

Carolyn Kelley Civic Council

570 CLINTON AVENUE, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Carolyn Kelley Civic Council met on Saturday June 24, 1967 and issued this statement opposing any action by the Newark City Administration or the Newark residents in general which might lead to riot. The Council's main theme expressed by its standbearer, Carolyn Kelley is, "DON'T RIOT, REGISTER".

During the past two months the Council has been mapping plans for an extensive VOTER'S REGISTRATION DRIVE. The Council's President William S Thomas reaffirmed Miss Kelley's sentiments in this statement which will be sent to various political, civic, social, religious and fraternal groups in the Newark area.

"We of the Carolyn Kelley Civic Council recognize the economic, social, and political castration of the black majority in the city of Newark. This coupled with poor housing, a lack of job opportunities, sub-standard medical facilities, a disregard of human rights, and exploitation by some greedy merchants realize that a change must be made if the BLACK MAN in Newark is to achieve his Constitutional given rights of "LIFE, LIBERTY, and the pursuit of HAPPINESS." This can only be accomplished by BALLOTS, not bricks and bullets. Change can only be instituted from within and not standing on the outside throwing bricks at those on the inside. We will put those who we want to plan and chart the future for us and our children on the inside only through the democratic way of an election machine. This is why it is an encumbrance upon every citizen to see that he or she is registered and then go to the polls and vote. This is the only way that any meaningful change will be effected for we, the BLACK majority of this CITY. We want this, the summer of 1967 to be a long hot summer of people registering to vote so when there is an election we can execute our ~~own~~/true strength, VOTING POWER."

Carolyn Kelley, stated, "In every city where a so called ~~riot~~/riot occurred, innocent children were hurt or killed fighting a losing battle that should have been fought by adults, not on the streets, but at the POLLS. The only people who profit by so called riots are the people who want to BEAT, SHOOT, and KILL; the slum-lord who couldn't sell his violation ridden building and is glad for it to burn in order to collect the insurance money; the greedy merchant who no longer can fool the people and wants to grab his insurance money and run. Also profiting is the self-styled leaders who after the beating, burning and shooting, enters the area and tells his white bosses ~~that~~/that he can ~~stop~~/stop the riots for X amount of dollars. Who replaces the destroyed personal property? Who breathes the breath of life back into the black child who was killed by a stray bullet?"

The registration drive will be started this week when the COUNCIL with the support of other groups in the area will flood the BLACK BELT with FLIERS on where to register based on the theme "DON'T RIOT, REGISTER. YOUR VOTING STRENGTH IS YOUR POWER."

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