

ANGRY AND NOT AFRAID: A BLACK MAN'S ANSWER TO RACISM By Einstein Pluto

In my “Angry Man” blog post *Lynching: Living and Dying In America* on June 23, 2020 I posed the question – What are you prepared to do? In it I stated that I would give you my answer to this question over the coming weeks and months. Consider this an opening statement in response to the question.

My name is Einstein Pluto. I am a Black man born and reared on the streets of Baltimore City, Maryland. I have worked my entire adult life buying into the American dream. I look out now after following all the rules – study and work hard, keep your head down, you must make white people comfortable with you, you must engage white people in a way that allows them not to feel threatened by you – and I find that the institutional racism, terrorizing tactics of police and the citizenry persist. I am sick of what I am hearing and seeing as it relates to Black people and our life's journey in America. To be frank, blunt and profane: I am sick of this shit!

All the facts are known. Actually, none are in dispute. The skill, creative expertise, and intellectual power of Nicole Hannah Jones, Ava DuVernay, William Darity and others before them have told the story of the collective Black experience in America as well as what America owes to the descendants of the slaves brought to this country. Yet and still, America has not engaged us to provide reconciliation and redress for its 400 plus years of oppression and subjugation.

Now is the time to take offensive action using the considerable creative technical expertise (engineering, computer science, chemistry, and psychology) that is present in the Black community and African-Americans wherever they reside. We must organize, develop, and implement a strategic system to put pressure on those that must ultimately sign-off on the money needed to provide reparations to African Americans. This includes corporate, monied, and political interests that are behind the power systems we seek to dismantle and “reimagine”. There must be an action arm to the movement whose sole purpose is to take targeted, specific civil disobedient actions that disrupt the economic/business life of America. History has no cultural examples where the oppressor has voluntarily stopped the oppressive system and compensated those being oppressed without being forced to do so.

I challenge all the descendants of slaves in America born between 1960 and 1980 to share the intellectual property that you have to help facilitate the acts of civil disobedience. It's time to step up and do your part. The young people have taken to the streets via Black Lives Matter (BLM) and other grass roots organizations to shine the light on the brutality that we experience each day at the hands of state and local agents – the police. They have demonstrated a level of energy and intelligence we have not seen in our community in decades. We cannot stand by and allow them to risk their lives marching and protesting during a global pandemic while we look on and applaud. Reparations will be the critical step to complete reconciliation for the slavery and oppression we have endured. I believe there are a great number of Black people – men and women – that take this position and see the need to do more than participate in organized demonstrations.

Truth is, marching peacefully in hundreds of cities alone will not get it done. We must negatively impact the commerce of the largest corporations through targeted civil disobedient actions to get an agreement on reparations.

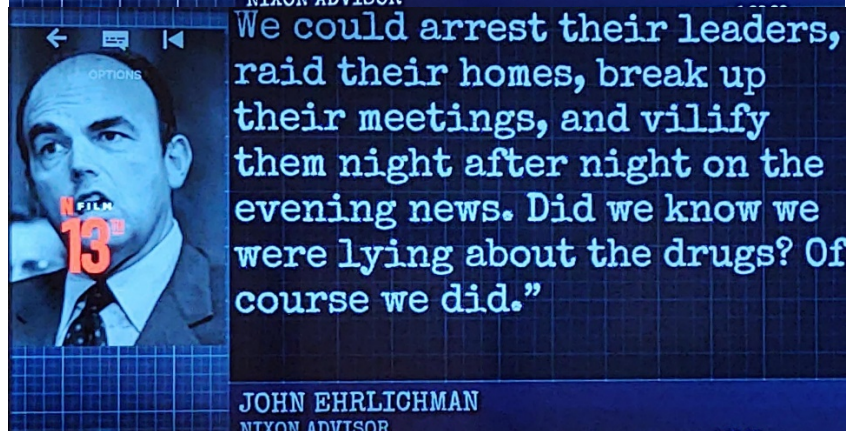
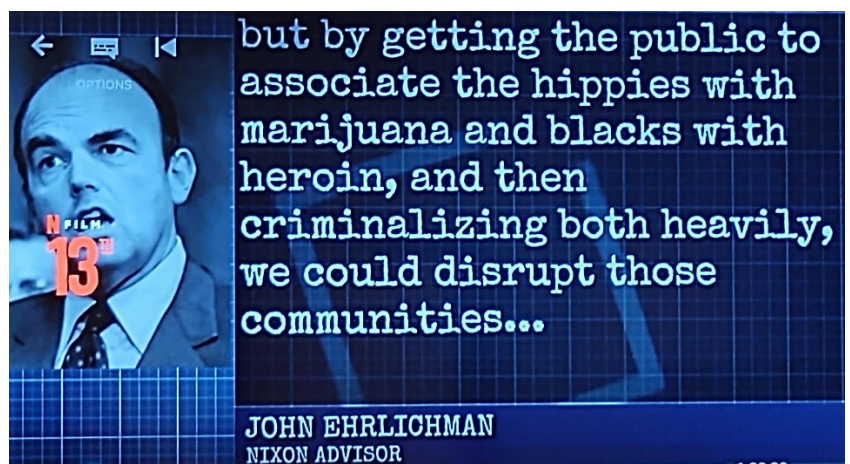
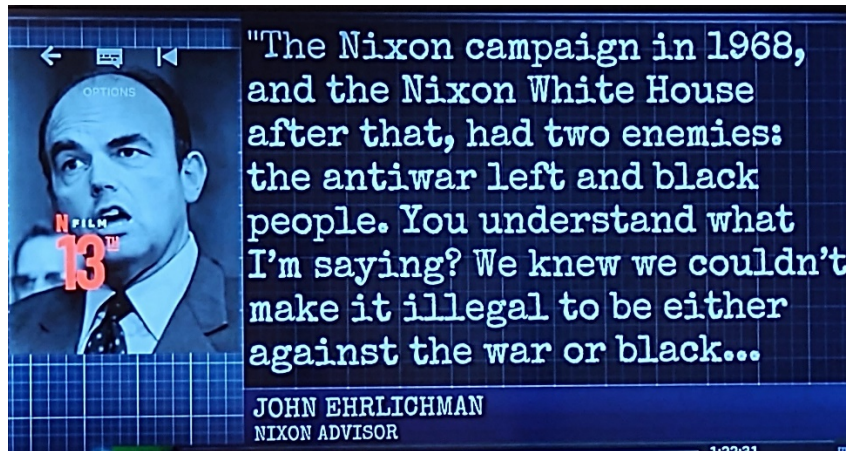
Forty Acres and a Mule in the 21st Century*

