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September 9, 1972

STATEMENT FOR D.C. BLACKS VISITING SHRIVER FAMILY HOME

We came here to visit the Shriver family home today to take a first hand look at Sargent Shriver's commitment to racial equality. What we have discovered should be of great interest to black people across this country.

It turns out that Mr. Shriver comes from a family of slaveholders in Maryland whose success in America came from the forced labor of black slaves. We first read about this in the Washington Post, but we had to see it to believe it. The Post said of Mr. Shriver's ancestors: "It was a life of luxury, for the Shrivvers, if not American aristocrats, were country gentlemen and ladies."

One of the things here we saw at the Shriver home was the kitchen, and in that kitchen are a series of bells that were used to summon the slaves and indentured servants. Also of great interest on our sightseeing trip was one of the mementos on the walls. There is a handbill printed in 1809 by David Shriver which offered the sum of \$30 for the return of a runaway slave.

What concerns us most is the fact that Mr. Shriver is apparently proud of his slaveholding ancestry. Mr. Shriver visited the deep South on August 23 and speaking in Louisiana, Sargent Shriver boasted

that of eight forebears of military age during the Civil War, six had served on Dixie's side and two had stayed home. And here are Mr. Shriver's own words: "but none of them fought on the other side (meaning the North)."

Now, we just put two and two together. Shriver goes to the South and brags about his ancestors who fought against freedom for blacks and then we come here to his family home and find that there is ample evidence of his slaveholding past. And today, of course, Mr. Shriver himself lives an aristocratic life, and we only wonder whether he is proud that his wealth today was the direct product of the sweat and toil of slaves against whose freedom he proudly notes his family fought against.

Tuesday, August 29, should have been a Day of Revelation for the hundres of thousands of black people who put their fiath in the candidacy of George McGovern.

On that day, under political pressure, Mr. McGovern -- the so-called Paririe Radical of the primaries -- marched off, hat-in-hand, to New York to make his peace with Wall Street. To soothe Wall Street, to save the old plantation, McGovern sold his balck supporters down the river.

The \$6500 guaranteed annual income, for which George Wiley and the National Welfare Rights Organization have fought for years is also the center piece of the Black Caucus' program in the Congress. Before the convention, McGovern had introduced it into the Senate with the cry "\$6500 or Fight;" he had embraced it by endorsing "in toto" the Black Caucus program; he has endorsed it again when he supported the resolutions of the Gary Convention. But that was in the primaries, when McGovern desperately needed black votes.

Last Tuesday, Mr. McGovern decided his own black supporters were in the bag; that they "had nowhere else to go." So the Great White Hope of Brothers Fauntroy, Clay and Wiley went to New York -- and to the applause of the Wall Street Fat Cats -- chopped \$2500 out of the guaranteed income he had committed himself to in the Black Caucus program, and on the floor of the Senate.

Why are Brothers Clay, Fauntroy and Wiley so silent now? Is it because their \$6500 program was jettisoned for the applause of Wall Street bankers? Is it because their Great White Hope who promised tax reform to help the poor promised the Wall Street fat cats he would make Mr. Loophold himself, Wilbur Mills, Secretary of the Treasury in a McGovern Administration?

Is it because McGovern -- who said he was more pro-civil rights than Kennedy or Humphrey or Johnson -- promised the top financial job in the U. S. Cabinet to a Congressman whose voting record is indistinguishable from that of Jim Eastland? Why are Brothers Fauntroy, Wiley and Clay so silent now?

The answer is because their presidential candidate sold them down the river for a pat on the head from Big Business.

And where is their Vice Presidential candidate? Last week, Shriver was down in Louisiana telling a white audience he was proud that all of his slave-holding ancestors had fought with the Slave States -- and proud that none of them had fought with the Union. If Brothers Clay and Fauntroy and Wiley are a little sheepish today, well, that's understandable.

But they've got a plate of crow and humble pie to eat this morning.

Black Americans who believe in jobs rather than welfare; who want a piece of the action, not a part of the dole, who want a political leader, who does not promise more than he can deliver, do have somewhere to go.

They can get off the ditched bandwagon of George McGovern and get behind the New Majority of the President of the United States, Richard Nixon.