Dear Critical Resistance,

Your question, "How do you think you, your community, and imprison people will be impacted by the upcoming Trump regime?" implies that a Trump regime will affect me, my community, and imprison people different than say, a Hillary regime. A Trump regime will impact my life the same way an Obama, Bush Jr., Clinton, Bush Sr., and Ronald Wilson Reagan regime impacted my life—oppressively.

Focusing on Trump, opposed to the complex web of relationships and structures that shape most aspects of life in our society, delimits actions toward structural and material change. Worse, the conversation usually digresses toward finding ways to increase voter roles and supporting future Democratic party candidates. Sometimes I think we forget the PERVASIVE nature of inequality woven throughout social institutions.

Repression doesn't come and go, it merely becomes more or less evident, as its "spectacular episodes" are spaced closer or farther apart. Donald Trump being an expression of "spectacular episode." Repression is a permanent blanket covering the movement.

Many people don't think this is so, because you don't notice the difficulty you have trying to breathe. This is because you've become accustomed to the reality and the weight of the blanket. Long gaps between "spectacular episodes" have given many of us the impression that the blanket had been "pulled back" or "lifted." But it's been here all the time, before Trump was elected president, and we've learned to move under its weight, and now
consider this state of repression to be normal.

This political moment requires methods of resistance to oppression similar if not identical to methods required from the onset of this oppressive relationship—heighten the contradictions between how the U.S. political process claims to be a "democracy," and how the U.S. is really a plutocracy. E.g., during the confirmation hearings for Donald Trump's cabinet picks, pundits admitted that democrats can slow down the confirmation hearing process, but not derail a candidate. Which shows the perfunctory nature of the process.

We should be pointing out contradictions that show how major policy positions seldom change from administration to administration, how no matter who wins, poor and oppressed people lose. Its less about Trump than it is the process that materialized a Trump.

I don't want to bore you all with this, but I think we could be asking the wrong set of questions. Which can't help but produce the wrong answers.

In solidarity,

Lucino Hamilton

P.S. I never received a copy of the issue dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the PHL. Please send.

Also, I don't mind my complete name and address accompany anything you publish concerning me. Part of the goal is to connect with other people and prisoners who are concerned with making this thing a real contest.