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JEWEL TEA COMPANY

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Don Cannon Show

WBEM

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Chicago

GREGORY TELLS OF EFFORT TO BOMB JEWEL STORE ON CHRISTMAS EVE

(DON CANNON'S GUEST WAS DICK GREGORY)

GREGORY: "In order to lead Negroes in this country you got to have just two policicies: you have to be militant against the system, but humble. And most of our Negro leaders have been shopped down to being just humble."

CANNON: "Are you including Martin Luther King in this?"

GREGORY: "Martin Luther King is humble. When Martin Luther King comes to this town a coupla weeks ago and he says Chicago has made some progress in the -- in the area of hosuing than any other city in America, and two weeks later he received a grant of almost \$200,000 from the Poverty Program, and I know durn well you can't get no money from the Poverty Program without going through Massah Daley, baby. It just don't sound right. That's what we talkin' about."

CANNON: "Well, it sounds like to me you're accusing Martin Luther King of selling out?"

GREGORY: "I'm accusing Martin Luther King of being humble and not militant."

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GREGORY: "Chicago is one of the most viciously controlled -- politically controlled towns. And these politicians probably sittin' home at night thinkin' they's slick and sly because it really haven't blown up into somethin' big. No, they have to thank the non-violent movement that came out here and marched, that came out here and demonstrated. I got to go to jail, they put \$5,000 bond on me. I flew all the way back from San Francisco fo Chicago for a solid month in 1965 and said when I did it that Chicago would not have a riot. And I flew back for thirty-one days, which was 4,000 miles a day. Then you pick up the papers a couple weeks ago and you see where American Airlines is suin' Dick Gregory, and everybody calls my house

and says 'Well brother, we didn't know you was in bad.' So what? There was not a riot in Chicago that year. Who -- who -- who had the most to lose? I lost -- I owed American Airlines \$8,000. In Detroit today they said it's a billion dollars loss. I will sacrifice \$8,000.

"I get five days notice on my rent. Dick Gregory has no business gettin' five days notice on his rent. I have a schedule over here in my pocket, I could show you, where startin' in September to the end of next year, I do a half a million dollars worth of lectures on college campuses, but I'm broke now. Why? Because I left the summer open, not because I couldn't get work, but because I have to be where people can get to me."

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GREGORY: "Christmas Eve some kids called me, and I tell everybody my phone's tapped, so they won't be exposin' themselves, 'Come on by the house.' Christmas Eve there was supposed to be a dynamitin' of a Jewel Store on 39th and South Park. Now, again, don't take my record, go back and check again, because they already tried to dynamite it once and they missed and burned the factory down next door. I came out and I said 'Brothers, let me ride with you.'

"Now you know what Dick Gregory's doin' on Christmas Eve? I got five black kids, baby, and I'm up tight on Christmas. I had everything I wanted this Christmas. And I said 'Let me go with you,' because I know I can't tell the brother standin' in my house with wall-to-wall carpet what he should do. And I got in that car and I do -- I went out. Now, I didn't know if the politicians was trickin' me to get me in a car with dynamite or what. But I didn't care, because there comes a time in life when you don't try to impress people, only to inform people.

"We got out to the store and I found out what they wanted to do. This store is a new store that was built, and I give a warning to the people here now. If you're going to build a store in a Negro neighborhood, please, don't build it and don't put no windows in it. You see, a lotta white folks is gettin' hip now, they know there's gonna be a riot, so they don't put windows in the store. This will make a Negro blow up your store quick, believe me. I went out and the way I averted it -- up to then I didn't try to stop it altogether, because I didn't know if I could or not. I said 'Brother, if I gave you this store right now in this neighborhood that could go up in a riot, would you want me to give it to you with windows or without?' And when the brother said, 'Without,' that's the only thing that cooled him down.

"Now I wish I knew someone in this town that I could go to and say, 'Baby, tell these white folks don't put brick buildin's up with no windows, because it's aggravatin' to brother.' Now, can you imagine what the headlines would have looked like had Dick Gregory been caught in a car with dynamite?"

GREGORY: "And I tell the people that live in the area of 61st and Woodlawn, where the Blackstone Rangers used to hang out at that grocery store all summer, the night the riots was goin' on you never found the Blackstone Rangers. Why? 'Cause hey had orders to get off the street.

