

Interview: Members of the Black Community on Demands and What the Police Can Do

Host: ... and expressing the wants and the desires and the feelings of the crowd and the purpose of the crowd, what would you feel that you'd like to bring out now? Because this is what we want to do, we want to communicate your feelings [would like for?] to be expressed. What do you think that we should know, what should be done, what can be done constructively, immediately? And I think these feelings were expressed, so I'd like for someone to bring them out.

Speaker 1: I'd like to bring out that we expect from this that we want our freedom. We want our rights, like, they tell us and promise us that we should have fair houses, we should have reparations, we shall have jobs...They promised. They promised our forefathers that they wouldn't be slaves, but they were. These promises are no good. We want actions. We want them to show us what we can have. We're not asking them to give us nothing, because we are free. We ask them only the rights that we have to take what is ours. There's no man out here can say "I promise you that you would have this today." We were supposed to have it from the time we were brought into this world. That's what we're looking for.

Host: Well the activity of the march, the feelings, the incidents that occurred. I think there was a tendency for the tenseness of the city, especially in the Black ghetto area, to spread. And I think you indicated that you had an experience or that you had feelings that you would like to express, and this is something we would like for you to do.

Speaker 2: Yes. I would like to express my feelings. What I think is that the public officials, they all should get together with the youth of America today and sit down and work with them. They have time for other things and they should have time for this because this is the most important thing in the world is to bring these kids up right in a non-violent way. And it should be...the public officials...they act as if they are too above us to admit that they are wrong sometimes. No man is perfect and no man is right all the time. There's never been a man born that never made a mistake. So, what they should do is get out and work with these kids and tell the police to get out and mingle with them. There are some good police officers, all of them isn't bad. You got some bad ones that make it look bad for the good ones. They don't know how to get out and mingle with the public, and socialize with the public, so it's hard ...(unintelligible) get down to the root of this and talk to the people that really have these problems because no other man can speak for us, because you'd have to be one of us to understand how we feel.