

POWER
TO THE
GRASSROOTS
By RICK HOPTON
WHY ARE WE NOT COMMITTED?

What's more important, black awareness or black self commitment? First, let's take a look at the so-called militants in our midst. They talk black awareness, but for some reason never get anything done. Their talk sure is beautiful, but when it comes down to the physical aspect of doing and getting involved to help their own so-called cause we find them back in white America's machine age game of talking black awareness during the week and partying on the weekend.

They read about black history and all of a sudden they think white America owes them something. We can learn from our history, but let's not cry about it. The issues we must deal with are now, not then.

Awareness and commitment go together, you can't separate the two. One is no good without the other. If you possess this awareness but fail to commit yourself to your other brothers and sisters - you, in reality, have nothing.

So, if you still believe that they are two separate words you can only fall into the category of being white America's "Good Negro"; if you however see them as being "one", I say, you are now ready to stand up for yourself and be a man.

I am not going to be nice and make excuses anymore, because we have been doing that far too long; you're either with your race and its cause or against it.

All that black history is beautiful, but, how are we utilizing it to help us now; if we keep looking back and never ahead we'll always have problems - but then again, we always like to cry about how bad the white man treats us.

Sometimes I think we cry just so we can keep on doing nothing for ourselves and everything for our so-called masters; who dislike us, because we dislike ourselves.

"Stop trying to be white and you'll be alright". Remember Afro-American's have a heritage much more respectable than that of white America.

Why is it that we can read one book, "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" for example and become an instant militant that knows all about black history.

One book or a million books won't make you feel and act the way Malcolm X or Martin Luther King did for you see they were totally committed to themselves, their identity, and the total liberation of the black race.

Therefore, to talk is to act white, and being committed like Malcolm becomes the reality of what it means to be black in America.

So, if you talk like Malcolm but refuse to live and possibly die believing what Malcolm did, you'd better keep that so-called black awareness to yourself.

"Black people" will not accept this false pride from you Negroes (House nigger's) any longer! Your time is running out!

If you don't wish to develop your own self-reliance and self-respect, please, stand aside and let our "Mighty race" proceed.

We have been patient long enough, we will not tolerate your stereo-type roles any more - stop talking and start doing. We cannot and will not be fooled by white America or its Negro patrons.

Listen and commit yourself to the words of Marcus Garvey: "Progress, self-respect, and self-reliance among any people will advance them into the admiration and appreciation of the rest of their fellows." "It is just such a progress that the Negro must teach to himself if he is to rise above the prejudice of the world."

If you can't dig it, you need help; and, believe me, you can't find it with white America, because they don't want you either!

So stop playing the role, if you can't live the life!