

2 ACTION INSTITUTES

NORTH—Housing is the main area of racial discrimination in the north. Therefore, CORE this summer is conducting a special Action Institute on nonviolent techniques as applied to the housing issue. Since Boston CORE has experienced several years of successful housing action, Boston has been selected as the site. The date—July 29 to August 6. The cost, including room and board, is \$75. Some scholarships are available.

SOUTH—CORE's regular summer Action Institute will be held this year in northern Virginia from August 13 to September 3. It will include training both in the theory and practice of non-violence to combat racial discrimination. Experts in this field will lead the discussions and the action projects. The cost, including room and board is \$150. Some scholarships are available.

PERSONS INTERESTED IN ENROLLING IN EITHER OR BOTH OF THESE ACTION INSTITUTES SHOULD PLACE THEIR RESERVATIONS WITH THE NATIONAL CORE OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

FREEDOM RIDES ROLL ON

In the last CORElator, James Farmer, CORE national director, issued a plea from jail in Mississippi for more Freedom Rides. His plea has been answered and continues to be answered.

The total number of Freedom Riders who have converged on Jackson, Mississippi and have been jailed there now totals 160. But there are also Freedom Rides through other sections of the south.

CORE organized an interfaith, interracial group including four rabbis, seven Negro ministers and seven white ministers who rode from Washington to Tallahassee. Ten of the group, together with three members of Tallahassee CORE, were arrested for "unlawful assembly" at the Tallahassee airport restaurant (operated by Union News Co.), when they attempted to get food prior to their flight home. The arrest came after they had sat in without eating for an entire day. They were convicted and sentenced to \$500 fines or 60 days in jail. The case is being appealed. Following negotiations with CORE in New York, Unions News announced it would serve everybody, whereupon city offi-

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James Farmer, national director

Jim Peck, editor



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JAILED FREEDOM RIDERS VISITED

by Charles Oldham

(Editor's Note—Charles Oldham, CORE national chairman, was one of the attorneys at the first trial of Freedom Riders in Jackson, Mississippi. As this CORElator goes to press, 160 Freedom Riders have been arrested in Jackson. Most of them have chosen to remain jailed-in rather than pay fines. Two of them, Price Chatham and Newell Weber have been on a hunger strike since their arrest June 2 and June 6, respectively.)



This photo shows James Farmer, CORE national director, heading a group of Freedom Riders being transferred from the Hinds County Jail to the penal farm. Following an incident of violence by guards there, the Riders were returned to the county jail and finally transferred to the Mississippi State Prison in Parchman, where they are lodged in the maximum security section.

The maximum security section consists of a flat one-story building surrounded by a high wire fence topped with rolls of barbed wire. Entrance is gained by passing through the chain link fence at a gate operated by a guard in one of the four towers. The building has three sets of locked doors which must be opened before you can get to the cell block.

After being ushered into the cell block, I found that the Freedom Riders had brought integration to Mississippi—not in interstate travel where segregation is illegal—but to the penitentiary where the State of Mississippi has complete control. White and Negro prisoners are housed in the same cell block.

The Freedom Riders are subjected to the same rules as maximum security felons. They are rarely permitted out of their cells. They are not permitted

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MY WALK WITH HARRY TRUMAN

by Jim Peck

I decided to approach former President Harry Truman during his early-morning walk on June 5 to take issue with a statement he had made on his walk a couple of days earlier that "Northerners who go south as Freedom Riders are meddlesome intruders (who) . . . should stay at home and attend to their own business."

When I introduced myself as "a Freedom Rider from the north," Truman interrupted with: "Better stay up north, then."

I went on to express the view that "ending racial segregation in the U.S. is the business of *all* conscientious citizens, north, south, east and west." I added that: "Racial segregation—more than any other single factor—be-smirches the U.S. in the world's eyes and aids the Communist propaganda machine."

Truman then interrupted again with: "That's just what *you're* doing: helping the Communists!" I tried to get in a final sentence, but Truman cut it short with: "I'm not going to say any more."

