

NPL

Sept. 1, 1961

Minutes - National Action Committee

Congress of Racial Equality

Government will more frequently need unanimous votes of the NAC.

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Local chapters throughout will be asked to support this resolution.

Present: Farmer, Haley, Rich, Carey, Lombard, Rachlin, Gartner,
Rutledge, McCummings, Peck and ODO of Louisville, Kentucky.

Also Invited Observers: Wendell, Teer, Hill

A statement of the duties and functions of the CORE Field Staff
was presented to the NAC by the Department of Organization, which
is in direct charge of the Field Staff. It was accepted, with
certain revisions, and will be mailed to all CORE chapters.

Jackson Non-Violent Movement: James Farmer briefed the Committee
on this Jackson, Mississippi organization which has expressed its
desire to affiliate with the Congress of Racial Equality as the
"Jackson Non-Violent Movement affiliated with CORE." The NAC
accepted Mr. Farmer's suggestion to affiliate the group with the
stipulation that they be asked to affiliate as the Jackson Non-
Violent Movement: affiliated CORE chapter.

Fredricka Teer reported that CORE Field Secretary Tom Gaither
must report for Army duty on June 11th. NAC members voted unanimously
to send Mr. Gaither a letter of thanks for the fine job he has
done with the Congress of Racial Equality, with particular refer-
ence to his work in Jackson, Mississippi.

The Citizens' Committee for \$1.50 minimum wage has requested that
CORE act as a co-sponsor of its forthcoming demonstration on
Tuesday, June 5th. The NAC voted unanimously to co-sponsor this
demonstration.

Financial Report: Marvin Rich reported that CORE does not current-
ly have enough money on hand to meet its forthcoming payroll.

Five-thousand dollars has already been removed from the reserve account, leaving only \$10,000 in this emergency account. (Since the meeting an additional \$5,000 has been removed from reserves and spent to meet pressing obligations.) Postage advances and several other obligations must be met. Mr. Rich gave a report to the Committee on CORE's income for the last fiscal year and a projection of the coming year. He stated he expected large contributions from unions, churches and other organizations to increase substantially during the coming fiscal year. However, income from specially planned fund-raising affairs such as benefits, teas, parties, etc. is expected to decline by about the same amount. He expressed the opinion that CORE's non-tax-exempt status may be affecting our large individual contributions. Direct mail should increase by 20% in the coming year.

A jazz festival in Harlem, an art auction, and the 1962 Gandhi award presentation are all planned for fall, 1962 with the hope that they will add some money to CORE's treasury.

A ninety day voter registration grant of \$8,625 has been received by the organization. This money is to be used exclusively in voter registration work.

This report was concluded with the statement that the summer of 1962 will be a very tight one financially, and it may be necessary for the organization to borrow before this period ends. The report was accepted by the NAC.

Budget Committee: Mr. Farmer read a letter from National Chairman Charles Oldham suggesting that the NAC set up a committee to go over the budget which will be presented to CORE's National Convention.

Mr. Oldham further suggested that Alan Gartner, Rudy Lombard and James Peck constitute this special committee. The committee was so appointed with these three NAC members accepting the job. Staff members were requested to see that a proposed budget is prepared and submitted to this committee next week. Rudy Lombard, who will begin in the city during this week, will initiate the work of the budget committee and the proposed one-man legal counsel committee.

Vice-Chairman Rudy Lombard reported for the committee established at the last NAC meeting to investigate the general situation with regard to remuneration for CORE legal counsel. This committee recommended that Jim Farmer's request, that the firm of Vladeck & Elias (Carl Rachlin is a partner) be placed on retainer at \$9,000 per year, be accepted. The proposal was accepted by the NAC with the request that the effective date be October 1, 1962.

Community Relations: Marvin Rich reported that a pamphlet on the work which CORE is doing in voter registration will be produced as soon as it is financially possible to do so. He reported, too, that U.S. News and World Report will carry a feature on CORE's voter registration program in its issue of June 11. Look magazine is doing a feature on Baton Rouge.

The Committee on Inquiry meeting, held in Washington, D.C. May 25 and 26, was reported a success by all staff members who attended. The National Action Committee was told of the very effective job which had been done by Mrs. Charlotte Devree in setting up this meeting and the Committee asked that the National Director send a letter of commendation to Mrs. Devree. The NAC further requested that all staff members who had worked to make this meeting a success be given a special thank-you from the National Action Committee.

Marvin Rich recommended that the Committee on Inquiry meeting be followed up as quickly as possible and in every way possible to bring about maximum results. CORE is applying to a foundation for funds to further publicize the meeting.

