

# THE FIGHTER

FREEDOM INTEGRATION GOD HONOR TODAY

ROCHESTER N Y

FEBRUARY 1967



## STOKLEY SCORES IN ROCHESTER

Cheered by an enthusiastic crowd, Black-Power advocate Stokely Carmichael scored on Rochester's paternalism. "We've been looking for a fight against a big company to show black people across the country about institutional racism...you've got everything we're looking for", he said. Drawing a big laugh from the 400 people gathered at the rally, Stokley declared, "When we're through with them, Minister Florence will say 'jump' and they'll ask, 'How high?'"

He added that the institutional bigotry of companies across the nation had brought about a mistrust that would unify civil rights forces everywhere. The SNCC leader promised support from his organization, and spoke of a national boycott of Kodak products.

Pointing to the national problem of jobs for the poor blacks, Carmichael said, "It is the Kodaks that cause the uprisings all over this country." Community reaction to Carmichael's brief visit (he left early the next morning for Boston) bordered on panic, but for poor blacks, it was like a refreshing rain.

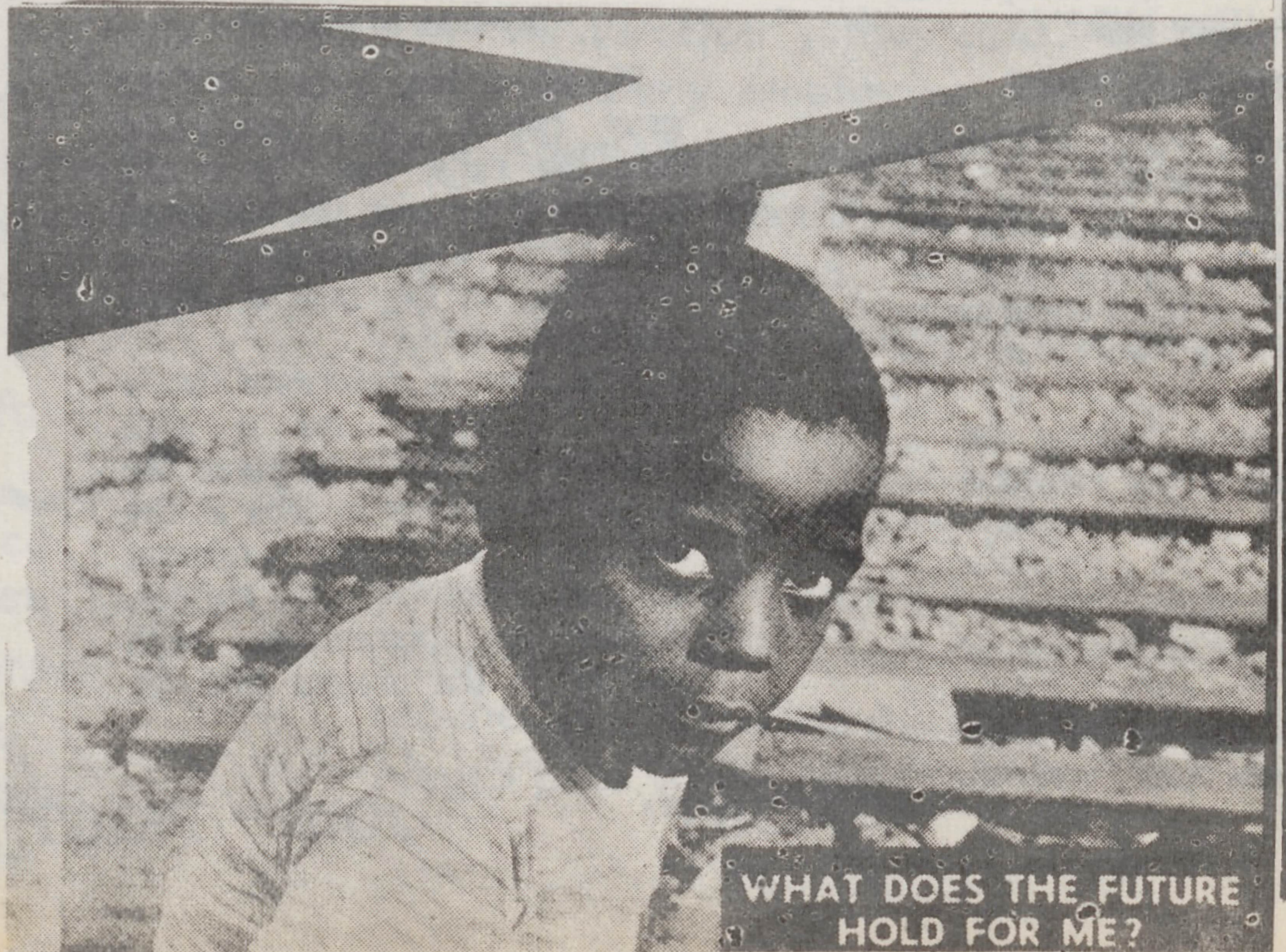
## FIGHT COMMITTEE NEWS

### Community Maintenance Committee

A committee headed by Mr. James Peterson does a yoeman's job attacking the city for its failure to give the community the services that it pays taxes for. It is a well known fact that in our neighborhood the garbage is never picked up, the streets are never swept, the street lighting is inadequate and the police protection is below average. Since Mr. Peterson committee has been in operation there has been a great improvement in the conditions of our community. There is still a long way to go.

## FIGHTS MAKE -UP

Fight is a federation of groups: churches, block clubs, tenants councils, social clubs, and pool-room groups. Its objectives are to develop a community of people and to train and protect black leadership. The unique point about Fight is that it embraces all issues which affect the Negro community and it sees ultimate control for the Negro community.



WHAT DOES THE FUTURE  
HOLD FOR ME?



# Carmichael Pledges Boycott



**STOKELY CARMICHAEL**  
.....!an all out fight'

By BRIAN DONOVAN

Stokely Carmichael, the black power movement's most widely known spokesman, promised last night to help FIGHT organize a nationwide boycott against Eastman Kodak Co.

"We're going to bring them to their knees if it's the last thing we do," he said.

Carmichael, who is chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), spoke before an enthusiastic crowd of about 350 in FIGHT's job training center at 315 Joseph Ave.

He said his organization had voted to give "full support, in whatever way we can," to the local Negro group in its employment dispute with the company.

"When we're through, they'll see him (Minister Franklin D. R. Florence, FIGHT's president) and he'll say, 'Jump,' and they'll say, 'How high?'"

