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CORE

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STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Madison, Wisconsin 53706

THE "SHOW-ME" STATE OF MISSOURI has been shown. Social patterns can be changed. Racial discrimination can be ended -- even without Civil Rights Laws.

During the past few years, two interracial groups of dedicated people -- one in Columbia and one in St. Louis -- have ended racial discrimination in many places. Their methods have been simple, sensible and successful. These groups call themselves the Committee of Racial Equality (CORE) and have in common with CORE groups elsewhere a Statement of Purpose and a Method of Action.

CORE groups are organized for only one purpose -- to do something to end racial discrimination. This purpose is carried out by whatever peaceful means they can devise. Under no circumstances does a CORE group resort to violence.

CORE IN ST. LOUIS: Here CORE has worked patiently and persistently for over eight years and has had notable success in opening up eating facilities -- all downtown dime stores, drug stores and department stores now serve everyone at all counters. Frequently, many months of negotiating, letter-writing, picketing and sitting at counters were needed to secure policy changes.

Sometimes a white and colored CORE member would sit at the counter together. When served, the white person would share his food with his colored friend to show the manager that other customers do not leave just because a Negro eats at the counter.

Sometimes a manager was willing to change his policy but was afraid to open his counter to all immediately. CORE would then conduct a series of tests with the manager's approval. Each week two or three Negroes would eat at these counters to prepare cus-

tomers and waitresses for the complete change which usually followed several months of planned testing.

Encouraged by their success in restaurants, the St. Louis group began working to open jobs to Negroes. An ice-cream store largely dependent on colored trade hired Negroes after CORE picketed the store and reduced business to practically nothing. Several food stores hired Negroes as cashiers after CORE pointed out that Negroes could be encouraged to shop elsewhere.

Now St. Louis CORE is directing its efforts toward opening theatres to all, toward opening still more restaurants and toward other employment campaigns. The St. Louis group is also spearheading a campaign for a Civil Rights Law for the city of St. Louis.

CORE IN COLUMBIA, MISSOURI: Within three years of its formation, Columbia CORE had opened nearly all restaurants adjacent to the Missouri University campus and one of the more exclusive restaurants downtown. First CORE sent interracial groups of two or three to "test" each restaurant. If served, the Negro members of the group would go back a few days later. Many restaurants thus adopted a non-discriminatory policy even though they had never served Negroes before the CORE tests were made.

To accumulate evidence which would assist CORE in negotiations with restaurants which had not served the test groups, a poll was taken of the University students. 88% did not object to eating in restaurants serving both white and colored.

After Columbia's Tiger Art Theatre opened its doors to all some time ago, the manager reported an increase in business. Using this as an example of successful integration, Columbia CORE proceeded to negotiate with other theatre managers for a similar policy change.

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The public is already accepting Negroes on an equal basis with white people in many instances and has come to expect civil rights to be expanded. Because of the Supreme Court decision on schools, people have become more aware of the disadvantages of racial discrimination and have seen that social patterns can and do change. In the nation's capitol, all restaurants and hotels are now available to all citizens. Schools have been desegregated in many communities, including Southern ones. In view of these advances, there is no reason to delay the achieving of civil rights and equal opportunities for all anywhere.

DO YOU BELIEVE Negroes should have the right to eat where it is convenient and to enjoy the type of recreation they like whether this be the theatre, bowling or swimming?

DO YOU BELIEVE in this enough to work for integration and to challenge jimcrow practices? DO YOU KNOW OF OTHERS who share your beliefs?

Show this to your friends. Tell them what is happening in Missouri! Discuss with them what can be done in your city.

For further information about CORE, write:

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