

they are soon thrown back on the streets, to live by their wits. Many end up stealing from even their own families or selling drugs to other youth, thus making a "living" by destroying the lives of others.

Drugs and the use of drugs are a big reason for crime, but not the basic cause. The very nature of crime is changing as the capitalist system declines. Today, unlike the Depression of the 30s, when someone robs a house, he doesn't raid the refrigerator or rush off to buy food with the stolen money. Crime itself has become a way of life. The only consideration is "fast money" - no matter how you get it. From junkies to pimps, people use the excuse that black people must "do their own thing" to "survive" in "the man's" system, justifying the worst kind of crimes in the name of the black struggle.

Having failed to give programmatic direction and revolutionary leadership in struggles to resolve the real grievances of black people, most Black Power militants and radicals make excuses for crime in our communities. Some groups view the crimes of blacks against blacks as caused by external factors only, blaming the system for all crimes, ignoring the real concern among blacks about crime, talking only about "survival" from inevitable genocide. Others are jubilant that blacks have become militant or are afraid to question the widespread anti-social behavior of blacks, deluding themselves that by putting a political face on this behavior, they will "psyche" the system into taking the responsibility for providing jobs, better homes and schools, recreation and other reforms. Still others say that since the system is so bad, only a revolution can change things - and meanwhile "there is nothing we can do."

WE CAN'T DEPEND ON THE SYSTEM!

We know that the system has systematically oppressed us from the day that the first slave ship landed in Africa. We know that racism has been the ideology by which capitalism justified killing off the Indians and enslaving blacks. We know that the racist-capitalist system has degraded us for 400 years, robbing us of the fruits of our labors, depriving us of education, lynching us in the name of Christian virtues, rendering us powerless and now more and more useless --except to buy the fancy junk that pours off its production lines.

We recognize that the system causes crime and even flourishes on crime, using crime to make more jobs for social workers, wardens, jailers, policemen, probation officers, counselors, judges, lawyers. But we will not accept crime because the system accepts it. We know that the system fosters crime. THAT IS WHY WE CANNOT DEPEND ON THE SYSTEM TO STOP IT.