"A juvenile gang is a sickness, the cat lost his identity, so he joins a gang. The minute the gang get more than twenty cats in it he lose his identity again. But they kept tellin' us in this town that the Blackstone Rangers have something like -- oh -- 1500 guys, which meant they was payin' 50¢ a week dues, which meant that that's \$700, so it made a lot of people think that they was legitimately gettin' that money. But nobody in Chicago has ever, ever, ever walked down the street and seen over thirty cats standin' on a corner together. The Blackstone Rangers have never met with over thirty cats. And if you don't believe I know this get this month's issue of Esquire, where four months ago a guy was doin' an interview with me, and you'll read in there where I got with the Blackstone Rangers 'cause they came to me and told me where the money was coming from.

"And it's very simple thing. You see, last year had Dr. Martin Luther King been hit, baby, and somebody yelled 'Mighty Blackstone Rangers' nobody would've dared believe they didn't do it. Don't nobody go out and snatch a pocketbook or shoot somebody and yell 'Mighty Blackstone Rangers.' A juvenile gang, and don't take my word, go back to the Federal Crime Commission, juvenile gangs have never shot up on porches and killed women and kids like they was doin' here. And if somebody gets the political muscle together and force Washington to come in here and do a tremendous study, because it might be goin' on in other towns.

"You see, it's a new thing goin' now, niggers get mad about urban renewal, so the white folks downtown done found out that if you create juvenile gangs and scare the people they'll automatically move out the neighborhood. And urban renewal is a big thing for Woodlawn area, baby. And a lot of people now -- but I tell you the proof of the puddin' on the Blackstone Rangers, I coulda wiped them out in one night. All I had to do was go out on the Gold Coast and throw a brick at a rich white woman and yell 'Mighty Blackstone Rangers,' and they'd-a had all them punks put in jail in five minutes time.

"And I defy any of you out there to force Washington to come in here and hold an investigation. Are you outta your mind? You think the number one most political -- political tyrant in the world's gonna put up with some nigger juvenile gang, man? This Daley'd run the Syndicate outta town if he decided they had to go. But all at once they tell us they can't do nothin. And the police knew this, and if one cop -- if some company would just put up fifty thousand dollars for a cop to come

through and tell the truth and do the research, I know Orlando Wilson was goin', I just didn't want to use it on my campaign because I didn't want to get dirty.

"Those two Negro prostitutes that was found dead last January and they found out the police carried them bodies out there, and when the papers start runnin' an investigation on it they went and got some Syndicate cats to make like they was impersonatin' law enforcement officers, but this was a multi-million dollar thing they had goin' on here in this town, where the prostitutes would meet a white man downtown, the colored broads would take him to a hotel, and the white detectives would come in and shake him down and make him sign checks, and when them two girls was goin' to testify -- and if you don't believe it ask Moynahan(?) who's so damn controlled by -- by the -- the Syndicate-controlled political machine that he couldn't even do the investigation. And I tell you people that's gettin' ready to go and testify in this corrupt town, you ain't gonna do nothin' but die, baby, 'cause these cats is tellin' them where you are. And these two girls came up dead, again, don't take my word for it.

I'm surprised somebody like Sears and Roebuck haven't had enough sense to go out and do an independent study like the steel companies been doin' on this town here. And let me tell you somethin', Sears and Roe -- I saved you at the Black Power Convention, because they was gonna boycott all your stores, simply because that -- that Allstate Insurance that works for -- that runs Sears and Roebuck, don't treat Negroes right, sometimes they won't even insure them. And I saved them from that, not because I have any like for them, because I got a friend at Sears and Roebuck, but mainly because the ghetto brother who's throwin' the bricks can't relate with Sears and Roebuck. But Sears and Roebuck better do some research and find out what's happenin', because if this town go up in smoke, baby, they gonna burn your joint down to the ground. They done already told me they gonna do that.

"And I think you people in business here oughta get together, because the riots last year in this town has kept a lotta white folks out of this town that was gonna spend big dough, and a lot of conventions. And the best thing happened for McCormick Place, I'm just sorry that guy got killed over there, and the city officials oughta give his widow a whole lots of money, because McCormick Place couldn't pay that note, baby, when conventions was cancelled out, and all at once it turns out burned down.

"If you business people, I dont care if you like niggers or not, if you understand when a riot hits your town you gonna lose money, then you better band together. It's real cute now when y'all sit downtown and just worry about that little Jew who you don't like anyway gettin' burned out, baby. But these cats is comin' on downtown, and there's a whole mess of white folks that's not comin' and spendin' this money simply because of the

riots last year. And I think you ought to get together and investigate this thing. Because the politicians, they made a political deal in the last Democrat and Republican election. They knew they'd throw Waner out down the drain, but you nuts yout there don't know this, and you business people know they threw the man out down the drain, and if you would just take time and say, 'Baby, damn the political machine, I got to save this town so we all won't starve to death,' there'd be a lot of things that would come out."