### 'Ideal Opportunity'

Carmichael, whose civil rights group has confined its work largely to the South, said the Kodak-FIGHT controversy offered SNCC an ideal opportunity to extend its work to the North.

"We've been looking for a fight against a big company to show black people across the country about institutional racism," he said. "You've got everything we're looking for."

He said the controversy also would demonstrate to Negroes that the press was "controlled"

by large industries such as Kodak.

Carmichael, a tall, slender man of 25, was in full command of the predominantly Negro audience from the moment he took over the microphone. Every pause in his delivery was an occasion for cheers and applause. When the rally ended, he was instantly surrounded in a crush of admirers, from teenagers to stooped, elderly women, some of whom apparently wanted only to touch him. His manner with Negro questioners was cheerful; with whites he was distant and reserved.

### Boycott 'Easy'

In a press conference later, Carmichael offered little elaboration on the boycott plan, except to say it would be "easy to carry out because we have units all over the country."

"All we have to do is send out the word," he said.

He said he would not assign any SNCC workers to Rochester on a full-time basis but planned "to keep in touch" through frequent visits by staff members.

He would not discuss the size of his organization's staff nor when the boycott might begin.

Carmichael met Wednesday night in Detroit with Saul D. Alinsky, whose Industrial Areas Foundation helped organize FIGHT. He denied reports that SNCC had entered into any kind of formal coalition with the IAF and said his organization was supporting only FIGHT, not Alinsky-organized groups in other cities.

### 'Kodaks to Blame'

Shedding the jacket of his gray tweed suit, Carmichael told the rally that "it is the Kodaks that cause the uprisings all over this country" by "laughing in the face of black people."

This was a reference to a FIGHT proposal for a joint effort with Kodak to place 600 unskilled persons in jobs at the company. A Kodak assistant vice president, John G. Mulder, signed an agreement with FIGHT on the project Dec. 20.

The company's top management rejected it two days later as "unauthorized."

Carmichael said Negroes' distrust of Kodak and other large companies would serve as a unifying force for the civil rights movement.

"They (whites) have been dividing us and conquering us for years," he said, "but their reneging is going to bring us together."

FIGHT and SNCC, he said, "have been bonded together to get us some more . . ." — and his voice dropped to a stage whisper — "black power!" The crowd cheered wildly.

Minister Florence said the Rochester Area Ministers Conference, an organization of local Negro clergymen, would ask that negotiations with Kodak's executive committee be resumed either today or Monday.

