

- It is the CRC and black Detroiters who are sort of pursuing those coalitions in order to bring about a sense of race progress and race advancement particularly along economic lines
- [The civil rights struggle was largely local]
- The NNC (the National Negro Congress) is started in 1935. It is a communist organization. It is a successor of an organization.
- You had the league struggle for Negro rights which was started in 1930.
  - They attack Jim Crow, they also attack lynching. By 1930 that organization is revised.
  - By 1935 it becomes the National Negro Congress.
- The population of Detroit increases significantly from 1910 to 1930 [as I said before]
- In 1922 you have roughly 3000 Detroiters who identify as members of the KKK
- Stop the robberies, enjoy safe streets
- What Boyle says, in 1925 55 African-Americans were shot by police
- Black Bottom - 90% of these businesses are black-owned.
  - If you are a historian or graduate student
    - One thing to explore is what eminent domain does to the construction of a black metropolis.
- This process of urban renewal
- African-Americans are trying to integrate themselves into mainstream society; by the 1930s they pursue a different strategy. That strategy is impelled by their confinement. But they seek answers from within. They aren't relying on the New Deal but they are relying on their own internal strategies of resistance.
- They begin to actually pursue what might appear to be a black metropolis, an independent community where it could certainly have refuge from white racism.
- Argument that Black Bottom gets its name from the richness of the soil.
  - You don't become Black Belt... [if there is not some racial connotation]
- It's no mistake that those communities are attacked because they are affluent black communities

- o Black Bottom, Black Belt, those are working-class black communities that find a way to last for 20, 30, 40 years... only to be completely dismantled and done away with because of eminent domain
- Blacks rely on themselves only to have their efforts completely undermined
  - o The existing racial order is being reinforced, it is being remade
    - Even when African-Americans are not trying to depend on white support in order to improve their own conditions
- Chapters 6 and 7:
  - o You would think that Ossian Sweet has an opportunity - you don't see the same kind of monetary support coming from Ossian Sweet. The question is why? We asked the question of why certain individuals have to be race representatives. In this case we're talking about the person who has been most affected by the racism / discrimination itself and he is choosing not to in any way support Frank Murphy or support any kind of coalition building.
  - o It's almost as if Ossian Sweet sees it on a totally individual basis - it's not I was discriminated against as black man trying to pursue housing - it's I was Ossian Sweet, I moved into this neighborhood, there was resistance, a mob showed up and [someone got shot]... that was it.
  - o And so Ward is in essence turning his back on the kind of support that he got from groups like the CRC
  - o And so Ossian Sweet is not pushing African-Americans into [dirty conditions like Ward did] but he is turning his back on [people] who gave him support
  - o How does that allow the freedom struggle to be undermined?
- Chapter 5 - Bose gets elected - remember, Charles Bose is the KKK's candidate
  - o Let's remember that Bose has multiple opportunities to become mayor of Detroit - the first time his name is misspelled so you have to throw out [15000] ballots which allows the Democratic candidate to win. [On the third run ...] allows him to be elected.
  - o Detroit was willing to elect someone who was a KKK sympathizer. We are imagining this world of white racial liberals who fall short of doing enough to eradicate racial

discrimination but it is also that kind of sympathy that white Detroiters are willing to show for the most racist ideologies that allow someone like Bose to get elected.

- o Certainly you write, Bose is trying to navigate the depression, I mentioned to you the other day that Ford lost a ton of money 125 million was actually during that period of 19[21] to 1933.
- Chapter 6
- Closed-shop union representation the 1941 labor battle results in a closed-shop for the first time
- So it becomes open to unions but it becomes closed in terms of how those jobs are assigned
- I'll preview a hint to Ward. One of the things I addressed in the article is that Ward allows Don Marshall and others to engage in the selling of jobs. Workers could exploit Ford. Ford wants his workers to buy cars. So this is Elizabeth Coin's work on the Republic - we go from being a producer-citizen society to a consumer-citizen society. In the 1920s workers just work they produce and don't get to enjoy. In the 1920s we get a shift - it was a movement toward welfare capitalism - you work and you get to buy something too.
- In order to then allow for you - to prevent you from getting terminated you utilize the fact that you're still using this car to pay off the installment plan, I can't get rid of you, that provides protection in the Depression years.
  - o African-Americans don't have those same resources
  - o What dealerships are doing, how Don Marshall is greasing his pockets
    - That dealer would then say, I'm going to send these workers to a particular plant - Don Marshall'll give you some kickback
    - Those workers have to work until they pay it off
    - You worked, you got sick you died. Okay, now your children are working at the Ford Motor Company. And that went on throughout the 19, throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- I sat with a gentleman who was 55 years old, who started working at the Ford Motor Company when he was 17 years old. What Henry Ford is, is he is very anti-intellectual. Henry Ford doesn't want skilled workers - he's paying you well and this continues throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century but he does so by exploiting a very vulnerable class. What Henry Ford does not allow for. Why does

industrialization not destabilize the entire ... rust belt?  
[Because it did not create a work force that possesses other capacities].

