

Note - due to the noise on the tape it was impossible for Mrs. Walters to hear the name of the man being interviewed by Harry Wells.

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One of the greatest problems that we have was dealing with the church, ^FFor instance philosophy as being all those in authority over you whether they were enslaving you or not. Some people may call it civil disobedience. Getting together and talking about things like boycotting, like the church couldn't ...

how could you disobey. We never actually got a boycott going.

HW Would they have any marches or anything like that?

A. With black people, no

HW. It seems to me, I am trying to distinguish this, nothing was really happening till the Panthers came.

A. Club quack ~~or~~ things not very well run and not very well handled either. The white people were doing'

as they were pouring the money in and the board something like 25

~~white~~ people to support - he was the only black

man involved with the board. It was not really relevant except

they were pouring the money in to keep the place open, but in terms

of the relevance of the kids getting involved supporting

actively I was completely out of it.

HW I would like to know what books concerning black people have you read in the past few years?

A. Black Rage, those two psychologists,

Soul of Night? Black America, White America, Baldwin's ?

and there is the other Baldwin - Mr. Charley, another Baldwin

~~who~~ wrote which had to do with kids in the ghetto. ~~Another~~

Another I read by a guy who is a preacher about riots - a whole pile of books about Africa.

I read African Profession?

HW Do you subscribe to any periodicals or magazines related to black people?

A. ~~Thereby~~ Ebony magazine, Jet, Black Digest

HW. In terms of all your different readings, how do you take these various subject matters in the magazines and apply them to the Nova Scotian situation?

A. I check the employees ~~by~~ what is going on with the employer basically the black ~~problem~~ ^{blem} has to be employment. Our landlord. So I check out the psychology of the employer, landlords why they do all they dont and I see the relevance to the situation here and from there you make some solid analysis whether they fit the situation or not.

HW Do you find they are similar most of the time?

A. Yes, for instance black people I notice that one landlord may say I dont want to get any black person in here as once you get one black, you get a whole flock of blacks. Some people say this isnt true but it is true. For instance many black people if they have worked at the T.V. station, now since I went there to work you have all kinds of black people coming in with calls wegerly day looking for jobs. This is good but what really happens - black people are afraid to try they have been buffeted too long, they have developed this phobia but if they over and see there is one black person looking over an apartment tenement building, they say to themselves automatically if that man is not a janitor he lives there and if he lives there the landlord must take black people so he goes over and asks for an apartment and gets one. The other guy sees too and before you know it there are six people going after it and before you know it the whole apartment building is full of black people - the same as with jobs. One guy is working at the factory, another guy says that guy must like black people - they wont go try somewhere else so, you ~~get~~ keep getting an influx of black people in one particular area and if these people have bad living habits the environment becomes terrible all over.

HW What other sources do you use to get an [?] in ~~for~~ black people?

A. Church which is not a very good source - nothing there I find the church has not been very relevant to our means for a change in the life of black people . I go for black communities. Basically these people may not tell you what they want you have to go and talk to them. Ask them how they are and make your own decisions as to what is really going on. Apparently they really dont know what is wrong with them - they dont realize they are living in ppor conditions. They think you insult them. Black men living in the worst ghetto situation and you tell him he needs help because conditions are bad they ~~think~~ can't understand it.

HW. Do you get a chance to get more information from the news media than other people around Halifax do?

A. The news media does not have much information about black people.

HW I thought you might get some more confidential stuff than other people

A. Except one of the black leaders with a secret as to what he is doing but apart from that , no.

HW. One day I was with you and you ~~was~~ found out about George Farrell being arrested before anybody else did -you were telling Rocky and myself. Do you get more information, like off the wire tape.

A. That kind, official information yes, from the police. Most of the police are my friends and they tell me what is going on.

HW Do you sit down and with very many people about what is happening in terms of black people?

A. Do you mean with white people or with black people?

H.W Your friends mostly around here.

A. Well mostly they want to talk about black people. Most white people especially want to talk about black people and I always take the opportunity to try and see if I can do something ~~physch~~ psychologically to their minds to get them out of this cliché situation that all blacks are bad, all blacks are lazy, all blacks can dance and have sex.

HW ?

A. A lot of black people as I said earlier on they express themselves very viciously to physical body contact by fighting - get into an argument and a guy cant contain himself he pushes him in the mouth. Even last night I was at club, buddy and myself and he got into an argument with this guy . I am standing there - he cant express himself he wanted to fight. I try very quietly to shut them up and say Ill see you tomorrow.

