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STRONG IN THE STRUGGLE

PRESS RELEASES AND STATEMENTS CIRCA 1975-1995
BY LEE BROWN

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SPECIAL RESOLUTION: ~~_____~~ COPY COPY

I propose that a conference be called sometime in the future for the purpose of dealing with the housing crisis in San Francisco and the Bay Area, especially concerning people on fixed incomes, on welfare the poor in general, and those below the poverty-level. This call should be sent to the labor organizations, community organizations, religious groups and individuals who are concerned about the housing crisis in San Francisco and the Bay Area. We should come together to discuss this serious problem confronting us and share information and find a solution to the fixed, low-income, and poor people's problems about decent housing and reasonable rent for the poor. We must also deal with the public housing for the poor and demand a decent and secure place for the poor and reasonable rent. (In the projects it is estimated that about some 25,000 people are overcrowded into 5,000 units.) And, therefore, I, Lee Brown propose that the only solution to the housing crisis for poor people is to put housing in the public domain. The housing crisis in San Francisco shows that it's time for the concerned and poor people to act!!

by: Lee Brown, Trade-Unionist

Press Release:

COPY

Trade unionist Lee Brown's views and report on Local 2 Hotel Workers sent a loud and clear message to the hotel owners in San Francisco. No sweetheart contract. For a good contract, we vote 'yes'. They voted 94% for a good contract. Some workers voted 'no', but the majority voted 'yes'. No takeaways. We will strike again, if necessary. We will not go backwards. They say that we will support the rank and file negotiating committee; we will support the staff of Local 2, for we all learned a lesson in the first struggle for a decent contract.

They also threatened to take away some holidays: July 4th and Thanksgiving Day. They threatened also to take away the union hiring hall and that made the workers angry. And I repeat they will not go backward, they will go forward. These threatening issues united and made the rank and file much stronger. And these are the issues: we demand a decent working contract around wages, vacation, holidays, meals for all employees including room-cleaners and to deal fairly with the craft rules. From my point of view, the hotelworkers are much stronger than they were in the first strike, when they threatened to take away the hiring hall which is the backbone of the hotelworkers. The real source of the union power is its rank and file membership. We are united behind the negotiating committee and the staff of Local 2 struggling for a better and a fairer contract in the culinary industries. Struggles will teach us a lesson. Labor must get involved in American politics. The bosses are scheduled to present before the statewide elections December 13th a bill by Assemblyman Don Sebastiani (R-Sonoma) --author of the scheme. This scheme is designed to make California become an open-union-shop and a right-to-work state. So, we must fight back and organize a united front. All community members should be encouraged to seek work in the culinary industries. There are many

Press Release (Cont'd):

job classifications, briefly, from cooks, food servers, buspersons, bartenders, including dishwashers, roomcleaners, and telephone operators. Now I want to encourage the Black community, in particular, and all unemployed workers to seek employment in the culinary industry. The hiring hall is located on Leavenworth(at corner; 209 Golden Gate Ave.). You can also apply at the hotel personnel office. Either way remember you must, eventually, (within 30 days) join Local 2. As a former member of the Executive Board and appointee of the Affirmative Action Committee and second vice-president of the Retirees' Assc. (Local 2), I will continue fighting for a progressive, democratic Local 2 and a strong, fighting, militant union in the culinary industry, for a training program to upgrade and/or promote the workers, the rank and file negotiating committee and chief negotiator, Charles Lamb. The rank and file membership has been well-informed through bulletins, leaflets, speeches, newsletters, etc.

I will repeat: we will not go backwards. We will continue going forward. Local 2 members speak with one voice for trade union unity and democracy. I, Lee Brown, will remain your brother in struggle until the emancipation of the workers in the United States of America.

Lee Brown

PRESS RELEASE:

Lee Brown, Black Trade Unionist gives brief history in the NAACP and his struggle for Freedom Justice and Equality for oppressed people.

In 1939 I became aware of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Houston Texas, and later became a member. I got involved in the NAACP youth movement in Los Angeles, California. I was involved in fighting for better roles for black Americans in the motion picture industry. Ms Charlotte Bath, editor and publisher of the California Eagle, the major black newspaper in Los Angeles during the depression, was the Executive Director of the Youth League of the NAACP. We would meet once a month at the YMCA located on 28th street. We made some progress in the motion picture industry, but not enough. We must take a new look at black Americans for the struggle in the entertainment field.

In the past, a number of Black films were made which told about the struggle for a better life in the United States, several films such as "Home of the Brave", "Lost Boundary's", "Intruder in the dust". I feel we can make better progress in the Movie Industry, to tell the complete story of Black people helping build America. I encourage more people to join the NAACP, the young and the senior citizens.

I struggled for a better way of life for all oppressed people, better education better jobs, better housing. We must also as Black Americans study our history of the NAACP from the beginning. I also feel money should be available for all human needs. No one should have to go to bed hungry.