The Community Relations Director told the NAC that his former assistant, William Larkins, has resigned to become active with the Shakespeare Festival in New York City. Because of CORE's financial position, Mr. Rich was asked to attempt to carry on his department through the summer without a replacement. The Committee also asked that the National Office direct a letter of thanks to Mr. Larkins for his service to the organization.

The Episcopalian ministers who were jailed in Jackson, Mississippi last year and who were later acquitted may turn over to CORE a portion of the funds collected for their defense which are not now needed.

Program Department Report: Norman Hill reported on the Action Institute, housing workshop and the schools' project as follows: Applications for the Action Institute are good. Those for the housing-employment workshop are coming in much slower. Since time is drawing very close for the latter, he expressed the hope that applications for this workshop would pick up substantially in the next few days. Mr. Hill reported that the schools' project, particularly Operation Transfer, which would facilitate transferrals of students from less desirable schools to more desirable ones where possible, is being worked up by the Program Department for presentation in the school desegregation workshop of the National Convention.

Vice-Chairman Rudy Lombard commented here on the necessity of action on the housing and school levels, particularly in the North. The Department of Organization was asked to request that members of the Field Staff put forth some special effort in these areas.

Freedom Highways: Gordon Carey advised the NAC that Henry Thomas is presently working on the Freedom Highways' project and that Jerome Smith will start Tuesday, June 5. Applications are good and twelve persons have already been accepted. Cars are available for this project but insurance coverage raises something of a problem. CORE's insurance agent is currently working on this. It is estimated that the cost of Freedom Highways will be between \$17,000 and \$20,000, exclusive of legal costs.

The National Office succeeded in setting up a meeting with a Howard Johnson's official, who advised that although they do not desire segregation, they have no jurisdiction over the individual restaurants, except those which they own outright. Initial tests of the Howard Johnson's chain up and down the East Coast of Florida show considerable desegregation since the beginning of the project.

The NAC discussed the possibility of expanding the Freedom Highways' project to establishments other than Howard Johnson's. Attorney Carl Rachlin requested that he be allowed to investigate whether or not federal money has been used in the construction of the establishments under consideration. Further details will be reported at the Convention.

Alan Gartner reported that the Director of a New England group known as the American Legal Association has issued a statement saying that they are no longer recommending tourism to Louisiana and Arkansas as

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the result of the reverse "Freedom Rides" from these states.

Norman Hill, who is a member of the Committee to Integrate the New York World's Fair, reported that this Committee had succeeded in getting several Negroes hired, one on the executive level. Mr. Hill also reported that the Committee for the Employment of Negro Performers, which is working closely with CORE, had met with considerable success. The results of its negotiations with City Center in New York were widely reported in the press a few weeks ago. He informed the NAC that CORE, in conjunction with the Negro American Labor Council, would be picketing the Broadway play, "Subways Are For Sleeping" on Saturday, June 2nd. There are three documented cases of discrimination in the casting of "Subways Are For Sleeping", supported by members of the production staff. These are now before the Executive Council of Actors' Equity Association. CORE attorney, Carl Rachlin, has offered to act as counsel and bear the cost of arbitration proceedings. A resolution will be demanded, binding the Council to act at its membership meeting on Friday, June 8th.

/ Constitutional Changes: A plan for revisions in voting representation at the National Convention and suggested changes in Council structure were presented to the NAC. After lengthy discussion it was decided to call a special NAC meeting on Sunday, June 10, to work exclusively on these proposals. They would then be sent to CORE chapters requesting their study and recommendations from which a final proposal would be drawn for presentation to the National Convention.

Richard Haley advised that the Rev. Martin Luther King had accepted an invitation to speak at a luncheon at the Convention on

Saturday, June 30. Also, Harry Golden has accepted an invitation to address the Convention Friday evening, June 29. Transportation is still being worked on and one bus company has stated that it will take delegates round trip at \$40 per person. A memo is going to all CORE groups, urging that they please send in the names of their delegates so that final arrangements can be made for housing and transportation. A memorandum is also going to cooperating organizations, inviting their attendance at the Convention.

In keeping with the suggestion from National Director, James Farmer, and CORE General Counsel, Carl Rachlin, the NAC authorized them to go to Baton Rouge, Louisiana and attempt to settle the difficulties with Attorney Johnny Jones of that city. Disagreement has arisen over the handling of certain legal cases involving CORE members and Attorney Jones' charges for his services on these cases. The results of their negotiations with Mr. Jones would be brought to the NAC for final decision.