although the judge in a trial has a great deal of authority over what will happen in 'his' courtroom, you do have rights and you should defend them. The bailiffs do have the right to search you, to hold knives or other contraband and to refuse to allow newspapers in the courtroom. Unless and until the judge issues a specific order, they do not have the right to prevent you from entering the courtroom, taking notes or leaving and re-entering. Nor do they have the right to discriminate between spectators. If you feel that you or other supporters are being harassed, intimidated or otherwise denied your rights, contact the defense team. You can do this by speaking to members of the support organizations in court, by speaking to one of the defense lawyers during a break, or by calling the People's Law Office (663-5046).
6. Come to court as often as you can, and bring other people! The Pontiac Brothers need your support, and the people need to know!



*"Equal Justice Under Law? You'll find that
in our fiction department, sir."*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Seven weeks were spent hearing evidence on a defense motion to dismiss because of "prosecutorial and investigative misconduct and coercion."

Defense attorneys presented witness after witness who testified that State investigators used threats, bribery and intimidation, and imposed intolerable conditions, to secure evidence against the Brothers. Even Larry Dowdy, the head of the IDLE investigation, admitted threatening a prisoner with the death penalty in order to coerce his testimony.

Dowdy said he told a prisoner he would "burn in the electric chair" unless he cooperated with investigators.

The hearing also uncovered significant new information on the political nature of the investigation. Evidence showed that virtually all important decisions were made by close associates of Governor Thompson.

During the first months of the investigation access to the prison was controlled not by prison officials, but by Morton Friedman, counsel for the IDLE and a long time associate of the governor. The testimony showed that Friedman made a special effort to restrict attorney access to the prison in order to prevent interference with his chosen tactics for securing evidence.

Friedman also carried on intense negotiations with prison guard Danny Dill. Dill was seriously injured during the rebellion and at that time named two prisoners as the men who attacked him. These two men, however, were never charged. Rather, after a long and successful negotiation with Friedman for a new State job, Dill changed his story

to implicate prisoners who fit the State's case.

The hearing also showed that it was Gayle Franzen, a close friend of the governor, then acting as his special assistant, who received requests for special favors for prisoners who agreed to cooperate. Franzen has since been appointed by Thompson as director of the Department of Corrections.



The full extent of the favors and bribes granted to cooperating prisoners is still unknown. At the hearing the prosecution claimed that it did not keep complete records of its contacts with witnesses or of the favors granted them. According to the State this accounts for the fact that new "favors", from jobs to clothing allowances to buying methadone for a star witness, continue to surface piece by piece.

In spite of the above examples of unusual and improper conduct by the investigators and the prosecutors, Judge Miller denied the defense motion. Miller stated that the defense had presented "no evidence" to substantiate the charges.

Further, Judge Miller also denied the defense motion to bar "death qualification" of the jury which decides guilt or innocence.

A murder trial is divided into two stages. The first stage is to determine guilt or innocence; the second stage is to decide if the death penalty should be imposed. Death qualification of the jury results in the exclusion of jurors who have hesitations about imposing the death penalty. Studies have shown that a death qualified jury is not only more likely to impose death, but is also more likely to convict.

The defense argued that the Brothers would be prejudiced if the jury which decides their guilt or innocence was death qualified. Judge Miller rejected this argument and will allow a conviction prone jury.

In a related ruling Judge Miller decided that he will not allow defense attorneys to directly question prospective jurors. Rather, the judge will conduct all questioning himself. This limitation will inhibit the ability of the defense to secure an unbiased jury and, in particular, to expose racially prejudiced jurors.

Judge Miller's attitude was clearly revealed not only by these rulings, but also by his cooperation with the prosecution's effort to cover-up many aspects of the investigation and prosecution.

Defense investigators testified that several of the State's witnesses had admitted to giving false statements in exchange for paroles and other favors, but would not change their statements in court because they had been warned their paroles would

be revoked if they did so. In order to allow them to testify freely and truthfully, the defense asked Miller for a "protective order" which would prevent State retaliation against witnesses who changed their testimony.

Miller denied the motion thereby guaranteeing a continuation of the frame-up.

This was not the State's only effort to use its power over paroles to corrupt the trial. Evidence showed that the IDLE attempted to revoke the parole of a former Pontiac prisoner because they were not satisfied with his cooperation.

