

Wesley, Curtin,
Raul Moore
w/ Mr. & Mrs. Moore

Deborah Touchette
May 1978

Mr. Jones
in Jones

-Wesley Curtin's father writes for
-they came back to the house unexpectedly and I invited them upstairs
because the Moores had gone out to dinner, but when we got upstairs
they came back and were sitting in the living room
-shortly after introductions they started asked a lot of pointed
questions

-Raul asked how long were you in Jonestown?
-Mrs. Moore began by telling them of the beauty she had seen there.
-You've got them well programmed, Debbie, Raul said to me.
-I don't know what you're talking about I said, I haven't programmed
anybody, after speaking from what she has experienced.
-she agreed that that she was speaking for herself
-I wish I had to admit that I came with a lot of skepticism, Mrs Moore
said, of course I am a mother hen by nature, I like to have my
children under my wing, but Mr Moore is always telling me that
I have to let go of my children sometime, and what's important is
their happiness.

-one of them asked if they were happy?
-she said yes, she would have to say that her daughters were very
happy.
-Mrs Moore went through every step of the farm, describing it in
glowing terms, at times she had to shout to talk over the constant
questions thrown at her by the two of them.
-at one point she got on her knees and came right up close to their
faces so she could get her point in

-Mr. Moore also spoke of the happiness of their children and said he
had a lot of respect for Cde. Jim Jones and what he is trying to do.
he said although we don't always agree with every thing, what he is
doing is along the line of the way we brought our children up.

-What don't you agree on? they asked?
-Well, he said he felt Jim was too (Optimistic..he used another word
that had that meaning), and although the Lutheran church in the U.S
was more liberal than most churches, beings that P.T. is a different
denomination, we worship a little differently, but other than
that we basically have the same beliefs.

-Wesley or Raul asked if people could travel into Georgetown
whenever they wanted to, lets say they got tired and wanted to take
a vacation

-I told him yes with in reason, but that we knew when we came to
Georgetown the type of work and lifestyle we had to lead to develop
the community, and people can't just travel back and fourth all
the time or production would go down

-Mrs Moore spoke up and said they had to have some form of discipline
in that respect, that's why they've built the community that they
have

-after a series of cannon ball questions and raised voices Wesley
said he appreciated speaking to the Moores, he hoped they didn't
think the two of them were rude, but they just wanted to ask a lot
of questions because there was still an empty space or a blank

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spot in terms of the P.T.. They said they wanted to go up there some time and see for their selves what is going on.
-I told him I was surprised for the whole of the evening because I thought we had gotten past that stage in the development of our friendship and I was surprised to here him saying that.
-Note: this was just after Olga left, and Wesley came to our home several times in the day and night, as well as called to locate Debbie, he said she had tried to get in contact with him and his father answered the phone, it was in the middle of the night)
-Karen agreed, she said that I had introduced her to them as friends and we don't say that about people easily
-Wesley made a remark that Karen had said she didn't trust the press
-Mr Moore said that was understandable in that we had received so much bad treatment by the press, naturally we would be suspicious of the press.
-I told Raul that they both should come in to J/town some time and see first hand what's going on. That would eliviate some of the questions they are always asking and they would have a better understanding.
-Raul & Wesley said you people have done alot for the image of Peoples Temple in our minds.

-The next morning as we were saying good-bye to Mr & Mrs Moore, she turned to me and said, you know, I'm glad those two young men came by last night. They helped me realize how much I needed to come to Guyana.
-I hope we convinced them don't you?
-I told her I did, at least I hoped we did.
-During the course of the conversation the previous evening, she told both of them that if they go, it shouldn't just be for one day, it should be for a week or at least. She said it took one whole day just to see the piggery.....
-Tim suggested that since they were always looking for a story, this would make a good story and
-Wesley said this was the type of thing we should do on our radio program, it would help our image immensely.
-Mrs Moore said I can just see you will be quoted as saying something and it will be taken out of context
-I forgot to mention that Mr. Moore had said that he felt our co-operative could be a model for the third world, and that perhaps the Marxist-Lennist theory could work for third world countries....

