

Congress of Racial Equality  
38 Park Row, New York 38, N. Y.  
10 March 1964

Minutes of the National Action Council Meeting

February 21-23, 1964

Belmont Plaza Hotel  
New York City

Friday, February 21, at 7:35 the chair ruled that a quorum was present.

W. Ussery moved that the reading of the minutes of the last NAC meeting be waived.

carried

Election to Fill NAC Vacancies

It was reported that three vacancies existed on the NAC due to the fact that Patricia Due, Velma Hill and Carl Rachlin had become staff members. It was decided that only the co-opted members would be replaced and that the replacement of Miss Due, the representative from the Southeast, would have to await the convention. Dr. George Wiley of Syracuse, Rimsky Atkinson of Washington D.C. and Shirley Lacey of Englewood, New Jersey were nominated. G. Wiley and S. Lacey were elected.

Program Department Report

Major emphasis of this report, given by Norman Hill, was on training. The staff conference which was just held in New Orleans was considered to have been successful. It was suggested that next year additional separate conferences be held for southern and northern staff. Area conferences, with the program dept. playing an active role in coordination and direction, have been held in N.Y.C., New Jersey, California and Connecticut. Similar conferences dealing with CORE fundamentals will be held in some 14 areas before the summer. A special institute of "Leadership Training" for civil rights activists is being held in New York City. We are getting some union help in the financing of this project.

Convention Site

Gordon Carey reported that Kansas City will be the site of our

(Continued)

National Convention on July 2, 3, 4 & 5. Whether it will be held in Kansas City, Mo. or Kansas City, Kansas has not yet been determined.

### Civil Rights Bill

Marv. Rich reported that CORE had the largest and hardest working contingent of any civil rights group in Washington working for House passage of the Civil Rights Bill. After some discussion there was a consensus that, during the expected filibuster in the Senate on this bill, work should be done to change "Rule 22" as well as to pass the bill.

#### Motion by A. Gartner and seconded by G. Wiley:

That the matter of pending civil rights legislation is a national matter in scope and character and therefore all chapters shall refrain from taking any related action, particularly direct action, until that action is cleared and coordinated through the national office. It was further moved that a memo be prepared and sent to chapters on this subject.

Unanimously carried

#### Motion by W. Ussery and seconded by G. Wiley:

That a committee of NAC staff be appointed to look into the possibility of instituting a direct action program of CORE providing a leadership concept counterposing direct action against undemocratic procedures in the U.S. Congress with the intent of appraising and determining whether such a project can be instituted in this session of Congress.

Carried

Committee appointed was M. Rich (Convener), N. Hill, E. Lewinson, W. Ussery and D. Rapp.

Committee report appended (appendix 10)

### Pension Plan

There was general agreement, after some discussion that it would be desirable for staff members with some seniority, to have as a fringe benefit, a plan which would combine life insurance and pension. Such a plan was presented to the NAC by Mr. D. H. Kallish of Property & Life Services, INC.

#### Motion by J. Hobson and seconded by M. Dodson:

That the NAC authorize the adoption of the pension plan presented for CORE employees and that a committee be appointed to enter into a contract on behalf of CORE to work out the details and make such other arrangements as prove necessary to bring the pension plan into operation.

#### Ammendment:

That CORE commit itself to permit James McCain to retire at age 65 and receive, at that age, monthly benefits equal to those that he would receive from the pension plan.

(Continued)

Amendment:

That prior to the commencement of any plan the committee will report back to the steering committee.

Carried

Request: It was requested that any information relating to the cancellation of insurance of any type due to civil rights activities be reported to Carl Rachlin.

Discussion: On Sat. morning a discussion was held in which problems of political action and the changing environment of the civil rights movement were discussed. No attempt was made to resolve issues or to come to conclusions. Rather, the sense of the several hours of discussion was the exchange of ideas and the recognition of the need for further clarification of issues such as non-violence, political action, and creative program in those program areas where we already have involvement.

Motion by W. Ussery & seconded by D. Hollis:

That there be a special two day NAC meeting devoted to discussion of program and perspectives and that position papers be presented at such a meeting.

Amendment:

That this meeting be held right before the convention, June 30 and July 1.

Unanimously carried

Freedom House In the South

F. McKissick presented an architect's sketch for remodeling a house Durham which could then be used as a training center. The consensus was that at this time, with a field office in New Orleans and with the need for local training, a central training center was not feasible.

