

LOUISIANA CORE NEWSLETTER

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The following poems were written by Henry Austin. Mr. Austin is the Bogalusa Negro accused of shooting a white man who was attacking a young Negro woman wounded during a march.

I am lost in mist
A mist of chaos and hate
There seems to be no end
A cloud that has descended over me
Causing me to lose my way.

There is no time
No nite No day
I fear I've lost my mind:
For if I'm sane you're not.
Have I lost my logic?
The Blue Bird of happiness
But how can a Blue Bird be happiness?
When a Blue Bird is only a dumb animal?
Mr. Fortune Teller, what is my fate?

The tears fall free and there is no more joy
In Mississippi they hung a black boy.
The law of our land says it is wrong
Tho the law lives on and the boy is gone.

Now we hang our heads in a silent prayer,
To ask a white man's god if this is fair.
The bible tells us to love our brother,
What damn good is that to the boy's mother?

They came to his home - hit him on the head,
They hung him from a tree till he was dead;
And now that this black boy is dead and gone,
What are we going to do - go hide at home?

LOUISIANA PROBLEMS

CORE workers arrived in 16 Louisiana parishes (counties) late last month to find that the problems facing the Negro communities of the state range from the elimination of open sewers to the integration of restaurants and churches. Some of the problems are political, some economic, some psychological; most are a combination of all three. All are related to the ways in which the white oligarchy maintains its control at the expense of the Negro. The problems discussed during the past few weeks by residents of parishes where CORE has been working include these:

Registration of Voters: In every Louisiana Congressional district, white voters outnumber Negro voters far out of proportion to the relative number of potential voters. In the past, whites have prevented Negro registration by physical and economic intimidation, and unfair application of registration tests.

School Integration: There have been 20 school desegregation suits in the State. Many areas will be beginning school integration in September; others have not yet submitted satisfactory plans to the courts.

ASCS: The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service is an agency of the government intended to provide farmers with a wide variety of services. In the South, these have traditionally been provided for only white farmers. Crop allotment and the naming of surveyors are two of the functions of the ASC Committee. This committee is supposed to be elected by all farmers (including share-croppers and tenant farmers) in a parish. Because it has been a practice in Louisiana for these committees to be chosen in all white elections, from all white slate of candidates, CORE is disseminating information about ASCS to Negro farmers, hoping to stimulate interest and involvement.

Integration of public facilities: Many La. cities do not comply with the requirements of Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Law. Some, including New Orleans, have actually closed facilities rather than operate them on an integrated basis.

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A SOUTHERN CONSPIRACY

by Ronnie Moore
Director, La. CORE

There is a conspiracy among the so-called white moderates like John McKeithen and certain "Negro leaders" in Louisiana.

They have already formed a political coalition aimed at keeping the civil rights movement from "getting out of hand." What they really mean is that when good white folks can't direct or control the freedom movement, then the "niggers" are going to take over.

Negro "leaders" justify their stand by saying "To demand freedom now is a radical request; it takes time." What they are saying is: "Don't rush this thing, let the white folks rule a little while longer. Be patient; Gov. McKeithen isn't so bad. He condemns violence on TV. What more can you expect of a governor?"

The answer is freedom. Does he expect us to accept a plane ride in place of a decent job, a balanced meal, a good house, fair law enforcement, and other benefits of our American heritage?

It is time for the governor to realize that his biggest threat is coming from the grass roots people and not from the traditional good colored boys who dance with the wind and who play the role "glad to meet you, Governor."

The only way we can beat the Honorable John McKeithen at his game of hypocrisy is to organize. Why not begin now to organize? Why don't you invite a few of your neighbors over one night to discuss the issues of the day?

PICKETS ARRESTED IN JONESBORO;
FIFTEEN HELD IN \$13,500 BOND

JONESBORO— Fifteen Negroes of Jonesboro were arrested here July 21 while picketing and blocking the entrance to a white-owned grocery store in a Negro neighborhood.

All were arrested for disturbing the peace, and six were arrested for other violations, including resisting arrest and threatening an officer.

A total of \$13,500 bond was set for the fifteen. They had not been released twenty-four hours after their arrests.

CORE WORKER AND NEGRO MAN BEATEN
IN FOOD STORE PICKETING

NEW ROADS— A CORE worker was hospitalized and a Negro man of New Roads was injured last week as a result of picketing of stores practicing discriminatory hiring policies.

Billy Brooks, 25, of Houston, was placed in Baton Rouge General Hospital for treatment of what a doctor termed "a slight concussion." He was released two days later.

Brooks and Herman Brown, 21, of New Roads, were attacked by two white men armed with chains and pliers. Brooks and Brown were walking to join the picket line in front of the National Food Store when they were attacked. The two were returning to the line from a police car parked nearby, where Brooks had requested police protection from interference by white bystanders.

