



Jackson police debate in bus terminal whether or not to arrest Widjonarko Tjokroadisumarto, Indonesian student whose father was formerly ambassador to Pakistan. They finally decided not to. For one thing, they were unable to determine whether to classify this Freedom Rider as "white" or "colored."

SERVED



First and only Freedom Riders yet to be served at the Jackson bus station were Norma Wagner, a blind woman from Rochester and Earl Bohannon, Jr., a Chicago student.

CORE'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE-CONVENTION, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR EARLY SUMMER, WILL TAKE PLACE ON LABOR DAY WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 1-4, AT ALL SOULS UNITARIAN CHURCH IN WASHINGTON, D.C. DELEGATES WILL STAY AT THE HOTEL ROOSEVELT. FOR DETAILED INFORMATION CONTACT THE CORE OFFICE.

CORE-LATOR

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James Farmer, national director

Jim Peck, editor



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JAILED IN MISSISSIPPI

by James Farmer

(Editors Note—James Farmer, CORE National Director, served 40 days of a 67-day sentence. This was the maximum he could serve and yet appeal his conviction.)

Jail at best is neither a romantic nor a pleasant place. Mississippi jails are no exception. The first 27 Freedom Riders to arrive in Jackson saw the inside of two different jails and two different prisons—The Jackson City Jail, the Hinds County Jail, The Hinds County Prison Farm and the State Penitentiary at Parchman. Jails are no new experience for most of the Riders, but Riders were definitely a new experience for Mississippi jails. For the first time, penal authorities in the citadel of segregation had a glimpse of the New Negro and the Emancipated white. I do not think they can ever be quite the same again after this experience.

Nor will the other prisoners, black and white, be the same again, after having seen in the flesh men and women who do not believe segregation to be in the very nature of things, and who are willing to defy it.

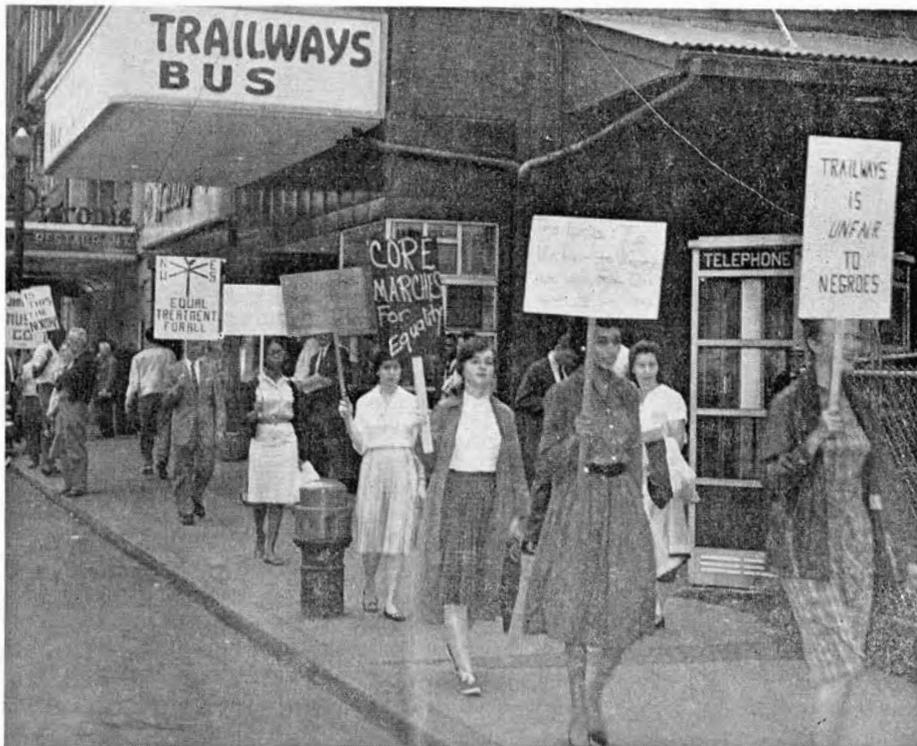
Jail and prison authorities frequently said, and really seemed to believe, that other Negro prisoners like things the way they are and have no sympathy with us, and that it was for our own protection that we were isolated from them. However, the Negro trustees went out of their way whenever the guards were not present to show their sympathy by word and deed. "Keep up the good work," one said. "I admire you guys and what you are doing," said another. "I wish I could do the same thing, but I have to do what these people tell me to do." They smuggled newspapers in to us, delivered notes and messages between our cell block and that of the girl Freedom Riders, and passed on rumors which they had heard in jail or in the community.

