

CORE VOTER CAMPAIGN NETS 2700 IN TWO WEEKS

A 2-week CORE voter registration drive in March in Dade County, which includes the Miami area, has added 2700 Negro registrants to the rolls. So announced CORE Field Secretary Weldon Rougeau.

Since Rougeau started working on voter registration in this area in September 1962, the total number of Negro registrants in the county has risen from 30,000 to 42,000. "About 42% of the potential Negro vote is now registered," he said. He praised county officials for making available voter registration sub-stations in all areas of the county. Thirty-eight such sub-stations were established, of which 12 were in Negro areas.

Five organizations including the Florida Council of the AFL-CIO joined CORE in the campaign which included widespread leaflet distribution and organization of car pools.

Voter Drive Outruns Goldwater's

"Business is booming for (the county registrar) because simultaneously throughout Gadsden county (in northwestern Florida) two voter drives are being conducted," writes Joe Rice in the St. Petersburg Times. "One is spearheaded by a pair of prominent white businessmen who support Senator Goldwater for the Republican nomination. The other is being pushed by Patricia Stephens Due, a Negro employed by CORE. Her goal is to get as many Negroes on the voter rolls as possible between now and April 5 when the books close. After the initial spurt of 30 names, the (Goldwater) drive seems to have lost some of its momentum. The movement to register Negroes, on the other hand, seems to be gaining momentum each day."

Mrs. Due reports that the arrest of four CORE voter registration workers in late January prompted several hundred Negroes to register "without our having to urge them."

CORE OPENS SOUTHERN OFFICE

To coordinate its stepped-up activities in the deep south, CORE has opened a southern national office in New Orleans under the direction of Richard Haley, CORE associate director. The office is located at 2211 Dryades St.

"In the first months of operations, our major concern will be in the states of Louisiana and Mississippi because most of our personnel and activity is currently centered in those two states," Haley said.

CORE is the first national civil rights organization to open a southern office in a city other than Atlanta. New Orleans CORE is the oldest CORE group in the deep south.

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James Farmer, national director

Jim Peck, editor

252

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105

FREEDOM DAY IN CANTON, MISSISSIPPI

By Edward Hollander



This photo shows the first of some 350 Negroes who lined-up in front of the police-guarded Madison County courthouse in Canton, Mississippi on Freedom Day—February 28. They stood in line for five hours in chilly weather, though only five were admitted to take the registration test. The first 150 marched in a body from Freedom House, the CORE-initiated community center. The remaining 250, arriving from out-of-town by mule, horsecart and on foot, were halted by a barricade of city police but were permitted to proceed to the courthouse two-by-two. They swelled the original group making this the biggest voter demonstration to take place in Mississippi.

Over 50 policemen—city, county, state and special—patrolled the streets. They were equipped with shotguns and teargas. Only two days before, the state legislature had passed a bill for "mutual assistance pacts" among Mississippi cities for pooling "personnel, equipment, supplies and material... for prevention and alleviation of riots or civil disturbances of the peace."

A second bill which was passed permits cities to "restrict the movement of the citizens" and a third—aimed at the 90%-effective boycott of 21 Canton stores and three products—provides up to six months in jail and a \$500 fine for "any person who shall willfully and maliciously print, circulate or distribute" material designed to "interfere with a lawful trade."

Despite this new legislation and despite Canton's recent history of police brutality, harassment and arrests, there was no police violence on Freedom Day and only one arrest—Milton Esco, a youth on probation in a leaflet distribution case.

But three days later, when some 2,600 Negro students participated in a 1-day boycott protesting substandard conditions in Negro schools, 15 civil rights workers, including seven CORE staff members, were arrested. All but

(Continued on Page 2)



. . . is one of many which was repaired as a result of negotiations initiated by Boston CORE as part of its campaign against substandard living conditions for Negroes and Puerto Ricans.

IN BRIEF

A week-long, Holy Week fast in front of the post office in Chapel Hill, N.C., was conducted by five civil rights advocates including John Dunne, CORE Task Force worker and chairman of the Chapel Hill Freedom Committee.

