

FREE SPEECH MOVEMENT TIMELINE

Berkeley, California

1964-1965

September

14: Dean of Students Katherine Towle sends a letter banning tables from the Bancroft strip

30: SNCC and CORE students are suspended for tabling; 500 people sit in at Sproul Hall

October

1-2: Jack Weinberg (CORE) is arrested; students surround the police car; Mario Savio speaks; more than 7,000 rally until an agreement at 7:30pm the next day

3-5: Students organize to create the Free Speech Movement

November

7: The administration opposes campus political advocacy; will discipline offenders

9: Students table on Sproul Plaza during negotiations of the committee on political activity

20: Regents meet; probation for Savio and Goldberg; "illegal advocacy" will still be punished

20: Following the meeting, 3,000 students rally to demand full free speech on campus

23: Rally with intra-FSM debate as well as a statement by Vice-Chancellor Seary; Sproul sit-in

24: Academic Senate meeting defeats a motion to limit regulation of political activity

28: Mario Savio and others receive letters stating they may be expelled

December

2-4: Savio speaks at Sproul Hall: "You've got to put your bodies upon the gears"; Sproul hall is occupied by 800 students; police intervene and over 800 people are arrested

3: General strike led by the Teaching Assistants; picketing on Sproul Plaza

5: Department chairmen create a proposal meeting some of FSM demands; Kerr agrees

7: 16,000 assemble in the Greek Theatre to hear the agreement; amnesty for offenders

8: Academic Senate vote: the University may regulate only time, place, and manner of political activity, with no restrictions on content of speech

Jan

2: Chancellor Strong is replaced by Martin Meyerson as Acting Chancellor

3: Meyerson address: Sproul Hall steps and Sproul Plaza are open for tables and discussion

BLACK PANTHER PARTY

Relevant dates for California activities

February 1965: Malcolm X is assassinated

August 1965: Watts riots in Los Angeles; Martin Luther King, Jr. speaks

1966: Black Panther Party for Self-Defense founded by Bobby Seale and Huey P. Newton; begin armed citizens' patrols to monitor police brutality in Oakland, CA

May 2, 1967: BPP protest at the California State Assembly

May 15, 1967: Ten-Point program published

July 1967: Mulford Bill passes in CA, outlawing open carry; BPP patrols end overnight

Fall 1967: Huey P. Newton arrested in death of Officer Frey

July 1968: Newton tried; 5,000 demonstrators and 450 Black Panthers outside the trial; increased visibility means increased FBI surveillance and harassment through COINTELPRO

Late 1968: Survival Programs including Breakfast for Children become key part of BPP strategy

May 1969: Three members of the New Haven chapter torture and murder Alex Rackley, a suspected informant. BPP supporters suspected a participant, George Sams, of being an FBI agent provocateur. Bobby Seale is indicted and imprisoned.

Dec. 4, 1969: Fred Hampton killed by Chicago Police

July 1970: Newton freed; returns a political hero and goes on to fight for other political prisoners

Jan. 1971: Intercommunal Youth Institute opens, serving mostly students of Black Panthers

Feb. 1971: Newton and Cleaver part ways over ideological differences

May 1971: Seale acquitted

Late 1971: Large numbers of Black Panthers leave the Party

1972-74: BPP chapters around the country shut down; some members move to Oakland. Shift in strategy to gaining political power; Seale runs for mayor and Elaine Brown runs for city council. The political losses and ongoing member purges diminish the Party. Newton goes into exile in Cuba, appointing Brown Chairwoman of the Party.

Late 1970s: Newton returns from Cuba in 1977; in 1982 the Intercommunal Youth Institute is closed due to Newton's embezzling funds to support his drug habit.