

POWER
TO THE
GRASSROOTS
By RICK HOPTON
BUSINESS AND BUSINESSMEN Part I

Why do people believe black businessmen are unfair?
It is an erroneous and completely negative assumption to generalize or even categorize the "validity" of "any" retail merchant, unless we first acquire some understanding of how such a system works. The attitude that many black people have toward black businessman is a universal misconception that is a direct outgrowth of slavery, and it becomes in our mental process a negative self-inflicting "wound" that is wielded without our conscious awareness.

All brothers struggle, all brothers and sisters are trying to survive that's universal; these things happen not only on a local scale, but on a global one as well. By no means and far from it - can we claim to be the most oppressed black people in the world; we are, on the contrary, the most well off. But yet, even with all this wealth and so-called affluence, we can still find time to run around and use our worn out cliché, "A Nigger ain't nothing", and without, in the process, even taking the time to ask ourselves "why" such a cliché exists!

What good is affluence when we as individuals, within a racist country, have no clear cut concept or understanding of how the American system works to bring about these misconceptions. We all have a basic fault - that must be checked - of criticizing and condemning, without knowing the facts (No concrete reason for our attitude, we do it because he is black). Economic's is one thing, but economics for the black man (any oppressed group of people) in America is a different book, that must be read, and-understood.

Looking at ourselves in true perspective!

Black businessmen are attacked by the same forces that attack all black people. Black businessmen or any black person in America should not have any special classification or connotation - we are all victims! Therefore it becomes very petty and irrelevant to talk about or use cumbersome clichés'. To point out the invalidity or false dealings of a black businessmen, becomes, in reality, the squibbling and squabbling over the invalidity of "ourselves". To ask "why" a black businessman charges more than a white businessman for a given item, is like asking "why" black people who buy homes in the same area as white people pay more for the same house.

It therefore once again becomes senseless indeed to talk about who is using who, and who isn't. We must come to realize firstly, that, all black people are oppressed in one form or another; so whether you work 9 to 5 pm or have your own business becomes an insignificant issue.

We all work for the same man, the same man who feeds us those self-destructive middle-class values of dog eat dog, the same man who divides us, the same man who teaches us to dislike our own people and ourselves, the man, the man whom we let kill us, the man, the man, the man, the man who will lead to our destruction.

I will explain some facts and some internal functionings of retail business next week in Part II of "Business and Businessman."