However, I continued to walk with him—along with eight reporters—and after they had asked him some questions on other matters, I addressed him again to express regret that he would not discuss the CORE Freedom Rides in a more serious manner in view of the fact that many prominent Americans view them favorably. "Just trouble-making," was his final comment on the Freedom Rides.

Reporters told me it was the first time that Truman on his walks had been confronted with a key social issue of this kind. The confrontation, which received considerable publicity, was worthwhile, I feel. Truman's unintelligent responses and his rudeness of attitude certainly lent no dignity to his position. The nature of his remarks recalled to me his comment a year ago on the sit-ins. Asked his opinion of them, he stated that if he had a business and an unwelcome customer refused to leave the premises, he would kick them out. Shortly thereafter, he tried unsuccessfully to smear the sit-in movement as Communist.

CORE PAYS SHUTTLESWORTH'S LEGAL COSTS



CORE Community Relations Director Marvin Rich presents \$1,000 check to Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth as first installment on legal expenses. The Birmingham integration leader is involved in four separate legal actions growing out of his courageous support of CORE's Freedom Riders.

FREEDOM HOUSERS



"Be a Freedom Houser!" was the slogan on a leaflet which Brooklyn and New York CORE distributed at Clinton Hill. The Clarence Funnys and their 3½-month old son, shown in the above photo, are real Freedom Housers. Refused the right even to inspect an apartment at Clinton Hill, which white CORE testers had inspected, they returned to picket. Picketing with them is Genevieve Hughes, CORE field secretary and one of the original Freedom Riders.

AMUSEMENT PARK COMPLETES INTEGRATION AFTER 9 YEARS

On May 17, 1952 when 15 white and Negro members of the Cincinnati Committee on Human Relations, a CORE affiliate, arrived at Coney Island Amusement Park, city, county and private police were mobilized to prevent them from gaining admittance.

Thus was set the pattern of intimidation which marked the three seasons during which CORE waged its nonviolent campaign. On April 30, 1955 the Park—with the exception of the swimming pool and dance pavilion—opened its gates to Negroes for the first time.

CCHR went out of existence soon thereafter, but in 1960, a new CORE group was formed in Cincinnati and a nonviolent campaign to complete desegregation of the Park began this spring. The local NAACP joined CORE in seeking to open the swimming pool and the dance pavillion.

During the last week in May, 26 were arrested for seeking admission to the pool. After negotiations with Eugene Martin of CORE and with NAACP officials, Edward Schott, Coney Island president, announced that "any person whose motives are only to use the facilities we provide and who is prepared to conduct himself properly will be admitted to any part of the park."

FREEDOM RIDES ROLL ON

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cials in Tallahassee closed down the airport restaurant.

A group of professional people and UAW members journeyed from Washington to St. Petersburg. Three of them were arrested while seeking service at a rest stop in Ocala. Their case has been postponed until July 5.

As this CORElator goes to press, a group of 20 were arrested in the Jackson railroad station's "white" waiting room after coming all the way from California. Another group is on its way to Jackson from Washington State.

A Freedom Ride of Episcopalian ministers as far ahead as September—from New Orleans to Detroit—has been announced in conjunction with that religious group's forthcoming convention which is being held in the Michigan city.

CORE continues to coordinate mobilization for the Freedom Rides with the Nashville Nonviolent Committee, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING A FREEDOM RIDE THIS SUMMER, APPLY TO THE CORE NATIONAL OFFICE NOW.

