

## **Attica Prisoners' Demands**

*Once the inmates of Attica Prison took over the facility on Thursday, September 9, 1971, a committee of inmates drew up five demands as preconditions to end the takeover. These five demands would be broadened into "15 practical proposals" that would form the basis for the attempted negotiations among the prisoners, the committee of outside observers, state prison officials, and representatives from the governor's office.*

### **The Five Demands**

#### **To the People of America:**

The incident that has erupted here at Attica is not a result of the dastardly bushwhacking of the two prisoners Sept. 8, 1971, but of the unmitigated oppression wrought by the racist administration network of the prison, throughout the year. WE are MEN! We are not beasts and do not intend to be beaten or driven as such. The entire prison populace has set forth to change forever the ruthless brutalization and disregard for the lives of the prisoners here and throughout the United States. What has happened here is but the sound before the fury of those who are oppressed.

We will not compromise on any terms except those that are agreeable to us. We call upon all the conscientious citizens of America to assist us in putting an end to this situation that threatens not only our lives, but each and every citizen as well.

We have set forth demands that will bring closer to reality the demise of these prisons, institutions that serve no useful purpose to the People of America but to those who would enslave and exploit the People of America.

#### **Our Demands Are Such:**

1. We want complete amnesty, meaning freedom from any physical, mental, and legal reprisals.
2. We want now, speedy and safe transportation out of confinement, to a non-imperialistic country.
3. We demand that the FEDERAL GOVERNMENT intervene, so that we will be under direct FEDERAL JURISDICTION.
4. We demand the reconstruction of ATTICA PRISON to be done by inmates and/or inmate supervision.
5. We urgently demand immediate negotiation thru Wm. M. Kunstler, Attorney-at-Law, 588 Ninth Ave., NYC, Assemblyman Arthur O. Eve of Buffalo, the Solidarity Committee, Minister Farrakhan of MUHAMMAD SPEAKS, Palante, The *Young Lords Party Paper*, the Black Panther Party, Clarence Jones of the *Amsterdam News*, Tom Wicker of *NY Times*, Richard Roth of the *Courier Express*, the Fortune Society, David Anderson of the Urban League of Rochester, Blond-Eva Bond of N ICAP, and Jim Ingram of *Democrat Chronicle* of Detroit, Michigan. We guarantee the safe passage of all people to and from this institution. We invite *all the people* to come here and witness this degradation, so that they can better know how to bring this degradation to an end.

—The Inmates of Attica Prison

## **THE 15 PRACTICAL PROPOSALS**

### **Practical Proposals**

1. Apply the New York State minimum wage law to all state institutions. STOP SLAVE LABOR.

2. Allow all New York State prisoners to be politically active, without intimidation or reprisals.
3. Give us true religious freedom.
4. End all censorship of newspapers, magazines, letters, and other publications coming from the publisher.
5. Allow all inmates, at their own expense, to communicate with anyone they please.
6. When an inmate reaches conditional release date, give him a full release without parole.
7. Cease administrative resentencing of inmates returned for parole violations.
8. Institute realistic rehabilitation programs for all inmates according to their offense and personal needs.
9. Educate all correctional officers to the needs of the inmates, i.e., understanding rather than punishment.
10. Give us a healthy diet, stop feeding us so much pork, and give us some fresh fruit daily.
11. Modernize the inmate education system.
12. Give us a doctor that will examine and treat all inmates that request treatment.
13. Have an institutional delegation comprised of one inmate from each company authorized to speak to the institution administration concerning grievances (QUARTERLY).
14. Give us less cell time and more recreation with better recreational equipment and facilities.
15. Remove inside walls, making one open yard, and no more segregation or punishment.

## Student Bill of Rights

*The following Student Bill of Rights, written by former and current Albuquerque Public School students, is in response to APS Superintendent Brad Allison's proposal to arm APS security guards and police officers with shotguns and lasers.*

We spend \$30,000 per prisoner in the state of New Mexico. We spend \$5,000 per student.