* * *

A technique described by San Francisco CORE Chairman William Bradley as a "shop-in" proved effective in a recent action campaign by Bay Area CORE groups and the Baptist Ministers Union to make Lucky Stores adhere to its fair employment agreement. The technique consists of loading shopping carts with merchandise, having the purchases rung-up by a cashier and then asserting you haven't money to pay.

* * *

CORE Field Secretary Ronnie Moore, who heads the voter registration drive in southeastern Louisiana, completed a 30-day sentence in East Baton Rouge parish jail on March 19. The U.S. Supreme Court had declined to review his conviction for violating an anti-soundtruck ordinance on December 15, 1961, the day when police broke up a mass demonstration with teargas bombs and police dogs.

* * *

In Los Angeles and in Washington, D. C., Safeway Stores has adopted a fair employment policy following negotiations with the CORE groups in the respective cities.

FREEDOM DAY (Continued)

two were released at the end of the day.

It was not the first time that police had arrested leaders of the voter registration drive here. On January 23-24 all but three of the CORE and SNCC staff members as well as some local residents were arrested for distributing leaflets in violation of a city ordinance adopted three days earlier. They were in jail for up to a week pending release on appeal.

On February 7, Claude Weaver of SNCC and I were arrested for allegedly "intimidating by threats of force and violence" a woman named Charlean Smith by preventing her from taking a job at one of the boycotted stores. Neither Weaver nor I had ever met or heard of Charlean Smith prior to the arrest. Nevertheless, we were found guilty and sentenced to six months in jail and \$500 fines. After 11 days in jail, we were released pending appeal.

There were other arrests on various charges during the two months preceding Freedom Day as well as several incidents of police brutality. George Raymond, a CORE Task Force worker, was on one occasion pistol-whipped by Constable Herbie Evans and on a second occasion kicked and shoved by Evans who had waylaid him on the outskirts of town. On February 3, two local teenagers were beaten mercilessly by police following a voter registration meeting at Pleasant Green Church.

As Freedom Day approached, the voter registration campaign was stepped-up. Daily street meetings and nightly mass meetings were held in Madison and throughout the county to ensure a sizable turnout.

"Freedom Day was dramatic proof that the Negro people in rural Mississippi want to vote and are willing to register despite harassment and intimidation," commented Daave Dennis, CORE field secretary and assistant director of the Council of Federated Organizations.

L. Foote Campbell, the registrar, remains mum on registration statistics. But according to a U.S. Justice Department suit, in 1962 only 1.1% of the county's Negroes were registered as against 97% of the whites. Negroes constitute 72% of the county's population.

SECOND CORE COMMUNITY CENTER IN MISSISSIPPI

Last CORElator reported the opening of CORE's first Mississippi community center—in Canton. A second one is now functioning in Meridian under the direction of Rita and Mickey Schwerner, and its educational program is under way.

Voter registration classes are being held on two evenings a week. A story hour for children from five to ten is conducted on Saturday afternoons. Reading and remedial instruction is being given periodically pending the establishment of regular classes. A sewing class for girls, prenatal instruction for expectant mothers and an arts and crafts program are being planned.

The library has proved popular with children and teenagers as well as adults. It contains 10,000 volumes many of which were sent here as a result of the national CORE office staff's Southern Educational Project (formerly known as Books for Mississippi). The shelves were built by three local youths: Marshall and David Sims and James Chaney. Although there are no overdue fines, the books are being returned to the library on time.

One of the rooms in the community center is set aside for teenagers. It contains, among other games, a ping-pong table built by the same boys who erected the library shelves.

CITY-WIDE HOTEL PACT FOLLOWS MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION

A city-wide fair employment agreement covering major San Francisco hotels was negotiated at City Hall on March 7 following a massive, night-long demonstration at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel which ended with the arrest of 135 participants at 4 A.M.

As part of the contract, the hotel agreed to drop all legal action against the 135 as well as against demonstrators arrested on two previous weekends. Over 1,000 persons had participated in the Sheraton-Palace demonstration, picketing on the outside, marching through the lengthy main-floor corridor and, finally, sitting down at the main entrances. Among the demonstrators were members of CORE groups from the entire Bay area.

