

MINUTES OF THE 1964 ANNUAL CONVENTION

July 2 - 5, 1964

The 1964 Convention was called to order by the Chairman, Floyd B. McKissick, and the delegates were listed by the Secretary.

Motion by Art Silver of Los Angeles and ~~seconded~~ by Red Johnson of San Francisco to adopt the minutes of last Convention. Carried.

Motion by Roy Patric, Chicago and ~~seconded~~ by Teasley, Middletown to accept agenda. Carried.

Motion by Red Johnson of San Francisco and seconded by Luiz Perez of Columbia University to affiliate Omaha. Unanimously carried.

Motion by G. Harrington of New York and seconded by I. Prymus of Miami that the chapter from Des Moines be affiliated on a temporary basis. That this affiliation be reviewed at next Steering Committee meeting. Carried.

Motion by Vinegar of Cincinnati and seconded by H. Crawford of Miami to affiliate Middletown, Ohio CORE. Unanimously carried.

Motion by R. Atkinson of Washington and seconded by K. Gregory of Washington that neither delegation from Washington CORE be seated until the matter of Julius Hobson's expulsion and the matter of the Washington, D.C. trusteeship are resolved. Carried.

Motion by Vinegar that each faction of Washington CORE and NAC be allowed 5 minutes to present their point of view. Carried.

Mr. F. McKissick read from minutes of May 27, 1964 Steering Committee and the subsequent report from Mr. L. Smith. Mr. J. Hobson gave his presentation and Mr. Gregory responded for his faction.

Mr. Louis Smith related his experiences with both factions.

Motion by Alan Gartner of Boston and seconded by G. Brown of Detroit that the Convention sustain the expulsion of J. Hobson by the NAC and place the Washington chapter under trusteeship. 217 for, 27 against, and 17 abstentions.

Motion by C. Brown of Milwaukee and seconded by C. Montiero of Providence that the following delegates elected in Washington at the meeting of June 25th be recognized: Karl Gregory, Anna Holden, Norma Shelton, Barbara Ensley and Ralph Temple.

The following committees were appointed by the Chair:

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Credentials Committee:

Bob Curvin, Chairman; Milicent Carpenter, Boston; Gladys Harrington, New York; Mary Lu Murphy, San Francisco; Ed Lewinson, Brooklyn; Beatrice Gordon, Kansas City; Jerry Michaux, Durham; Miriam Charez, Bakersfield; Marylyn Bellman, Santa Monica; Josephine Disparti; James T. McCain, Staff.

Constitutional Committee:

Co-chairmen: Will Ussery, San Francisco; Alan Gartner, Boston; Priscilla Chenoweth, Middlesex County. Arthur Evan, Cleveland; A. D. Moore, Miami; George Wiley, Syracuse; C. W. Vinegar, Cinn.; Lenny Selig, Downtown New York; Gwen Wells, Kansas City, Mo.; Reginald Watson, Fort Smith; Lee Faucette, San Fernando Valley; Harold Foster, Chapel Hill; Ruth Schwartz, Long Island; Sylvia Richards, Los Angeles; Shirley Merseer, Seattle; Sandra Taylor, South Jamaica; Anne Longstreet, Bergen City; Bob Lucas, Chicago; Cecil Brown, Milwaukee; Austin Brown, Tulsa; Hugh Shanks, Kansas City, Kansas; Joyce Shurick, Bronx; Luther Seabrook, N.Y.

Finance Committee:

Martin Oppenheimer, Chairman, Philadelphia; Roy Innis, New York; Jean Carlber, Ann Arbor; Gladys Lloyd, Bronx; Herman Halman, Chapel Hill; Albertina Mitchell, Wheeling, West Virginia; Marvin Rich, Staff.

Local Constitution Committee:

Mark Dodson, Long Island, Chairman; Walter Brooks, New Haven; Ollie Leeds, Brooklyn; Jim Willard, Kansas City, Mo.; Von Abellera, Los Angeles; Martha Graham, Kansas City; Wallace Downs, Kansas City, Kan.; Kathy Fell, Chapel Hill; Thomas H. Pass, Washington; Homer Rogers, San Antonio; Joan Wiggins, San Francisco; Marlene R. Wilson, Columbus; Norman Hill, Staff.