He charged that "Kodak, Paul Miller (publisher of the Rochester Gannett newspapers) and those who work for him are trying to destroy FIGHT, the white churches and everyone with enough backbone to stand up to white paternalism."

Minister Florence praised Lloyd L. Hurst, chairman of the local branch of the State Commission for Human Rights, for a statement yesterday urging that talks be reopened.

He called upon Dr. Marcus Alexis, board president of the Urban League of Rochester, who attended the rally, to speak out in favor of FIGHT. Alexis was jeered by the crowd when he remained silent.

**FOR RESULTS**  
Call 436-0786

FIGHT Hdqt.  
86 PROSPECT St.  
ROCHESTER N. Y.

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

FIGHT

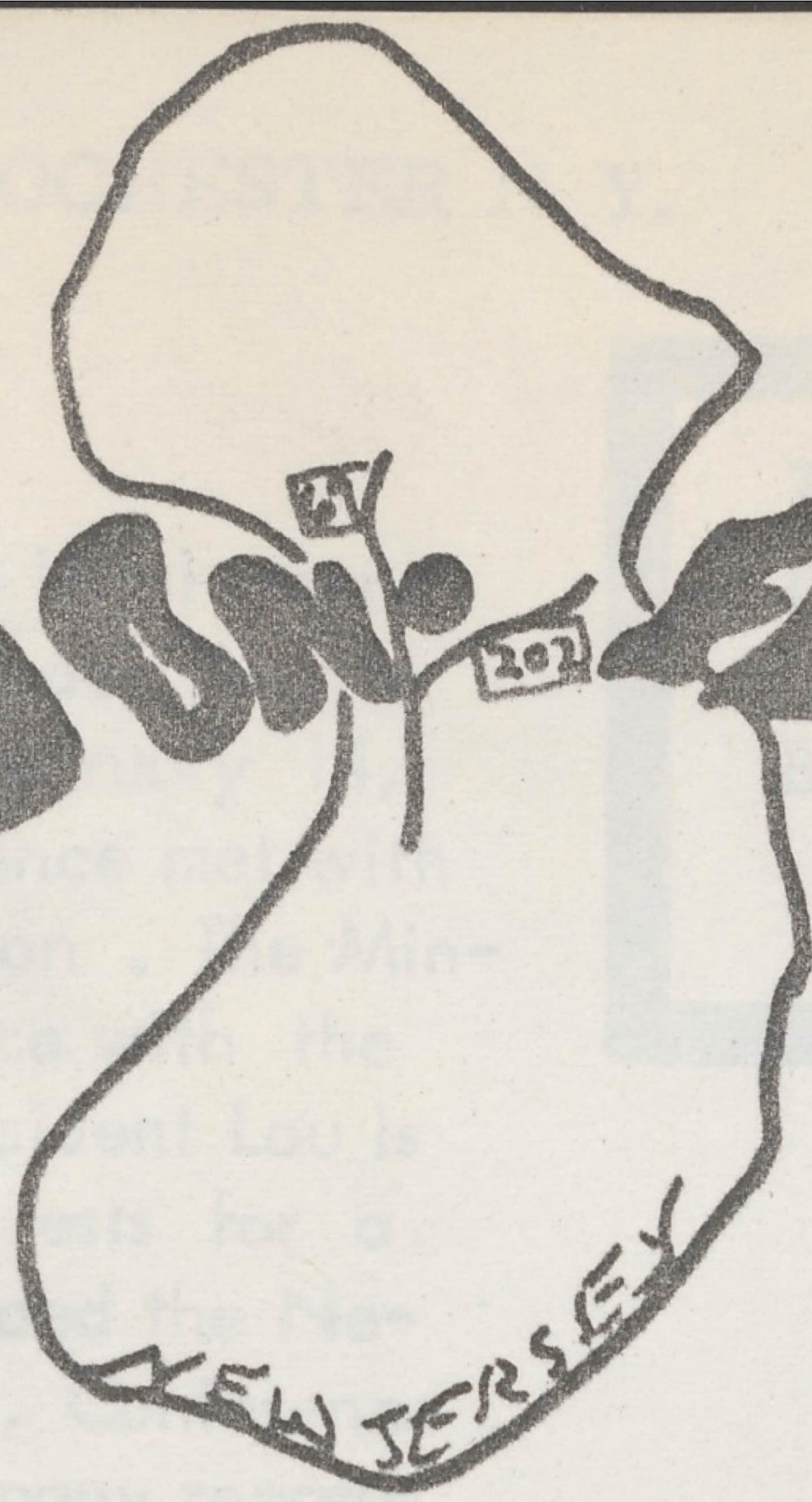
"FIGHT"

JOIN "FIGHT"

JOIN "FIGHT"



# FIGHT ON - FLEMINGTON



Contribution: \$1.00  
Round Trip

Buses Leaving - 8:15 A.M.  
Claremont Ave & 120th St.