HW. When you see and hear about riots in the States how do you react to this occurrence?

A. When you say riots do you mean guys who squeal ^{HW} / riots like race riots?

A. I feel they are inevitable or were inevitable.

HW Do you have any great emotional response to them or what?

A. Yes, I feel emotionally charged, especially if I watch it on T.V. the way they are beating somebody else. I really ask myself if I were in the U.S. just what would I be doing.

HW What effect did the assassination of Martin Luther King have on your thinking about the situation of the black man?

A. Martin Luther King was doing a very good and dangerous job and I felt some day someone would kill him.

HW How did it effect you emotionally? your own leadership position?

A. I didnt feel I wanted to die or take his place of anything but I think the first response that came to me was I hope they can find another Martin Luther King to carry on the struggle. Martin Luther King is a man who did a job and died like we all will die - it so happens that he died a different sort of death, but my first reaction was that they could find another Martin Luther King.

HW Did it make you bitter - did you have any emotional responses when you became very angry and bitter?

A. Yes it made me hate the *Niggers* of white people, but not

individual whites. The same that I feel about ~~wace~~ riots if you like I dislike the white masses really but IZ dont hate the people I work with.

HW. Are you still very interested in the ~~xxxxxx~~ ideals and struggles of black leaders.

A. Yes

HW. What type of leaders are you looking for?

A. An interesting thing has happened and I think it beholds all the young black people even in Nova Scotia to really watch the situation because as far as I can see in the United States is the reflection of what you do here if you do certain things. If one were to look at the morē radical leaders and look at the more moderate leaders, for a time the more radical leaders are the glorified guys ? ? et. etc. and every young black was extremely radical speaking out to the press or to the radio stations, but after you look back and you feel that the ? are gong and the Stokeley's are gone to Africa, Cleaver's have gone to Cuba, it ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{behooves} you if you are intelligent at all to take stock and really check yourslef up and then you look back at the Roy Wilkins and see that they are still plugging, they are still standing up etc. You really use this as an exmple and govern yourself accordingly.

HW. You feel you should get ont on a limb like Stokeley did?

A. Well I think you should if you really really feel convicted to do this but if you are just a cheap imitation and a good actor, so good that you can even deceive yourself into thinking that your very sincere wishes - I think this should happen to an awful lot of us . I think one should diagnose very througkly before hedges anything like this.

HW I would like to know what you think of the following tactics as a means of solving problems - letter writing and phone calls

to officials?

A. I think it is a good start.

HW Do you mean that this is ~~the~~ only first thing - do you think it is very effective?

A. Halifax is a good start - because in ^{Halifax} ~~Halifax~~ nobody has done anything. We have all tried but to get the masses together for a consensus program no,

HW. What about this idea of community organizers as a tactics?

A. That is a good thing but the people you are organizing in the community must be extremely dedicated to the part as they have to pay the guy for what they are doing - there will be a lot of discouragement there. Black people are possessed with hatred and inferiority complex.

HW Do you think this is the ultimate goal for blacks to go towards this idea of community organizers or do you think it is not very effective

A. I think that community organizing is a good thing especially if you live in the city, your own super market and shopping centre where you can bring pressure toward society, the shops or what have you. Your elected representatives direct your voting or your franchise. It would be a different thing if you live out in North Preston because all they have to do is to ignore you, you are not having anybody- they all come to town by the way they wish - community organizations more likely by people because you inspiring the young people psychologically if it is possible for ~~me~~ them to do something like human beings instead of just waiting for white men to do it.

HW What about boycotts?

A. I think boycotts should definitely be enforced here by black people in quite a few places.

HW How do you feel about marches?

A. Black people feel so inferior and so insecure and have so much self hatred that blacks dont like ~~being~~ ^{to be seen} all together doing anything.

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If you have a whole pile of blacks marching and white people looking on, they think they are ugly already, they are the unseen objects in society and so you scare them away. I think this is one of the great psychological reasons why you won't get all blacks together.

The first day a black person he or she wants to say that she is different is to say I went to a white wedding, I couldn't understand she went to a white wedding, I thought Mrs. White was married but she said, no I was the only black person at that wedding.

HW What do you think of this idea of civil disobedience?

