

CORE - CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTN: Marvin Rich and James Peck

ARREST LIBRARY SIT-INNERS---THOUGH THERE IS NO LIBRARY FOR NEGROES

Clinton, La., March 12--Though there is no library for Negroes in East Feliciana parish, five Negroes who sought to use the white library in this parish seat on March 7 were jailed for "disturbing the peace." The five--Henry Brown, Robert Smith, Willie Kelly, Cleveland McKenzie and L. C. Bibbens--were arrested while sitting-in.

Five days later, Mimi Feingold, a CORE Task Force worker was arrested as a material witness and her bail was set at \$1000.

Similar groups of CORE students on March 7 attempted to use the libraries at St. Francisville, West Feliciana parish seat and at Greensburg, St. Helena parish seat, but found "closed" signs in the windows. Both libraries are normally open on Saturdays.

Library buildings in the three parishes are operated by a tri-parish board for whites only, though Negro taxpayers money goes to support them. Sole library service for Negroes is one bookmobile, which has been out of operation since its operator, Mattie Matthews, was fired. Her dismissal came after she and 12 other leaders of a CORE boycott against downtown stores were arrested last December for "conspiracy to commit public intimidation."

The three parishes are targets of an intensive voter registration drive by CORE. In West Feliciana no Negro has registered from 1902 until this past October.