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NEWSPERSONS visited two times (around the 20th or so of March, 1978)

-It was a hectic night that night & in fact both nights they dropped by it was hectic/ the first night Vincent was visiting and one group were talking to him so we had to go down in the other part of the room

-the second night, [redacted] was supposed to make contact with Walter Rodney plus some of the [redacted] about USSR and someone was supposed to come for dinner [redacted] the PM's guard and he was here at the same time

-they asked a lot of questions and so the young people on both nights and others who were talking to them called for us because they didn't know how to deal with them. I made a joke out of some of the things they said (like if he told us to do) and that strategy of J's seemed to work the best as they stopped the stalling. Another thing I did was to ask them questions, another thing J had advised and it was really funny, they kept asking a big question about what socialism was and what they thought about it and we all calmly watched them without getting involved and when they left they apologized for being so talkative and not letting us talk, and we graciously thanked them for being so willing to speak up and said we enjoyed what they had to say.

-the thing I made note of was that when I asked if we would marry people outside our group, and I said of course we would, "the wants to marry us, we'll start interviewing them." He kept asking these silly questions, various situations we, such as if someone wanted to marry one of us and the other wanted to live with us, could one of us marry them and still live with us and go visit the one they married. "I laughed a lot and said "it sure sounds complicated, and the situation hasn't arisen but I'm sure we could work something out." "He said "we are all these people who want to marry us. I didn't know we were so popular after." "It was got so ridiculous that he they started laughing again. "Then they said the situation about one living in and one living out, I said, "you are making it complicated." Then he said he'd like us to give a talk at his work to let the people he works with (he works in a liquor company) being a newspaper for them as well as being a writer that submits to newspapers). I said we should be glad to do that. "Now of course I don't want you getting any of the people I work with to know that they're in love with you." "I smiled on this "Oh, I thought you wanted to have people outside marry us and now you are the one that is holding out on us, and we are all ready to marry you." "He started to laugh and he started to hum and how and say, "I don't love that." and he started to laugh and he started to hum "who said the people we married had come up with the National Service or some group where they had to be together in barracks and they didn't quite know at first how to work it out. "If he really wanted to marry

-he said we were too radical and he was (they) wondered why we there were so many rumors they had heard about us. I told him that every avant garde movement had controversy and explained that it was the mental health movement in the US (which is now very widely accepted) and that they were radical when they tried to stop having people imprisoned for mental illness. I explained that this had happened thru history, those that made changes of ideas or principles, whether widely known or not, were not not accepted at first, even the things that they thought to be the foundations of widely accepted ideas or practices. I said however that we had support from throughout all the progressives in the US, and that it was not reactionaries that did not like our stand on Mexico that gave us problems, and that here we had the wide support and kind of help from governmental leaders and we were very grateful to everyone who had helped us here. That people were generally very kind and trusting and that even when people at first had questions, like a couple of ministers when they visited our project and saw for themselves what we were doing, they always gave their supportive and even called us a model community. He said we certainly aren't trying to be a mystery (as he said some thought of us that way), and that's why we had open houses, why we invited people to our project, to look at every inch of it etc.). He said that they had come to the open house expecting us to be mysterious and with ward and instead found a sense of brotherhood and warmth, Guyanese and us mixing very warmly. I said (again joking a little) that We sure were sorry to disappoint them about the mystery but as you can see we are a very open and direct people, and just that like

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KIRTON AND BLACKMOND (PRESS)

we were talking to them tonight in a relaxed manner, we try to be very communicable with people, and it's usually people that start rumors that really don't want to communicate and straighten things out, because every time there have been people that have misunderstandings about us we have tried to communicate on a one-to-one basis so they can ask questions and work it out. We said we have gone to every means to work it out, with our radio show answering questions people have asked us, the cultural show presenting our cooperative spirit etc.

-he said that we should have a meeting with the community, he called it a "symposium" and have Guyanese people ask us questions from the floor and answer them. I told him that we had been ~~advised~~ advised that this wouldn't be a good idea, ~~because~~ because the ones that spread the rumors aren't interested in objective answers (we have been told) and thus would just come to harass us and try to start fights which we don't want. We said it would be different if it was people that are objective and really want answers. I said that those who don't like us, ~~and who are not interested in~~ we have been told are against an interracial group that is so successful where there is no racism, sexism, ageism and that kind of people you can't talk to. -xx I said that we could you can really talk in more depth on a one-to-one basis and you have more time to explain things in depth that way and to have a real dialogue. -he said (they said) they understood but they did bring up the same subject the next night they came by and I answered the same way. Then again stopped the questions and said they understood.