All four men were arrested and released the same afternoon on payment of bond.

The picket line had been called at a community meeting to protest the refusal of several "downtown" stores to hire Negro women who had applied for jobs.

Only six Negro shoppers entered National Food the day of the beating, although about 60% of the store's normal clientele is Negro.

One of those who crossed the picket line was a Negro woman who is a teacher, also participating in the local Project Head Start.

During the arrests, according to ABC News, one woman demonstrator was separated from an infant and carried to jail in a garbage truck, along with several other arrested persons.

The Negroes were picketing to protest the employment practices of the store-owner, who hires Negroes for menial jobs only. The picketing began ten days ago.

Negro citizens of Jonesboro held four marches in six days last week to indicate support for the requests made of the city government. As many as 120 people joined the two-mile marches.

Four hundred seven people signed a petition listing the requests of the town's Negro citizens. It was presented to the Mayor last week following one of the marches. The requests made on the petition included the closing of the open sewers found only in the Negro sections of Jonesboro; the placement of street signs in these areas, so that mail may be delivered; the ending of police brutality; the opening of employment opportunities to Negroes; and the removal of unqualified police officers and their replacement by more qualified men.

Sixty students from Grambling College traveled to Jonesboro to join a march last week. Also demonstrating were CORE workers Dorothy Banks of Homer, Louisiana; Kendra Harris, of Los Angeles, California; Annie Parnell Johnson of Jonesboro; Sears Buckley of Canton, Mississippi; and Herman Garter of Virginia.

DRASTIC CUT THREATENING PROJECT

CORE's Louisiana Summer Project involves a staff of approximately 75 people who cover 15 parishes. Because of financial difficulties, CORE is now facing the possibility of having to cut back about 75% of its staff and projects in Louisiana by mid-August. This means that there will be tremendous loss to the people of Louisiana and to the movement.

At present CORE is approximately \$200,000 in debt; and local projects have not received fund for over a month. We are in desperate need of immediate funds in order to save and continue local projects. There are many ways that you may help:

1. Set up mass meeting to raise funds
2. Have cocktail parties
3. Organize fund-raising committees
4. Organize benefits
5. Tell your friends about the problem

If you need help or material to organize a fund-raising affair, please write to CORE Southern Office, 2209 Dryades Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

We can furnish information, photographs, speakers, suggestions. Send all checks to the above address or to National CORE, 38 Park Row, New York, N.Y.

TALLULAH FRUSTRATIONS

CORE workers have become involved with the problems of Negro workers at the Chicago lumber mill; there are segregated facilities, poor working conditions, separate wage scales, etc.

A petition of grievances was presented to the plant superintendent, but management has refused to meet with the 7-man committee that presented the petition.

When distributing handbills about an employee meeting, CORE workers Tony Scott of Richmond, Calif., James Williams of Tallulah, and Harold Ickes of Olney, Maryland, were attacked by two white men.

One white pointed a rifle at Williams and Scott while the other beat Ickes. No major injuries sustained.

CORE WORKER BEATEN IN FERRIDAY

One CORE worker was beaten and another arrested in the central La. town of Ferriday last week. Mel Acheson, 21 of Tucson was beaten

by a whiteman while he and three other CORE workers stood next to their car.

By the time the attacker had been driven away by friends, a crowd of about 200 Negroes had gathered.

Archie Hunter of Brooklyn, then mounted a car and led the crowd in Freedom Songs. The crowd, having been angered by the beating, created no further disturbance.

Local police, arriving thirty minutes after they were called, arrested Hunter for disturbing the peace and blocking traffic.

The man who had beaten Acheson drove back to the scene and was pointed out to the police, but was not arrested.

SEND DONATIONS

TO

NATIONAL CORE

38 PARK ROW
NEW YORK N.Y.

SOUTHERN CORE

OR 2209 DRYADES
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

FEDERAL JUDGE CHARGES BOGALUSA POLICE
WITH FAILURE TO OBEY COURT ORDERS

NEW ORLEANS— A federal judge issued four orders here July 20 charging Bogalusa law-enforcement officers with contempt of court for violating a July 10 injunction obtained by CORE ordering them to protect civil rights advocates.

Federal District Court Judge Robert A. Ainsworth ordered the officials to present themselves to the court next Monday to "show cause" why they should not be found guilty of both civil and criminal contempt of court.

Two "show cause" orders were issued in response to suits brought by Collins, Douglas, and Elie, chief southern counsel for CORE. Two others were issued as a result of suits filed for the Justice Department by Assistant Attorney-General John Doar, who has spent several days observing events in Bogalusa. Judge Ainsworth ordered U.S. Attorney Louis Lacour to prepare prosecutions in the criminal contempt cases.