One night at the county jail, a voice called up from the cell block beneath us, where other Negro prisoners were housed. "Upstairs!" the anonymous prisoner shouted. We replied, "downstairs!" "Upstairs," replied the voice; "Sing your freedom song." The Freedom Riders then sang. We sang old folk songs and gospel songs to which new words had been written, telling of the Freedom Ride and its purpose. We sang new words to old labor songs, too. One stanza rang out: "They say in Hinds County no neutrals have they met. You either follow Freedom Ride or you 'tom' for Ross Barnett." After the impromptu concert, the downstairs prisoners, whom the jailors had said were our enemies, shouted back: "That sounds good, Freedom Riders; you are our friends." They then sang for us. The girl Freedom Riders, in another wing of the jail, joined in the Freedom Ride songs, and for the first time in history, the Hinds County jail rocked with unrestrained singing of songs about Freedom and Brotherhood.

Then an interesting incident occurred. In a burst of profanity, a white prisoner who was not a Freedom Rider, shouted to the Negro prisoners to shut-up. The girl Freedom Riders immediately met the challenge by singing "We Shall Overcome Someday." Another white prisoner, with an unmistakable Mississippi accent, then shouted his approval of the songs and the singing, and volunteered: "I am for integration 100%. Sing some more songs, Freedom Riders." The first white prisoner then offered to shut his mouth for him. "Sticks and Stones May Break My Bones, But Words Will Never Hurt Me," came the reply. The first prisoner then offered to back up the words. Our new-found white Mississippi friend then asked his antagonist if he had ever heard of Booker T. Washington. Receiving a negative reply, of course, he said: "That's what I thought. Well, Booker T. Washington was my uncle, so if you still want to back those words up, come on down here as soon as the jailer opens the cell gates in the morning." When the cell gates were opened no

(Continued on page 2)

Picket For Fair Employment



These CORE pickets at the Trailways station in Boston are trying to get New England Trailways to hire Negroes as bus drivers and in other non-menial jobs. A Negro porter there who recently applied for a better job was promptly fired.

First Victory in D.C.

Washington CORE won an initial success in its fair employment campaign when the William Hahn shoestore chain started hiring Negroes. Already two Negro salesmen have been hired and more have gotten jobs in other departments, reports Julius Hobson, Washington CORE chairman.

Surveys in Philadelphia and Berkeley

Philadelphia CORE has recently completed a survey of employment in banks and insurance companies and Berkeley (Calif.) CORE of employment in retail and department stores. Action will follow in both communities.

JAILED IN MISSISSIPPI (Continued from page 1)

violence occurred, much to our relief.

One evening at the county jail, after the rumor of our imminent transfer to the state penitentiary had reached us, the jailer came quietly to our Freedom Riders cell block. He called me, and we stood there with the bars between us, chatting. He did most of the talking. He told me about his family, his wife and four or five children—the good records they had made in schools, including Ole Miss. He told me of his son's prowess in sports and of their marriages and his grandchildren. He told me, too, of his dislike of violence, and of his children's upbringing in that regard. I asked him how, on his meager income, he had been able to send his children through Ole Miss. Then came the inevitable story of "Aunt Lucy." His wife had been able to work also, throughout the years because they had Aunt Lucy who lived in the home and was a part of the family, took care of the children; in fact raised them and even slept in their rooms. The old man's eyes filled with tears as he told me of Aunt Lucy's death two years earlier, and proudly asserted that his entire family came back to town on the anniversary of her funeral to place a \$15 wreath on Aunt Lucy's grave. The jailer stood there talking for more than an hour, in the first conversation we had had with him. This, I am sure, was his way of saying goodbye, and of telling us that he respects the Freedom Riders, and that whatever unpleasantness we might meet at the state penitentiary would be something of which he did not approve.

So Mississippians, born of segregation, are human too. Our job, in addition to stopping their practice of segregation, is somehow to reach their humanity and bring it to the fore. This, also, the Freedom Riders attempt to do.

BLIND FREEDOM RIDER ARRESTED FOR LEAFLETING

Even in Jackson, Mississippi, police declined to arrest Norma Wagner, a blind Freedom Rider from Rochester. In fact, she and Earl Bohannon Jr., Chicago student, were the first and only Freedom Riders yet to be served at the Jackson bus station. (See photo on page 1.)

However, upon reaching New Orleans, the blind woman was arrested along with five New Orleans CORE members for the "crime" of distributing leaflets announcing a Freedom Ride rally. The case has been twice postponed.

The day before, three CORE members waiting for a bus on Jefferson Davis Parkway were arrested on charges of "vagrancy" and "no visible means of support." The case was dismissed. A few days later three CORE members were arrested in a private home. Jerome Smith, chairman of New Orleans CORE viewed the arrests as stepped-up police harrassment.

IN BRIEF

"Is it Right to honor a man who is dedicated to the subversion of democracy?" asked a leaflet distributed recently by Chicago CORE pickets as Governor Faubus of Arkansas addressed the National Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs.