A. Depends on where you are and what the situation is like, in South Africa, in country and maybe some parts of the United States, I am not too sure how we can apply civil disobedience here. As a matter of fact they were saying you couldn't go to the schools because they were black. in Halifax I think the situation right now is a psychological one and diplomatic. There is a lot of discriminating and diplomacy-like people patting you on the back and promising you things you will never get.

HW Do you see violence as irrelevant to the Halifax situation? or do you think that violence would be a useful tactic?

A. No I don't think violence is a useful tactic right now but I couldn't say it could never happen. Right now I don't think so.

HW Do you think that only blacks should be leaders in organizations fighting for their rights?

A. No, I mean if white people want to organize a group to help black people they can be leaders in that group but if black people involved in an organization for their rights I think they have more right to be leaders.

HW Do you see all black people as having similar problems?

A. All black people have some similar problems. You can be a doctor, people have a way of making blanket statements, like all blacks are noisy and if a doctor happens to be passing on the street ~~and if~~ when they were talking about all blacks they will say there goes one. So you become another black statistic. There are some other problems which you won't have that

other poor blacks ~~want~~ ^{may} have than educated blacks. He may have more friends and frequent different places and go to university. He will speak differently and is psychologically capable of ~~making~~ ^{meeting} people and greeting them. People have a way of treating you differently. I wont say all blacks have the same problem, but they are from basic problems that all black people share.

H.W. Do you see a West Indian black as having similar problems with the black people in Nova Scotia?

A. Yes

HW You say all blacks have ~~functional~~ ^{some similar} problems , what do you define as their similar problems?

A. A lot of them are described as an unfit person to live or to frequent certain or, to live in certain apartment buildings or work in certain offices.

HW You think we all suffer from the problem of racism?

A. Yes definitely

HW Do you consider yourself as an African living in Canada? or as an African living in the West Indies?

A. My percéption of myself is as a Black man living in Canada, not necessarily an African or a West Indian but a black man.

HW The curious thing is I know is some places we are Africans and we want to identify with the Western world we are Africans, lets get rid of this nationalistic~~xx~~ vein, this nationality vein, ~~so~~ that is why some ~~people~~ call themselves African, but I guess this is not too relevant around here, most people dont think of that in terms of African as most of the people just identify as being Nova Scotians.

A. One of the biggest priority jobs that black organizations had here first was to get African off the certificate, for instance the birth Certificate says origin, ~~xxx~~ if you are white, it is Caucasian, if you are black we had African. All the black people were up in arms about it four years ago when I came here.

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H.W What do you think most people in Nova Scotia to be preferred to be called, black, negro or coloured?

A. Coloured

HW One time I interviewed you and you said black, I was told a few times that you said black. A few of the nationalists would say negro instead of black. Do you have any preference between these words or do you mind what people call you, do you make them address you as being black.

A I prefer being black

HW You dont do like some of these people - you can call me anything you want.

A. It doesnt really bother me. If someone doesnt know and he is referring to me as Negro rather than referring to me as coloured because this is what he is used to, I dont say to him, stop. I understand what the man is trying to say, he is not trying to offend me.

HW Do you see the militant self help program as necessary if the black man is to succeed in the struggle?

A. In Nova Scotia? Well it depends on how you are going to define militancy.

HW How would you define it? Most people have taken it to mean violence.

A. To me, militancy is a matter that demands respect.

HW. Do you mean that militant self help programs demand things from systems instead of asking for it?

A. When you see demand what happens if your demands are not met? This is a difficult question unless you are going to give me an answer. I use the word demand because I dont like the word beseech or beg - you should go in and demand things but the big thing is what if your demands are not met. I may not recommend burning because your demands may not be met this week as it is impossible - maybe next week. It depends on the situation

HW. Do you see these self-help programs as being relevant to the Nova Scotia situation/?

A. Definitely relevant, this is what they need. The NSAACP for instance, has raised a lot of money and brought in white men and white secretaries to run the organization and black people still out in the cold. They havent really been helped because you havent helped the man but he is still there waiting for handouts. They definitely need self help programs.

HW Would you classify the BUF as a militant self help program?

A. I dont enough of the people who are on the board of the BUF except some of them and as far as I know - the leaders of the BUF might be militant at this time because it is necessary/^{not}because they want to help the people but they are supposed to be all black not that they think it is going to help the people because they are all black, they are gods in it. If you dont like are going to bring in a lot of people who are more competent than they . Consequently they will be playing second fiddle and to a lot of these people as far as I am concerned from talking to them, motivation is really selfishness and this could be a very bad thing.

