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Prof. Cripps

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Quotation:

**Hunter:** “Oh, we were marching, trying to open up the bank, to put a man in the bank or woman in the bank or somebody in the bank. We were trying to open up the stores, trying to open up the restrooms. They wouldn’t allow us to drink out of the fountains. Eating places, we couldn’t go in there. Couldn’t ride the bus…Then they found out I’m president and they wanted somebody they could pick on because mist of the black folks was working for the white man and they didn’t want to do nothing to damage the white man.”

Comment:

This quote from Hall comes after he mentions that he joined the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) in order to fight the intense racism that was held through much of the given white community. He became the president of his local chapter (in Sylvester) and in doing so, became a target; a black person the white people could harass and blame. Hall states that because black people were so segregated, separated from the “white” world, they had to march and protest for their rights (as we know, hence the entirety of the civil rights movement). However, what I found most compelling about what Hall said in the aforementioned quote was that they picked on him (specifically, targeting and killing his cows, shooting his hogs, burned his crosses and putting a bomb in his mailbox) because he was the president and because many of the other people involved with the NAACP were working for other white men. Though this is not necessary surprising given what I have learned and what I know about the south during the Jim Crow era, it does illustrate the unequal distributions of power and how trying to overcome and protest such power can have initial adverse consequences for the leaders. Not only that, but Hall continues on to say that though he would frequently get arrested “the NAACP…had a way of getting them out of jail.” More specifically, they had money from people in cities like New York and Atlanta who could fund the bail money. However, I think this also brings about an interesting aspect of power as it seems that often (though obviously to some degree race had something to do with it) money has significant power.

Question:

Thus, when thinking about current issues, it comes to mind that perhaps if some of the societal and environmental problems this country faced were able to receive finding they would have more chance to change the current situation. Do you think that this is true and that to what extent does money mean power?