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Powell Fight Reaches College

Brown Speaks to Students

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fies you at birth as to which part of the system you belong to, White citizens have privileges black don't."

He said the system broke down somewhat when furtive white men beat paths to the doors of black women's shanties and the system keeps breaking down.

"JOBS AREN'T totally restricted to whites, now," Brown said, "but there is still no free access. Things are still black and white in America. You and I react to it in many ways, even if we don't know about it.

"The system controls the thinking, but thinking people question the system."

SOME OF THE questions, according to Brown:

"Why are so few Negroes working in banks and many businesses? Why are Negroes in mainly menial jobs? Why don't Negroes appear in all advertisements in the country? In television? In movies? Unless of course it is an all-Negro show like Cabin in the Sky?"

"WHY IS IT THAT there is not or ever has been a single Negro on the San Diego Board of Supervisors, City Council, in the Chamber of Commerce or in any higher levels of any industry?"

Brown said so ingrained is the system that blacks themselves are "ashamed" of the white American racist stereotype of the Negro.

"YOU KNOW," he said, "the thick lips, kinky hair, broad nose, big feet. You even say I stink."

He said one day he grew up and became acceptable to himself. He became a man, he said. But he said his mother still feels very much ashamed of being black.

"And because of shame, we degrade each other," he said. "When whites get mad at us, they call us 'niggers.' When we get mad at ourselves, we call each other 'niggers.'"

HE SAID IN all his years in school, including 5½ years of college, not once has he ever read a book that depicted the Negro's part in history.

He said the U.S. is now in more trouble than before because white people are questioning black people now and not the system.

He enumerated ways he said the system is being perpetuated.

The good guy on television wears a white hat, rides a white horse and wears white clothing, he said, whereas the villain, "Black Bart," wears a black hat, black clothing and rides a black horse.

WE HAVE A WHITE cake, he said, called — angel food. We have a black cake called —devil's food.

"And," said Brown, "everybody knows mama never spanks Junior for a little white lie, but if he tells a big black lie — whammo! Furthermore, it is, naturally, a black cat crossing your path that brings bad luck."

Those are the subtle, brainwashing ways of a system, Brown said.

"AND, NOW," said Brown, "we have Van Deerlin attacking the Negro."

Brown said the congressman has been back to talk with his Negro constituents only once since the Powell ruckus and then to meet "secretly" with a group of ministers.

"Then," Brown said, "he announced that the Negro community was 'with' him. But he's lying. I am a Negro and so are others and we aren't with him.

Nobody even knew he was here."

BROWN SAID he went to the controversial meeting to voice his protest about Van Deerlin's stand on Powell. He attempted to speak but was not permitted to, he said.

He said he did not want to hear Van Deerlin and so left the hall. He said about two-thirds of those in the hall followed. Outside, Brown said, they sang freedom songs.

Van Deerlin gave a different version.

"People got up and left," he said, "because they feared for the safety of their children. "Brown and his group raised such a utter pandemonium, I had to hellow my talk. What began as a gay and pleasant meeting, complete with mariachis, became a fiasco.

Van Deerlin said, "I had to leave under police escort — in an unmarked squad car, but, at that, the car was shoved and thumped. They attacked a television car and nearly rocked it over. It was something!"

VAN DEERLIN said the meeting at Neighborhood House was held under the auspices of Community Action Council Area B in Southeast San Diego.

Van Deerlin said, flatly, that Brown and colleagues gathered around the speakers' table using tactics "of the Nazi-Communist school" before they left the hall.

"I called for Brown's dismissal in a letter to Sargent Shriver because in my opinion an $11,845-a-year executive in a government program behaving as he did demonstrated his unfitness for a job training people for leadership.

"BROWN IS under the Hatch Act," Van Deerlin said. The Hatch Act prohibits political activity by federal employes.

In a letter to Shriver calling for Brown's dismissal, Van Deerlin said he did not have sufficient information to recommend its suspension.

Van Deerlin told The Star-News he has been informed that the San Diego CORE, the original sponsor, had withdrawn support of the self-help project last November.

AFTER VAN Deerlin had demanded his dismissal, Brown subsequently issued a statement asserting, "I was speaking as an individual. It was a public meeting and I was a member of the public."

He said that he had already left the room when Van Deerlin decided to leave.

"I told Van Deerlin to his face what I thought about the Powell case," he said, "and now he's trying to get me."