Regional Action Council Committee:

Roger Kahn, South Jamaica, Chairman; Ruth Turner, Cleveland, Minnie Fuller; Charles Saunder, East River; Joan Gethers, 7 Arts; Dorothy Conway, Queens; James Griffin, Baltimore; Louis Perez, Columbia University; Marjorie King, Kansas City, Mo.; Jerry Zeller, Columbus; George Knowles, City College of New York; Richard Haley, Staff.

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Virginia Burton, Chairman; Marlene Dixon, Chicago; James Garling, High Point; John Robinson, North Virginia; Clarence Funnye, New York; Helen Freeze, Kansas City, Kan.; Elizabeth Laizner, Greensboro; Otheline Little, Durham; Coneria Parrish, High Point; Milton King, Tulsa; Marjorie King, Kansas City, Mo.; Edward Kanberg, Santa Monica; Val Coleman, Staff.

Chapter Arbitration Committee:

Richard Rapp, Denver, Chairman; Wes Sweet, San Jose; Lincoln Lynch, Long Island; David Riley, Durham; Frances Foster, 7 Arts; Sue Kovner, San Fernando Valley; Della Chappell, Tulsa; Irvana Prymus, Miami; Lavata Jones, Detroit; Peter Wolff, Ann Arbor; Red Johnson, San Francisco; Dorothy Wade, Kansas City, Missouri.

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National Programing Committee:

Shirley Lacey, Bergen County; Antonio Peruot, Cleveland; Douglas Jones, Oakland; David C. Aroner, Ann Arbor; Arthur Alston, Philadelphia; Clifford R. Montiero, Providence, Rhode Island; James Foushee, Chapel Hill; Paul Rosenstein, Santa Monica; Fran Crayton, Brooklyn; Walter Kaufman, Bakersfield; John Due, Tallahassee.

Nominating Committee:

Julia Lewis, Lexington CORE; Chairman; Raymond Procter, Newark Essex; Ada Countee, Philadelphia; Marshall England, New York; Joan Drake, Chapel Hill; John Givens, Milwaukee; William Sprowal, Downtown New York; Gloria Montgomery, Sumter, South Carolina; Abe Fowkles, Columbus; Howard Nelson, Kansas City, Mo.; Gloria Brown, Detroit; Evelyn Moore, Ann Arbor; Homer Randolph, East St. Louis; Doris Castle, New Orleans; Art Silver, L. A.; Carl Randolph, Kansas City, Kan.; Sherry Noyes, Florida; Joanne Klunder, Cleveland; Sue Kovner, San Francisco; John Carethon, Seattle; John Valentine, Bronx.

Resolutions Committee:

Marshal Goldstein, Eugen, Ore., Chairman; Douglas Quitt, Marin County, Calif.; August Meier, Newark-Essex; Hal Brown, San Diego; Frank Gover, Pomona Valley; Joycelyn McKissick, Durham; Lela Shanks, Kansas City, Kansas; Ray Dryz, Tulsa; Ray Woodall, Bronx; Bob De Rose, Philadelphia; David Riley, Durham; Bruce Boyd, Los Angeles; Ralph Temple, Washington, D.C.; Jim Hamilton, Columbia, Mo.; Winifred Farrar, Bergen County; Flossie Rodgers, San Antonio; Buddy Bellman, Santa Monica; Thomas Schmidt, Columbia University.

Report from Mississippi by Dave Dennis:

Dick Jewett spoke on the political program in Mississippi. He noted that there is a close relationship between Mississippi and the ghetto. Politics means getting a few people registered to vote. He recommends that where state Democratic Party conventions have not been held that CORE chapters attempt to get them to pledge support for the MFDP (Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party). Where conventions have been held it is suggested that CORE chapters contact individual delegates.

Dave said that in the last 2 years 19 people were murdered, lynched or killed--9 since January 1, 1964; 8 in CORE's District. Not one person has been prosecuted. The State is well organized and well armed. License numbers and pictures of civil rights workers are distributed throughout the state. He noted that what is happening now is merely a continuation of what has been going on for years but that by bringing focus on it it will help to make it politically expedient for the Federal Government to intervene. The problem of what will happen at the end of the summer when the students leave--especially if the news media and the Federal Government also leave--was raised. Dave called for the Convention, NAC and Steering Committee to deal with the needs of Southern programming rather than take up all of the time with petty chapter problems.