A letter from this former prisoner's Parole Officer to the Prison Review Board stated that the IDLE had contacted him to find out if he would revoke parole. This request was made not because the conditions of parole had been violated, but because the parolee had refused to cooperate in the way the IDLE demanded.

Such evidence and rulings have led defense attorneys to challenge Judge Miller's constant agreement with the prosecution and his equally constant limitation of the defense. As a result the Judge told Chokwe Lumumba, one of the defense attorneys, that he had been "in contempt" since he entered the case. This comment was an obvious attempt to intimidate the attorneys and to keep them from waging a vigorous defense.

All of the above reveals a continuation and acceleration of the State's attempt to railroad the Pontiac Brothers to the electric chair. Jury selection is scheduled to begin September 15, 1980. If the court room is not packed, if supporters are not present, and if it is not clear that there are people who care, then the State will have a clear track and the Brothers a short future. COME TO COURT!



On July 15, 1980 attorneys Chokwe Lumumba and Earlean Murphy filed a unique motion on behalf of Pontiac Brothers Ozzie Williams, John Bailey, Michael Evans, Joseph Smith, Albert Jackson, and Larry Hoover. The motion seeks dismissal of the charges against these men stemming from the July 22 rebellion on the grounds that the courts of the United States lack the jurisdiction to try Black people.

This complex, carefully documented argument, based upon constitutional and international law, maintains that slavery and the resistance to it created a nation of Black people within the borders of the U.S. This nation is the Republic of New Afrika (RNA), and "The defendants are each New Afrikans by birth and remain New Afrikans by choice. As New Afrikans they are citizens of the Republic of New Afrika, a nation held captive and colonized by the USA."

The jurisdiction of the courts is challenged from this perspective on both legal grounds as well as on moral and political grounds, maintaining that the right to self-determination, due to all peoples, has been denied New Afrikans:

"At no time has the New Afrikan population or their Afrikan Ancestors knowingly and intelligently consented to either their forced separation from the Afrikan continent of the imposition of United States or State jurisdiction over them."

"The jurisdiction claimed over the Defendants by the United States and the State of Illinois being an incident of slavery is in fact violative of the 13th Amendment of the Constitution and thus cannot be sustained."

The idea of national definition as a response to the outrage of slavery is central to the motion, which maintains that not only is the national spirit alive and well today, but that it was never even legally denied by U.S. courts: that although the 13th Amendment freed the slaves they never had a chance to decide whether or not they would become citizens of the U.S. - such status was imposed upon them by the 14th Amendment:

"Finally all slaves in the United States were freed when the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution went into effect on 18 December 1865. The effect of this amendment - which pointedly did not offer U.S. citizenship to the now-free Afrikan - was to remove the municipal law which effected slavery, thus leaving the New Afrikan nation as a free political entity, legally on territory claimed by the United States."

"At no time since the Thirteenth Amendment, however, has the United States government participated with the New Afrikans in a plebiscite or invited Afrikans in America to participate in a plebiscite"



to determine their political status by free and informed choice as required by Article Six of the U.S. Constitution and the United Nations Charter, a duly approved treaty, as the Charter's Article 73e has been defined by United Nations General Assembly Resolution Number 1541"

According to the motion, two important ideas flow from the relationship of the RNA to the U.S. First, that "The struggle of the New Afrikan Nation for self-determination and independence has been suppressed by the U.S. and its states since the inception of the New Afrikan independence struggle." The racist nature of prisons in general and

Pontiac in particular, is analyzed as a consequence of this suppression:

"These New Afrikans, both the conscious liberation fighters and the youth who are not consciously engaged in liberation struggle, are incarcerated in large number in order to diffuse and incapacitate the liberation struggle on a permanent basis. Thus the disproportionate incarceration rate of New Afrikans is in large part a secret war measure employed by the United States and its state and local subdivision, and it is in part a consequence of the social, physical, and psychological devastation that the colonial war and the colonial system has visited on the New Afrikan population."

"Inside the penal institutions the impact of colonialism is most intense, as is the active repression of liberation struggle. Under prison conditions many prisoners have rebelled in the last ten years in spontaneous uprisings against the colonial establishment at its most repressive point. These periodic rebellions are manifest strikes for liberation and the rebels who strike therein are for the duration liberation fighters against colonialism and for self determination."