1. The right to a culturally diverse education that students from all ethnic backgrounds can relate to and benefit from.
2. The right to be free from searches and seizures of the person and property without probable cause.
3. The right to a clear understanding of all policies, processes, and procedures in Albuquerque Public Schools.
4. The right to refuse questioning, searches, and seizures by any and all security guards and/or Law Enforcement Officers until a parent or guardian and/or lawyer is present.
5. The right to know the distinction between Albuquerque Public Schools security guards/police officers and Albuquerque Police Officers.
6. The right to freedom of speech, assembly, and expression, including symbolic expression such as choice of dress and hairstyle and the display of buttons, posters, and literature, so long as the expression does not endanger the health of students.
7. The right to petition for the redress of grievances by students against school administration, teachers, and any and all law enforcement.
8. The right to freedom from discrimination.
9. The right to due process in every case of disciplinary action for alleged violation of any school rule and/or policy for which the student faces suspension, expulsion, or transfer.

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## The 1972 Gay Rights Platform

*In 1972 the National Coalition of Gay Organizations held its first convention in Chicago and drafted the controversial Gay Rights Platform. The platform, among other items, called for the amendment of the federal Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and public services, to add homosexuals or “sexual orientation” to the list of “protected groups.”*

### **FEDERAL LEVEL:**

1. Amend all federal Civil Rights Acts, other legislation, and government controls to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and public services.
2. Issuance by the president of an executive order prohibiting the military from excluding for reasons of their sexual orientation, persons who of their own volition desire entrance into the Armed Services; and from issuing less-than-fully-honorable discharges for homosexuality; and the upgrading to fully honorable all such discharges previously issued, with retroactive benefits.
3. Issuance by the president of an executive order prohibiting discrimination in the federal civil service because of sexual orientation, in hiring and promoting; and prohibiting discrimination against homosexuals in security clearances.
4. Elimination of tax inequities victimizing single persons and same-sex couples.
5. Elimination of bars to the entry, immigration, and naturalization of homosexual aliens.
6. Federal encouragement and support for sex education courses, prepared and taught by gay women and men, presenting homosexuality as a valid, healthy preference and lifestyle as a viable alternative to heterosexuality.
7. Appropriate executive orders, regulations, and legislation banning the compiling, maintenance, and dissemination of information on an individual’s sexual preferences, behavior, and social and political activities for dossiers and data banks.
8. Federal funding of aid programs for gay men’s and women’s organizations designed to alleviate the problems encountered by gay women and men who are engendered by an oppressive, sexist society.
9. Immediate release of all gay women and men now incarcerated in detention centers, prisons and mental institutions because of sexual offense charges relating to victimless crimes or sexual orientation; and that adequate compensation be made for the physical and mental duress encountered; and that all existing records relating to the incarceration be immediately expunged.

### **STATE LEVEL:**

1. All federal legislation and programs enumerated in Demands 1, 6, 7, 8, and 9 above should be implemented at the state level where applicable.
2. Repeal of all state laws prohibiting private sexual acts involving consenting persons; equalization for homosexuals and heterosexuals for the enforcement of all laws.
3. Repeal all state laws prohibiting solicitation for private voluntary sexual liaisons; and laws prohibiting prostitution, both male and female.
4. Enactment of legislation prohibiting insurance companies and any other state-regulated enterprises from discriminating because of sexual orientation, in insurance and in bonding or any other prerequisite to employment or control of one’s personal demesne.
5. Enactment of legislation so that child custody, adoption, visitation rights, foster parenting, and the like shall not be denied because of sexual orientation or marital status.

6. Repeal of all state laws prohibiting transvestism and cross-dressing.
7. Repeal of all laws governing the age of sexual consent.
8. Repeal of all legislative provisions that restrict the sex or number of persons entering into a marriage unit; and the extension of legal benefits to all persons who cohabit regardless of sex or numbers.

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## American Indian Movement

In November 1972 the American Indian Movement (AIM) brought a caravan of Native Nation representatives to Washington, D.C., to the place where dealings with Indians have taken place since 1849: the U.S. Department of Interior. AIM put a list of 20 claims directly before the President of the United States.