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Motion by J. Farmer and seconded by B. Cooper that CORE build a memorial community center in Meridian, Mississippi in memory of the missing CORE workers in that area. It will be called the Chaney, Goodman, Schwerner Memorial. Property is to be bought and a building constructed with the following facilities: library, three classrooms for literacy programs, pre-natal care instructions, voter registration classes, a craft shop where different handicrafts and trades are taught, a play-room for teenagers, and an auditorium where meetings can be held. Carried unanimously.

Motion by R. Dryz of Tulsa and seconded by L. Jones of Detroit that every CORE chapter set up a recruitment committee for the purpose of sending workers to Mississippi after the summer months; that this program be geared for no less than one year; that chapters seek out sponsorship for people willing to go; that chapter chairmen at this convention submit to the Secretary names of the person in their respective chapters who will be responsible for this recruitment.

Amendment: That where a person can't be found by a chapter to participate in the project that such chapters pledge at least \$325 to support the project.
Carried as amended, 2 opposed.

Motion that all funds being spent by persons for refreshments at the Convention be channeled into the memorial project. Carried.

Kansas City CORE pledges \$50 a month. 900 school books pledged from Bronx.

G. Wilay of Syracuse moved and Red Johnson seconded ratification of NAC action relating to Federal protection of citizens in Mississippi. Carried unanimously.

A presentation of \$1,000.00 to Mrs. Chaney by the CORE Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund was made by Mr. J. Cohen representing the Fund.

A film was shown by C. Funney of New York which showed the use of Negroes in T.V. advertisements.

Report on Chicago project by Gene Tournour. He told how they were organizing tenants and neighborhoods.

Motion by Charles Saunders of East River and seconded by Frank Williams that ~~The~~ Convention honor the task force of Chicago as well as those in Mississippi and further that other chapters be urged to institute similar projects, and that the Convention instruct the staff to supplement the task force which is to work in Northern ghetto areas and to continue to help local chapters organize ghetto communities. Carried.

Report from Louisiana Project by Spiver Gordon and Isaac Reynolds. It was noted that everyday dangers in functioning are very great.

Norman Hill spoke on Political Conventions. CORE calls on both parties to declare themselves against racial discrimination and segregation.

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Report from J. Farmer in which he stressed the need for us all to rededicate ourselves to the struggle. (A written report from Mr. Farmer was part of each delegate's kit.)

Motion by Roy Patchen of Chicago and seconded by R. Temple of D.C. to give Mr. J. Farmer a vote of confidence. Unanimously carried.

Motion by G. Harrington and seconded by C. McChes of Detroit that in order to dramatize our dissatisfaction with the present trend of appointment of ultra conservative federal court judges, such as, Cox of Mississippi, Ellis and West in Louisiana, nation-wide demonstrations should be instituted focusing attention on the present vacancy created by the death of Ben Cameron from Mississippi; that because President Johnson will fill this vacancy in the near future, we should take steps to insure that this vacancy is filled by a person of integrity and one who has not been aligned with the White Citizens Council; that CORE notify the proper persons that/are unalterably opposed to the creation of an eleventh Federal Circuit. (There is presently a movement within the Judiciary Council of the American Bar Association to create a new Circuit in the Federal Appellate system, ostensibly this is to alleviate the burden that the many civil rights cases have placed on the Fifth Circuit dockets but the purpose is really to remove the Civil rights cases from the Fifth Circuit where there are some liberal judges and in turn create an eleventh circuit which would have appellate jurisdiction in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Their hope is that the judges appointed to the 11th Circuit would be much more sympathetic to the segregationist point of view and thereby retard further the snail's pace that desegregation is taking in these states) Carried.

Constitutional Changes: Rather than list each change we are enclosing with these minutes a copy of the ammended constitution. A question was raised by John Barr of Chicago as to whether the new Article IV, sec. 1, would be retroactive if passed. Alan Gartner, Co-chairman of the Constitution Changes Committee, who was chairing the meeting, ruled that it would not be retroactive. There was no appeal of this ruling.