Treasurer's Report

A. Gartner gave a report which reflected increased income, increased expenditures and increased need. Report appended. Appendix 1 & 2.

Summer Projects

Dave Dennis outlined the ambitious program which is planned for this summer in Mississippi. He listed eleven areas where it is intended that work is to be done. They are:

(Continued)

- 1) Freedom Schools--where action orientated Mississippi high school students will be trained on political issues.
- 2) Literacy Schools
- 3) Food and clothing distribution
- 4) Community Centers
- 5) Libraries--20,000 books contributed by CORE
- 6) Funds for the Meridian Community Center
- 7) Organize "Freedom Registration" drive.
- 8) Run Mrs. Hamer for the Senate
- 9) Challenge caucuses at all levels by attempting to seat Negroes.
- 10) Get national focus on these political problems in time for both National Conventions.
- 11) Continue local demonstrations.

This program will be under the auspices of COFO--Council of Federated Organizations--which primarily includes OCRE--SNCC. It was noted by M. Rich that CORE now will be spending about \$50,000 per year in Mississippi.

Norm Hill outlined a proposed project for the North which would attempt to organize on a grass roots level those persons who have not yet equally shared in the recent gains made in the civil rights movement. Chicago, San Francisco and Philadelphia were suggested as possible sites.

Motion by A. Gartner and seconded by J. Farmer:

That: 1) Within the existing CORE budget and framework, we emphasize the Louisiana project;

2) We support the Mississippi COFO project

3) and the Northern project be carried out; location to be determined by the Program Department.

Carried

Motion by Wester Sweet and seconded by E. Lewinson:

That the Program Dept. prepare a memo on their projected staff requirements and present this to the next NAC Steering Committee Meeting.

Carried

#### Dayton CORE

The problem of Dayton CORE was brought to the NAC. There were two factions: one claiming irregular proceedings and misappropriation of funds; the other denying this and making counter claims. Each side was given an opportunity to present its case and such documents as were available and then the disputants were asked clarifying questions by NAC members. The guests were excused and the matter was discussed in closed session. Richard Haley, who had represented the National Office in attempting to resolve the chapters difficulties, presented a review

(Continued)

of his efforts. After several hours of discussion the following motions were made.

Motion by G. Wiley and seconded by J. Lewis:

That the Dayton chapter be disaffiliated and that the CORE name be retracted.

Defeated

Motion by C. Oldham and seconded by A. Gartner:

That there be an investigation of the unaccounted for funds from Dayton CORE and that a report of the findings be made.

Carried

Motion by R. Rapp and seconded by J. Lewis:

That Dayton CORE be disaffiliated with the understanding that a commitment exist to attempt reorganization: the nature and time of aforementioned attempt to be determined by the Organization Department.

Carried -- 4 against

Department Reports

The reports of Organization and Community Relations Departments were presented in a mimeograph form. (See Appendix 3 & 4)

Motion by R. Lombard:

To accept all departmental reports.

Carried

Motion by A. Gartner and seconded by R. Rosenfeld:

That Mr. McCain be directed to draw up a statement to be sent to all staff members which, in line with CORE policies and objectives, would specify their duties and obligations to the organization, specifically to include their making of public statements.

Carried

By-Laws

A compilation of by-laws and policy statements which have been passed by National Conventions over the years was made by G. Carey.

It was suggested that A. Gartner and G. Carey complete this report and make necessary recommendations regarding it to the next Steering Committee meeting.

Convention Voting

The rules for convention voting are spelled out in the CORE Constitution and therefore can only be changed by a 2/3 vote of a National

(Continued)

Convention. In the hope of avoiding prolonged discussion at the 1964 Convention, the 1963 Convention passed a resolution which instituted a committee to be formed to make recommendation for needed changes. The memorandum of this committee was presented. In order to implement these recommendations specific constitutional changes were suggested. These changes, as amended by the NAC are appendix 7. It must again be emphasized that until the convention meets and passes on these changes they do not go into effect and that the 1964 convention shall be conducted under the current CORE Constitution as amended in July 1963. A motion to recommend the committee formula for Article VIII, Section 4, part (a) failed.