(I should have given this info first but I will now. The three that came were 17-year old Rawle Blackmon who works for the National Newspapers, the Citizen and the Chronicle. I asked him to bring samples of his articles which he did the second night. There was some sports coverage and a very nice article about a woman who is very active - I think if I recall she is teaching at the university and she is for women's liberation and he covered it. I told him, sympathetically in terms of indicating her goals for women and for herself. He also covered a speech of a politician, which he said he doesn't like to do as it gives us little room for creativity).

-I should have ~~sent~~ sent samples of his work and send it to you, will try to do this, I should have thought of it this evening.

-Rawle isn't that sympathetic when talking to you. He doesn't probe as much as the other Guy Wesley Kirton and he doesn't seem quite as sharp

Wesley Kirton 20 years old works for the Guyana Liquor Corporation GLC/ it does processing and canning as well. He is the PRO (Public Relations Officer) He also freelances and submits to UPI (which his father works for) and Guyana newspapers. Both he and Rawle said they would let us read first any article they would write, altho Rawle said that journalists don't like to do this generally as it could hamper your style but considering the situation we have been thru they would do so

-Laurie Kirton 22 years also came, he's met in the press but is a graduate student of economics, works for the Small Industries Corp which helps small businesses (govt. project) he was friendly and nice but had some trouble with his so-called brother Wesley who had a fierce thing going with Laurie (who is a man). Wesley confronted Laurie every time Laurie talked and made him (or tried to) make him look like a fool. When I asked a what they thought of socialism (to feel them out), they had a huge argument and Wesley said that Capitalist countries actually help Guyana more than Socialist countries (they didn't mention, nor did we, that Capitalist countries have ~~given~~ given us huge strings-attached to their help etc.). I asked Wesley what he thought of the Guyanese system and he said that there is a difference between a socialist ~~system~~ system and an underdeveloped country (which he is saying without going into detail) has difficulty being socialist because they don't have many resources in which to provide for the needs of the people etc.

-Wesley said he'd get us on night ride (to advertise our cultural program) -it would be free

-also he would get us on Radio Demarara with Pat Cameron who is a very good friend of his/ he calls her Aunt-Pat and he wants to invite us over to talk to some friends

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Car
bu

We are the best friend the U.S. has in Guyana.
Provide jobs, medical care -- building goodwill
trying to cement relations bet the 2 countries -- but
our people but its getting difficult to keep our
members from becoming alienated to the U.S.
They are furious over not getting their checks --
you can't know how furious.

Lynetta

Postal Dept ordered to stop all checks - attempt to
cut us off. There is crazy anyway it won't work.

People have vested right - Class action

~~Protest~~ demonstrate - ~~Young~~ ~~Student~~ ~~action~~

~~Protest~~ ~~make~~ ~~Protest~~ Mike Prokes ~~Protest~~ ~~action~~

No J.J. acct. or particip. in riot -- we're not

embroiled in politics. Interpol - got off told us. ~~Interpol~~ ~~action~~ Mike Prokes

What behind your visit -- we can verify people are alive

by the local police. People apprehensive -- we have a

particip. democracy where everything is discussed & decided

by the majority. And it was brought up in a meeting

what some of our people heard others say - that you

aided & encouraged people that are harassing us -

some say you're CIA. But ~~the~~ ~~find~~ ~~person~~ personally like you

& fortunately that has made a difference because if

our people decided not to see you -- you simply

wouldn't get in. Our people have been through hell

in the States - they would just as soon die as to pe

up with the type of horn + the U.S.

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and she'd be there. He invite some of us there

-he Wesley said after the first time he visited, his other brother, not the one that was with him had an argument with him and said "would you chuck your job & go and stay at PT Jonestown?" Wesley said he said "If I went up to Jonestown and liked what I saw" - his brother said he was crazy for wanting or thinking of chucking his job for anything
-Wesley was very nasty to his other, ?? so-called brother that came with him/ he'd interrupt him and ask him probing questions when the guy expressed an opinion/ later he said that they weren't even real brothers and said something about that in a disparaging way

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it

George
suggested about Martin
idg. Can date today
we're sorry - moved