## A CALL TO JOIN FORCES ON APRIL 25<sup>th</sup> TUES. 10 A.M. TO SUPPORT FIGHT AT THE ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING OF EASTMAN KODAK

- DECEMBER 20, 1966--Eastman Kodak and FIGHT sign an agreement in which Kodak agrees to hire and train 600 hard-core poverty cases from Negro area of Rochester.
- DECEMBER 22, 1966--Eastman Kodak announces on local TV that it will not honor agreement.
- FEBRUARY 20, 1967--After some weeks of playing cat-and-mouse, Kodak refuses to speak to FIGHT anymore.
- APRIL 12, 1967--Kodak sets up a smokescreen to obscure the real issue--the broken contract--by announcing, with other Rochester companies, a vague proposal about creating jobs for Negroes. FIGHT is not fooled, and continues to press for Kodak to live up to the agreement.

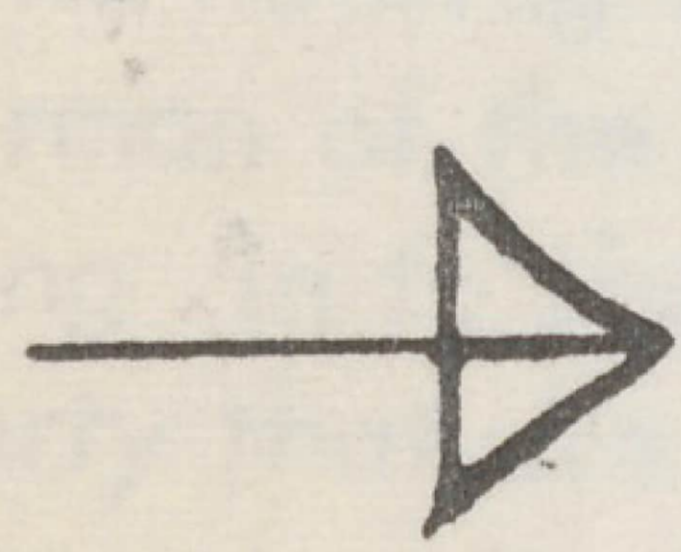
### WHY FLEMINGTON?

The annual stockholders meeting of Eastman Kodak will be held in this New Jersey town. An overwhelming show of visible support for FIGHT at that meeting is urgently needed.

From Chicago, Detroit, Atlanta, Washington, Newark, New York, Rochester, Boston, Princeton, Ithaca, Philadelphia, Buffalo, and many other areas, people will be coming to Flemington by 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 25 (junction of Route 202 and 69, an hour's driving time west of New York City).

JOIN THIS MARCH TO FLEMINGTON

SUPPORT FIGHT



Rally will be held at Presbyterian Church in Flemington at 10 a.m. A demonstration at the Board of Directors meeting at 11 a.m. A demonstration at the Stockholders meeting at 1 p.m.

JOIN THIS MARCH TO FLEMINGTON

SUPPORT FIGHT

NEW YORK SPONSORS: Students for a Democratic Society---University Christian Movement

FOR INFORMATION  
AND TRANSPORTATION

*Call*

9 A.M. - 1 P.M.: 870-2367  
1 P.M. - 4 P.M.: 866-4755  
4 P.M. - MIDNIGHT: 831-0831



## Negro Clergy Offended

Fight has continued to try every local means to get the two executives committees back to the conference table, and on Tuesday, February 14, the Rochester Area Ministers Conference met with company officials of the lower echelon. The Ministers pointedly stated their annoyance with the way that the company's executive president Lou is Eilers had ignored their repeated requests for a meeting. He has "snubbed and offended the Negro Clergy" said Rev. H.C. Shankle, Conference President. The ministers warned company representatives that the company's action had put the community into dangerous state. "Our congregations are deeply concerned about this turn of events Your callous unconcern bothers us", he declared.

