

C O N F I D E N T I A L

M E M O R A N D U M

January 27, 1970

TO: Russ Payton  
Dr. Harold Kleiner

On Monday, January 26th, I had extended conversation with one of the organizers of the Black coalition around the unrest within the Black community--especially the youth--as relates to the recent issues at Roosevelt. The observations of this Black person, who is viewed as an adult leader in their community, are as follows:

- (1) There is serious concern over the extent of influence which is exerted by the Panthers, particularly Kent Ford, and to a lesser degree, Duhart and Kruse. It is apparently the assessment that these men have a following of undetermined size but of sufficient size and anonimity that no one feels particularly secure in openly challenging the Panthers to show their muscle. In any case, it is obvious to the Black coalition leaders that the panthers have the ear of the youth. I am surprised to note that whenever they open a different office, my fifth grade son (Irvington School) is the first to advise me. By contrast, R. L. Anderson, his Albina council, and Berets, are viewed as having a following of boys (children) without particular power or threat.
- (2) It appears that the split within the Black community has been rather extensive as a result of the failure of Ford and Anderson to keep their word not to use profanity or call names (pigs, etc.) in two public meetings, i.e. the Sunday meeting at Portland University Center and the January 15th meeting at Unthank Park. Consequently the more mature adults are for the moment not even attempting to work in as open communication and guiding manner with the Panthers, etc, as they were earlier this month.
- (3) The problem of the level-headed, mature citizens gaining the controlling voice is complicated markedly by two factors:
  - (a) the extent of the following-influence-interest which Ford and company are able to attract among the youth, and
  - (b) right or wrong, the Black adult leadership within the coalition are of the feeling that the School Administration

has not kept faith with them in discussing the issues or conversing as equals concerning meaningful solutions. Were such conversations in fact to occur with them, it could greatly strengthen their leadership role within the community in terms of finding peaceful solutions. As it is, there is presently extensive anxiety as regards the events that may come to pass in the immediate future.

- (4) Finally, the above information was shared with me with the admonition that I not talk with anyone about this. It would be my hope that this memo would remain solely between us.

S.

PAUL