In June 1981 I received a Peace Medal for the struggle for peace. In 1955 in Long Beach, California at the Eleventh Biennial Convention of the Longshoreman's and Warehousemen's Union. I spoke on a resolution for peace and the resolution was adopted with a vast majority vote. In June 1981 I received a letter from The World Peace Council, Romesh Chandra, President located in Helsinki. I also received a Certificate for Community Service Activities from San Francisco Labor Council AFL-CIO on November 15, 1973

I have written many articles on seniors citizens to unite, housing crisis, Black seniors call to action, Views On The Military Budget. And many articles on my struggles for Freedom Justice and Equality for Oppressed People. I have said before and I will say again, The Most dangerous Pollution in America is Racism. Please read Thomas C. Fleming's weekly report in the San Reporter Wednesday April 14, 1993, Page 7.

Hurry and Join the NAACP, contact your local chapter in San Francisco.

NAACP
P.O. Box 15609
San Francisco, California 94115

PRESS RELEASE:

Black Trade Unionist Lee Brown speaks out on issues that confront our community.

January 5, 1993 I attended a meeting with other Black Leaders. Among them were the Rev. Amos Brown, of the Western Addition's Third Baptist Church, Lulann McGriff, President of the Local chapter of the NAACP, and Father Goode of Saint Paul of the Shipwreck. They met with Mayor Frank Jordan at City Hall, and demanded to take immediate steps to revitalize the economy in the African American Community, To Hire African American's in visible positions, Programs for the homeless, Provide better city service in our communities, and more.

As a Black Trade Unionist I support those demands, and I would like to add my proposal. The Black Community is in need of more Child-Care Centers. I have talked to Mothers of the Western Addition on Muni Buses, they have told me that they have to take their Children accross town to day-care centers.

It was over a Hundred people attended the meeting, concerned citizens who want to see a change. The Rev. Amos Brown was the the key note speaker. The same people Monday January 11, 1993 in the Mayor's Office to follow up on the demands. Also they had Prayer. Father Goode also spoke. They people was very much concerned about those demands. And they said they would come back until those demands are met.

And in my opinion as a Black Trade Unionist, 400 years is to long to wait for a change, as The Rev Amos Brown stated "were not looking for welfare, were looking for our fare share." This country is in a crisis and its time for the American people to act, especially to act within the Black Community for the things we want and need for so long. And I want to call upon the Community as a whole to organize now! For Equality its time has come. And I also feel the Church shold be the spring board in the Community for the needs of the people, and I feel that the community should support the struggle of the Church.

I Remain your Brother in struggle May God Bless Us All.

LEE BROWN'S VIEWS ON THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

On The Housing Crisis In S.F. And The Bay Area

by: Lee Brown, Trade Unionist

As a Black Trade Unionist and senior activist, I am writing an article on the housing crisis in San Francisco and throughout the Bay Area. Primarily I am dealing, at this time, with people on welfare and other fixed incomes in the Bay Area. I am asking for houses in the public domain!

We feel like poor people, people on fixed incomes, seniors, people on welfare and other poor people do: like the poor of the poor! We are not being treated fairly here in San Francisco and throughout the Bay Area.

I have studied this problem for a number of years. I am an activist who is out in the slum areas among the fixed income people, the seniors, the poor and poor of poor, living below the poverty level. I emphasize: the housing crisis is a serious matter. And, I feel the poor of poor, below the poverty level, should demand housing in the public domain. We should start with our organizations to write letters to religious, labor, union, city, state, and federal organizations.

It is not a privilege; it is a right that poor people throughout our cities and nation should have shelter: a decent home, reasonable rent, etc. They must have a home they can afford to pay the rent in, so they can raise their families in a decent place. Not with overcrowding, health-hazards, fire-hazards, filled with cockroaches, rats and other pests! These things must be brought to the attention of our leaders. As a Trade Unionist who's been working among people and poor people and low-income and fixed-income people like myself, I'm well-informed about the condition that we should demand in housing.

I would also ask and call upon you to write letters to call for a two day conference in San Francisco and ask religious, union, labor, political leaders to talk about this most serious problem confronting the people in our nation. Let us start here in San Francisco and the Bay Area to make this issue a top priority. We must lay a base here and bring it to the attention of everyone. We have thousands homeless and on the streets; thousands more on fixed incomes can't even afford the rent. They have nothing to feed themselves or children or buy clothes or send them to school. I think this country is violating human rights and decency for poor people to have to suffer while landlords are exploiting and ripping off the people on fixed incomes and poor people in San Francisco and the Bay Area.

In addition, I feel the poor people don't oppose rent, but they like to have their fair share and decency and protection, so they can survive: not just to pay rent on inferior homes, infested with pests, firehazards, ill-repaired. And we also must demand public houses: decent, secure, safe. In the projects, it is estimated that about some 25,000 people are overcrowded into 5,000 units. And that's so poor people can have a place to live!...We demand it be placed on the frontburner for poor and below the poverty-level, that we must make known the issue, march, and use the power of our votes. We may not have the money for the lobby, but we have the voting power, the people's power! Be sure you get the votes out and vote for those friendly to our cause.