Here are a few of those demands:

1. Restoration of treaty making (ended by Congress in 1871).
2. Indian Leaders to address Congress.
3. Review of treaty commitments and violations.
4. Relief for Native Nations for treaty rights violations.
5. Restoration of 110 million acres of land taken away from Native Nations by the United States.
6. Restoration of terminated rights.
7. Repeal of state jurisdiction over Native Nations.
8. Federal protection for offenses against Indians.
9. Abolishment of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
10. Native Nations to be immune to commerce regulation, taxes, and trade restrictions of states.
11. Indian religious freedom and cultural integrity protected.
12. Establishment of national Indian voting with local options; free national Indian organizations from governmental controls
13. Reclaim and affirm health, housing, employment, economic development, and education for all Indian people.

## **Bloods and Crips Program to Rebuild Los Angeles**

*The Bloods and Crips, notorious L.A. street gangs whose truce began shortly before the L.A. riots, have released a plan for reconstructing their city. The document was apparently produced in under a week. Despite being a remarkable set of demands, their work is, not surprisingly, receiving little publicity. Whatever elements one might like or dislike, there is no denying that the Bloods/Crips program shows an acute awareness of day-to-day needs and expresses a clear view of how to address real problems now.*

### **Proposal for L.A.'s Facelift Burned and Abandoned Structures**

Every burned and abandoned structure shall be gutted. The city will purchase the property, if not already owned by the city, and build a community center. If the structure is on a corner lot or is a vacant lot, the city will build a career counseling center or a recreation area, respectively.

### **Repavement**

All pavements/sidewalks in Los Angeles are in dire need of resurfacing. The Department of Transportation shall pay special attention to the pedestrian walkways and surface streets located in predominantly poor and minority areas. Our organization will assist the city in the identification of all areas of concern.

### **Lighting**

All lighting will be increased in all neighborhoods. Additionally, lighting of city streets, neighborhood blocks, and alleyways will be amended. We want a well-lit neighborhood. All alleys shall be painted white or yellow by the building owners and alley lights will be installed at the cost of the owner.

### **Landscaping**

All trees will be properly trimmed and maintained. We want all weeded/shrubbed areas to be cleaned up and properly nurtured. New trees will be planted to increase the beauty of our neighborhoods.

### **Sanitation**

A special task force shall be assigned to focus on the cleanup of all vacant lots and trashed areas throughout the deprived areas. Proper pest control methods shall be implemented by the city to reduce the changes of rodent scattering. The city will declare a neighborhood cleanup week wherein all residents will be responsible for their block—a block captain will be assigned to ensure cooperation. Residents will clean up the block in unison.

*\$2 billion shall be appropriated for this effort over and above existing appropriations.*

### **Educational Proposal**

1. Maximizing education standards in the low-income areas is essential to reduce the possibilities of repeated insurrection. The Bloods/Crips propose that:
  - a. \$300 million will go into the reconstruction and refurbishment of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) structure;
  - b. \$200 million will be donated for computers, supplies, and updated books (each student shall have the necessary books);
  - c. All teachers' salaries shall be no less than \$30,000 a year to give them an incentive to educate in our districts; and
  - d. Re-election shall be held for all L.A. Board of Education members.

2. Reconstruction shall include repainting, sandblasting, and reconstruction of all LAUSD schools, remodeling of classrooms, repainting of hallways and meeting areas; all schools shall have new landscaping and more plants and trees around the schools; completely upgrade the bathrooms, making them more modern; provide a bathroom monitor to each bathroom which will provide freshen-up toiletries at a minimum cost to the students (the selling of toiletries will support the salary of the bathroom monitor).
3. A provision for accelerated educational learning programs shall be implemented for the entire LAUSD to provide aggressive teaching methods and provide a curriculum similar to non-economically deprived areas. Tutoring for all subjects will be made available to all students after normal school hours. It will be mandatory for all students with sub-level grades to participate.

In these after-school tutorial programs, those students whose grades are up to par will receive federally funded bonus bonds, which will be applied to their continued education upon graduation from high school. They will also receive bonus bonds for extra scholastic work towards assisting their fellow students. All institutions shall maintain a second shift of substitute teachers in the schools to enforce educational excellence.

