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PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Don Cannon Show

WBEM

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Chicago

DISCUSSES CIA & NEGRO REVOLT

(DON CANNON'S GUEST IS DICK GREGORY)

DICK GREGORY: "And you must have somebody sittin' there that can sympathize with the rioters. Because all of them wasn't lootin'. And if you get a man that got six kids that was out on the street lookin' for his son, and the cop arrest him and the next thing you know they got him downtown takin' pictures of him with a television in his lap, you might have the man that's gonna burn your town down.

"Because you see, the way communications is set up today in this country it is totally impossible to - to mastermind a revolution. The CIA can listen to you five blocks away, they can go anywhere and hear everything you do, telephone or not. The Negro have to work too hard, really, to plot a revolution.

"Can you imagine puttin' an honest Negro in jail and makin' him mad and the white power structure is feedin' him three meals a day, seein' to it he gets eight hours sleep. For two years in jail this man will lay there and plot one of the damndest revolutions in the history of the world."

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DON CANNON: "Dick, there were a couple of things you wanted to read, some specific things. We're talking about keeping Chicago cool. You've got some specific concrete proposals to do just that, so I think now is a good time to get to them."

GREGORY: "You see, the Black Power Convention, as far as everybody that's close to me know, doin' research, was sponsored by the CIA!"

CANNON: "The what?"

GREGORY: "The CIA."

CANNON: "The Black Power Conference was sponsored by the CIA. You mean the CIA is -- is behind Rapp Brown and behind Stokely Carmichael?"

GREGORY: "Lemme tell you something. I would hope -- it was the only sign of hope. I looked at two signs of hope in this country in the last few days. Had I been on this show and you asked me three days ago where we was goin', to be honest with you, I would've said I don't think we can save it. I think the country can be saved now, because when we went out and demonstrated non-violently we made white folks mad. Today what's goin' on in Detroit is makin' white folks scared."

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GREGORY: "So I feel if you want to stop these riots, now everybody sits up and says the communists are vinvo ved. Now if the communists are involved, and J. Edgar Hoover says he knows, why don't they arrest them? Otherwise you giving the Civil Rights Movement no protection and givin' the communists all the protection. If you know who they are go put 'em in jail. And if you can't do that, expose them."

CANNON: "But Martin Luther King and some of the other Negro leaders have made clear distinctions between what's happening in Detroit and what happened in Newark and the Civil Rights Movement. YOU don't make this..."

GREGORY: "No. What I'm sayin' is Martin Luther King is talkin' about his non-violent movement, the non-violent cats in Detroit that followed him is in bed. Now you got to go and get somebody that's throwin' them bricks who represents them. And what I'm tryin' to say, the CIA could really do us a great service, because there's no other country in the history of the world that's been responsible for over-throwin' (SEVERAL WORDS LOST). They should take white CIA agents, and pay them to dress up like Negroes and go into the ghetto. You see we pay FBI agents to join the communist party to keep this country from bein' overthrown from without. Now we should pay white boys, because white folks don't take our word for it, to dress up like Negroes and go down into that ghetto because this country's about to be overthrown from within."

"In today's Sun-Times, if you read it, you would've seen an article that said the federal government, mindful of riots of the past few summers, had expected street violence this summer. But they never told us that, did they? They make everybody think it was a surprise. It -- it upset an

early warning system with community relations service, the just department, the FBI, the attorney general, Police Communications. And it goes on -- now we never knew that the War Department was involved in this. They had their war machinery set up. But it said it was upset. You know why it was upset? 'Cause they tappin' cats phones like Dick Gregory and Stokely Carmichael and Martin Luther King, who don't know where the cat's gonna' throw the brick. And they been tappin' the wrong phones. And the day they decide to get down there, because they can't tap that ghetto cat's phone, nine times outta ten he hasn't got a phone. And then they'll start understandin' these things. Be honest, that's all I say."

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CALLER: "In regard to your comments about the press and how it fails to tell the truth, there's one thing I was wondering about. In the assassination plot and the Negro leaders that they were supposed to have discovered that ran... I was wondering if there is any truth to this and uh -- I know, I would like you comment on the ability to discover this at the same time they can't find out who bombed the churches in Birmingham and so on."

