

MR. SCOTT: Good morning, everybody. First, let me say I'm with the Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality and the criminalization of a generation. I'm also with Project BAT, Black Awareness in Television, work closely with Grace Boggs and the Boggs Foundation.

Let me say, first, that I think we need more time to discuss this issue. I think, to the Eisenhower Foundation, I think you need to come back to Detroit. I think you need to open this up again because I think that conditions that created the largest urban rebellion in the history of this country, that it deserves a little more time than we have today. So I respectfully make that request.

Secondly, let me say that the whole issue that we're talking about today is -- the question was whether or not it was the class or a race discussion; and the issue is -- as I see it anyway -- it's a question of those who are in place and those who are about to be replaced. It's a question in terms of we talked about the corporate situation in terms of how it's moving and the changes that are being made and that we're talking about individuals who are keenly aware of what is happening in terms of their replacement.

We're looking at a situation right now, for instance, when you look in this audience, think about the individuals who are not in this audience.

Think about the fact that, when they talk about crime? When they talk about crime, the people who are not sitting in this audience are the young, principally men and women, who are making up the jail populations now. They are not here this morning, and whatever discussion takes place, they need to be here at some point. They need to talk about the issues that they're confronted with because they're going to make the difference between what happens in this urban area in the future or not.

You know, they talked about One D with New Detroit and the professor that -- you know, many whites see that the way people dress or African-Americans dress is negative. No, they don't. They don't see it that way because right now the hip-hop community is adding numerous amounts of capital to this world in addition to the fact that One D, that very term is a hip-hop term; and the corporations have taken it and tried to use it to project what they want to project without having anybody in the hip-hop community to talk about it.

So within that context it is pejorative.

They see it when it's beneficial economically, and they have a disdain for it when they can't control it.

So in this situation, young people today have realized that the changes in this society are not going to happen from the top to the bottom. It's going to happen from the bottom up. So when we talk about politics, the new politics is going to be what happens on the grass roots level. It was happening before but even more so now.

And I want to talk about some things rather than just citing the problem. I want to talk about the fact that in this community that there are hundreds of organizations and individuals who are working every day to regenerate, re-enliven and transform Detroit. And they're not necessarily transforming Detroit by necessarily becoming a part of Detroit renaissance.

They're not transforming it in terms of being a part of One D. They're transforming it by being a part of organizations like Detroit City of Hope, for instance, where you have a number of young people with the Allied Media Conference, where in effect they're creating new media. They're not depending upon the large amounts of -- Congressman, of corporate media folks, who basically control most of the media outlets in the city.

They're creating their own media because you can't depend on the media, which created the problem back in 1967, to tell you the truth, anymore. Whether it be about the war in Iraq or the war on Mack -- either way you don't get the truth. Because if you look at the war on Mack, you think every young person out there -- every young black person walking in with pants hanging down is a thug. But you see it, and you look at General Motors, and you don't see the thuggery because the people are lying out there without jobs and without homes. So they don't say that.

I want to talk about the situation which we have in the Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality. We realize that we couldn't just go and fight and talk about police brutality. And I want to cite this: A young man by the name of Jevon Royals died in July of this year on Euclid at Rosa Parks, which was Twelfth Street, which was right down the street from the beginning of the '67 rebellion. He was killed by two police officers, shot in the chest. That's this year. That's this year. That's one of seven this year. That's more than at the time of STRESS, which was one of the largest groups that engaged in a terror campaign in this city. Seven this year.

So, in effect, what I'm saying is we found that we couldn't just react to or protest against police brutality. We had to come up with something to deal with peace in our communities. So what we're doing is we have a thing called Peace Zones for Life, where we're taking the responsibility to deal with economic and social conditions on every level.

And I find it interesting that nobody on the panel yet has talked about 40 years of chemical warfare, which is better known as drugs. One day in 1967-68, the penny caps hit the street. That was right after the development of consciousness. And for 40 years we have been fighting that war, and that war has not been transformed. So we're creating Peace Zones for Life to deal with how we bring families together.

We have an agricultural network where we're actually growing food. We are working with Tried Stone Baptist Church near the epicenter of the rebellion, where we're building a bagel factory. We're creating a situation where young people -- as I said, young people are getting involved in home rehabilitation and development. So in effect we're taking our political thrust from the bottom up and not from the top down.

We are creating peace in our communities.

We're not looking for peace in terms of police to patrol us. We're creating a situation where in fact 40 percent of the police in this department, black or white, Latino or otherwise, live outside of the city of Detroit. Now, how are you going to patrol the community when in fact you come in as an absentee police force? So essentially what we're doing is we're saying that the new Detroit, that the new Los Angeles, that the new Newark, whatever it happens to be, it has to be the one that really rests with real power to the people because that was the clarion call after 1967. And that's what we're building now.

I want to share some of these things with you before we leave today because Grace will talk a little bit more about them, but we need to -- every disadvantage that we have -- every disadvantage creates an advantage for us to move ahead, and that's what we're dealing with now.

And I don't want to conclude without saying once again about the issue of crime. People are being criminalized, and we're being told that the people who are being sent to prison in the criminal justice system are no good, they have no redeeming social value, they can't do anything. Well, in terms of creating Peace Zones for Life, creating the urban media activities, and creating housing, 4,300 people at the Tried Stone Health Care Center were served free last year. In creating these institutions, we're transforming that because, when the people come back to us, they don't even have to prove that they are not an ex-offender.

In fact, if they are an ex-offender, that's something that we can deal with in terms of better health for our entire community.

And I see Dr. Smitherman down at the end -- I'm sorry -- down at the end of the line. All of this is community health. I'd like to say, when you deal with community health in the future, let's deal with health of the corporate leaders who have found a way and the political leaders to divest themselves of the city because now people are taking it back.