Special financial bonuses shall be given to students who focus on education beyond the school's requirement in the areas of applied math and sciences. High achievers in these areas shall be granted a free trip to another country for educational exchange. Fifty students from each school will be granted this opportunity each year for an indefinite period.

4. The LAUSD will provide up-to-date books to the neglected areas and enough books to ensure that no student has to share a book with another. Supplies shall be made plentiful and school-sponsored financial programs shall be instituted in order to maintain equipment and supplies for the institution after first donation.
5. LAUSD will remove all teachers not planning to further their education along with teachers who have not proven to have a passionate concern for the students that they serve. All teachers shall be given a standard competency test to verify they are up-to-date with subjects and modern teaching methods. Psychological testing will also be required for all teachers and educational administrators, including the Los Angeles School Board, every four years.
6. All curriculums shall focus on the basics in high school requirements and it shall be inundated with advanced sciences and additional applied math, English, and writing skills.
7. Bussing shall become non-existent in our communities if all of the demands are met.  
*\$700 million shall be appropriated for these programs over and above existing appropriations.*

## **Human Welfare Proposal**

### **Hospitals and Health Care Centers**

Federal government shall provide the deprived areas with three new hospitals and 40 additional health care centers. Dental clinics shall be made available within ten miles of each community. The services shall be free and supported by federal and state funds.

### **Welfare**

We demand that welfare be completely removed from our community and these welfare programs be replaced by state work and product manufacturing plants that provide the city with certain supplies. State moneys shall only be provided for invalids and the elderly. The State of California shall provide a child welfare building to serve as day care centers for single parents. We would like to encourage all manufacturing companies to vigorously hire



these low-income recipients and the state and federal governments shall commit to expand their institutions to provide work for these former welfare recipients.

### **Parks and Recreation**

Los Angeles parks shall receive a complete facelift and develop activities and programs in the parks throughout the night. Stages, pools, and courts shall be reconstructed and resurfaced, and the city shall provide highly visible security 24 hours a day for these parks and recreational centers. Programs at the park shall be in accordance with educational programs and social exchange programs developed by the city for adults and young adults.

*\$7 billion dollars shall be appropriated for this program over and above existing appropriations.*

### **Law Enforcement Proposal**

The Los Angeles communities are demanding that they are policed and patrolled by individuals who live in the community and the commanding officers be ten-year residents of the community in which they serve. Former gang members shall be given a chance to be patrol buddies in assisting in the protection of the neighborhoods. These former gang members will be required to go through police training and must comply with all of the laws instituted by our established authorities. Uniforms will be issued to each and every member of the “buddy system;” however, no weapons will be issued. All patrol units must have a buddy patrol notified and present in the event of a police matter. Each buddy patrol will be supplied with a video camera and will tape each event and the officers handling the police matter. The buddy patrol will not interfere with any police matter unless instructed by a commanding officer. Each buddy patrol will also be supplied with a vehicle.

*\$6 million shall be appropriated for this program over and above existing appropriations.*

### **Economic Development Proposal**

Loans shall be made available by the federal and state governments to provide minority entrepreneurs interested in doing business in these deprived areas. The loan requirements shall not be so stringent that it will make it impossible for a businessman to acquire these loans. These loans shall not exceed a four percent interest-bearing charge per year. The businessperson shall not be required to have security for the loan; however, the businessman must present at least two years of business operation and taxes, with a city license before funds will be allocated. The owner must have either an established business desiring to expand or a sound business plan.

Assistance for business plans shall be made available to these businesspeople by the Small Business Administration. Additionally, the Small Business Administration will provide agents to help each business to develop a sound business plan from beginning to end. No one will be neglected in receiving adequate assistance. These business owners shall be required to hire 90 percent of their personnel from within the community and the moneys shall not be [distributed in a lump sum]. Funds will be released in increments outlined by the business plan. Any businessman that doesn't conform to the hiring practices will have funding ceased until they conform.

*\$20 million shall be appropriated for this program over and above existing appropriations.*

In return for these demands, the Bloods/Crips will:

1. Request the drug lords of Los Angeles take their moneys and invest them in business and property in Los Angeles.

2. Encourage these drug lords to stop the drug traffic and get them to use the money constructively. We will match the funds of the state government appropriations and build building-for-building.
3. Additionally, we will match funds for an AIDS research and awareness center in South Central and Long Beach that will only hire minority researchers and physicians to assist in the AIDS epidemic.

