

Room 56-423

April 9, 1968

The Boston Globe
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Boston, Massachusetts

To the Editor:

I want to congratulate you on your editorial "Black Self-Policing" (April 9) and to comment on the 21 demands presented by Roxbury's United Front.

At first sight, these demands may strike even liberal white people as excessive and Utopian. Yet, careful thought has led me to see their soundness, cogency, and urgency. Two reasons for this must be understood.

First, "normal" progressive steps have proved futile in effecting the fulfillment of black Americans, and radical steps are the only remaining hope for success without going through an ordeal by fire.

Second, American society must make up NOW, in institutional autonomy and economic contribution, a part of the institutional and economic property which it has taken for centuries from its black sector. This is no charity, no benevolent concession: it must be seen as a start of restitution.

Note that the \$100,000,000 requested by the United Front for Roxbury is what the United States spends each day in Vietnam.

Sincerely yours,

sel/na

S. E. Luria
(Sedgwick Professor of Biology)