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National Action Committee Meeting; Dec. 15, 1961
CORE - Congress of Racial Equality
38 Park Row; New York 38, New York

M I N U T E S

Present: Farmer, Carter, Gartner, Peck, Lombard, Rachlin, Carey, Rich.
Invited Observers: Taer

FILM ON FREEDOM RIDES: Attorney Carl Rachlin reported to the Committee on negotiations for the production and distribution of the film, in accordance with the regulations of the New York State Board of Charities. CORE will have the film produced. It will then license M. A. Lockhart, and lease the film to him for exhibition. Mr Rachlin explained all clauses of the contract with Mr. Lockhart to the Committee, and it was adopted with certain amendments.

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA: On December 14th twenty-three CORE members were arrested in Baton Rouge for picketing department stores in protest of their hiring policies, and for picketing segregated lunch counters. The following day 4000 demonstrators, mostly students from Southern University, marched to the Court House in Baton Rouge to protest the jailings. Among those in jail, are Ronnie Moore, Chairman of Baton Rouge CORE, Jerome Smith, Chairman of New Orleans CORE along with almost half of the New Orleans CORE members, and CORE Field Secretaries, Reverend B. Elton Cox and Dave Dennis. Bail has been set at \$1500.00 but so far no one has requested same. Telegrams have gone out to all CORE groups asking that they wire President Kennedy protesting the situation in Baton Rouge.

ALBANY, GEORGIA: Jim Farmer received a wire from the Albany Movement stating that they are interested in securing the cooperation of CORE in the present fight. CORE Field Secretary, Richard Haley, was sent there to serve in whatever way feasible. Negotiations between the Albany

Movement and local authorities center around three demands by the Movement: (1) Dismissal of charges against arrested persons. (2)

Immediate desegregation of local bus and railway terminal facilities.

(3) Establishment of a biracial council in Albany. Dr. W. G. Anderson, Chairman of the Albany Movement, has promised to keep in constant touch with CORE's National Office and inform us of any way in which we can be helpful.

ROUTE 40: CORE's Freedom Ride against restaurants along U. S. Highway

#40 which refuse to desegregate will take place as scheduled, on December 16th. Many participants from the northern end of the route will meet at CORE National Headquarters at 8 AM the morning of the 16th. The Ride, from the Delaware Bridge to Baltimore, will involve over 700 people from CORE groups throughout the East. Those coming from the northern end have been organized by Norman Hill and those from the south by Ed Blankenheim.

(NOTE: There were close to 800 participants on the Ride. Eleven of the 38 restaurants visited served consistently throughout the day.)

STAFF: More field staff members are badly needed and a recommendation to the Committee was that Dave Dennis, already serving on a temporary basis, and Jerome Smith be added as permanent employees. The recommendation was approved.

CORE Vice Chairman, Rudy Lombard, recommended an increase in salary for the National Director of \$1000.00 annually, to be effective on the anniversary date of his employment, February 1, 1962. The motion was seconded by Leroy Carter and adopted by the Committee.

CHICAGO: Jim Farmer reported on his meeting with the two groups in

Chicago. His first suggestion, that they merge, was rejected. His second, that Southside CORE disband and allow its members who so desired to join Chicago CORE, was accepted. A majority of the members of former Southside CORE are joining Chicago CORE.

PUBLICATIONS: Marvin Rich reported that CORE's booklet, "Cracking The Color Line", is being revised to include the Sit-Ins and Freedom Rides, and that some printed matter will be done on the Route 40 project.

FIELD STAFF: Gordon Carey reported that Field Secretary, Henry Thomas, is working on development of several CORE groups in Alabama. None of the major civil rights organizations are currently active in this state. Thomas has been authorized to establish a temporary office and phone service in Birmingham.

ICC: On December 14th Jim Farmer, Carl Rachlin and Gordon Carey kept an appointment with the Department of Justice and ICC in Washington and gave a report on interference with interstate travel as determined by CORE test teams. The following day FBI agents visited the CORE office to secure additional data. ICC representatives state that they are making every attempt to enforce its ruling, but that complaints must first be filed with their district offices. They stated, too, that lack of sufficient personnel hampered their operation in many areas.

The National Action Committee adopted a motion to invite Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth to serve as a member of the National Advisory Committee. It also adopted a motion to ask Mr. Joe Willen and Mrs. Katrina McCormick Barnes to serve as members of the Advisory Committee.

The next National Action Committee meeting will be on January 26.