"In the course of suppressing these rebellions the colonial agents of the state (i.e. the prison Administration,

and state investigators and police) arrest many prisoners who were not in or associated with the rebellion. Such is the situation with the defendants in the present case. The arrests of the defendants and the indictments are made recklessly and wantonly by state agents who are unable or unwilling to identify the responsible and anxious to crush the will of the prison population by setting examples."

The second idea is that the RNA is at war with the USA - a war of liberation being fought by a colony against its colonizer:

"The Defendants were actually not responsible for the actions alleged by the prosecution. Yet the Defendants were and are civilian victims of the State's attempt to suppress liberation struggle in the prison. This attempt is part and parcel of the State's attempt to suppress the New Afrikan National Liberation Struggle in total. The Defendants as Civilian Prisoners of War are also entitled to international protection afforded by the Geneva Convention."

This prisoner of war stance is very similar to the one adopted by the 11 recently captured Puerto Ricans, allegedly members of the FALN. The Cook County Courthouse and Jail are now holding more and more prisoners from oppressed nations. Some of these prisoners are maintaining that they are colonials, members of nations that are at war with the USA, that they are thus prisoners of war, and that US courts lack jurisdiction to try them - a position which they maintain is supported by international law which proclaims support for wars of liberation. Such an expression may very well have important implications for the future of the United States.

(Because the 30 page motion summarized in this article contains a great deal of legal and historical information, as well as a perspective that is becoming important in liberation movements within the borders of the US, PPSC is making copies available. The cost, \$3.50, is that required for xeroxing and mailing. Orders should be sent to the PPSC office.)

In Memoriam: Frank Frizell

On July 31, 1980, Pontiac Brother Frank Frizell, Jr. was found beaten to death, just days after he had been acquitted of all charges. He had been free on bond for months. He was 26 years old at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife and two children.

The Chicago Sun-Times and Tribune used this tragedy in another vicious smear against the Pontiac Brothers. They reported that Frank was on a list of State's witnesses against the Pontiac 17, implying that they were responsible for his death. This was reported in spite of the facts: 1) Frank had at no time made statements against any other Pontiac Brother and was not expected to do so; 2) Frank's death followed a dispute unrelated to the Pontiac cases and known to his family; 3) the police are seeking several suspects based on that dispute.

The reports published were a deliberate attempt to mislead the public and to justify the State's refusal to allow the defense access to their witnesses. The Pontiac frame-up followed Pontiac Brother Frank Frizell to his grave.



The 14 : 2 Trials Remain

Since our last report in Newsletter #11, five of the non-murder Pontiac cases have gone to trial. The results of all the cases of the 14 are summarized in the table below. These have been hard-fought cases in highly prejudiced counties; the victories that have been won should be celebrated as the work of overturning the losses goes on.

Roberto Tosado, the first of two defendants scheduled to be tried before Judge Harrod in Peoria, was convicted on charges of burglary and correctional code violation in February; Following this, Larry Johnson, facing trial in the same circumstances, pled guilty in return for a sentence of three years with 18 months time already served rather than the maximum of 14 years.

The trial of John Lee and Lamont Richards ended in a mixed verdict based on a theatrical last-minute identification of Richards by Sharon Patchett, a guard who had been injured and who had maintained for over a year that she could not identify anyone. Swayed by her testimony, the jury ignored evidence that Richards could not have been at the scene at the time that the attack occurred. On the other hand, the jury clearly did not

credit the testimony of the prisoners who testified for the State against John Lee.

Lee Clark's trial was a clear-cut victory for the Brothers. The State's star witness, Charles Media, described under cross-examination how he had tailored his statements to investigators to get their interest and get them to make him an offer (which they did). In explaining his finding of "not guilty", Judge Knecht pointed out that the job of the court was to seek the truth from the facts, but that "in this case, the 'facts' do not lead us to the truth,"--in other words, you can't believe what the State's witnesses tell you.

The most recent trial, that of five Brothers charged with causing damage with a forklift, ended in another compromise verdict. Frank Frizell and Mike Mitchell were acquitted. Arthur Jones, Allen Mack, and Bruce Jefferson were convicted. This verdict was the product of over 12 hours deliberation by an all-white jury.

One of the two Brothers still awaiting trial, Hurries Johnson, is scheduled to be tried by Judge Knecht in Bloomington on August 27. Willie Hardy's trial is expected to take place in September.