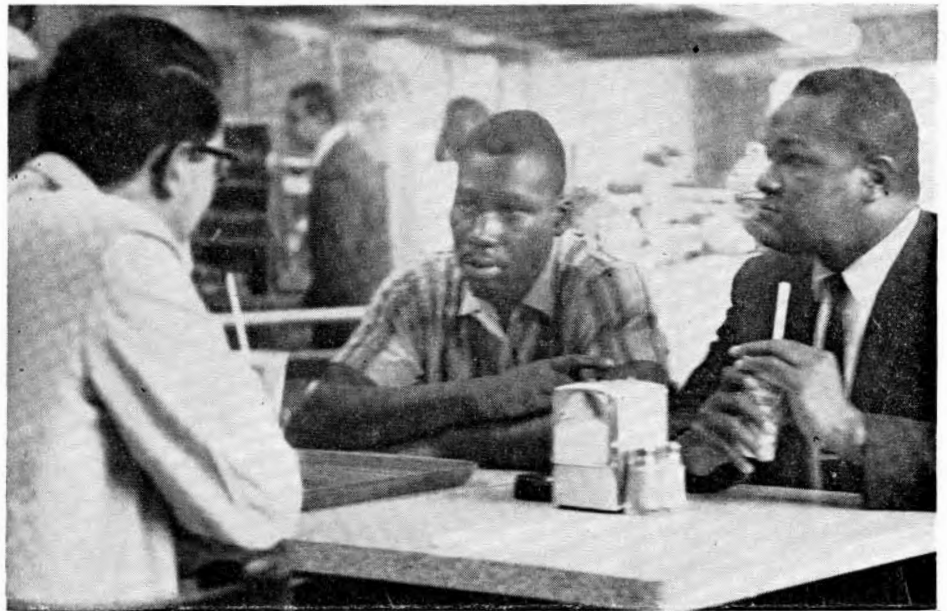
FARMER'S STATEMENT FROM JAIL

James Farmer, CORE national director, who has been in jail since May 24, gave Charles Oldham the following statement when the latter visited him:

"Everyone has the right to travel in interstate commerce without being subjected to discrimination because of race—yet in Mississippi we were arrested, convicted and sentenced to a maximum of four months and \$200 fine or a total of six months and seven days for walking into a waiting room designated by Mississippi for persons of the other race.

"Under Mississippi law it is illegal to put individuals convicted of a misdemeanor in the state penitentiary, yet here we are in the maximum security prison normally reserved for hardened criminals. Not only is Mississippi willing to ignore the United States Constitution, but it is also willing to ignore its own laws.

"The time has come for action by the federal government to protect citizens in the exercise of their constitutional rights. The officers of Mississippi by their refusal to abide by their own twisted laws have again indicated the lengths to which they will go to practice and enforce segregation and second class citizenship on Negro citizens."



Francis Randall, Columbia University history instructor; Herbert Callendar, U.A.W. member, and Rev. Arthur Hardge integrate the Greyhound restaurant in St. Petersburg, Florida.

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any printed material. They may write two letters a week and receive two letters a week. Cigaretts are not allowed. There is nothing to do but sit and think or sleep.

Despite this, their spirits are high. They are convinced that their example and their willingness to protest the illegal action of Mississippi is worthwhile and is a significant step in the fight to eliminate discrimination.

I also visited some of the female Freedom Riders who are in the Hinds County Jail in Jackson. Fourteen whites occupy a cell about 13 by 15 feet. The bath facilities are in the same area taking up about 3 by 5 feet. These prisoners do not have beds. They sleep on the concrete floor. The shower floor is at the same level as the cell floor where they sleep. When they bathe, one of the women sits at the shower entrance and tries to block the water from flooding the cell floor. They have set aside certain periods of the day for worship, singing, discussion, rest, taking showers and washing clothes.

The Negro females are in a similar set-up except that they are located in two cells and are not so overcrowded. The female prisoners can write and receive letters. Some of the white males are still at Jackson City Jail, where conditions are fair as compared to other similar institutions. They are permitted reading material and cigarettes and can write and receive letters.

EASTLAND "HONORS" CORE EDITOR

Jim Peck, editor of the CORElator and a victim of mob violence in Birmingham was "honored" May 25 by Senator Eastland of Mississippi, who is chairman of the Senate Internal Security Committee. Speaking on the Senate floor that day, he singled out Peck as "a Communist agitator and organizer of the most dangerous kind" who is "disloyal to his country." (The same charge was repeated three weeks later by Alabama's Attorney General, MacDonald Gallion, on the Dave Garroway program over which Peck had appeared a couple of weeks earlier.)

