

WHY WE ARE HERE:

Lawrence CORE and Lawrence NAACP are demonstrating here today in protest of the discriminatory rental policy of Park Plaza South Apartments. As always, CORE and NAACP spent much time in negotiation before the decision was made to demonstrate. Here are the facts that led CORE and NAACP to make that decision:

Negotiations with Park Plaza South were initiated in response to a complaint by Robert L. Reynolds, a K. U. sophomore, that on January 18th the manager of Park Plaza South had refused to rent him an apartment on the explicit grounds that he was a Negro. A joint committee appointed by CORE and NAACP went with Reynolds to Park Plaza South on February 15th and received the same answer. They were told by the manager that they would have to negotiate with the owner, Mr. Jim Vestering of Burns, Kansas, since the policy was his. On February 16th a letter was sent to Mr. Vestering requesting a meeting in Lawrence with him to discuss the ending of discrimination at Park Plaza South. There followed a long series of telephone calls and letters to Burns, Kansas, by which attempts were made to arrange a meeting with Mr. Vestering. In the meantime, CORE and NAACP repeatedly postponed or cancelled plans for direct action.

Finally, Mr. Vestering met with representatives from CORE and NAACP on Thursday, April 8th, nearly two months after our first communication with him. In substance, he asked that he be given more time since his manager, Mr. Amess, would not manage his apartments if they were rented to Negroes. He further asked whether CORE or NAACP were prepared to reimburse him for the loss of income from the apartments which he anticipated since he believed that there would be an exodus by white tenants.

As a result of that meeting, CORE and NAACP decided to picket the Park Plaza South office beginning Saturday, April 17th, since it seemed clear that Mr. Vestering was stalling and not acting in good faith. Wednesday night, April 16th, the University Daily Kansan learned of the impending picket and called Mr. Vestering. The following day a Park Plaza South ad appeared in the UDK and Gloria Carrillo, K.U. Negro graduate student and member of CORE, thereupon applied for an apartment and was accepted. The plans

for picketing were immediately cancelled.

However, one week later Miss Carrillo called Park Plaza South to make final arrangements to move in to her apartment and she was told that the earlier decision to admit her without regard to her race had been reversed and that she had to take back the \$10.00 deposit she had put on an apartment. In other words, after two months of negotiations nothing has changed. Park Plaza South still practices racial discrimination.

Again, it should be stressed that CORE and NAACP planned to picket only after two months of patient attempts at negotiations. In all cases we prefer that solutions be arrived at through amicable negotiations, rather than through direct action.

For further information on this demonstration or on CORE or NAACP generally please call Richard Burke, VI 2-1324 or Harold Stagg, VI 2-0352.