Motion by A. Gartner and seconded by R. Curvin:

To recommend Article VIII, Section 4, part (a) as shown in appendix 7.  
13 for, 3 abstentions

Carried

Motion by A. Gartner and seconded by R. Rapp:

To recommend Article VIII, Section 4, Part (b) as shown in appendix 7.  
8 for, 5 against, 3 abstentions

Carried

The rest of the recommended changes reflected in appendix 7 were accepted by concensus.

#### Multiple Chapters

A committee of G. Carey, S. Riley and V. Hill was appointed to bring back a recommendation on this matter.

#### Proposed Constitutional Clause Re: Trusteeship

Motion by M. Dodson & seconded by J. Hobson:

That the recommendation--appendix 8--be approved by the NAC.

U. Carried

#### Chapter Incorporation--See appendix 9

Motion:

That the report and its recommendations be accepted and that the General Counsel be instructed to present a by-law incorporating the sence of this memo to the next Steering Committee meeting.

U. Carried

#### Statement on Communism

Motion by W. Ussery & seconded by J. Hobson:

(Continued)

That the policy statement on Communism from the 1948 National Convention be referred to the Steering Committee to bring it up to date.

Carried

National Advisory Committee

Motion by W. Ussery & seconded by A. Gartner:

That Congressman Philip Burton be made a member of the CORE National Advisory Committee.

Motion to table the above motion by A. Gartner & seconded by G. Wiley.

U. Carried

Chapter Problems

Motion by G. Wiley seconded by A. Gartner:

That full discussion of divergent views within CORE groups and privately between members of CORE is encouraged as a healthy democratic procedure. However, disagreements between members or between CORE groups on action projects, CORE policy or internal CORE business should not be aired in the public sphere. Since such public disagreements almost invariably impair the overall CORE civil rights program, chapters or individuals violating this policy will be subject of discipline including disaffiliation.

U. Carried

Arbitration Panel

Motion by R. Rapp and seconded by J. Hobson:

That chapter problems when unresolved by staff recommendations, and of a nature which may require NAC action, may, at the discretion of the National Director and the National Chairman, be submitted to arbitration. The panel shall consist of a national staff member appointed by the Director and two NAC members appointed by the Chairman. The panel shall hear the evidence and make a recommendation to the Steering Committee or the NAC.

Motion to table the above motion by R. Rosenfeld & seconded by R. Wiley:

Referred to a committee of A. Gartner & G. Carey.

Carried

Chicago CORE

A letter from Southside CORE was read which referred to some areas of dispute between the new group and the original group.

(Continued)

Motion by A. Gartner & seconded by R. Curvin:

That letters be sent at once to: S. Riley, M. Davis, Chairman of Englewood Unit and the Chairman of the Southside CORE, restating and reaffirming the decision of the NAC Steering Committee to affiliate Southside CORE and to instruct them to carry out these directions at once.

Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph Rosenfeld  
Secretary

RR:LP



Congress of Racial Equality  
38 Park Row, New York, N. Y. 100038  
COrtlandt 7-6270

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

June 1, 1963 thru Jan. 31, 1964

Brotherhood	8,365.15	
Budget	98,279.15	
William Moore	23,265.85	
Specials	152,124.18	
VEP Refunds	20,684.87	
H. Cards	58,788.35	
Jazz Records	50,316.64	
Outside Appeals	136,212.26	
Misc.	86,170.76	
TBD's	5,409.62	
Other Records	1,225.44	
Pins, Buttons & T-Shirts	415.43	
Area Conference	390.25	
CORE Store	6,041.18	
Literature	129.70	
Misc. Benefits	208.00	
Honoraria	1,121.78	
Exchanges	523.35	
Louisiana Car	251.80	
Total Receipts for 8 months ending January 31.	649,923.76	(Actual Income for Period)
Balance June 1, 1963	<u>1,398.23</u>	
	651,321.99	
Disbursements for 8 months ending January 31.	<u>627,765.16</u>	(Actual Expenses)
	23,556.83	

CORE - Congress of Racial Equality  
38 Park Row, New York 38, New York  
COrtlandt 7-6270

