

Educator: U. S. Polluted With Racism

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Dr. Charles Hamilton, chairman of the political science department at Roosevelt University, Chicago, said Thursday night at Clarke College that black America "does not want to be integrated into the main stream of America because the main stream of America is polluted with racism."

In defining black power to a standing room only crowd in the Clarke auditorium, the Negro educator said some understand it to be a "separate state" of black people. Others say it is "community control," "instrumental violence," or something like "Irish, Jewish or white

power." Richard Nixon calls it "Black capitalism," Hamilton said.

But Dr. Hamilton, who co-authored the book "Black Power: The Politics of Liberation in America" with Stokely Carmichael, said black power is a "psychological phenomenon" which "initially has nothing to say to white people."

The purpose of black power is to re-establish an identity, a movement of "black solidarity," a "serious effort at economic and political cohesiveness," he said.

Black power, he said, is an attempt by the black society to find identity for itself outside the white value system because

Dr. Charles
Hamilton



this system is no longer legitimate.

Dr. Hamilton explained there are two approaches to the question of legitimacy. One is the "integrationist, civil rights, First Amendment approach which does not question the established system."

The other, he said, says to society, "Re-examine yourself." This is what black power is doing, "questioning the status quo," he explained.

Speaking of the political structure, Dr. Hamilton said white America "is still hung up" with the idea that America is the epitome of political modernization.

"At the beginning of the cold war this country assumed their value system was legitimate," he said. "When people no longer question themselves decline begins."

He called churches and the unions "bastions of the status quo" who have "copped out." While individual members of

these groups are "marching down in Selma, the majority is back up there voting against open housing."

Of violence, Dr. Hamilton said, there are two types: expressive and instrumental. "What we have experienced (in the ghettos) is expressive violence." This is "an eruption" when "people are fed up." It is "visible, leaderless, and its goals are inarticulate."

Instrumental violence is "planned, guerrilla warfare" with "selective retaliation and very clear goals," Dr. Hamilton said, warning that "as white America procrastinates she is laying seeds for instrumental violence."

On law and order Dr. Hamilton said "what the white people really mean is order, the status quo."

He said that colleges must become "relevant to the times." Students must insist "the courses be relevant."

Speaking directly to the white students, he said if you really want to help "go infiltrate the white community, go into the suburbs, because that's where the racism is."

"Infiltrate the Rotary, the Junior Chamber of Commerce. Ask those hard questions," he said. "We don't have to lock arms and sing 'We Shall Overcome.' Boy, that ain't where it's at."