

FACTS ON AUGUST 10 CARSON BEACH INCIDENT

The following facts were compiled by Maceo Dixon, organizer of the picnic monitors and coordinator of the National Student Coalition Against Racism (NSCAR). Unfortunately, the major news media in Boston, particularly the Boston Globe and TV networks, have given a distorted picture of what took place at Carson Beach. We hope these facts will help clarify the lies and distortions of the new media.

Wednesday, August 6

--3:00 p.m.: A broad representation of some 60 Black and Puerto Rican community groups and agencies (including the NAACP, Freedom House, Elma Lewis, Percy Wilson and many others) met with Boston's Mayor Kevin White to discuss the issue of public safety for the minorities of this city.

--4:00 p.m.: This same group of Black and Puerto Rican community leaders met with Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis to discuss public safety for the minorities of Boston.

Letter addressed both to the Mayor and Governor and personally handed to them that day read in part: "Over the past three months, attacks upon innocent Black citizens in the City of Boston have been occurring at an alarming rate. Black living in Hyde Park and other largely white neighborhoods have been personally harassed and had their homes vandalized. Blacks going to and from work have had their cars stoned on p streets and highways. And most recently, five Black men were attacked by a gang of white youths when they attempted to enjoy a public beach in South Boston.

"These malicious attacks are deplorable. However, the weak response of law enforcement officials to them is equally deplorable...we know of no arrests or prosecutions that have been made; Black citizens are not being protected by police in hostile areas."

Both the Mayor and Governor gave weak hearted responses saying everyone has a right to go to the beaches. As a result, Tom Atkins announced that there would be a meeting that evening at the Freedom House to assess the meetings with the Mayor and Governor.

--7:00 p.m.: Tom Atkins announced that there would be a picnic at Carson Beach Sunday and anyone wishing to help should volunteer to do so. Elma Lewis, Percy Wilson and other community leaders cosponsored this call for a community picnic.

Thursday, August 7

--2:00 p.m.: Meeting at the Roxbury Multi-Service Center to issue assignments for Sunday's picnic. It was at this meeting that Maceo Dixon, representing the National Student Coalition Against Racism was asked to organize the picnic coordinators for Carson Beach.

Friday, August 8

--10:00 a.m.: Press Conference at the Elma Lewis School of Fine Arts to announce the picnic at Carson Beach. It was at this conference that Tom Atkins explained the concept of the picnic. His press statement read in part, "We reject, categorically, the notion that somebody is going to tell us who the 'good colored people' are that 'will be allowed to come to the beach.' It is vital to the very life of this city that the fundamental right of every citizen to use public facilities be recognized and reaffirmed and protected. Recent statements by the Mayor and Governor will help to address this problem, but mere words will not suffice to deal with the organized terrorism which is being employed against our people. This issue must be put to rest, and now.

"In order to assure the people of our community that the words of the Mayor and Governor will be matched with deeds, if need be, many of us have decided to visit the beach on Sunday. We will swim, sun-bathe, play beach games, eat sandwiches, and generally do all the things which for years we have been doing at these beaches."

Mr. Atkins also explained some of the technical aspects of the picnic. Our conception was to use a portion of the beach for two hours only. At no time was there any plans to utilize the entire beach, because of safety problems. Although everyone agreed this would have to be done soon for the beach to be completely desegregated. We felt that the strength of the racists and the inability of the police to provide adequate protection to date precluded the possibility of the total use of the beach for longer than two or three hours.

This picnic was not conceived of as a march, rally or protest demonstration. Any type of action like this would require a parade permit. The Mayor said he was not issuing any such permits for Carson Beach. Therefore there would be no signs, banners or other materials at the picnic which could give the impression that it was a protest rally.

Saturday, August 9

--10:00 a.m.: Training sessions for picnic coordinators at the Elma Lewis School of Fine Arts conducted by Maceo Dixon, organizer of the picnic coordinators and a coordinator of the National Student Coalition Against Racism (NSCAR). During these training sessions it was explained that in the case of any violence from the racists the picnic coordinators would safely and quickly - move people out. There would be no liquor or wooden baseball bats brought to the picnic. No one would leave our designated area. We were not going to Carson Beach for a confrontation, but to exercise our democratic right to freely go to the beach.

--12:00 p.m.: Maceo Dixon from NSCAR, John Marshall and Tom Atkins both from the NAACP all had a meeting with police authorities at the Commonwealth Armory. The police authorities at that meeting were Public Safety Secretary Charles V. Barry, MDC Commissioner John Snedeker, Deputy Boston Police Superintendent Joseph Jordan and others representing the Tactical

Police Force (TPF), state troopers, FBI and other agencies of law enforcement. The police agencies made it clear that the public safety of the picnickers would be the responsibility of the police. The agency in charge of the beach was left up to the MDC. All together there would be close to 1,200 police officers on the beach, including 90 plainclothed officers.

The police agreed to stop all traffic for the motorcade from Franklin Park to Bayside Mall at Columbia Point. They also said they would block off all traffic on Columbia Road, from Dorchester Avenue to the Mall after our last car went by. Therefore anyone wishing to enter that area could only do so by foot. Police were to break up any gathering of hostile racists in the area. However, none of this was carried out by the proper authorities.

--4:00 p.m.: Training session, by Mac Warren of BSCAR, for another group of picnic coordinators for Sunday's picnic was conducted at the Elma Lewis School.

Sunday, August 10

--9:00 a.m.: Training session by Maceo Dixon to another group of picnic coordinators for Sunday's picnic at the Elma Lewis School.

--11:30 a.m.: Picnic coordinators met at Franklin Park behind White Stadium. At this point, Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and the Committee Against Racism (CAR) had a contingent of some 200 people in the park with banners, posters and leaflets. They disagreed with the rule but said they would go along with it.

--1:00 p.m.: The motorcade leaves Franklin Park. Traffic is not stopped for the motorcade to proceed through traffic lights without stopping. The police consciously split up the group from the prearranged route. The first intersection where police stopped traffic for the motorcade is at Dudley and Columbia Road as was prearranged.

On the beach the police have set up human barricades to keep Blacks and racists apart. Crowds of white hooligans have gathered and the cops do not break them up. The cops' policy is clearly to contain the racists and even allow them to break through the police barricades and run back after throwing rocks and bottles at Blacks. The policy of police concerning Blacks is to push us back into the water and off the beach. This creates outrage amongst Blacks and we begin to resist. PLP, CAR, October League and the Youth Against War and Fascism and police agents and provocateurs provoke the cops to attack Blacks. The cops are vicious against the Blacks who came to the picnic and do not touch the bigots who attack us. Ten people were arrested and scores are injured.

As we left the beach many cars were stoned by racists. The cops never once arrested any racists for carrying dangerous weapons like baseball bats.

The travesty of justice was blatantly shown at Carson Beach. There are democratic rights and freedoms for white racists but

none for the City's Black residents. Is it no wonder that Black youth at the beach responded in kind to the racist stonings? Is it no wonder there is hatred toward the City, State, and Police officials by Black residents?

The only way to crush the racist movement responsible for all violence in our city is to get out the truth on all incidents of racism and to help build a mass movement for our democratic rights.