

SHOP-TALK

Washington Interracial Workshop
1734 F Street N.W.
Washington 6, D.C.

May 13, 1952

DIRECT ACTION AT WHELAN'S INCREASES PACE

Since April 2 the Workshop has staged seven "sit-ins" and distributed leaflets at Whelan's in the Longfellow Building. In earlier sit-ins the CORE group received cooperation from waitresses and little or no hostility from management.

On Easter Sunday the group was served by sympathetic waitresses, despite orders from management. The following Sunday the waitresses, having received orders not to serve, quit in protest. All the Negro employees present walked out protesting Whelan's discriminatory policy. Service was discontinued for the rest of the day.

William Steele, District Manager of Whelan's, was contacted following the walk-out of the colored employees. We asked him to discuss the policy with us. This request was not granted. A letter has been sent to Mr. Steele with copies to the New York office and to the District Area Manager. Statement of CORE's

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SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY PICKETED

On Monday evening, April 7, well-groomed guests arrived at the South African Embassy for a reception and cocktail party, to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the white man's advent in South Africa. They were greeted by a line of marchers carrying posters protesting the vicious segregation laws of the Malan government. The poster-walkers were members of Students for Democratic Action, WORLD (student federalists), and the Washington Interracial Workshop.

Signs read "300 years of Racial Discrimination", "Let ALL South Africans Vote", etc. The demonstration received press coverage by the Pittsburgh Courier and the Washington Post. Several of the marchers later rested their weary feet by sitting down at Whelan's drugstore with Workshop members.

ROSEDALE

The campaign to open Rosedale Playground reached a climax at the May 7 open hearing before the Transition Committee of the D.C. Recreation Board. Following the February visit of members of the Citizens' Committee to Integrate Rosedale Playground with Mr. Christianson, Superintendent of Recreation, the playground directors became less hostile in manner. However, they have continued to keep colored children off the playground--at first by guarding the gates, then by locking them. Photographs were presented at the hearing showing the directors barring children from the playground, with the American flag waving behind, and also showing ~~white~~ children climbing the fence to get in and out of the playground, because all of the gates

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CORE SUMMER WORKSHOP TO BE HERE

Again Washington will be host to the July Summer Interracial Workshop sponsored by National CORE and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. This is the fifth such Workshop held here.

Between 15 and 25 persons from all parts of the country will come for the month of July to learn non-violent direct-action techniques for combatting racism. The group will make its headquarters at Inspiration House as it has in three previous years.

Cost to participants will be \$85 for room and board for the month, and some scholarship aid will be available. If you know of anyone interested in participating, send their names and addresses and information will be sent to them.

The permanent Washington Workshop contributed \$80 toward the scholarship fund and other costs. If you can help finance this project, send your contributions earmarked for that purpose to the Workshop office.