

kind, either by act or word. He will not submit out of personal fear of embarrassment or punishment.

7. A member will never engage in any action in the name of the group except when authorized by the group or one of its action units.

8. When in an action project a CORE member will obey the orders issued by the authorized leader or spokesman of the project, whether these orders please him or not. If he does not approve of such orders, he shall later refer the criticism back to the group or back to the committee which was the source of the project plan.

9. No member, after once accepting the discipline of the group for a particular action project, shall have the right of withdrawing from that discipline, except that when a participant feels unable to maintain CORE discipline under pressure, he shall withdraw from the project, leaving the scene immediately after notifying the leader of the project.

10. Only a person who is a recognized member of the group or a participant accepted by the group leader in a particular project shall be permitted to take part in that group action.

GUARANTEES FROM THE GROUP TO THE INDIVIDUAL

11. Each member has the right to dissent from any group decision and, if dissenting, need not participate in the specific action planned.

12. Each member shall understand that all decisions on general policy shall be arrived at only through democratic group discussion.

13. If a member gets in trouble carrying out the work of CORE, he shall receive the uncompromising support of CORE, financially and otherwise, as he faces the difficulty.

Mss CORE

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CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

3403 Rex Avenue

St. Louis 14, Missouri



CORE

ACTION

DISCIPLINE

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

3403 Rex Avenue

St. Louis 14, Missouri

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF WISCONSIN
815 State Street
53706
Madison, Wisconsin

Am 5
5-38

CORE AND NONVIOLENCE

The Congress Of Racial Equality is a national federation of local interracial groups committed to the goal of erasing the color-line through methods of direct nonviolent action. All groups affiliated with national CORE agree to follow to the best of their ability the nonviolent procedure in all action which they sponsor. The discipline which is set forth here, and which has been approved by the national convention, is simply meant to make explicit what seems to be implicit in the nonviolent method.

This method consists of relatively undeveloped techniques for solving social conflicts, but it has great possibilities for good. It makes two assumptions. First of all, it assumes that social conflicts are not ultimately solved by the use of violence; that violence perpetuates itself, and serves to aggravate rather than resolve conflict. Moreover, it assumes that it is suicidal for a minority group to use violence, since to use it would probably result in complete control and subjugation by the majority group. Secondly, the non-violent method assumes the possibility of creating a world in which nonviolence will be used to a maximum degree. In working for

this type of world, it confronts injustice without fear, without compromise, and without hate.

In overcoming injustice a threefold type of power characterizes nonviolence: (1) the power of active goodwill and non-retaliation; (2) the power of public opinion against a wrong-doer; (3) the power of refusing to cooperate with injustice, such non-cooperation being illustrated by the boycott and the strike.

Whenever possible CORE will cooperate with law enforcement agencies and responsible community groups in its efforts to better human relations.

To bring a personal awareness of the full implications of life in a segregated society, CORE urges that members should not knowingly participate in any situation involving segregation unless there is no other choice or unless they are participating in action toward elimination of discrimination.

Below are listed some of the implications for action of the nonviolent method.

GUARANTEES OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO THE GROUP

1. A CORE member will investigate the facts carefully before determining whether

or not racial injustice exists in a given situation.

2. A CORE member will seek at all times to understand both the attitude of the person responsible for a policy of racial discrimination, and the social situation which engendered the attitude. (Such understanding may be advanced through discussion with the prejudiced person. In the discussions the CORE member will be flexible and creative, showing a willingness to participate in experiments which seem constructive, but being careful not to compromise CORE principles.)

3. A CORE member will make a sincere effort to avoid malice and hatred toward any individual or group, while struggling relentlessly against practices of discrimination.

4. A CORE member will never use malicious slogans or labels to discredit any opponent.

5. A CORE member, while maintaining an understanding attitude, will be willing to admit his own inadequacies.

6. He will endure the anger of any individual or group in the spirit of goodwill and creative reconciliation, and in so doing he will submit to assault and never retaliate in