B. Kwaku Duren, The Black Panther Party, and the New Panther Vanguard Movement:
Civil Rights in California, 1970s-2000s

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B. Kwaku Duren, circa 2000, Box 37, Folder 35, B. Kwaku Duren papers, Collection no. 7022, Regional History Collection, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California
Duren's naval discharge review documentation, 1966, and chronology of Duren's arrests and court appearances, circa 1966, Box 37, Folder 33; Duren's name change petition, 1985, Box 24, Folder 2, B. Kwaku Duren papers
IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE BENEFICENT, THE MERCIFUL

Soledad, California
January, 1968

Robert Duren
North Facility

Greetings To You Mr. Duren:

On behalf of the inmate body, Muslims, followers of the Honorable and Noble Elijah Muhammad, we wish to extend to you our heartfelt thanks for the patience, tolerance, and deep understanding you showed to us in helping us to have a successful "Festival of Ramadam".

We know that this was a milestone reached and is now a part of history. We pray to Our God Allah, that we continue in our efforts to be respected, and respectable, and accomplish much here in Soledad behind the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

Again, we want you to know that we are a people of peace, and not of war; we thank you, and Allah will reward all those who do good to others, as Messenger Muhammad teaches us, for He (Allah) is the God of Goodness, Justice and Mercy.

Thank you for reading this letter.

Sincerely yours,

Sterling McQuill, 4-3157
Inmate Fellow of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad
Soledad, California North

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Robert Duren
ASSIGNMENT #1
SOCIOLOGY 221
February 27, 1970

In general, the basic issues in American Education are historical and approximate per se the perennial dilemmas of all formal education and, in particular, they reflect the necessity of re-evaluating the entire educational system and the part it plays in "American Socialization." The first issue to be discussed is that of education for a select few in contradistinction to mass education. In many respects, education in America is mass education whose end result is "functional illiteracy." This is so because it trains today's students for yesterday's jobs and fails pitifully in developing personalities equal to the task of understanding and successfully manipulating their environment, the quintessence of freedom - I believe. Pertinent to this issue, too, is the apparent contribution of American education in the invasions comparison of Poverty and Affluent.

Some argue that mass education is inherently ill-suited to the maintenance of high standards and educational efficiency, but in view of this contention is the educational system itself which systematically indoctrinates students at all levels, limiting educational aspirations on the basis of culturally biased criteria. In summary, mass education in America is still subordinate to elite education.

The second basic American educational dilemma is that of Education (here, referring to the development of personalities and dissemination of scientifically proven truths) as opposed to Training (here, referring to all practical arts instruction ranging from basic technology to the use and application of modern technological devices). There is no question of the necessity of obtaining technological instruction in this technological age. But relevant to the issue is the question of emphasis, degree, and kind of technological training and whether or not is conducive to resolving purely American problems. This issue/ies the heart of the contention that formal education should be the development of personality coupled with the dissemination of truth. In view of the widespread and
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Kwaku Duren papers
Black Woman Murdered By Highway Patrol

(Pleasanton, Calif.) - The family of a 30-year-old Black woman shot to death by a California Highway Patrol officer in September 20 says it was for an independent murder and not against the highway.

Ms Betty Ann Scott, 29, of Long Beach, Ca., shot last week, is among the latest victims in a string of highway patrol shootings.

Betty Scott, 30 year-old Black woman resident of Long Beach, Calif. USA. Daughter of Betty Scott and father of one in various community organizations.

Kwaku Duren papers

Clippings and pamphlets about the murder of Betty Scott, 1975, Box 37, Folder 33, B. Kwaku Duren papers
From January 17, 1977 (the date the Black Panther Party's Southern California chapter was re-opened) to on about May 28, 1977 LAPD Criminal Conspiracy Section (CCS) undercover cop had Chapter Office and home of Bob Duren (Chapter Coordinator) and knows Black Panthers. Some of the following license plates were noted: 256-AOY, Gold Pontiac CO-755, Metro, Green Plymouth, 2483 or 2500.