DEFENDANTS	CHARGES	VERDICT	SENTENCE
LUIS PEREZ MANUEL SANTIAGO	Aggravated battery; mob action	Convicted of simple battery and mob action	6 years for mob action; 365 days for battery
ROBERTO TOSADO	Correctional code violation; 2 counts burglary	Convicted	4 years
JOHN LEE LAMONT RICHARDS	Armed violence; aggravated battery; mob action	Armed violence charges dropped. Richards convicted of aggravated battery and mob action. Lee acquitted on all counts.	----- 8 years
LEE CLARK	Burglary; looting	Acquitted	-----
LARRY JOHNSON	Burglary; mob action; correctional code violation	Pled guilty	3 years with 18 months time served
FRANK FRIZELL MIKE MITCHELL ALLEN MACK, JR. ARTHUR JONES BRUCE JEFFERSON	Correctional code violation; mob action	Acquitted Acquitted Convicted Convicted Convicted	----- ----- Sentencing set for Sept. 8 Sentencing set for Sept. 8 Sentencing set for Sept. 8
HURRIES JOHNSON	Arson; correctional code violation	Trial set for August 27.	
WILLIE HARDY	Arson; correctional code violation	Has not yet come to trial.	

PPSC ACTIVITIES

Pontiac Prisoners Support Coalition has been engaged in numerous activities during June and July in a continued attempt to educate people about the facts of the Pontiac Rebellion.

To date we have distributed 30,000 tabloids throughout Cook County to educate people about the issue of jury selection. We consider this a primary goal as the time nears for selection of a jury to sit in judgment of sixteen Black men. This effort will continue right up to the time of the trials, and we urgently encourage everyone to call and offer time. (Please call 427-4064 and volunteer.)

Literature was passed out at the June 7th Rally for a Nuclear-Free Midwest, the July 4th Rock Against the Draft and the July 21st Anti-Registration Rally. The Coalition sees all of these issues as parts of a larger struggle to fight oppression of all peoples and particularly Black, Latinos and Native Americans. We recognize that, contrary to government rhetoric, a disproportionate burden of the proposed draft will once again fall on poor people and people of color. Nothing parallels the realities of the draft like the history of the death penalty. The death penalty was found unconstitutional in the early 60's because it was used arbitrarily and predominately against Blacks and Latinos. With the reenactment of the death penalty again we see a disproportionate number of Third World people on death row.

Nothing has changed with the death penalty and nothing will change with the draft.

The entire first edition of the church booklet, Pontiac Prison Rebellion: A Case For The Church's Response, has been distributed. Some 1,500 have been sold to church organizations, and a second printing of the booklet is being completed. We urge all supporters of the Brothers to request their churches purchase these booklets for distribution in their communities.

The Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church, which represents 425 churches and more than 200,000 people, has recently passed a resolution in support of the Pontiac Brothers. The United Churches of Christ Illinois Conference, which represents 348 Parishes and 129,000 people, has passed resolutions in 1979 and 1980 encouraging their membership to educate themselves around the Pontiac situation and to support the Pontiac Brothers. The United Presbyterian Church of the U.S. of America, through the Presbytery of Chicago, which represents 136 churches and 62,000 people, has also recently passed a resolution in support of the Pontiac Brothers. And at a convocation on prisons and jails held this spring by the National Federation of Priest's Counsels, which represents 2,500 priests in the Chicago area, a statement was written urging the church community to fight the death penalty and to work around the Pontiac Brothers cases.

On June 29, we held a picnic to support the Pontiac Brothers, and their were 150 in attendance. With the selling of African masks made by the Brothers and receipts from the picnic itself, we were able to add to our funds for the distribution of the tabloid on jury selection.



THE PONTIAC FRAME-UP

On July 22, 1978, prisoners at Pontiac State Penitentiary in Pontiac, Illinois, rose up against the inhuman conditions and racism of the prison. The causes of this spontaneous rebellion were so obvious that the director of the Illinois prisons said, "It came a year later than most of us anticipated. You can only crowd so many people into a warehouse for so long before something happens." 3 guards were killed and 3 others injured; damages were estimated at \$4 million. Many prisoners were injured by guards and National Guardsmen retaking the prison.

The entire prison population was then put on deadlock — locked in their cells 24 hours a day without showers, visits, recreation, work, or basic necessities like soap and toilet paper. The deadlock continued for 8 months.

