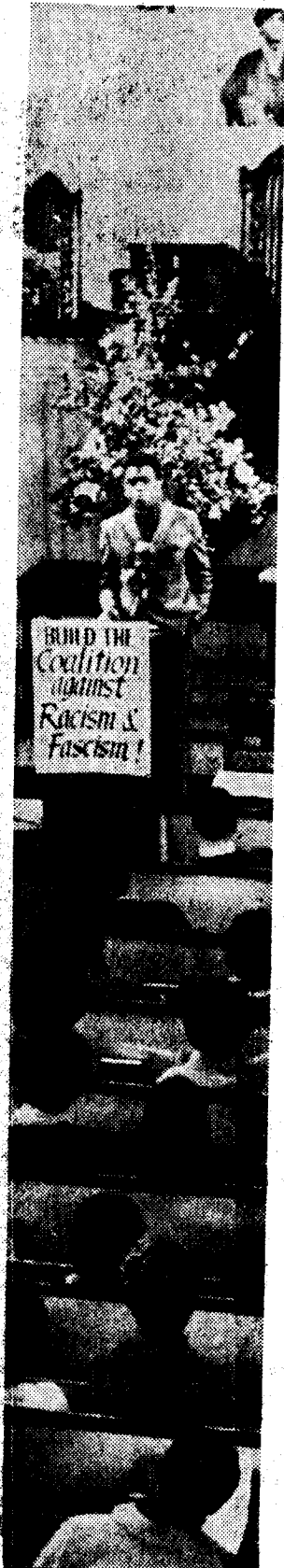


Suppression of Black Panther Protested



Reginald Booker of the Emergency Committee on the Transportation crisis, gives talk.

By P. D. Colen
Washington Post Staff Writer

For the third time in as many days, a group of Washingtonians gathered yesterday afternoon to protest racism, fascism and what they called the "repression" of the Black Panther Party.

Poinsettias, a pulpit and a poster of Huey P. Newton, jailed Panther minister of defense, served as a backdrop for the speakers. Support for the Panther party, the arming of the black community and the establishment of a free breakfast program served as their main subjects of discussion.

One of the speakers, Reginald H. Booker, chairman of the Emergency Committee on the Transportation Crisis, told the nearly 200 blacks and whites gathered in All Souls' Unitarian Church, 16th and Harvard Streets NW, that "we in America—black people—stand on the threshold of extinction and genocide.

"Any intelligent black man in America in 1969 who does not possess a gun," Booker said, "is not intelligent . . . The first task for the black community is to effectively arm ourselves. Anyone who advocates social change," he said, "stands to be killed because we are all revolutionaries."

Support Booker

Warning of a resurgence of the McCarthyism of the early 1950s, Charles I. Cassell, a member of the D.C. Board of Education, said "if you're black and you live in one of the big cities you need defense. That's why I support Reggie (Booker)."

Mrs. Willie J. Hardy, co-chairman of the recently

formed Coalition Against Racism and Facism, said the group, which ran yesterday's meeting, is calling "for a free breakfast program in the city," like the programs established in other cities by the Panther party.

We need freedom from hunger, Mrs. Hardy said. "We need to move very fast." She then told the group that she wanted to establish the breakfast program by Jan. 15, 1970.

School board member Julius Hobson also spoke about the need for the breakfast program, and asked that hats be passed around the church to raise money for the program. "Don't hang on to something that's tainted," said Hobson, starting off the giving with a dollar bill.

Money Collections

Young black men and women, described as members of the Panther party, collected money in a paper bag, a typewriter case and the church's wooded collection plates.

Earlier in the afternoon, 69-year-old Kathrine Monroe sat in a back pew waiting for the rally to begin. The handsome, white-haired woman said she doesn't support the Panthers.

"I think they're too militant," she said, "but I think this organized attack on them is outrageous."

Miss Monroe said she didn't care if she is associated with the Panthers by her attendance at the rally. "It doesn't bother me," she said. "Not when I see what's going on in America today."