The new agreement is between the Hotel Employers Association, representing 33 major hotels and the United Freedom Movement, with which CORE is affiliated, the Baptist Ministers Union and the Ad Hoc Committee to End Discrimination. Field Secretary Chet Duncan was the signer for CORE. Negotiations with the Sheraton chain had been initiated some months ago in Boston by Alan Gartner, member of CORE's National Action Committee. The hotels agreed to "bring the total employed of minority group to a level of from 15 to 20% of total employees by July 20."

SCHOOL BOYCOTTS IN FOUR CITIES

Successful boycotts protesting de facto school segregation were conducted during February in four major cities: New York, Cincinnati, Chicago and Boston. In all four cities, CORE groups played a major role in neighborhood organizational work, establishing picket lines at schools and conducting Freedom Schools for the younger students.

"If this is a fizzle, we want more fizzles like this!" commented CORE National Director James Farmer in addressing thousands of Negro, Puerto Rican and white students who had converged on the Board of Education for a massive rally concluding the New York school boycott on February 3.



Photo by Bob Adelman

"Fizzle" is the characterization of the boycott made by the Board's president, James Donovan, despite the fact that according to the Board's own figures, 464,361 students, representing 44.8% of the total enrollment, had stayed out of school.

The New York boycott marked the first joint mass action by the Negro and Puerto Rican communities. A second boycott was conducted on March 16 but was less effective since, unlike the first, it did not have the united support of all civil rights groups.

Eight days after the first New York boycott, the day before Lincoln's Birthday, there was a boycott in Cincinnati in which, according to official figures, 26,400 students out of a total enrollment of 83,500 stayed out of school. Clyde Vinegar, chairman of the local CORE group, and Lloyd Trotter, acting president of the local NAACP branch, called the boycott a success. It was sponsored by both organizations.

In Chicago on February 25, despite solid opposition from Mayor Richard Daley's Democratic political machine and its Negro henchmen, 172,350 students out of 470,000 stayed away from school. Chicago CORE Chairman Sam Riley commented: "The turnout was remarkable in view of the anti-boycott position taken by five of the six Negro aldermen on the City Council." Schools in the ward of Alderman Kenneth Campbell, an anti-boycott leader, were almost entirely empty.

The following day was the date of Boston's school boycott, which Boston CORE Chairman Alan Gartner characterized as "a distinct success." The Boston School Department reported that 20,571 students had stayed out. Total enrollment is 92,844. Boston school officials have thus far failed even to admit the existence of de facto segregation.

The towns of Chester, Pennsylvania and Cambridge, Maryland were also the scenes of one-day school boycotts during February. In Cleveland, agreement by the Board of Education to integrate 800 Negro students at three East Side schools to which they are bussed, ended a protest action by the United Freedom Movement in which Cleveland CORE participated. The Negro students had been placed previously in segregated classroom units upon arrival. A similar situation in Milwaukee caused picketing of four schools by the local CORE and NAACP groups.

CHAIN-IN AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS —SITDOWN ON BRIDGE

New York City on the afternoon of March 7 was the scene of two CORE demonstrations which attracted considerable attention because of their unusual character.

Early in the afternoon, three local CORE leaders—Isaiah Brunson of Brooklyn CORE and Herbert Callender and Howard Quander of Bronx CORE, took handcuffs from their pockets and chained themselves to a grill just outside the office of Police Commissioner Michael Murphy. They were accompanied by Raphael Martinez of New York CORE and Rev. Laurie Walker and had just attended a meeting with Deputy Inspector Arthur Savitt at which they had protested police brutality against minority group members in general and the case of Jesse Roberts in particular. (In Syracuse, N.Y., several CORE members were arrested recently for demonstrating against police brutality.) During the chain-in, the group was joined by two Puerto Rican representatives, Flora Santiago and Jose Sanchez. Within minutes, police with metal cutters clipped the handcuffs of the three who had chained-in and arrested them and the four others.