RECEIPTS

January 1 thru January 31

Budget	\$ 4,474.00
Brotherhood	1,160.50
William Moore	55.25
Specials	30,123.42
TBD's	25.00
Holiday Cards	677.33
Jazz Records	2,628.00
Outside Appeals	6,804.05
Misc.	9,568.02
Other Records	275.15
Pins, Buttons, T-Shirts	182.18
Honorariums	1,121.78
CORE Store	39.50
Literature	59.05
V. E. P. Refunds	2,914.45
Exchanges	523.35
Misc. Benefits	208.00
Louisiana Car	251.80
TOTAL	<u>\$61,090.83</u>
Transfer from Emigrant Bank	<u>10,000.00</u>
	71,090.83
Balance June 1	<u>1,398.23</u>
	\$72,489.06
Total Disbursed January	\$70,091.87
Excess of Expenses over Income	7,602.81
Balance in Checking Account 1/31	3,229.58
Carver Federal Savings	35,066.26
Emigrant Industrial	5,259.23
Transbay Federal	554.18
V. E. P. Account Balance	2,174.62

Since February 1, 1964 some \$15,000 has been transferred from reserves to the operating account.

Constitutional Changes Required to Implement  
The Committee's Recommendations on Convention Voting

Article IV. Affiliation

Section 1. Local action groups may be affiliated by the annual Convention, the National Action Council or the Steering Committee. In order to apply for affiliation, a local group must have been in existence at least one month and must have ten members. Its application must be accompanied by the affiliation form, an acceptable constitution, and payment of a non-refundable ten dollar fee. Before the National Action Council or Steering Committee may consider such an application for affiliation, it must have a report and an affirmative recommendation in writing from the director of organization.

Section 2. Each affiliating group shall be known as the Committee of Racial Equality and shall be abbreviated CORE, or as a chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and each group must accept the CORE Rules for Action and the National Constitution. At least one representative of National CORE (two when possible) shall visit the prospective group and report on it to the director of organization before affiliation.

Section 3. In the case of a city, where a chapter applies and one or more CORE chapters is already affiliated, the existing CORE chapter(s) shall be given an opportunity to make a statement relating to the application for affiliation of the new group, and the new group may be affiliated only by a 2/3 majority of those members voting at a meeting of the National Action Council or by the National Convention. This section shall not apply to college campus chapters.

✓ Section 4. National CORE, or any of its affiliated chapters, may cooperate with other organizations, but may not affiliate with any organization when such affiliation requires National CORE or any of its chapters to relinquish their autonomy.

Article VIII. The Convention

Section 1. The Convention is the highest governing body of CORE.

Section 2. The Convention shall be composed of the national officers, delegates from the affiliated chapters and members of the National Action Council, provided that no person can vote in more than one of these capacities.

Section 3. The Convention shall meet annually.

Section 4. Each affiliated community chapter shall have a maximum of three votes at the Convention and shall be guaranteed that maximum except where there are

(continued)

multiple chapters within a city. No one delegate may cast more than two votes. Each college campus chapter shall have one vote at the National Convention. College campus chapters shall not be included in any formula which limits the number of potential votes in a city, and there shall be no limitation of the number of campus chapters which may be affiliated.

(a) There shall be a limitation of votes which the combined community chapters of any city may cast at the National Convention. The schedule for determining potential votes within a city shall be as follows:

<u>Population</u>	<u>Potential Convention Votes</u>
Up to 2,000,000	9
Over 2,000,000	18

(b) When the affiliation of a new chapter would increase the number of votes within a city beyond the constitutional limit, then the National Action Council shall distribute the votes in whole numbers among the chapters in that city, but in no event shall any chapter have less than one or more than three votes.

Section 5. Voting delegates must be active members of the affiliated chapter for which they cast their vote(s).

Carl Rachlin's report to the NAC on  
Proposed Constitutional Clause  
Re: Trusteeship

February 21-23, 1964  
Appendix 8

- 1 - When requested by the presiding officer of any chapter, or by a majority of the governing board of any chapter, or by petition of 30% of the active members of any chapter, or
- 2 - When a chapter, in a public activity, has acted in violation of the CORE Rules for Action, or acted in violation of the National Constitution, or
- 3 - When a chapter has come under the domination of a group whose aims are inimical to the best interests of CORE and the civil rights movement, or
- 4 - Where the officers or members of the chapter are so divided internally as to be unable to conduct the affairs of the chapter, or to act effectively, or
- 5 - Where the finances of the chapter are not in reasonable good order, or are not kept in accordance with reasonable bookkeeping practices.

