

TELEGRAMS SENT TO PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON JULY 9, 1968, ASKING
REMOVAL OF THE REV. WALTER E. FAUNTROY FROM THE D.C. CITY COUNCIL

The Rev. Walter E. Fauntroy has chosen to continue his association with the Black United Front which outrageously condoned the public murder and shooting of two disarmed policemen attempting to perform their duty. He can not remain in his post of government under which our husbands work yet continue to be part of the Black United Front. He can not serve two masters or travel two roads simultaneously, but has stated his intention of doing so. We are therefore compelled to ask for his expedient removal from the City Council.

This statement was released July 15, 1968, by Police Wives United criticizing local news media for their irresponsible and biased reporting in any matter regarding the Metropolitan Police.

For further information you may call: Mrs. Evelyn Brennan, 572-4799. Mrs. Patricia Buckley, 262-1595. Mrs. Rosemary Gaine, 577-5918.

In regard to the resolution passed last week by the Black United Front, Let us set some of the records straight of the inconsistencies of their resolution and also errors in newspaper accounts.

Pvt. Stephen A. Williams had on the evening of Monday, July 1, 1968, made a police department offense report of a robbery which had taken place in which the complaining witness, who was a Negro, had reported that he had been hit over the head with a pistol and \$30 of his money taken. At this time, this complainant gave the information to Pvt. Williams that the subject who had robbed him was known to this complainant as Johnny. Around 24 hours later Pvt. Williams, in the company of Pvt. Matteson, were called to the 1300 block of Columbia Road by this Negro complainant who pointed out to them John White as the man who had robbed and pistol whipped him the previous night. The rest is known to history that when Pvt. Williams attempted to arrest subject White for the alleged robbery (which is a felony), they were jumped. Pvt. Williams was murdered and Pvt. Matteson critically wounded. Isn't it hypocritical that this so called Negro leadership, including the Democratic National Committeeman from Washington, D.C., an inconsistency with the demands of the past that Negroes weren't getting a fair shake from white policemen. Here was a Negro man who had been robbed—struck with a gun—calling for assistance from HIS police department—and when this assistance arrived to aid him—and took the proper action—they met with death and injury.

These same leaders who cried that police treat Negroes as second class citizens—now turn around and call this murder justified.

They use their basis for justification that police have been killing Negroes in the ghettos unjustifiably. Yet they come forth with no example of where a policeman has ever killed a Negro unjustifiably in this city.

They try to use as an example the case of the injured, Officer Matteson, who a year ago shot and killed a Negro while defending himself. However, they gloss over this case very quickly because in examination of the facts of that case show that Matteson used every means possible to apprehend the subject before using his revolver as a last resort to defend himself against possible death or serious injury. The key witness in that case was the deceased Negro's brother, who testified that his brother went at Matteson with a knife—stating he was going to kill Matteson—and that Matteson had even begged the subject to drop the knife—and that Matteson fired only to protect himself.

We are sure that most Negroes were appalled by the cruel, rude and selfish resolution passed by this Black United Front.

This type leadership, who would have been the first to criticize Pvts. Williams and Matteson for NOT taking action, now state that the death and injury are justified. It seems apparent that no matter what action a white policeman takes, that this Black United Front would find grounds to criticize. The Reverend Fauntroy states he doesn't agree with the resolution, but that he is going to remain a member of the organization, so that he may influence its membership. If this is an example of his influence, either he is over-estimating himself or the fact is that he has no influence at all!

Much has been made that white policemen in Chicago and Detroit have been members of the Klu Klux Klan. However, it should be noted that when this affiliation became known, these men were asked to resign or were suspended. This black Klu Klux Klan that has now been formed will no more help the Negro than the white Klu Klux Klan helped the white race.

POLICE WIVES UNITED.