Later in the afternoon, seven members of East River CORE, sat down in the middle of the Triborough Bridge, halting traffic for twenty minutes at the start of the rush hour. Six of the sitdowners were arrested—Penn Kimble, Paul Feldman, Donald Arthur, Joe Louis, Elizabeth Adler and Tina Lawrence.

"We regret to inconvenience people passing through our neighborhood on their way home to the better sections of the city, but we are both very sorry and very angry about the way Negro and Puerto Rican children are treated in Harlem," explained Blyden Jackson, chairman of East River CORE. "We ask commuters to look more closely at the schools in our community because they are so unlike many of the schools in Queens and Long Island."

The Triborough Bridge is the main artery leading from Manhattan's Harlem to Queens and Long Island. Specifically, the CORE group sought to draw attention to substandard conditions at schools located near the Manhattan approach to the bridge.

Juvenile gang violence, a problem rarely tackled by CORE groups, is the target of a new project initiated by Philadelphia CORE. "The problem has become so explosive that the youths themselves have come to us for a solution," explains Philadelphia CORE Chairman Louis Smith.

An important memo from
CORElator editor Jim Peck

**SEND TO THE NATIONAL OFFICE
NEWS REPORTS—PLUS PHOTOS!**

1. To obtain nation-wide publicity for your group in the Negro press and liberal journals. Once a week (twice, if we have sufficient news) national CORE sends out news releases to the Negro press and liberal journals throughout the country. Some of the Negro papers print these releases in-toto; others print some of them. While you can and should publicize your group's activities locally, you are not geared to undertake nation-wide publicity. You'll be missing this much-needed publicity across the country unless you send in news reports to the national office.

2. To obtain nation-wide publicity for your group in the CORElator. This is a significant avenue of publicity since the Corelator goes to persons throughout the country who are interested in the nonviolent freedom struggle to the extent of contributing money to CORE. The CORElator cannot carry your story if you don't send it in.

News Reports: Whoever handles publicity in each group—and it is advisable to nominate a person for this task—should never forget to dispatch news reports and press clippings to the national office (addressed to Marvin Rich or to me). If he is, simply, too rushed to write, sending a local newspaper clipping is second-best (with notes correcting any portion of the clipping which might be inaccurate). Where the distance is over 500 miles from New York, news reports should be airmailed. In the event of a major news development (such as, say, a mass arrest of CORE members, an incident of mob or police violence against CORE members or the winning of a major CORE action campaign in the community), a collect phone call to the national office (Cortland 7-6270) would be in order.

Photos: Photos increase, immeasurably, the effectiveness of publicity. Frequently, national CORE, from such photos, has mats made which are sent out along with the news releases. Such photos also are used in the CORElator and in CORE pamphlets. We are perpetually short of photos.

Freed After 47 Days in Jail: Join Picket Line



Without even taking time out to shave after leaving jail, five of the 15 St. Louis CORE leaders imprisoned for 47 days joined the picket line on March 2 at the Jefferson Bank & Trust Co. Heading the line, in his wheelchair, is James Peake, Jr. Second in line is Roberta Tournour, wife of CORE Field Secretary Eugene Tournour. And fourth in line is Robert Curtis, former chairman of St. Louis CORE. The present chairman, Lucian Richards and Taylor Jones, who also came directly from jail to the picket line are not in the photo.

Win Campaign

Just 28 days after this photo was taken, the long campaign ended with the bank hiring five Negroes. The drive had been marked by hundreds of arrests of nonviolent demonstrators inside and outside the bank and the sentencing of 15 of the group's leaders to from 60 days to a year in jail.

The unusually long prison terms were for contempt of an injunction issued last August by State Circuit Judge Michael Scott. The 15 CORE leaders were in jail from January 15 until March 2 when a 3-judge panel of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals freed them pending appeal of their habeas corpus writs.

Immediately following the sentencing, over 1,000 persons marched in protest on City Hall and 250 Catholics, many of them priests and nuns, held a rally which John Dunsford, associate law professor at St. Louis University, characterized as "a public confession that we have sinned in the pride of race."