We as poor have sat idly by for years and listened. But, now it's time to act. We must do away with fighting and hating each other, unite together, work collectively as human beings for one issue that's so badly needed throughout this nation and I want to repeat it again: it's decent, reasonable, fair share of houses for the poor and needy. This is the most important issue. As a Trade Unionist who's fought for the rights of the poor, I will repeat it: housing is the issue!

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For release:

Jobs In The U.S.A.

by:

Lee Brown

As a Black Trade Unionist, labor activist, and grassroots' advocate, I am calling the American workers together for the purpose of demanding jobs in the U.S.A. The issue of unemployment is critical. I'm not going to leave any stone unturned and that would mean calling on all peace and peoples' organizations, religious groups, labor groups, senior groups and youth groups and individuals about the demand for jobs; and, I mean that we must study the situation seriously and bring up the issue of jobs in our organizations.

We should also have classes and workshops to discuss this issue, because this is a serious matter: for, this is a life-and-death struggle in America for survival. Consequently, I repeated this over and over and I will repeat it again: America is in a crisis.

And, more than anything else, we the people must act and act now. Now is the time! We must have a special project to study to gain strength and knowledge to create jobs in America for all. For this is the foundation of the message I'm sending to the American people: close to fifty-some odd years of experience and struggle for the working people in America.

That's why it's very important for you to stop and listen to what I'm saying. For, I'd like to say that jobs are not a privilege for the American people---they are a human right. We can better the economic problem by creating jobs...I mean that we can abolish the issue of crimes; and, we can also improve the issue of

And I will repeat that these things can be achieved with automation.

Despite all our other basic demands, we cannot overemphasize the need for low-cost and low-rent housing. Hundreds and thousands of low-cost and low-rent houses are needed in the U.S.A. Many need to be repaired. Some need running water, electric or gas stoves, refrigerators, washing-machines, vacuum cleaners, telephones and decent furniture.

And, yet, I say, if you add together all these demands which I have briefly outlined so far, that, in itself, is not too much for the American peoples' need: the same people who have made America what it is today---rich and powerful. Our people are the greatest natural resource of our country and should be developed in the interest of the American people. And, therefore, there is shown a need for more services to be added: additional teachers, doctors, nurses, dentists, skilled workers; hospitals, schools, parks, civic centers. All these need to be improved.

First, we need jobs; and, hand-in-hand with jobs, we need job-training, especially for the poor. The reason for this pressing need is because we have moved into an era where science and technology have placed people more and more under the influence of automation and science. Therefore, we suggest people go to the available institutions to study and take up training for a career, e.g., computer studies, hospitality industry, etc, depending on what area of work you are involved in or desire.

Added to all these things we have considered, it is about time for us to make a new argument around the creation and building of a new independent political party to cope with some of the problems that confront us. Let's build a united front with the Rainbow Coalition and demand that the local, city, state, and national government grant these job demands.

Lee Brown, Black Trade Unionist, continues his struggle for peace, justice, and equality. Those who read this article and are concerned, please, write me:

Lee Brown

% New Bayview News

6220 Third St.

San Francisco, 94124, Ca



**MESSAGE
FROM
EXECUTIVE
BOARD
MEMBER
LEE
BROWN**

We must build the strength of the Rank and File from the ground up. I must ask all members of our Union, including all retirees, to get involved in our Union affairs. I have studied Labor History and the Labor Movement for many years. I have also gained much knowledge through experience. I would like to suggest that all our members study Labor History, so that we may be proud of our Union.

Each member of our Union should have a small booklet entitled "Why Should I Join A Union?" A Union is what the members make it. You should attend your meetings and express your views. As a Union member you have the right to take an active part in your Union, to strengthen your Union, to better your living conditions on the job and in your community. In addition, we should all have knowledge of our International Constitution and of our Local's Bylaws. We should be informed on our contract.

As an Executive Board member I oppose elected business agents. I do not think that it is the right time. At this moment I think it is a dangerous move that may destroy the Union.

I feel that room cleaners should be given special consideration. I have seen mistreatment of maids and many unfair discharges. I have fought over this issue for years, yet it still happens today. All maids should have free meals. Maids should be treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve. The maids are key figures in our Local.

I want to rebuild our Retiree organization in this Local. Senior Citizens face many issues every day that affect their lives in a most serious way. Only if they organize and work together will they have the strength they need to make changes they desire.

I am appealing to all of you to have respect for your Union and your Union will take care of you.

LEE BROWN
Executive Board Member

"To get a new idea into the mind may mean some pain and suffering, yet resistance to all new ideas is the sure sign of decay. Keep your mind wide open; take time to study the new ideas which come to you. Try to avoid the closed mind, for the closed mind always holds back progress in anything."

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