

# POWER TO THE GRASSROOTS

By RICK HOPTON



## NEED FOR A DOUBLE PSYCHOLOGY

Last week I discussed the fact that many blacks are afflicted with a "Double Consciousness". At times I even find myself being led astray by this social disease, which I stated to be a direct outgrowth of our slave mentality. When I say slave mentality, I don't mean it in the derogatory sense. What I am saying, is that, a people's past history can, and in most cases does, reflect their present state of mind.

What does this mean to a black person today? It means very simply, that unless we look at and accept the reality of our past mental conditioning we will not be ready when the time comes to contend with the present or the future.

So then, out of this understanding of what "Double Consciousness" means we must develop what we call a "Double Psychology," that will counteract the negative into a totally positive state of mind.

What is double psychology? Double psychology can simply mean, "Know what it is that White America wants you to do, and then, do not do it;" or "don't always do the expected, do the unexpected;" or to put it bluntly, "Put a smile on your face and get yourself together!"

The concept is a very abstract one and each individual must develop the technique that fits his personality best.

An example of this double psychology would be something I used to do in school. My English teacher in college would always give me low grades when I wrote about things that pertained to black people. The first thing I noticed was the fact that he wasn't grading me on my grammar or English usage but merely on the contents alone, in which, he emphatically disagreed. By knowing why he disagreed (prejudiced) enabled me to treat his sickness realistically. First of all, white people need a self-justification for everything they do toward black people. Secondly, when he gave me a lower grade than I deserved he knew that he was wrong, thus, in the process of grading he justified the low grade in his own mind — by doing this he could tell me why I got a low grade, without really getting at the truth of his prejudice against black people. He expected me to react and question the low grade, but I didn't! What I did later, baffled him, because it was too much to believe that a "nigger," could think in a rational manner. I decided the best way to beat him was to play his game. I worked hard to improve my English and restricted myself to subjects I knew he would enjoy. Then after a considerable

amount of A and B grades I decided to write about anything and everything Black, and dared him to give me a low grade. Therefore by taking the long but sure way around I cooled his heels and improved my writing at the same time.

Don't expect, however, to find this double psychology in a white psychology book, because it's not there. You see, White psychology is a very simple psychology, in that, it only relates to the experiences of a ruling class of people, and not to the people the ruling class wishes to keep down. Sure, you can learn all about Freud, Cooley, Watson, and all those other so-called psychologists, but, what good is it when the man calls you a "nigger"? We have been depending on White America's psychology too long; I say its time we develop our own.

The psychology a group of people must use comes directly from the cultural experience of that group. Therefore, White psychology cannot relate to Black people any more than Black psychology can relate or be totally understood by White people.

The master and slave psychology must be sophisticated to meet the needs of today. But you say, "we are free now, we don't need it!" What's this, you mean we don't have to use the Black psychology of smiling and grinding glass in the masters food anymore, because we are, what — did you say "free"? Oh yeah, Abraham Lincoln did say we were free, did he not? Sure, we are free! Free to go to his schools and become miseducated, free to lose our motivation as a direct result of the White orientated education, free to have taxation without representation, free to get killed in Viet Nam or if you live not get a job when you come home, free to be sectioned off in the ghetto, free to vote in the south and lose your job at the same time, free to try and make the beautiful words of Thomas Jefferson, free to see Black college students both male and female shot down for no reason while having a peaceful non-violent rally in Mississippi — justifiable homicide I think they called it, free to be systematically eliminated from Pasadena via the Pepper Project, destruction of low income housing, and the upward climb of rent for Black people.

Yeah, we are free all-right, free to be in bondage, and free to be white America's chumps. I suggest we wake up, clean up, and get a strong hold of that "psychology" that we negligently discarded, and take it a step further into a "double Psychology". White American has always viewed blacks as external reactionaries, and never as a group with internal power. Wouldn't it be nice for a change to figure out what we want to do, and not to always do what White America expects from the "poor old niggers".

Double-psychology is the only way to wake-up ourselves, white America, and the world.