When President Johnson came to St. Louis on February 14 for the city's 200th anniversary celebration, 84 CORE pickets protested. As they neared the hotel, they were arrested and held without charges until his speech was over. Several thousand persons had petitioned the President to shun the St. Louis anniversary because of the failure of city officials to help resolve the fair employment issue at the bank.

In the course of the campaign more than 75 Negroes had gotten jobs at other St. Louis banks but the Jefferson bank remained adamant.

Boston Bank Hires Negroes

A drive for increased employment of Negroes at the First National Bank of Boston ended when the bank within one month hired 17 Negroes out of a total of 67 new employees, accepted a plan for recruitment of minority group workers and agreed to revise its training film.

The agreement is with Boston CORE, which had already negotiated agreements with the National Shawmut and Merchants National banks. During the campaign the bank had been picketed and national CORE had written its Massachusetts contributors urging them to withdraw their accounts until the bank adopted a fair employment policy.

'FREEDOM RING' ENCIRCLES TICKET BOOTH

By Doris Castle

Since November 1963 New Orleans CORE had been picketing three downtown theaters urging that they admit Negroes. It is the end of March 1964 and the situation called for new techniques.

So on Good Friday, nine of us joined the line of patrons at the ticket window of Loew's State. The line moved briskly. The first of our group reached the window and placed her money on the counter. It was not the ticket seller but the assistant manager standing nearby who refused to sell the ticket.

One by one, we followed. Each was refused, without explanation. The last of our group, Alice Thompson, then walked behind the ticket booth. We joined her, linked hands and completely surrounded the booth forming a "Freedom Ring." We began to walk in a circle.



The surprised patrons fell back into the quickly-gathering crowd of spectators. A few held their places in line. One man tried to break through our ring but failed.

While we circled the booth, police conferred with the dejected theater manager. Then a policeman came over to our group and asked us each, individually, to leave. We refused. He placed us under arrest. We sat down, still in circle formation. Policemen then lifted each of us onto a hand-truck, rolled us to the paddy-wagon and took us to jail.

It was a first arrest for Katrina Jackson and Harold Sullivan. Shirley Thompson, Ruth Wells, Linda and Dorothea Smith and Alicia Joseph had been arrested before. I had been arrested five times in the course of New Orleans CORE's years of nonviolent action.

We were booked on an open charge. It was later minutely particularized to "criminal mischief," "Obstructing passage," "disturbing the peace," "refusing to move on" and "resisting arrest." After three days in jail, we were released on bond pending trial.

In February, through the intercession of Sonny Liston whom we had contacted, the closed-circuit telecast of the Liston-Clay prizefight was shifted from Loew's State to the municipal auditorium.

ARREST LIBRARY SIT-INNERS . . . THOUGH THERE IS NO LIBRARY FOR NEGROES

Though there is no library for Negroes in East Feliciana parish, five Negroes who sought to use the white library in the parish seat of Clinton on March 7 were jailed for "disturbing the peace." The five — Henry Brown, Robert Smith, Willie Kelly, Cleveland McKenzie and L. C. Bibbens — were arrested while sitting-in. Five days later, Mimi Feingold, a CORE Task Force worker, was arrested as a material witness and her bail was set at \$1000.

Similar groups of CORE students on March 7 attempted to use the libraries at St. Francisville, West Feliciana parish seat and at Greensburg, St. Helena parish seat, but found "closed" signs in the windows. Both libraries are normally open Saturdays.

Library buildings in the three parishes are operated by a tri-parish board for whites only, though Negro taxpayers money goes to support them. A suit seeking desegregation of the libraries has been filed in federal court by CORE attorneys. Sole library service for Negroes is one bookmobile, which has been out of operation since its operator, Mattie Matthews, was fired. Her dismissal came after she and 12 other leaders of a CORE boycott against downtown stores were arrested last December for "conspiracy to commit public intimidation." The three parishes are targets of an intensive voter registration drive by CORE. In West Feliciana no Negro had registered from 1902 until this past October.

CORElator readers who want to join the CORE group nearest to them but who don't know its location can get this information by writing to James McCain, CORE Director of Organization, 38 Park Row, New York, N.Y.

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