On March 5, 1977, Bob Duren, "Doc" Mitchell is survivor of the Chicago police riot strike in 1969 and was arrested, benefited our botanic garden (a white attorney in the Hampton civil suit) and another Black man from Chicago we were shipped on the same plane that taken a LABD black/pale skinned care and two unmarked cars. All were ordered out of the car (driven by Bob Duren), searched, and released after a ritualistic lecture. Same picture as before, saying however they had been told by one of the agents in the unmarked cars that we were suspected thieves of Dennis Channing, who said he would as if he were tied up in the back seat of the car.

On April 27, 1977, LAPD members (Robert "Charles" Kendrick and Greg Franklin) were invited onto the campus of Roosevelt High School to show the film, Harriet of Fred Hampton. While taking a smoke break in the school parking lot, these officers were accosted by undercover security agents, shaken, beaten, and then arrested for assault and battery on a peace officer. Bail initially set at $8,000, but later dropped to $400. Case presently being defended by Rankin Waters and slowly made of Greater Watts Justice Center.

On May 19, 1977, LAPD members (Robert "Charles" Kendrick and Greg Franklin) had just finished selling papers in the vicinity of 132nd and Avalon. While they were standing near a bus stop waiting for a bus to come, when stopped by officers from the 77th Precinct and arrested for "obstructing traffic." The following day, the charges were dropped by the Arrangements Judge.

On June 9, 1977, LAPD member David Byrant was downtown selling newspapers. Officer Sharp (7059), LAPD, approached Dave and requested a "permit" to sell papers. Dave, advised him that he was a book-seller, officer Sharp detained Dave for about 5 minutes to fill out a "Field Interview." form.

On or about June 19, 1977, LAPD members Robert "Charles" Kendrick and Steve Howard were selling newspapers on the streets of Los Angeles. They pulled up in the front of the car and put out, as they were walking up the streets, a black/pale skinned car from Harbert's division pulled up and ordered them to stop. They thought for identification. Kendrick has 1, with his photo on it. The officers arrested him and take him to the Harbert's station. Steve came into the building and informs everyone present what had just taken place. He all drove over to the Harbert's station and demand that sharp be released. He talk to the 77th Commander and he orders Charlie's release.

1977 several LAPD members are walking onto parked going into a loan drive. A black/pale skinned car pulls up and begin putting light in the door of house as a persons walk in. Soon have the order that they was not to leave. The car is pulling around the area. They continue to shine lights into the houses. Bob calls to Harbert's station and is told the officers that the house is being harassed by two Harbert's officers asking can our had pulled up while Bob to ask the Harbert's officers that there is nothing that can be done.

On 3, 1977, LAPD members (Robert "Charles" Kendrick, David Bob Duren) were downtown selling papers. Bob observed an LAPD officer who was standing in the middle of a crowd and ask to see the id card and on the id card it says he is a private. The person left and the car the officers had taken Duren's briefcase comes out of the Harbert's station and the officers had sent the station they must have sent to police. The police had been given a briefcase that is a little bit of a mess and $10 in cash that is what they had.

The following day Bob and Duren go to the court. The charges are reduced to misdemeanors and court on November 14, 1977.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

27, 1977, Bob Duren and a friend, Mike Duren, are coming from selling papers. Bob is driving east on Temple and makes a left turn onto 5th street (5 blocks from his home). A LAPD car pulls up into the intersection and makes a left turn onto 5th street. Bob tells the officer that he is going to try to file a complaint. The officer is the same officer that had been going to try to file a complaint. The officer is the same officer that had been going to try to file a complaint.

Bob and Mike are informed that they are being charged with violation of section 3 of the city code at 45,000 dollars. Bob is then asked to see the Harbert's station. The driver, the other person, and Bob were asked out of the car. Bob was asked to stand over his head, turn around to be searched. Bob refused hold a gun, under the circumstances, not necessary and unreasonable. Without warning officer arrested Bob's wife from his wife. Bob spouse arrested the other person, preventing from going to get his choke-hold. Bob is then searched and arrested. After 15 or 20 minutes, he is taken booked on 5996 charges. Bob shows up in court with his story that the id has the information that the id has rejected the case.

