

July 9, 1965

Congress of Racial Equality  
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New York, New York 10038  
Alan Gartner  
Director,  
Fund-Raising Department

SPECIAL FUND-RAISING BULLETIN #1

Through the summer, we will put together "SPECIAL FUND-RAISING BULLETINS" to all chapter chairmen, field staff, national action council members and field project directors.

This newsletter will contain information such as what fund-raising events are being planned in various areas throughout the country, what progress is being made financially through these efforts, and workable fund-raising ideas.

In order to make this a useful vehicle for fund-raising program planning and an exchange of information, the bulletins will be open for suggestions and reports and announcements from everyone concerned nation-wide. Communications should be addressed to Alan Gartner at the National Office.

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Many people have brought up the suggestion that fund-raising should be more around program than around the financial crisis of an organization. Material on CORE program is available at the national office for anyone who requests it. This includes information on the three summer projects in the South, various Northern chapter programs (including political action, community organization, unioization, Freedom Democratic Movements, CORE community centers and freedom schools, etc.) If any of this would aid your fund-raising efforts, it's available.

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Income from CORE chapters last year totalled \$27,359.41. (this does not include the special funds raised for Mississippi.) Of this total, 10 chapters raised \$17,310.17; the single leader being Detroit CORE.

All of the chapters raised \$18,232.99 especially earmarked for Mississippi. This was raised by 18 chapters, of which three raised \$11,144.79; the leader being Bergen County (N.J.) CORE which raised \$5,351.50.

71 of the presently 140 affiliated chapters have paid their \$10.00 annual affiliation fee. That extra \$690 would, for example, pay for the rental, insurance and maintenance of another car for work in the South this summer. 18 of the 140 affiliated chapters have turned in their annual 10% gross income tax.

At a series of staff meetings held during the convention, the staff- both those in the national office and those in the field- committed themselves to taking immediate steps to help with CORE's financial crisis. Some of these are detailed in the fund-raising committee's report, such as making efforts to maintain the project(s).

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Another proposal involves a serious personal evaluation by each staff member of the worth and importance of his job to CORE and the resulting cost to CORE of his or her being on staff. A number of staff members have decided that in the light of our current financial situation, they would seek to support themselves other than from CORE's funds, while continuing to work with CORE as much as possible. In this group are Oretha Castle, Rudy Lombard, and Matteo Suarez (Flunkey); the latter two are going to work on the docks in New Orleans two or three days a week to support themselves, and do community organization work for CORE in New Orleans the rest of the time. Several other members of the national staff have decided to take a voluntary cut in pay as a way to reduce the financial drain on CORE. Also at this staff meeting, each staff member committed himself to raise \$1,000 each. Tony Riley was able to raise \$7,500 before he left Durham.

Jim Farmer remained in Durham following the convention to work with Floyd McKissick, National Chairman, to raise funds in that area.

From the National Office, we have begun to contact people who responded to our last fund appeal - the one about Bogalusa ( a copy of which is enclosed - we have plenty more of them if you want them) - and after telling them about the developments in Bogalusa, have asked them to run fund-raising events for us.

A large public dance will be given at the Renaissance Ballroom at 138th Street and 7th Avenue on August 21st. Entertainment and bands are donating performances, and the ballroom has been promised us at a fantastically low rental.

This project is being run on their own time by Charlene Shelto, secretary in the Legal Department and Switchboard operator, Marie Simmons.

CORE Business Manager Ed Day has reduced our cost of typewriters from \$20 per unit to \$9 per unit per month, for better typewriters. Also, he has improved our telephone service with two-thirds more phones, at a reduction in cost of extension of one-third.

Individual staff members are speaking at churches and other community groups for donations, giving fund-raising parties and requesting aid from their own contacts.

Switchboard operator Marie Simmons has already raised \$200 by speaking at a church in Durham, North Carolina.

San Diego California CORE is having a raffle -- prizes include a color TV and a wig -- and then a GO GO dance.

Boston CORE is having a Freedom Folk Festival on the week-end of July 9th and 10th. They just held a successful "Freedom A GO GO" Discotheque.

Newark-Essex CORE is conducting an associate membership campaign in local churches.

At the convention, delegates pledged themselves to raise \$200 each and agreed to get other CORE members back home to do the same. How about each delegate and CORE member sending 10% of that - \$20 - in cash NOW.