The officials named in the court orders are: Claxton Knight, Bogalusa Chief of Police; Thomas D. Burbank, Superintendent of Public Safety, State of Louisiana; Arnold D. Spiers, Commissioner of Public Safety, Bogalusa; Ver-trees Adams, Deputy Sheriff of Washington Parish.

Others named are Haynes Wascomb, Bernard Williams, and John "Bozo" Riley of the city police force; and two state police officers identified only by their badge numbers.

The order issued in the civil case instructed Adams to "show cause" why he should not be removed from his position as Deputy Sheriff.

The July 10 injunction was issued by Federal District Court Judge Herbert W. Christenberry in New Orleans as the result of a suit brought by CORE attorneys on behalf of twelve Negro residents of Bogalusa and two CORE workers.

The plaintiffs in that case alleged that the defendants, including Knight, Spiers, Burbank, Williams, Wascomb, Adams, the Mayor of Bogalusa and the Sheriff of Washington Parish, had not provided proper protection for Negroes of Bogalusa and civil rights advocates, and had participated in acts of violence committed against them.

In so doing, the Negroes claimed, Knight, Adams, Williams, and the others had deprived them of their rights, as guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

Judge Christenberry at that time issued a preliminary injunction, ordering the defendants to protect Negroes of Bogalusa and advocates of equal civil rights for Negroes, and ordered them to end certain practices considered discriminatory.

RAPIDES SCHOOL BOARD BOWS TO PARENTS,
OFFERS USE OF SCHOOLS FOR HEAD START

ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA— The Rapides Parish School Board voted 9-8 last week to permit the use of parish school buildings for the local Project Head Start.

The parents of the children in Head Start had indicated that if permission were refused they would hold demonstrations at the school board office. They had also indicated that they would leave their children in public parks for classes taught by CORE workers and other parish residents, at the same time as the demonstrations at the school board office.

In other Alexandria developments, representatives of a picketed food store to meet with local leaders and CORE workers after only one day of picketing. Negro residents of Alexandria had picketed Food Town, a chain store supermarket, in protest over the store's discriminatory employment practices.

The CORE workers in Rapides Parish are Paul Trainor of Greenville, Rhode Island, and Miss Teddy Stewart of New York City.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MOVEMENTS

A beginning

People active in various protest movements in the country have always talked about the need for communication between movements. They have talked in terms of sharing ideas, sharing manpower, and generally strengthening each other. But, in the past, very little work has been done to get people talking together. Some of us see this summer as an opportunity to begin a dialogue between people from various communities both in and outside of their area.

Some interested people in Washington and other areas are setting up community and area conferences to create a base whereby a dialogue between people can be established. This dialogue is important for several reasons:

1. It gives people an opportunity to have an exchange of ideas and to find out what people are doing in other areas,
2. It allows for people to begin to find other people and movements whose interests are similar to theirs, and
3. It gives them the opportunity to find a link with other movements which can give strength to theirs.

It has become quite evident to many people in the movement that for real local movements to survive for a long period of time, they must find links from outside of their community. This makes it difficult for the power structure to isolate local movements and crush them. The power structure is too powerful for one single community alone to survive.

Some of us have begun to set up conferences to act as bases for the beginning of dialogue. One will be held for West Coast residents now in the South, another for mid-west residents, and a third for residents of the East Coast. All three will be held in Mississippi. All will be late July and early August.

In Washington, August 6th through 9th, there will be demonstrations presented by the people for peace. Many organizations will be involved in these demonstrations. Here is an opportunity for people to begin important dialogues. It is not necessary to agree with the peace movement or with what will be taking place in Washington to benefit from an exchange of ideas. The program for the four days will be:

August 6 (Anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima): Demonstrations centered on the declaration of conscience.

August 7 and 8: Workshops to deal with various programs in which groups are involved, and discussions on how they relate to each other.

August 9: Another demonstration for peace.

Links can be formed only if people begin talking to each other. Contact other people in your community, state, region. Talk about the conferences. If you would like further information, write to:

Program Dept.
Southern Regional Office
2209 Dryades Street
New Orleans, La.

A Southern Conspiracy - cont'd

Maybe if we begin to talk in our neighborhoods about everyone's problems we would soon see the need for people at the bottom to speak out, because the people at the top are not speaking at all.

Louisian Problems- cont'd

Public Accommodations: Title II of the 1964 Civil Rights Law prohibits any place of public accommodations engaged in interstate commerce to refuse service on the basis of race, color, nationality, etc.

Title VII: This title deals with all business firms with employment over 100 persons. Employment now must be non-discriminatory. The lack of job opportunities, and the narrow range of jobs open to Negroes, maintain economic deprivation among Louisiana Negroes.

Sewerage, and other water supply and city services: Negro residential areas are frequently provided no closed sewerage facilities, and generally inferior city services. Negroes pay equal taxes, and yet have irregular garbage collection, practically no police protection, much higher utilities bills compared to white, etc.

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