SOURCE:

Incidents of LAPD harassment, 1977, Box 20, Folder 9, B. Kwaku Duren papers
B. KWAKU DUREN; A PEOPLE BEFORE PROFITS CANDIDATE

B. KWAKU DUREN is 43 years old, married with one daugh-
ter, and resides in the City
of Compton. For the past 7
years he has been employed
as a Paralegal/Community De-
velopment Organizer.

B. KWAKU DUREN is well-known in quite a few circles in svalorinal California area as a country leader for the past 7 years in various community struggles and movements - ranging from the Black Panther Party to educational reform and alternative schools; from rent control to community economic development; from homelessness to social and legal services to poor and working people; from opposing governmental and police abuse of power to supporting people's liberation movements in Southern Africa, the Middle East, Central and Latin America and in the Caribbean.

B. KWAKU DUREN IS AN ACTIVIST AND ORGANIZER

Organizational Affiliations:
New Alliance Party National Executive Council
National Rainbow Alliance, Anti-
Segregation Project, South
Central, Metropolitan, District
Southwest Political District
First Street Political District
East Political District
Police Guardian Council National Council of the Black Poor
Community Services Unlimited, Inc.
National Conference Affiliated, Robert
McNamara, Manager
Los Angeles Rent Control Coalition
Organized Communities
Squatters' Community Economic De-
velopment Association, Inc.

A CAMPAIGN TO DEVELOP THE COMMUNITY AND EMPOWER THE PEOPLE

"Throughout the 31st Congressional District (which includes the cities of Carson, Compton, Gardena, Hawthorne, Lynwood, parts of Bellflower and Paramount, and unincorporated areas like the Community of Rosewood located south of Imperial Highway from Alameda to Aviation Boulevards) we can observe the detrimental effects of governmental policies which prefer unemployment and war to jobs with peace and freedom.

"America is a wealthy nation, and its working people have the highest standard of living in the world. This reality, however, is not true for the most of us. It is just true for tens of millions of Americans. For those whose only job is the receipt of Social Security, Social Security, welfare grants, the unemployed and those employed at an hourly wage to barely survive,

"The problem is not America's wealth and technologies, but how it is spent (or not spent, taxed or not taxed) and how the technology that has been produced by its workers is to be utilized.

"Prewaritionally, multi-national corporations and banks dominate and dictate, not just the countries, but also underdeveloped and developing nations throughout the world.

D. KWAKU DUREN cares about people, their communities, their struggles, and seeks through this campaign for Congress to further expand the national organization necessary to empower powerless peoples and communities.

"The size of the U.S. Military Budget is obscene, immoral and an insult to the citizens of America's poor and working people. It is nothing to be proud of and it reflects the arrogance that this nation and this world can survive by, at peace, and prosper.

"The Democratic Party's failure to defeat Reagan's Right-wing oligarchy, its refusal to share Electoral power with the Jackson's Rainbow Coalition means one thing to me: And that in that the time has come for independent electoral politics...

B. Kwaku Duren

"Whether elected to the U.S. Congress or not, I plan to continue organizing on behalf of community struggle for decent and affordable housing, expanding educational and the program of community development; I will continue advocating for positive community development under a job with Peace Program.

Printed and distributed by the COMMITTEE TO ELECT B. KWAKU DUREN. For more information or to make financial contributions call (213) 631-9823 or write to: East Bennett St., Compton California 90221

GIVE PEACE AND FREEDOM A CHANCE

ELECT
B. KWAKU DUREN
TO THE
U.S. CONGRESS
VOTE ON NOV. 4, 1986
The 31st District includes: the cities of Carson, Compton, Gardena, Hawthorne, Lynwood, parts of Bellflower and Paramount, and unincorporated areas like the Community of Rosewood located south of Imperial Highway from Alameda to Aviation Boulevards

