

## PROGRAM DEPARTMENT

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The single most significant project of the Program Department during the past year has been the formation of the CORE Task Force. Indeed, the Task Force may well prove to be one of the most important innovations in CORE's recent history. It was started officially late in 1962. However, it was in fact launched last summer with the beginning of the Freedom Highway campaign in North Carolina. That campaign encompassed many cities in North Carolina and the mass action which was carried on in those cities in an important way laid the groundwork for mass demonstrations in Birmingham and other places to follow. In fact, the use of high school children was really pioneered in North Carolina both in Statesville during 1962 and earlier in High Point and other cities.

The success of the Freedom Highway's project -- over half of the Howard Johnson Restaurants in North Carolina were opened at that time -- many other public accommodations were desegregated and some employment opportunities opened up -- led to the formation of the CORE Task Force. Many of the first seven members of the Task Force were actually participants in the North Carolina summer project who remained on without official status and without pay of any kind until the Task Force was launched late in 1962. Now the Task Force has been expanded to fifteen persons and the Program Department hopes that within the coming year we can have a permanent full-time force of twenty-five volunteers in the field. The fifteen persons now on the Task Force are Claudia Edwards, Bruce Baines, Isaac Reynolds, Zev Aelony, Arlean Wilkes, Bill Douthard, Catherine Patterson, George Raymond, Bette Anne Poole, Fannie Lou Hamer, Winston Lockett, Gordon Harris, Spiver Gordon, Jon Schaefer and Danny Mitchell. They have been able to work in areas where it would be too expensive to keep field secretaries for long periods of time. They have acted as assistants to field secretaries and on their own have organized impressive demonstrations in many cities. They have worked extensively in North Carolina, Alabama and Mississippi. They have also done work in Virginia, Florida, Louisiana and Tennessee. Two of the Task Force members have spent a great deal of time in New York assisting the Organization Department and the Program Department. Many of them have been in jail, as are a few of them now who are not here at the Convention.

During the summer, the Task Force will be temporarily expanded to a force of over fifty persons. For six weeks beginning on July 14th the Task Force will be launching a massive campaign in the North as well as in the South. In New York and Newark, Summer Task Force members will be deployed under the direction of Norman Hill to work on the myriad problems facing Negroes who have been ghettoized in our large centers of population. Not only will this northern contingent work on breaking down discrimination in housing and employment, but it will also attack the conditions within the ghettos which destroy the will and motivation to participate in an integrated and democratic society.

In the South, under the direction of Program Director, Gordon Carey, and Vice Chairman Rudy Lombard, the CORE Task Force will undertake the most massive and intensive voter registration campaign ever to take place within the context of civil rights. Forty full-time persons will be used in six or seven parishes of Louisiana. They will be working primarily in rural areas and in at least one case they will work in a parish where to date there are no Negroes registered whatsoever. In both the North and the South, these movements will be interracial and will attempt to involve masses of local citizens. We trust that these Summer Task Force programs will not actually end at the end of the summer, but will continue and grow. To insure their growth, we have arranged for members of the Task Force to remain in these communities many months after the projects are officially ended.

Last year, in addition to the Freedom Highways Project, CORE also ran two nonviolent action institutes -- one in Houston and the other in Columbus. In essence, the Task Force summer projects continue the tradition of the annual CORE institutes but with a somewhat different emphasis. We hope that we are moving in a direction which is better suited to the needs of CORE both North and South. Participants this summer will receive the same degree of training provided by the institutes in the past but will involve larger numbers of people for longer periods of time in more intense action projects.

The Program Department has also carried on many activities of a less dramatic nature. There have been numerous negotiation sessions with national companies dealing with the problems of public accommodations and with employment discrimination. Direct action across the nation has been carried on in our campaign to end school segregation. CORE is in the process of challenging the right of local communities and states to raise funds through bond issues for building or maintaining segregated schools. In this regard, however, the Department feels a pressing need for more time to prepare guidelines for action and to do research. It is recommended therefore that within the Program Department be established a research division. This would entail employing one full-time person to spend his time doing research, and preparing material based on that research to be distributed to the chapters and to other organizations. This research person would also spend a portion of his time looking into the structure of various companies with which we carry on action projects.

Projects for the coming year: In the year ahead the Program Department proposes that National CORE carry out projects with the cooperation of the local chapters in the field of employment, housing, public accommodations, schools and other areas.

In employment, it is suggested that a major national emphasis be given to ending discrimination within the trade union movement. Of particular concern are the skilled trades which in many cases exclude Negroes altogether or offer only token employment. It is proposed that the Program Department enter into negotiations on the national level with the various unions involved and that coordinated national demonstrations be launched if these negotiations are not successful. It is suggested that these demonstrations should follow after the pattern pioneered by Philadelphia CORE and more recently in New York. It is requested also that the Convention consider the feasibility of a national project involving employment of flight crew personnel at those airlines which continue to discriminate. Employment campaigns will of course continue with various national companies involved in both the retail and manufacturing fields.

In the field of housing, it was suggested by the December 1962 meeting of the National Action Council that CORE plan a coordinated housing demonstration. This project should be considered by the Convention and implemented as soon as feasible. Nationally, in the area of public accommodations, there are still many problems remaining. The Woolworth Company has not yet completed the job of desegregating its lunch counters nor has it launched an effective and meaningful fair employment program. Many movie theatres in the South remain segregated. Companies which are part of the ABC-Paramount concern still operate literally hundreds of segregated movie theatres. Some restaurant chains have remained adamant and refuse to drop racial bars, although hundreds of other restaurants have desegregated in recent weeks. While discrimination in bus terminals has virtually ended, it still remains in some places of the Deep South. Also, Greyhound operates chartered tours in the South which are completely segregated. All of these problems need to be considered by the Convention and the staff for action.

In the area of public schools, it has already been mentioned that we are moving ahead with our ~~school~~ bond campaign. Nevertheless, direct action is needed both in cases of de facto and de jure segregation. It is time that CORE consider mass action campaigns in regard to segregated schools in the South. Other projects of national importance which should be brought to your attention are cooperation with the newly formed Medical Committee for Civil Rights; Project Friendship -- a program of enlarging social contacts between Negroes and whites in the South modeled after the Knoxville, Tennessee experiment; a boycott and picketing of ships bringing South African goods to The United States; a campaign to have the arrest records of civil rights demonstrators indicate that those arrests did result from legitimate action to end segregation; and a continuation and expansion of the cooperative industry program which CORE has sponsored and aided in Haywood County, Tennessee and Ruleville, Mississippi.



Finally, the Program Department proposes that for the Summer of 1964 CORE consider selecting one southern city which the Task Force would work on intensively for the entire summer in an attempt to abolish all forms of racial discrimination and segregation in that city. The intent of this last proposal is to carry on a project of the nature of the Birmingham or Greensboro projects but on a much larger and more intensive basis than this country has seen to date. CORE has already achieved, by its actions, the well deserved reputation of being the most militant and effective civil rights force in the nation. The year following this Convention offers greater challenges and opportunities than ever before. If CORE is to play the role for which it is destined, it must expand its program creatively and immediately.