

# Bobby Seale: The Black Panther Party's Ten Point Program

To explain to you who brother Huey P Newton is, in his soul, I've got to explain to you also your soul, your needs, your political desires and needs- because that is Huey's soul.

When we first organized the Black Panther Party of Self-Defense he would say, "Bobby [he says], we gonna draw up a basic platform -just basic- that black people can read." He says, "we don't want to go real elaborate with all these essays and dissertations and all this stuff because the brother gonna look at that and he gonna say 'man, I aint got time for that. I gotta go see what I can do for myself.'" He said, "just a basic platform that the mothers who struggle hard to raise us, that the fathers who've worked hard, that the young brothers in school who come out of school semi-literate." Huey'd say "We want freedom. We want power to determine the destiny of our black community. Full employment for our people. Number 3- we want housing fit, decent housing fit for shelter of human beings. Number 4- we want all black men to be exempt from military service. Number 5 [APPLAUSE] - we want a decent education for our black people in our community that teaches us the true nature of this decadent racist society, and to teach black people, and our young black brothers and sisters, their place in the society, because if they don't know their place in society, and in the world, they can't relate to anything else. Number 6- we want an end to the robbery by the white racist business men of black people and the black people in their community. Number 7- we want an *immediate* end to police brutality and murder of black people. [APPLAUSE] Number 8- we want all black men held in county, state, federal jails and prisons to be released because they have not had a fair trial, because they've been tried by all white juries and that's just like being tried in Germany being a Jew. [edit] Number 9- we want black people to be tried by members of their peers, and a peer being one who comes from the same economic, social, religious, historical, and racial background. If the United States government and the courts, and the local courts, did this, they would have to choose black people from the black community to sit on the jury. They'd have to choose some of the mothers who've been working 20 years in Ms. Anne's kitchen scrubbing floors like mama gone n'done. They'd have to choose some of them hard working fathers. They'd have to choose some of those brothers who stand in the block out there wondering when they're gonna get a gig. They're gonna have to choose these black people. And number 10- Huey said, "let's just summarize it." We want housing, we want clothing, we want education, we want justice, and we want peace. [APPLAUSE]

This is a basic platform –in case you never knew it or not- of all the things that you've heard in the press, of all the derogatory statements that's been made in the press about brother Huey P. Newton. [And I] Of all these derogatory statements to guide you away from seeing this basic platform that Huey was talking about for his own people. We have to learn to look through the white press. We have to learn to see what's going on. Now out of this platform, Huey P. Newton realized that it was necessary for us to start working on these points, these 10 points practically.

Remember number 7? We want an immediate end to police brutality and murder of black people? This is very very important. And here, whether you know it or not, is where you start dealing with the black revolution. When Huey says, "every black man put a shotgun in your home." And once we let the man know, say, "look, we armed from block to block and we're gonna patrol you from our windows. And we're not gonna have you brutalizing none of our people in the streets. Do you realize what kind of power black people have then? Because you begin to neutralize that police force. 'Cuz them cops gonna start riding shaking and scared. In fact, we're in a position then to demand that they withdraw from our community, because they occupy our community, just like a foreign troop occupies territory. It's very important to understand, we hate cops beating black people over the head and murdering them- that's what we hate! [APPLAUSE] If you've got enough energy to sit down and hate a white person just because of the color of their skin you're wasting a lot of energy. You'd better take that same energy and put it in some motion out there and start dealing with those oppressive conditions, and you gonna find out just what you hate, and what you gonna stop. [APPLAUSE] Black people we are organizing to STOP racism, you hear me? When you stop racism you stop brutality and murder of black people by the racist, occupying army in our black community. That's what we gonna stop- what's being done to us. You dig it? Can you dig the white power structure in this racist police force and how they've escalated the situation? That before Watts there was 1,300 cops, now there's 6,000 cops patrolling black people. That in Oakland they had 350 cops just 3 ½ years ago and now they've got 1000 cops patrolling black people. San Francisco's doubling its police force, and every area and major metropolis where black people live all across this country they double, triple and qua[drouple] their police force, equip them with tanks... all kinds... uh,uh- we've got to stop it brother, let's get together and unify. [APPLAUSE]