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Black Power Held No Cure For Negroes

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP) — The Negro mayor of Gary, Ind., says that Black Power and racial pride "may help Negroes feel better, but it won't help them live better."

Mayor Richard Hatcher said yesterday that it would take total involvement of the nation's power structure to cure the ills of black Americans.

Hatcher, speaking to the Southwide Conference of Black Elected Officials, said the Negro is a "stranger in his country. A black pride and consciousness are essential in ending the strangeness black people feel in America.

"**BLACK POWER** may help us feel less a stranger, but it can't cure poverty and the other problems plaguing Negroes. To stop being strangers, we must find the road to power by ourselves."

Hatcher, who became the first Negro mayor of Gary in 1967, said he supported all forms of Black Power that would help black America define itself.

He said, "The white task is to work to cure racism in this country. The nation's entire power structure must yield to black needs first and then to all needs."

POLITICAL POWER in the hands of Negroes, Hatcher said, could help prevent exploitation of black people, but had its limitations in improving their economic and social statuses.