## **Conclusion**

*Meet these demands and the targeting of police officers will stop.*

You have 72 hours for a response and a commitment, in writing, to support these demands. Additionally, you have 30 days to begin implementation.

And finally, you have four years to complete the projects of construction of the major hospitals and restorations.

**GIVE US THE HAMMER AND THE NAILS, AND WE WILL REBUILD THE CITY.**

# **Disability Rights Movement Demands**

## **Accessibility**

### **Architectural Accessibility**

People with impairments demand the right to get into public, commercial, or governmental buildings, to travel freely within those buildings, and to know where they are traveling within those buildings. A wheelchair user must be able to go into offices, bathrooms, bathroom stalls, and into all other areas in order to have a level of access equal to that of a person who does not use a wheelchair. Height of appurtenances such as countertops in a reception area; faucets, sinks, and towel dispensers in a bathroom; or switches or desks in a work area is a factor that affects the accessibility of inside areas for wheelchair users. Braille signs or auditory indicators on items such as bulletin boards, elevator floor indicators, and office labels are needed to give blind people the same information available to sighted people. In an accessible building, people with impairments have the same ability to move around as do people without impairments.

### **Transportation Accessibility**

People with impairments also demand the ability to use public transportation systems on the same basis as people without impairments. Transportation accessibility has to do not with where people sit on a bus but with whether they can get on the bus at all. In addition, accessibility means that there is room inside the vehicle for the person and the wheelchair. Completely accessible transportation would permit people with impairments to go to the same places, on the same schedules, with the same number of choices of times and routes, and with prices that are not higher than those charged to people without impairments.

If transportation systems are to be accessible to people who have visual or hearing impairments, information about times and places of arrivals and departures, announcements of upcoming stations, schedule changes, equipment changes or breakdowns, or emergencies must be presented both visually and aurally. Communications using TDDs must be possible with ticket agents, and recorded announcements must be made available for TDD callers as well as for voice callers.

### **Communications Accessibility**

People who have hearing or speech impairments demand communications accessibility, which permits people who have hearing or speech impairments to be able to express themselves in the manner they choose with the assurance that they can be understood. Communications accessibility requires both proximal and distal accessibility.

In a workplace, complete and ideal communications accessibility would mean that all work-, safety-, and personnel-related information would be communicated through a modality that the worker with an impairment could understand. All personnel, including coworkers and supervisors, would be able to communicate with, and to understand the communications of, the worker who has a hearing or speech impairment.

Communications accessibility in education would involve the ability for instructors and other students to be able to communicate with, and understand, students with hearing or speech impairments. In addition, extracurricular activities, dorms, advising offices, and all other aspects of student life would be equally accessible to students with or without impairments.

### **Environmental Accessibility**

People with impairments are demanding that all aspects of the built environment external to buildings be made accessible to them. They are also demanding accessibility in parks

and recreation areas that are built with public money. In some places they are demanding that paths be paved so that wheelchairs can move over them more easily or so that blind people can walk there more easily.

### **Equal Opportunity**

The demand for equal opportunity as one component of civil rights for people with impairments does not differ markedly from demands made by blacks or women in their pursuit of civil rights. Equal opportunity means that people are not held back by characteristics such as race, sex, or impairment status in their pursuit of the good life. Some disability advocates call this the demand for “a level playing field.” Equal opportunities for people with impairments include access to work and education.

### **Work**

People with impairments are demanding equal opportunities in the area of work. These demands apply to people who are already working, who are looking for work, or who want to look for work. In these situations, equal opportunity means nondiscrimination. Using the same language and conceptions as blacks or women, people with impairments demand that there be no discrimination based upon impairment status in advertising, hiring, promoting, firing, or any other aspect of employment. The notion behind this language when it was first applied to blacks and women was that people with equal qualifications should be treated the same rather than being treated differently, based upon their race or gender. People with impairments demand that such nondiscriminatory policies apply to them as well.

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