* * *

The prospect of a new "in," a tooth-in, faded in Alton, Illinois, when a Negro patient was treated by a local dentist. "We plan to make similar tests with other dentists and hope we have as much success," commented W. H. Coleman, chairman of Alton CORE.

* * *

An arrest case arising from New Orleans' first sit-in—September 17 a year ago at McCrory's—is being appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. So announced Lolis Elie, CORE attorney, after the State Supreme Court upheld the conviction of the four New Orleans CORE participants.

* * *

After negotiating unsuccessfully at the Put-Put Miniature Golf Course, St. Louis County CORE planned a picket line. But when members of the group arrived with picket signs, they were admitted and have been ever since.

FREEDOM HOUSERS WIN

The Clarence Funnye's, whose photo picketing Clinton Hill appeared in the last CORElator, moved into that Brooklyn private housing project on August 1. The same day two neighbors introduced themselves to the new Negro family and welcomed them.

Their victory followed a 6-hour sit-in at the rental office by Gladys Harrington, regional CORE representative and three members of Brooklyn and New York CORE. Guards at the project refused to let the sit-inners use the rental office's rest room facilities. Round-the-clock picketing on the July 4 weekend bolstered the sit-in.

After six hours, Assistant Chief Police Inspector William Kimmins arrived—not to make an arrest—but to announce he had arranged a conference between CORE and city officials. As an outcome of this conference, the Clinton Hill management, which originally had refused to let the Funnye's even inspect an apartment, announced that the family would be accepted as tenants.

STAND-IN AT POOL

The Crystal Pool in Oak Park, a Detroit suburb, closed for a day as a result of a stand-in by 50 members of Detroit Youth CORE and Detroit Youth League. Negroes were told that the pool is a "club" which admits only members.

Management then obtained a temporary injunction identifying only four of the stand-inners by name and the rest as John and Mary Doe's.

Picketing of the pool continues along the public highway immediately adjoining it.

Test Restaurants, Bowling Alleys

In another Detroit suburb, Dearborn, Detroit and Ann Arbor CORE, together with the Young Democrats tested 21 restaurants and two bowling alleys. They were refused service at only one restaurant and one bowling alley. Teams of negotiators returned to these two establishments later and succeeded in reversing their policy.

When Mayor Orville Hubbard first heard about the testing, he commented: "It sounds like some freedom clowns trying to make some trouble," but added: "Let them come, just so they don't drive too fast and do obey all traffic laws."

THE HOUSING INSTITUTE



by Marvin Rich

Ruth Beckford, Lois Bertholf and Robert Martin are distributing leaflets in Boston's predominantly Negro section, Roxbury, during CORE's recent Action Institute on Housing. The leaflets, urging more Negroes to apply for housing outside of ghetto areas, met with an enthusiastic response.

Pointed out in the leaflets is the fact that Massachusetts has one of the nation's most effective laws against discrimination. However, one important conclusion which emerged from the Institute is that the law is no substitute for direct action.

In its evaluation report, the Institute said: "The relationship between the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination and Boston CORE has in effect stymied Boston CORE's direct action efforts."

Negroes who had finally secured the homes of their choice told a session of the Institute of having spent from six months to a year in doing so.

An outstanding recommendation of the evaluation report was "more opportunities to involve ourselves in action situations in order to evolve new techniques." One such technique suggested was "Freedom Rides" of home seekers and testers from downtown Boston to suburban areas where new homes are available but where many Negroes are reluctant to venture individually.

More than 50 tests, including many suburban home developments, were made by Institute participants. White teams followed Negro teams to determine whether real estate agents would tell the same stories to each.

In more than half the tests discrimination was revealed at this level. In a few instances, Calvin Phelps and Joseph Washington were told that there were "no vacancies" despite visibly posted "for rent" signs. A white team including Lois Bertholf and William Fischer were shown quantities of listings whereas a Negro team including Bill Larkins and Josievet Moss were told "We have nothing available for you. One real estate agent volunteered: "We are really looking out for you by trying to save you from embarrassing situations." Testers found in general that agents, as well as builders and developers, although cognizant of the law, do not feel compelled to cease discriminating.

Two interracial teams, one headed by Dick Mann of Boston CORE and the other by Anna Holden of Ann Arbor CORE, negotiated with the two most flagrantly discriminating real estate operators. One openly admitted his practices and asserted that nothing could be done about it. When Institute participants established a picket line, he promptly closed his office for the day. The other operator, following negotiations, agreed in the future to show his listings to all persons regardless of color.

The 19 Institute participants came from 12 CORE groups.

FOUR MONTHS JAIL FOR JACKSON PICKETING

Although almost 30 years have elapsed since the right to picket was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, it is no more recognized in Jackson, Mississippi than is the more recently upheld right of interstate passengers to use unsegregated transportation facilities.