It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the following report from the Finance Committee:

1. The Committee favors encouraging local chapters to provide literature tables at meetings in order to act as a book store outlet for appropriate educational literature (especially paperback books) in keeping with CORE's general principles; this serves the functions both of education and fund-raising. The latter function is served by means of purchasing books at wholesale prices and selling at retail (a markup of between 20% and 40%).
2. Encouraging chapters to set up recruiting tables for the purpose of signing up associate members and soliciting funds and passing out CORE literature outside stores doing volume business in predominantly Negro areas. The Committee points out that the primary purpose of associate memberships is fund-raising. (In Philadelphia the State Liquor Store doing the largest volume business in the state is located directly across the street from the CORE office).
3. Encouraging chapters to set up special committees of "Friends of CORE"

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consisting of non direct-actionists and/or special groups such as ministers or parents of direct actionists, for the purpose of soliciting funds from such special groups; the Committee reminds chapters that there are special funds such as the Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund (which is tax exempt) which have a special attraction for certain individuals or foundations.

4. Encouraging chapters who do not now have such provisions to institute a regular system of dues and to encourage a system of pledges or sustaining funds by which individuals could pledge regular amounts locally and/or nationally.

5. Encourage chapters with offices to run regular rent parties or other functions (such as shows and dances) to raise office expenses.

6. Encourage chapters to explore the possibility of collecting commemorative postage stamps or trading stamps in order to sell them or trade them in for money or goods.

7. Encourage chapters to undertake door-to-door canvasses, telephoning campaigns, etc.

8. Urge the national office to consider a pictorial presentation or book or magazine format to dramatize the struggle in the South for fund-raising purposes.

The Finance Committee heartily endorses the fund-raising campaign to support the Meridian Community Center, and urges all chapters to support this campaign fully.

The Finance Committee reminds the Convention that all COFO funds should be sent to CORE, earmarked "Mississippi Project."

The Finance Committee further urges chapters to undertake a greater effort in fund-raising in connection with speakers at churches, particularly in connection with visits from direct actionists from the South.

The Finance Committee reminds all fund-raisers of three important ingredients of all fund-raising campaigns, and urges careful consideration of these by local fund-raisers: (1) Need; (2) Urgency; (3) How much money is expected of a donor.

Election of Officers

The chair ruled that those persons who are holdovers from the previous NAC shall serve out the final year of their term. There was unanimous consent to this ruling. The following persons were elected to office:

National Officers (one year term)

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| Chairman | Floyd B. McKissick | Durham, North Carolina |
| 1st Vice-Chairman | Rudolph Lombard | Syracuse, New York |
| 2nd Vice-Chairman | Wilfred Ussery | San Francisco, Calif. |
| Secretary | Ruth Turner | Cleveland, Ohio |
| Treasurer | Alan Gartner | Boston, Mass. |

Regional Vice-Chairman (2 year term)

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| Northeast | Robert Curvin | Newark, New Jersey |
| North Central | Ralph Rosenfeld | Detroit, Michigan |
| Far West | Harold Brown | San Diego, Calif. |
| South Central | Oretha Castle | New Orleans, La. |
| Southeast | John Due | Tallahassee, Fla. |

Regional Representatives (one year term)

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| Northeast | William Sprowal | Downtown, New York |
| | Shirley Lacey | Englewood, New Jersey |
| North Central | Loretta Hall | St. Louis, Mo. |

Far West
South Central
Southeast

Virginia Burton
Earl Allen
Joan Drake
Gloria Montgomery

Berkeley, Calif.
Chapel Hill, N.C.
Sumter, S.C.

Due to the lack of time it was not possible to finish all of the business of the Convention. Committee reports and proposed resolutions were therefore referred to the NAC for disposition at the next meeting of the Steering Committee.

I want to thank Jocelyn Jerome, of the office staff, for her able assistance to me throughout the Convention. To her and to Sue Kovner, of San Fernando Valley CORE, must go much of the credit for the worth of this record. It goes without saying that errors and omissions are to be attributed only to me and requests for corrections might be sent to my attention.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Rosenfeld, Secretary

Telegram greetings were received from:

Louis Simon, Manager, Amalgamated Laundry Workers Joint Board
Don Slaiman, Director Civil Rights Department AFL-CIO
Jack Conway, Executive Director, Industrial Union Department AFL-CIO
Roy Wilkins, Executive Director, NAACP
David Livingston, President District 65 - Retail, Wholesale &
Department Store Union
President Lyndon B. Johnson