## NATIONAL GROUPS WILL HELP IN "Selma in the North"

National civil rights forces have pledged their support for Fight in its struggle, and picket lines have shown up in four major cities across the country. Ten to fifteen thousand people are ready to come to Rochester if they are called", said Minister Florence, and he added, "Rochester could become the Selma of the North".

## FIGHT Determined

"FIGHT has not yet begun to fight", said Minister Florence, but he declared that when they do, they will fight "with a Passion".

## Fight's Housing Committee

In Rochester Negro community over 60% of the housing is run down. Mr. Robert Calhoun chairman of the committee has been responsible for turning in to the Building Bureau 505 pieces of property that are in violation. Whenever Mr. Calhoun goes to city hall about landlords they really flit around to see that he and the people get satisfaction.

Negroes have stopped being brutalized since Rev. Ernest Gipson's Law Enforcement Committee began beating down the Public Safety Commissioner doors late last summer on complaints from Negro men and women about policemen taking advantage of our people. When you organize you keep the police in check.

This is a letter sent by (85) black preachers across the country to Kodak. They are the same men who put an ad in the New York Times supporting Black Power.

## NATIONAL NEGRO CLERGY FIGHTS BACK

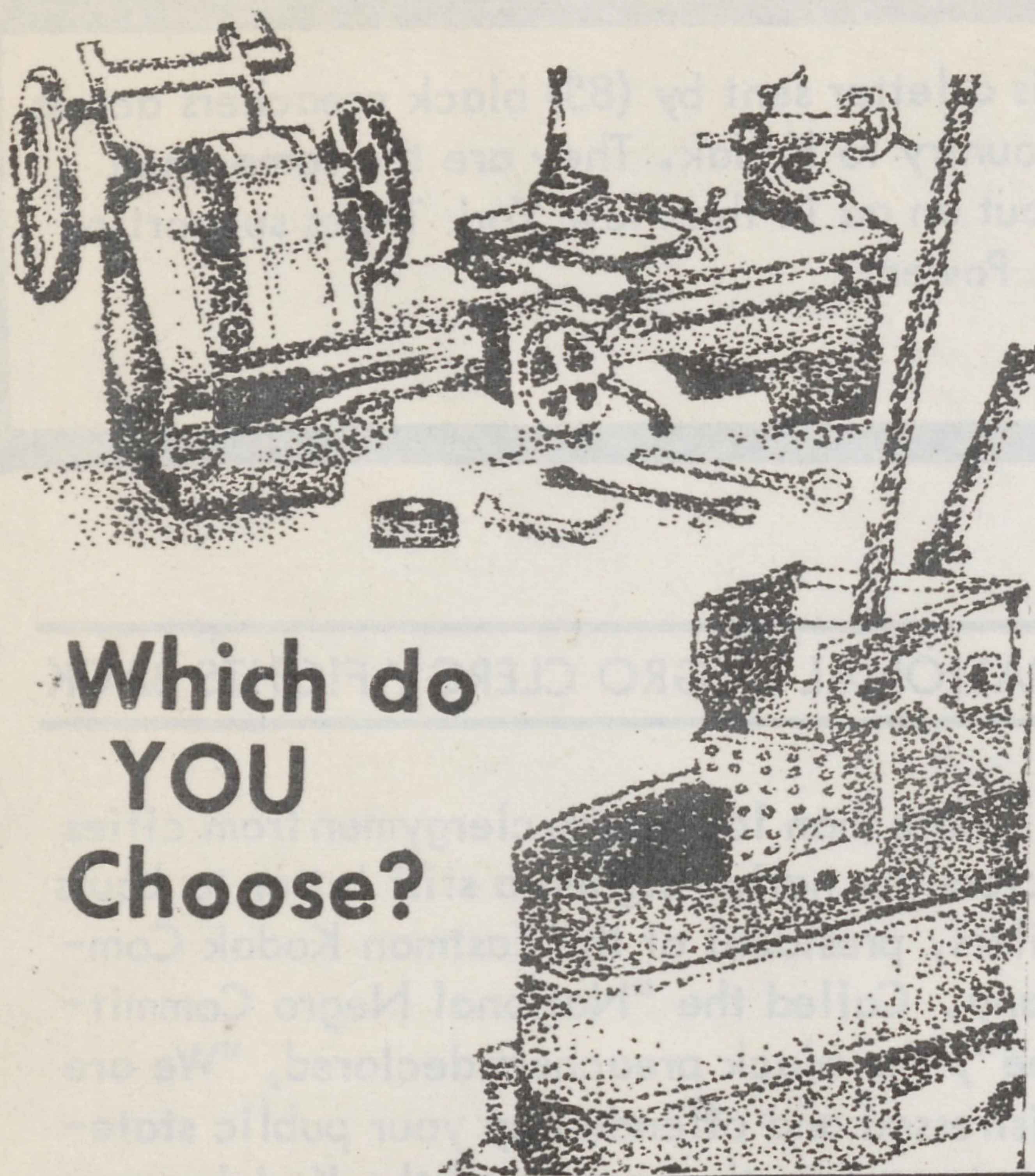
More than 160 Negro clergymen from cities across the nation signed a stiff letter to Louis Eilers, president of the Eastman Kodak Company. Called the "National Negro Committee", the black preachers declared, "We are distressed and offended by your public statements and by the actions of the Kodak company concerning the issues at stake in the disagreements of Kodak with FIGHT organization". The clerics praised FIGHT for its proposal to the company, calling it an "outstanding example of responsible action from urban Negro community, and said that FIGHT has entered into negotiations in good faith.