The "investigation" that was carried out under deadlock conditions consisted principally of attempts to coerce prisoners to testify against selected scapegoats by threats and bribery. Not until 3 months after the rebellion did State officials begin to claim that the prisons were "run by the gangs" and that the Pontiac rebellion had been a "gang" conspiracy. This phony story both took the responsibility off Governor Thompson and the State officials running the prison and placed it on Black and Latin prisoners and prejudiced the public against the men to be indicted.

Administrative charges were brought against 67 prisoners, each of whom was sentenced to a year in segregation and loss of one year good time without a single witness being presented.

On March 5, 1979, an all-white grand jury handed down indictments against 31 prisoners — all Black and Latin. 17 were charged with murder and 14 with other felonies. The State's Attorney had already announced that he would seek the death penalty for any prisoner convicted of murder, making this the largest mass death penalty case in the U.S.

WHO WE ARE

The Pontiac Prisoners Support Coalition is a broad-based coalition of community and human rights organizations. The PPSC is organizing in primarily white communities while other organizations are working in Black and Latin communities.

We share the conviction that the Pontiac Rebellion was a natural and predictable response to the inhuman treatment of prisoners, most of whom are Black and Latin.

We understand that this inhuman treatment begins on the outside, in the community, where Black and Latin people live with many different forms of oppression. Those men and women who organize against this oppression are warehoused into cages in overcrowded prisons and jails where slave labor, inhuman conditions and arbitrary rules are enforced by racist guards.

We know that the indictments against the Pontiac 31 are the product of a frame-up carried out under coercive conditions and not a genuine investigation.

The PPSC respects and supports the initiatives of prisoners, takes leadership from them, and unites with them on the following demands:

- * Abolish all inhuman and abusive conditions at Pontiac and other Illinois prisons.
- * Repeal Class X legislation.
- * Revoke the death penalty.
- * Expose the investigation and its coercive strategy to scapegoat prisoners.
- * End the deadlocks.

* Drop the indictments.

* Free the Pontiac Brothers!

We have taken responsibility for:

- * Educating white people about the racist nature of the prison system.
- * Combatting anti-prisoner, racist attitudes and practices.
- * Winning support for the demands of the prisoners.
- * Providing ongoing political and legal support for the Pontiac Brothers.

ACT NOW! WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

_____ I want to work on one of the PPSC committees.

_____ I can arrange for PPSC to show its slideshow or give talks to people or groups I know.

_____ I enclose \$10.00 for a 1-year subscription to the PPSC Newsletter.

_____ I enclose a \$ _____ donation to the Pontiac Brothers Defense Fund.

RETURN THIS FORM TO: PPSC
c/o Alliance to End Repression
407 South Dearborn Street, Room 1000
Chicago, Illinois 60605
OR CALL: (312) 427-4064

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

the press. That leaves six for us." (All 17 men are simultaneously involved in these hearings.) "Also, the glass that separates us (a bullet-proof cage constructed to separate the proceedings from the public) makes it almost impossible to see and hear. Each day after the proceedings I have to ask my son what happened - even though I was sitting there the whole time. She finished by stating: "We're in this to win. I know it's going to be tough, but I know we can do it."

"The people make history"

The final speaker of the day was Chokwe Lumumba, Midwest Vice President of the Republic of New Afrika (RNA). Lumumba, introduced by Meyers as one of the leading Black attorneys in the country, pointed out that it was not individuals that were important, that "the people make history, the people solve problems, and that the case of the Pontiac Brothers is a problem that only the people can solve."

Lumumba continued, "The problem is, Brothers, Sisters, and Comrades, that many of us are still naive and don't understand that the litany of horrors of the past can be the litany of horrors of the present and the future - as long as the same powers control things. We must kill the cancer wherever it is, wherever it confronts us. This case is the doorway to return to unmitigated acts of repression and we must stop it." Lumumba added, "It is no coincidence that the state sees the case of the Pontiac Brothers the same way it sees the case of the FALN -- so do we."

The rally ended with a message from the Brothers that said, in part, "Our voice is small, like a wave in the sea, but with the power of the people we can have the power of the sea. Our struggle won't end with our freedom but will continue until we have won freedom for all the people. STOP THE FRAME-UP! HELP FREE THE PONTIAC BROTHERS!!"

Most of the people present, including the press, thought that the demonstration, sponsored by People United to Free the Pontiac Brothers and PPSC, staged on a Tuesday afternoon, was a substantial success. Certainly more of the same will be needed in the future.



PPSC
407 South Dearborn Street, Room 1000
Chicago, Illinois 60605