For daring to picket a meeting of four southern governors in Jackson, Richard Haley, CORE field secretary and Helen O'Neal, who quit Jackson State College to join the picketing, received the same maximum sentence given the Freedom Riders — four months in jail and \$200 fines.

The two were arrested 15 minutes after they started carrying their placards in front of the Heidelberg Hotel, where the southern governors were considering ways of recreating a "solid south." The pickets' four placards said: "Governors, Don't Forget Freedom," "Let's Join the U.S.," "Lead Us to the Future, Not the Past" and "The States Rights We Lost: Fair Play for All Men."

Prior to the picketing, Haley had distributed a statement suggesting for the governor's meeting an agenda calling for recognition of Negro voting rights, fair employment practices, school desegregation and removal of "white" and "colored" signs.

Police Captain Ray used the same procedure as in arresting Freedom Riders. He approached Haley and ordered him to "move on." Haley responded that he was moving. Ray then elaborated: "Move on up the street" and asked: "are you going to obey the order?" When Haley declined, Ray arrested him on a "breach of the peace" charge.

Ray then went through the same motions with Helen O'Neal.

In the course of Haley's trial, attorney William Kunstler objected to the prosecutor's failure to use the customary "mister" in addressing the CORE field secretary. Although the judge declined to so order, the prosecutor volunteered to ask Haley if he would prefer being addressed as "mister." The latter replied: "it would be a welcome change." So for the 2-hour trial, a Negro was called "mister" by a southern prosecutor.

* * *

A day long fast and vigil at the Statue of Liberty to protest jailing of Freedom Riders in Mississippi was conducted on August 12 by New York CORE. The following day a similar vigil was initiated by Baltimore CORE at Washington Monument in Baltimore.

FREEDOM RIDE NEWS

TRIAL DATES SET FOR 189

Trial dates starting on August 22 and ending on January 18 have been set for 189 Freedom Riders out on appeal. The trials will be held at the rate of two a day.

In an obvious move of harrassments, Hinds County Court had ordered all 189 to return to Jackson on August 14 for setting trial dates or forfeit \$500 bail apiece. New trials are necessary for appealing because the original trials were unrecorded.

Within a period of less than two weeks, CORE faced the voluminous work and expense of rounding up the 189 Riders from various parts of the country and arranging their transportation to Jackson.

The first four will await trial in Jackson. Others will have to return a third time for their trials. Their attorneys are Carl Rachlin, William Kunstler and Jack Young.

MINISTERS LOCKED OUT



Manager of Tallahassee airport restaurant shuts door on ministers. Ten of them at the conclusion of their interfaith, interracial Freedom Ride in June were arrested for "unlawful assembly," convicted and sentenced to \$500 fines or 60 days in jail. The case is on appeal.

In a drive to stop racial designations in classified ads, Cincinnati CORE together with the local NAACP has been picketing the Cincinnati Post, Enquirer and Times Star.

LITTLE ROCK LEAVES IT TO JACKSON

Little Rock, Arkansas, which Governor Faubus made infamous on the school issue, has shunned a similar role on the Freedom Rides—leaving that role to Jackson, Mississippi.

At first, it had appeared otherwise. The first Freedom Riders to pass through Little Rock in early July were greeted at the bus station by several hundred jeering whites. Upon entering the "white" waiting room, four riders were ordered by police to "move on," just like in Jackson. Also like in Jackson, they were arrested upon refusal to do so.

However, they received only suspended sentences and proceeded the following day on their Ride, which was from St. Louis to New Orleans. Before reaching Little Rock, they had used the terminal facilities at Newport, Arkansas without incident.

A second group of Freedom Riders, including two rabbis, arrived in Little Rock two weeks later and ate undeterred at the bus terminal. On their return trip to New York, they also tested the Little Rock airport.

Four Held in Shreveport

A Freedom Ride from Shreveport, Louisiana to Jackson, Mississippi ended before it started when four riders were arrested at the Shreveport bus station's lunch counter. They are still in jail pending trial as this issue goes to press.

In addition, two observers were arrested while sitting in a car outside the terminal. They were released on \$150 bond.

Sikeston Charges Dropped

Fifteen Freedom Riders arrested in April for seeking service at Cyrus's restaurant in Sikeston, Missouri, were freed when upon recommendation of the city attorney, Judge E. R. Schrader dismissed the charges. He ruled there was insufficient evidence of "disturbing the peace." The 15 were represented by Charles Oldham, national CORE chairman.

They were participating in the little Freedom Ride, a pilot project preceding the May 4 Ride and sponsored by St. Louis and Columbia CORE. They were traveling from East St. Louis, Illinois, into the "cotton counties" of southern Missouri.

* * *

Over 2,000 persons participated in a rally followed by a march to the federal building in Los Angeles August 5 protesting the jailing of Freedom Riders in Mississippi. CORE demonstrations were held also in St. Louis, Mo., and Columbus, Ohio.