- o And he's crying, he said other than going through night school to get his college degree while he was at the Ford Motor Company he said I have really not been a student for over 30 some odd years, and I'm sort of trying to think back to what it is to be a student to get a job, because the Ford Motor company has given me a severance, and those severance, I think he said he got 150,000 dollars.
- o But point here is, what the Ford Motor Company did is force them to become dependent, and their families were dependent. And there were people who expressed outrage, that system of welfare capitalism...
- o When you put people in a system where they are forced allegiance you also create a system where now I own you forever. You die, your son now works for the Ford Motor Company. He's working off that debt. At the same time we're creating new
- African-Americans - would you say they are politically conscious when they arrive in Detroit?
- Broader pursuit of racial justice across the country
- They're internationalizing their efforts, they're uniting with the communist party. Bates at times would say yes there are some Communist affiliations but it wasn't as robust
  - o But it was. They're trying to build a broad-base coalition and African-Americans are willing to sign up.
- There's a certain political consciousness that African-Americans exercise and bring with them to the North.
- What they know is that they've been rebuffed by mainstream society, by the dominant culture, by white racism and so they are going to buy black. By virtue of buying black they are engaging in economic black nationalism but they are not being intentional about it.
  - o (The Communist Party) is
  - o I wanna make clear that not every African-American is subscribing to Communist beliefs but a lot of the networks that are being established are Communist-affiliated.
- The [NAACP] is doing something that the Black Panther party does, especially in the 1960s, which is turn their attention to the lumpenproletariat, the forgotten. Those individuals who are least, last, lost, those are the individuals who are catching

hell. Every other group that precedes them is trying to remind them of the need to improve their appearance and their behavior.

- [On the Scottsboro case in which the Communist Party excluded the NAACP from participation], I actually don't blame the Communist Party at all.
  - Every group has an agenda, who's going to answer the call and [say they are fighting against racism]?
- Chapter 8
  - What Rene just said... Bates is trying to explain how African-Americans are becoming radicalized inside of Detroit
  - She says it occurs in three stages - first the civic rights commission strengthens its hold in Detroit
    - It becomes the organization by which African-Americans are sort of coalescing with in order to pursue their interest
  - One thing I did not say about the CRC that Bates mentions is naming of civic rights as opposed to civil rights
    - The word civic is pivotal to understand because it highlights the way that organization is [critical]
      - The private sector can do what it wants to do, the State can not
      - That becomes a pivotal part of what Shockley claims, 152-153
        - Where Sweetey Hall says something along the lines of "I am a citizen, black people fighting world war 2 therefore I should be provided with these opportunities".
        - It's recognition of "here I am as a citizen, I'm allied with you"
- So the CRC recognizes this, they strengthen their position within the community
  - The New Negro Congress reaches out to UWCIO
    - Building an alliance with that labor group
    - The UAW actually begins to court African-Americans, particularly black workers. That's pivotal.
- The other thing I'll say to you all as it pertains to this is that there's a certain way in which Bates is dismissive of ways in which black workers are still showing an allegiance to Ford,

the ways in which black ministers are still showing allegiance to Ford - [she says it couldn't be this because pegs and grigsby are still showing allegiance to the crc]

- Morehouse never had a president from Howard university
- Mordecai White Johnson comes to Detroit, Peck allows him to come.
  - When Peck allows Mordecai Why Johnson to come into his pulpit
    - They fire all those workers - we talked about the church-company alliance.
    - Every single Ford Worker at Beck and ME is fired.
    - Ford's influence over the Wayne county leadership is what left most of the African-American community pro-Ford.
- So even the NAACP which is kind of conservative is catching hell
- Marshall retaliated by firing workers in punishment for Peck's betrayal of Ford
- Harvus White, when she says he calls out who owns the black church, that's because peck and gradby are playing both sides of the fence