Countering Eastland's outburst, the New York Post commented editorially: "Surely Eastland should have learned the distinction between a pacifist and a Communist, no matter how much he dislikes both. But he is unable or unwilling to learn. He took the Senate floor for a raucous attack on Jim Peck, the Freedom Rider who was so savagely assaulted by an Alabama mob. Peck's pacifist convictions are long a matter of record: he has suffered imprisonment for them on other occasions. Does Eastland really not grasp the distinction? Is he a fool or a faker?"

Stockholders Hear Pleas for Speedier Change

The stockholders meeting of S. S. Kresge Co. in Detroit on May 12 and that of F. W. Woolworth Co. in Watertown, N. Y. on May 17 heard appeals for quicker desegregation of southern lunch counters.

Raising the issue at the Kresge meeting was Rudy Lombard, chairman of New Orleans CORE, who held a proxy. Lombard urged that Kresge's, the variety chain which has come closest to 100% desegregation of its southern lunch counters, complete the job. He pointed out that in only three southern communities do Kresge lunch counters still refuse to serve Negroes, but that the company remains adamant in negotiating a policy change in these localities.

While Lombard addressed the stockholders meeting, some 200 members of Detroit and Ann Arbor CORE picketed outside the building. Picket lines



were also established on that day at Kresge stores in other major cities. A demonstration in Boston is shown in this photo.

Five days later in Watertown, N. Y., Susan Bodan, a minority stockholder, raised the issue at the Woolworth meeting. She also represented Jim Peck, who was unable to attend because of being on a Freedom Ride, and two other minority stockholders.

Robert C. Kirkwood, company president, in his report, gave as one of the reasons why business in 1960 had been "somewhat disappointing," "the interruption of normal shopping patterns in some communities as a result of local actions taken in the interest of desegregating eating facilities in certain southern communities."

When Mrs. Bodan took the floor, she contrasted this situation with the "business-as-usual or improved business reported in stores where the ban against Negroes at lunch counters has been lifted." She also pointed out that Woolworth's, along with McCrory's, is lagging behind the other variety chains in southern lunch counter desegregation. (CORE's protest at the McCrory stockholders meeting was reported in the April CORElator.)

Rev. Thomas Carlisle of the Stone Street Presbyterian Church, which owns 250 shares of Woolworth, then took the floor to indorse what Mrs. Bodan had said and to voice his own views in favor of lunch counter desegregation.

STAND-INS WIN MOVIE DESEGREGATION

A 7-month-long campaign of CORE stand-ins at ticket windows has resulted in a signed agreement for desegregation of three movie theaters in Lexington, Kentucky as of June 20. A limited period of planned tests preceded the full integration. The theaters are the Strand and Ben-Ali of the Schine chain and the Kentucky, owned by N. Switow & Sons of Louisville.

Julia Lewis, chairman of Lexington CORE, headed the local negotiating committee. James Farmer, CORE national director and Genevieve Hughes, CORE field secretary, also participated in the negotiations. Miss Hughes had helped to organize a mass demonstration at two Schine theaters in Rochester. Similar sympathy demonstrations had been planned in other upstate New York communities where there are Schine theaters.

Under the agreement, the operators have abandoned their attempt to get an injunction against CORE and will urge dismissal of charges against 22 stand-inners arrested on April 4 at the Kentucky Theater. Half of those arrested on that occasion, including three children of Rev. Lamont Jones, spent the night in jail.

Two previous cases in which CORE stand-inners were arrested at the Strand Theater, ended with the charges being dismissed. The first case occurred several nights after Lincoln's Birthday weekend when delegates to CORE's national council meeting in Lexington joined the local stand-inners, and closed down the theater.

Soon after the Lexington agreement was signed, it was extended to cover the Schine theater in Richmond, Kentucky, where another CORE group had been active. Schine theaters in other communities where there is protest action are expected to follow suit.

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By a vote of the CORE national action committee and upon recommendation of Charles Oldham, CORE national chairman, the national CORE conference and convention, set for early July, has been postponed until early September.