The inner-city are poorer, suffering from lack of funds for basic infrastucture access to health care and decent affordable housing for the masses of this nation's poor. JOIN THE PEOPLE'S FIGHT-TODAY MAKE HISTORY: ELECT A PEOPLE'S CANDIDATE: GIVE PEACE AND FREEDOM A CHANCE!
June 1, 1977

Greetings Friend,

With the re-opening of the Los Angeles-based Chapter on Jan. 17, 1977, the Black Panther Party (BPP) returned to southern California. Contrary to government inspired opinion and rumors, the BPP did survive government efforts to "discredit," and "neutralize" its organizing effectiveness in the oppressed communities. But the BPP was temporarily prevented from building community-based programs in some areas of the country - through outside murder of our comrades and the use of fascist terror tactics against community people. The re-establishment of the Chapter here in Los Angeles and in other areas across this country offers a clear challenge to the multi-national corporations and their bureaucratic administrators who ordered the development and implementation of COINTEL-PRO and other repressive programs.

As a long-time community activist and outspoken supporter of the Party's philosophy, Ten-point Platform and Programs in the Los Angeles area, I have taken up the task of coordinating the development of the Southern California Chapter. In order to achieve our goals of organizing and serving Black and other oppressed communities, the Chapter has recently implemented a number of "survival programs." These programs, admittedly, can never be expected to completely fill the needs of the people. However, we offer these programs as a positive example of how the unfilled needs of the oppressed communities can be realistically and immediately addressed. All of our Survival Programs are free or charge; the Black Panther Party has never charged the community a dime to receive the things they need, and we don't ever intend to do so.

Financial contributions, however, are definitely needed to operate our programs. One of the ways by which we are attempting to secure basic operating expenses for these programs is by requesting sympathetic and concerned individuals to contribute regularly to our Chapter's Sustainer Program. Essentially, we ask concerned people to commit themselves to a monthly financial contribution (if possible) of any amount they can reasonably afford. In return, we will send them monthly copies of our Charter newsletter (enclosed), The Intercommunal Spark, which describes our community involvement, program activities and other relevant information concerning the Chapter's overall development in the southern California area. Copies of our Party's newspaper, The Black Panther, will also be sent weekly.

We are currently operating four survival programs: a Minimal Arts program for youth people and adults; Liberation School "But- in-the-White-House"; a Legal Aid Referral Service; and a weekly Free Food Day at which over 300 bags of "free" groceries and shoes were distributed to needy community residents. A Food Cooperative, a Women's Group, and several other community projects are also in the process of being implemented.

If there is any way for you to become involved in our Chapter's Sustainer Program, you can rest assured that all monies generated in this way will be used to continue and expand our efforts to organize and serve our oppressed communities, in the spirit of revolutionary love and determined struggle for a better world. If necessary, I am also available for speaking engagements concerning the overall organizational efforts of the Black Panther Party. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

All Power To The People,

Bob D. Duren
Coordinator

Note: Make all checks or money orders payable to:

Black Panther Party
Box, Calif. Chapter

APB/D
1. Integration - NPVM / Point 1-10

1. Peace, Justice + Reparations

2. Food/Housing/Medical Care + Quality Education

3. Reform of the Criminal Justice System
   - implement rate of death/penalties

4. Freedom to all Political Prisoners
   - BLM/BGA/AIM, NAPO, PR2 organize
   - political prisons
   - economic reintegration/education

5. Police Brutality, Terror + Abuse of Power

6. Confronting Racist Police

7. Solidarity Drug Brokers

8. Military Aggression
   - racial + ethnic atrocities
   - jobs of peace vs. "reconquest"

9. Religious Tolerance
   - spiritual tradition of all organizing peoples
   - role of the church
     - social work
     - political leadership
     - economic work
     - cultural work

10. All Power to the People
    - freedom > globally
    - justice > locally
    - equality
On Mission: Forging Community Through San Francisco’s Chicano Print Collections

Salvador Güereña and Mari Khasmanyan

California Ethnic and Multicultural Archives
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UC Santa Barbara Library