HW To rid society of prejudice and discrimination who do ,you think has to be changed? Blacke man or the ~~bx~~ white man?

A. I think both . There are not too many well black men and there are not too many well white men either, especially when they come face to face. Too many black men are too boot licking to the white man and to the extreme he is really going to knock you out and to the white man either he is going all out of his way to make you welcome and say come up to my house and have dinner, like it is a big thing or else the white man is a threefold guy, he is either going all out and invite you to his house or is going to give excuses not to invite you into his house or he is telling you right there and then that you are different.

I think there needs to be brought about understanding between black people that we are all the same . We are not the same as the ~~bx~~ white man has

kicke

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kicked the black man down so long that he is inferior in many many ways .
He is inferior mentally and academically, technically he is often inferior
and you have to go ^{upgraded} ~~to~~ all these things before you can actually say to a man
we are equal, sure we might be equal because we all have hands and eyes
and feet but the white man has forced ~~injustice~~ injustice on the black man
over the years. It is just a big dream for me or for you to come and
say everything is groovy and cool. This is a very serious dilemma.

HW What do you see are the most important qualifications of a black
leader today?

A. One of the first things I think he should be a philosopher not necessarily
an academician but I think he must definitely be the kind of guy who can get
into people's heads and answer a lot of questions like why, why is this
man reacting the way he is reacting. Second I think he must see himself
as part of the black race, no matter how well he is treated, he must see
himself as a part of the total whole of something that is completely being
thrown to the wall and the same love he has for himself as a part of this
whole, he must have for the whole. In other words, if you love yourself
you are going to do everything to help that self, but there are too many
black leaders who have detached themselves from that whole because they are
getting special treatment. The other guy no matter what you give to him
he is looking because he is saying , my children when I die are going to be
part of this suffering whole. Don't give me special treatment but give it
to the whole. The third thing I think a good black leader should have is
a lot of patience and I think should be less emotional. This is not to say
that any emotional leader is bad but I think he should be willing to listen
and do an awful lot of listening before he does a lot of talking.

HW What do you think about other qualifications like ability to relate
to white people and make alliances?

A. I think he should have this.

HW Do you think this is an important ability?

A. I think he should have the ability to relate to white people

I think that that is a very important characteristic of a good black leader, simply because you should be able to communicate as lack of communication brings war and if you want to totally go to war with the white man then you are not talking about solving problems you are just talking about destroying.

HW No you think a black leader has to be a highly educated man?

A. I dontthink he has to be a highly educated man but he should be sufficiently educated man when he is not just talking from the top of his head and getting off a lot of emotions like I heard somebody say. The kind of guy who realizes he has to go some research and find out if something is true before he can actually go out and crucify somebody.

this is
I think/one of the great downfalls of black people p the white man has been that no matter how good a leader a black man is and how much ability he has, as long as he does not have good qualifications/black people wont accept him. and this is one of the great downfalls I think. If you go and get a man with a PhD and four years experience in the field who is not worth shit they really things up-because he has a Ph^D. they think he is bound to do a good job, it is ridiculous.

HW. That is part of the rationale behind this new thing in black studies because a lot of people in academic life, people who have PhD's in sociology in race relations, thought they /are not qualified to teach all these various things to do with race, but the students were saying who talk to black people for years ~~whitex~~ why wouldnt I let him teach a course instead of this man. The same thing with black studies many of the universities acted so negatively was because of this idea of questioning the whole qualifications behind a man's ability to teach in university. I think the different faculties

were very afraid of that.
What are the two tactics necessary to try and solve the problems of black people, would you emphasize forcing individual excellence

or would you try and stress community power?

A. If you can hit like 5,000 individuals to work on excellence themselves then you have a beautiful thing - this is not always possible. This would be the most effective thing. Community power is okay but I find it originates from one or two people, the rest of the people there is not much change at all. But if in a situation you can ~~two~~ people to rally around two people and do something effective it is okay. Individual excellence - if you can get all the individuals to work on this or enough, this is ideal. Basically it is a very selfish world. People no matter what you do will still go out and do their own thinking and make their own money.

HW Do you see all blacks as having similar problems?

A. No you find Caucasians tend to accept East Indians and they even go as far as accepting Chinese.

HW What do you think of this Spirit world unity thing that Stokeley is trying to push now?