Pointing to the great strength of Kodak's press power, the clergy scored the company for its "misrepresentation" of the agreement in the press. The clerics expressed their feeling that the agreement was sound and imaginative, and in a way, impaired Kodak's rights. They exposed the "real issue"...the unwillingness of the Kodak company to enter into any responsible agreement with representatives of the Negro poor in Rochester.

"The question", they said, "is whether or not a company employing 40,000 workers in Rochester has any obligation to be responsive to initiatives from those directly affected". The letter continued, "Kodak apparently believes that no one outside its own management group should be involved in these decision-making processes".

Their letter concluded with, "We call on you to continue negotiations with the FIGHT organization until a satisfactory agreement is reached...providing aid to the unemployed Negro poor in Rochester.





THE FIGHTER

ROCHESTER N. Y.

To: Kodak

**FIGHTS UNEMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE**

**Which do  
YOU  
Choose?**

**KODAK TRAINING PROGRAM---A FARCE**

Kodak recently announced a "job training program" which would involve a number of groups in the community. Minister Florence denounced the proposed plan as being "a numbers game...instead of substance and straight-forwardness, the poor are getting Madison Avenue press releases," he said. The plan differs from the agreement, in that it does not reach the people it was intended to reach; and offers no counselling with the poor by their brothers.

Jobs With Dignity

"The issue is jobs with dignity," declared Minister Florence. Pointing to the long history of paternalism, he exposed Kodak's unwillingness to listen to the poor....willing only to help on its own terms. "No one can afford a job without dignity. It's too expensive to the soul, another FIGHT official said.

Kodak Image Hurt

Kodak's image has been brought into question as news journals in other cities have picked up the story of Kodak's rejection. The Washington Post carried the FIGHT-KODAK battle, stating that, "The developing picture shows that the nation's largest photographic company is in an out-of-focus battle with itself, with the militants in Rochester's Negro community, and a large number of the city's clergy".

The more we deal with Kodak management The more we realize that you have no understanding of Black Poverty . Your comprehension of the cycle of Poverty which corrodes poor Negroes shocks us.

Kodak's Monday Announcement of 228 jobs now available is Madison Avenue Public Relations . Seventy jobs aren't available until June. You are not specific on any data. Also, under your quota system, less than half the jobs will go to Hard-Core unemployed Negroes.

Fight now realizes that it expected insights into the problems of the poor from Kodak's top management which they do not possess. Your officers are not living in the real world. Eilers and the Executive committee are not the worldly pragmatic outfit we expected: rather they give forth with an old fashioned morality typical of rural America. They appear to be afraid and scared to talk. Constant use of the word "Boys" in referring to Negro males during negotiations surprised us.

What is needed now is an exchange between Eilers and Company And Fight's executive committee where we talk about Blacks, Poverty, Broken Families, Negro Male, Motivation, Counseling, Etc.

Kodak fails to understand the disillusionment hopelessness and down-right cynicism of Hard - Core unemployed poor. Broken promises by the "Establishment" feed this discouragement. Take for example the broken agreement of Dec. 20th. Your one-by-one approach is old-fashioned and ineffective. We need to organize the poor job seekers; assist him; back him up; tutor him; e-help him with family problems; lend him group support; put him on a team; get involved in all his problems. Kodak is not dealing with rugged individualism---you are dealing with black poverty and motivation.

If these kinds of discussions could be of help, the December 20th signed agreement would be still possible.