GREGORY: "Okay. Let me say this. If you are a Negro and uh -- the CIA really think I'm up to revolutionary tactics, and they hire a Negro, first they hire a white CIA agent to come by my house and spy on me and if they finds out that Dick Gregory is honest and not doing anything wrong he goes back to Washington and he reports that. As a white boy (?) they tell him LBJ will be in Philadelphia in eighteen months. You go there and security and lay around with the hippies and check it out for us. But, if a Negro comes to my house as a CIA agent, and he really finds out I'm not doing anything, he knows when he goes back they haven't got another job for him. Cause they're not going to send him to help protect the President. So, he has to write up a false reports, 'yeah, Dick Gregory's little baby looked like she had something strange, it was a couple of people kept running in and out of the house. I think you better check him out.' Now, he promotes his job a little bit longer and they do this. They come as your friend and hire them your friends have to lie. Now go back to the time Malcolm X got assassinated, it was big headlines all over the world that they caught these Negroes getting ready to blow up the Statue of Liberty and the Liberty Bell. I been colored all my life and never heard a Negro talk about the Statue of Liberty or the Liberty Bell, it's cracked anyway. So, now, they --they--when Malcolm was gunned down, you remember, if you don't, go back and check the papers the next day, that the Negroes attacked the guy with a double barreled shotgun. Shot him in the leg, remember that? The police grabbed him outside and checked him before the Negroes killed him."

CALLER: "That's right."

GREGORY: "This man has never been heard of since. And the police have him. So--"

CANNON: "Now, wait, a minute, wait a minute. In all seriousness, this man was brought to trial and he was given life in prison."

GREGORY: "No, no, no, no the Negro. No, I saw it. All you got to do is go check it. Go look up his name. Go check it. Now, as a Negro revolutionist, you worry about your sponsors and I worry about where that gun is. And so we go in and we check and we find out and we -- and every militant Negro in America and all the rest of the Negroes know that this was a direct hit by the CIA or somebody in the government. Now wait a minute--"

CANNON: "Do you know--or do you suspect or do you have the truth?"

GREGORY: "No, we don't suspect. We have the proof. But, now, just like we have the proof that the CIA and the FBI will take Negro leaders. They'll get them in a situation with a woman. They'll take pictures of them and they'll use this against them to blackmail them and we are so aggravated over the Negro leaders who've been caught in this position and don't have guts enough to get out of the Civil Rights Movement because you just keep lying to white folks. Go on out and tell them. The FBI can come in my house or catch me in a hotel room doing anything they want to do. What they gonna run the films on? NBC--and my wife knew better and when -- unless these guys stand up and have guts and tell the FBI and all the rest of them to go to hell with all their old negative prints...and things, then we might can run a decent legitimate movement. Now, back to this here. Now, the same incident happened now. Before Malcolm got gunned down, it was a incident where they arrested some Negroes. Now all at once we come up and they say. Ram (?) was getting ready to assassinate. They say it was a list of twelve people, right?"

CANNON: "Right."

GREGORY: "They released two names on the list, right?"

CANNON: "Um hum."

GREGORY: "Now, if you're important enough to be on that list why didn't they release the whole list? I'll tell you why, because if I get gunned down in the morning, and J. Edgar Hoover says, 'Dick Gregory was on the list, and the FBI talked to Dick Gregory and he did not want no protection, I'm ded, you understand?'"

CANNON: "Um hum."

GREGORY: "And everybody believes that old right-winged-- well I won't call him what he is."

CANNON: "No, let's not go that far."

GREGORY: "But, this is what I'm saying, and now when you-- I'm very aggravated of the people that's been gunned down, the people that's scared to talk because they don't know where the gun is and when Americans realizes that the CIA are planting Negroes in this movement and they do it legitimately, like if all of us are colored sitting in a room, I work for the CIA and I say, 'Baby, why they ain't no good?' 'Let's kill him baby.' And then I go out and buy the guns. But, I'm promoting this and this is what happened there in New York. When they were going to blow up the Statue of Liberty and the Liberty Bell, you remember they found the dynamite that the white girl had bringing it across the border from Canada?"

CANNON: "Right."

GREGORY: "We haven't heard no more of that. And if you go to the Library and get the New York Times and check the trial. After the cat was going to talk, they ended up, the judge gave them twenty years in jail. Right?"

CANNON: "Yeah."

GREGORY: "But, go and pull the paper from the library and read what the judge said. He said, 'Twenty years in jail.' But, says, 'none of you had a record before', and this was the pay off. Uh -- 'we gonna send you to jail for three months.' Remember that?"

CANNON: "Um hum."

GREGORY: "AAnd if your behavior is good, we're going to let you out.' That was the deal. Cause them cats was getting ready to blow the whistle. And, I say why don't the FBI expose those other names on the list and this is why we've been acting the way we've been acting since this thing happened. Because everybody believes that this man is honest and fair and decent. But, J. Edgar Hoover can't bust no minute men. And if he go and look ten most wanted men on the FBI list, man they ain't nothing but a bunch of babysitting cats. He ain't never busted the syndicate. He ain't never busted none of them heavyweights. But, the minute we get involved out here in this thing. You look around, he's coming in leveling with you and doing this and doing that."