In such circumstances, and upon the recommendation of the National Director, orally or in writing, two-thirds of the Steering Committee or a majority of the NAC may direct the National Director to place the chapter in temporary trusteeship. The National Director may appoint such deputy or deputies to act in his place and stead. The trustee or trustee(s) shall:

- 1 - Have and assume all the powers of all the officers of said chapter as set forth in the chapter constitution, or any by-laws, or other empowering document of said chapter; and in order to carry out said duty, he shall keep all necessary records and accounts and appoint such necessary assistants as to assist him to carry out these functions, and expend necessary funds for such purpose.
- 2 - At any time hereafter, and upon the recommendation of the National Director, the Steering Committee may terminate the terms of any officers of the chapter and direct the National Director to conduct elections in the chapter, under such terms and conditions as he may determine with due regard to the preservation of all rights of the members of said chapter.
- 3 - That the said National Director shall forthwith demand all membership lists, records, books of accounts, bank books and cash and other assets of said chapter, and that the present holder or holders of these or any of them shall forthwith turn the same over to the National Director, and shall sign or execute any and all documents and assignments necessary for the National Director to carry out his duties hereunder.
- 4 - Use full power to preserve the assets of said chapter, pay all its debts now or in the future, and to collect all sums due and owing to it from all sources either from members or otherwise, to receive all gifts or donations, whether

(continued)

in money or property, and to deposit, or place same in a bank of his own choosing, and in his name as Trustee; that he shall dispense all necessary sums in his capacity as Trustee.

- 5 - Advise with and make recommendations to the Steering Committee of the NAC as to any problem existing, and the extent to which he has received or failed to receive all necessary cooperation to carry out his duties hereunder.
- 6 - Nothing herein shall in any way limit the right and duty of the Steering Committee to withdraw the charter of said chapter and to take all necessary steps attendant thereto.
- 7 - Upon the further recommendation of the National Director the Steering Committee may direct and instruct the National Director to take all necessary steps to terminate the aforesaid Trusteeship and turn back all appropriate powers and duties, as well as any assets then held by the National Director, to newly elected officials of said chapter.
- 8 - This Trusteeship shall last for 90 days from the date of the resolution instituting the Trusteeship unless sooner terminated as set forth above. Upon the recommendation of the National Director all powers granted herein, may further be extended by the aforesaid Steering Committee.
- 9 - If any part or parts of this resolution conflict with the laws of the United States or of any state, the remainder parts of this resolution shall be unaffected thereby and remain in full force and effect.

February 21 - 23, 1964

- Re: 1) Action Around Civil Rights Bill  
2) Senate Rule #22 (filibuster)

The Program Department is to present a basic program to all chapters with a rationale for activities.

Chapters are to be given enough time to link their local activities around the Civil Rights Bill and the major questions facing the country.

The program may include:

- I Several visits to senators and representatives
  - A. first visit raise Civil Rights Bill, local issues and rule #22.
  - B. expanded delegations of ministers and other community figures.
  - C. Appropriate direct action at local level coordinated from National Office.

II Voter registration in North

III Counter-filibuster on steps of the Senate

IV Fast in Senate Gallery

NAC

February 21-23, 1964

NAC	Staff	Guests
O. Castle	G. Carey	J. Adams
R. Curvin	V. Coleman	M. Anud
✓M. Dodson	D. Dennis	R. Atkinson
J. Farmer	L. Farmer	M. Cross
A. Gartner	R. Gore	F. DeVan
✓J. Hobson	R. Haley	T. Ducker
D. Hollis	N. Hill	L. Frozier
S. Lacey	V. Hill	J. Gooding
E. Lewinson	A. Hoffman	D. Kallish
J. Lewis	J. McCain	W. Lively
R. Lombard	M. McKenna	J. Maddox
✓F. McKissick	C. Rachlin	J. Nelson
C. Oldhan	M. Rich	H. Nisinson
J. Peck		W. Phillips
D. Rapp		M. Phyfe
S. Riley		B. Rappaport
R. Rosenfeld		C. Tate
✓L. Smith		
✓W. Sweet		
W. Ussery		
G. Wiley		

The above persons attended one or more NAC sessions at the Belmont Plaza Hotel, New York City, February 21 - 23, 1964.