William Darity, Jr., *Duke University*

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William Darity, Jr., in his article *Forty Acres and a Mule in the 21st Century* (Social Science Quarterly, Feb 2008) presents a framework for determining the amount of money that is owed. His framework is based upon the full complement of the formal regime of apartheid imposed on Blacks in the United State. This includes: a dual system of education, lynching and loss of property via land seizures by night riding white terrorists, the literal annihilation of prosperous Black communities, and the denial of Black citizens their right to vote and participate in the political process. Darity has recently released a new book “From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century”, in which he details his economic argument and the projected costs of reparations. Bottom line, each Black person descended from slaves would get a direct payment of around \$800,000 or 6 to 10 trillion dollars in aggregate. Based on previous dialogue and the lack of even a discussion in congress it is fair to say America will not pay this money voluntarily. We must be willing to fight and die to see that reparations are paid. Until we can demonstrate that this is the case, the current cultural and governmental systems of America will never pay reparation.

Ava DuVernay, in her movie “13th”, provides a snapshot of how the system of racism has emanated from the office of the presidency. This has been repeated for successive generations over the entire history of slavery, post-civil war, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, the civil rights era, and into the twenty-first century. One version of this scheme was conceived in the Nixon Whitehouse. Here’s a quote from her film by John Ehrlichman, one of Nixon’s political advisors at the time.



The playbook of the American government is the same, though it manifest differently depending on which generation: Discredit the enemy first and then prosecute and/or persecute the leaders. With the ultimate result being to destroy the movement and continue the systemic oppression of the Black community writ large.

DuVernay was also able to demonstrate one way that corporate America manipulates governmental systems, Federal and State, to continue to facilitate systemic racism. The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is a nonprofit organization that provides a forum for

business representatives to interact with law makers to develop model bills that support their economic interests. Corrections Corporation of America (currently rebranding themselves as Core Civic) is exposed in her movie as one of the greatest corporate profiteers of the prison industrial complex and mass incarceration. As a member of ALEC, the Corrections Corporation of America was able to provide lawmakers templates of Bills that they could use to introduce to legislation to ensure its services would be needed for years to come. She was able to document many specifics that demonstrated how large corporations profited from the cultural labeling of Black men as criminals and their subsequent incarceration.

I am prepared to help organize, develop, and implement a strategic system whose sole purpose is to take targeted, specific civil disobedient actions that disrupt the economic/business life of America. If past actions are any indication of what the reaction will be to this type of offensive action, death at the hands of police, federal agents or white terrorist is a possible outcome. I am prepared to be attacked, discredited, and die to ensure that reparations are paid to every person descended from slaves in America.

What are you prepared to do? Are you willing to help develop an action team in your geographical region of America? Are you willing to use your knowledge of corporate structure, resources and locations to facilitate actions of civil disobedience? Are you willing to use your technical knowledge and skill to help organize, develop and/or implement a tactical system?

I will be traveling across America working on the Black Bottom Project. The goal of this project is to collect and broadcast the defining stories of Black people. Everyone has an experience that in some way has shaped their core being. These intensely personal stories, told in your own words and filmed by me will become part of the upcoming Boom Publishing and Broadcasting YouTube channel. Our goal is collect one thousand 3 to 8 minute stories told by ordinary Black people about a defining moment in their lives uniquely specific to America.

Contact me if you want to tell your personal story or discuss what you are prepared to do to change the experience of Black people by attaining reparations.

Please include:

Your Name

Your City & State

Your Barber Shop or Hair Salon (include name and address)

Whether you want to tell your personal story, discuss reparations, or both

Contact me at: einstein.pluto@gmail.com

Collectively, we are some of the most resilient and hearty people on the planet. We are truly the masters of improvisation. This is an artform we carry in our blood. It is demonstrated most readily in the performance of music – singing, hip-hop, and jazz. We are masters at performing the same song, rap and music each day and improvising such that no two performances are identical. We apply the same gift when creating computer code and engineering solutions to technical problems. The challenge of securing reparations is significant. To be successful we will need to employ our creative gifts of improvisation to defeat this existential threat.