A. It looks as though the young generation is not? You know some people change when they become 27 and married and live in the suburbs.

KW Do you think all the spirit world will be united against let us say the western world, the white western world including Russia and those places?

A. No I dont think so

HW Do you think that this idea of the tr hird world has a common ground to organize against white exploitation?

A. Individually and I mean collectively individually - everybody hates to be shit on so, the yellow race may feel it is time we do something to the white world. But sometimes the yellow world does not feel any kinship as far as the black world as we are all brothers. The yellow world might be interested in oppression as they want

to live like whole human beings but not because they want to be better brothers with blacks. So when these people start actually showing me more brotherhood. East Indians and blacks, the West Indian and the black - you know we all go to parties and talk about women and yet at the same time for instance I get teasing some of the black boys? we have something like the white man ...?

There is very real friendship between the non-white races, it is just that we are ~~suppressed~~ by the white man and everybody hates an oppressor but that does not make the oppressed become brothers.

HW Do you see the poor white man as having similar problems?

A. No

HW What about the poor white in Latin America?

A. If you have been to Latin America or Hawaii to try to tell you all the people are the same but this is not true/? The white ones are the glorified ones and it is the same problem all over again, they are spying like the oppressor. When you can really start getting the oppressor off your back, when you to be identified with him.

HW. Most whites want to keep blacks down as much as they can, do you agree?

A. I think so

HW Some people have said that there are white storeowners who take advantage of black customers? Do you agree with this and do you think it is the majority of people who are doing this?

A. Yes I do

HW Most whites who take part in civil rights demonstrations are not really interested in the problems of blacks?

A. I disagree. I think a lot of these people are interested in changing the system, not necessarily interested in black people but I think a lot of them have learned to communicate with black people and they are

genuinely concerned because they understand the problems.

I think more and more whites who are interested in changing the system are joining the ranks.

HW What type of neighbourhood would you prefer if they were equally kept up - would you prefer mostly black, mixed or white?

A. Houses dont mean as much to me as people's ^{heads} ~~shin~~. Right now black people's heads are so messed up with self hatred among black people, I personally find I am a lot more comfortable away from black people right now.

HW. Some one has said in the United States that the more sophisticated and more educated you become, the sooner you find out your circle of friends might turn to be white.

A. That again may be a rich white neighbourhood - you dont where I live. in a middle class neighbourhood where people are minding their own business. If I want to bring a girl home tonight and if you are walking through my door - at least they are not going to come back telling me. IN the black neighbourhood if I walk home with a black girl, the next day everybody knows about it.

HW As you go arfound the province interviewing people, what do you see the most important problems facing black people in Nova Scotia?

A. Lack of steady ^{jobs} to pay their bills . Lots of people never had steady jobs. We find that whenever they go out and make a large sum of money they dont know what to do with it, they either buy a wardrobe or a big car or they make a big down payment and then before long it is taken back. Now the average man who has had a comfortable income every week, he can afford to become a very balanced individual. This is a very difficult thing for black people to do on account of insecurity he has.

HW Do you see other major problems you are trying to concentrate facing black people?

A. I think a lot of black people have a drinking problem on account of depression, lack of jobs, poor education and inabilities to do things

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other than labourers, they dont want to be labourers but because they are black they dont have the qualifications, nobody is going to give them a chance to try and a lot of people wont work because they can get what they like. Retraining might be a good thing.

HW Some of the people from Africville have had tremendous trouble in finding jobs, do you think/^{re}training a good idea, pay your people a certain amount of money to go to school and most people say they would like that. You know whether the city is willing to take this responsibility on. When you first came here did you hear anything about Africville relocation.

A. Yes they were just moving them out

HW Did you do organizing around this area?

A. Yes, we went inside and organized the people, but the biggest problem they had was with the man who was leading the project at the time, the black man, Mr. Stead. He went and sold his house and that really caused the breakdown of all the others. the land was invaluable.

HW Do you foresee this in terms - I had a talk with the planner who said/
I thought it was definitely that the city wanted the land. Did you see this as where they wanted the land and kicked them out.

A. It was not only black people, they also treated white people like that too.

HW I am just trying to interview and talk to various leaders, we thought they should be the most sophisticated people around.

A. The most interesting thing is when they were looking for names for the bridge and they had this poll and the bridge is being built right over Africville, everybody called every name except the Africville Bridge, it seems like a shame.

end of interview