POLLL WATCHER MEETS
ROSS BARNETT... AND BEATING

When Marvin Rich, CORE Community Relations Director, came to Madison, Mississippi, December 3 to poll-watch at the Agricultural Stabilization Committee election, little did he expect to have the "honor" of meeting ex-Governor Ross Barnett and of being badly beaten afterwards.

When Rich went across the street from the polling place to a grocery store to buy a carton of milk, he encountered "a big, portly man in a yellow hunting outfit and big boots who stopped me and asked: 'Where you from?' I said I was from New York and he grunted and looked pained. 'Are you a WHITE man?' he asked me. Then he turned away and walked out. At that point, I didn't know who he was."

The portly man thereupon entered the polling place where, according to Martha Wright, another CORE poll-watcher, everybody addressed him as "Governor." He shouted: "Why don't these agitators go home where they belong!" followed by obscene remarks to Miss Wright. Upon emerging from the building, he got into his Cadillac and a group of young whites conferred with him for about ten minutes.

Then they approached Rich and told him to re-park his car. He refused until ordered to do so by the deputy constable. Upon returning from the new parking place, which was about 300 yards away, the white youths started throwing rocks at him. Finally, four of them jumped him, started slugging and hit him with a belt buckle. He suffered a broken nose and bruises on his body.

Elsewhere in the county, four CORE poll watchers were arrested on minor charges: George Raymond, a CORE Task Force worker and project director, and three CORE volunteers, Elaine DeLott, Euvester Simson and Ann Darden. It was the first Agricultural Stabilization Committee election in which Negroes had run and in the town of Camden, a Negro, Luther Honeysuckle, was elected to the committee.

The center fold of this issue is devoted to stories of CORE community action in the north.

Last Two Florida Counties Register Negroes

As a result of CORE's voter drive in northwest Florida, Negroes have registered in both Liberty and Lafayette counties—the two last counties in the state which had had no Negro registrants.

Five whites tried to intimidate the registrants and CORE Task Force Worker Stuart Wechsler as they stood outside, but there was no incident. One school bus driver was among the registrants, though Negro school bus drivers and teachers had been threatened with dismissal if they attended CORE meetings.

The registration of Negroes in Mayo, Lafayette county seat, took place a month later. Fifty-seven Negroes were registered. The voter campaign is continuing in both counties as well as in other northwest Florida counties where CORE has been working, reports Field Secretary Spiver Gordon.

Fire and Shooting

In mid-December a fire set in CORE's northern Florida headquarters in Quincy damaged three of the office's six rooms. Less than three weeks later, 15 shots were fired by night riders into the Quincy community center. One of the bullets came close to entering the room where two CORE volunteers—Sidney Daniels and Jimmy Card—had been standing.

Both in the case of the fire and of the shooting, the local Department of Public Safety launched an investigation but without results. The U.S. Department of Justice has been urged to supply increased protection for civil rights workers in the area. "The two incidents show that the haters in Florida can be as extremist as those in other deep south states with worse reputations," said Gordon.
In Cedar Heights (Md.)
-A Cleanup Campaign

Prince George County (Md.) CORE has initiated a campaign to rehabilitate Cedar Heights, a Negro slum which, literally, is "on the other side of the fence."

It was thus described in a Baltimore Sun feature article and CORE Regional Secretary Louis Smith has characterized the eight-foot high fence dividing Cedar Heights from the white community of Seat Pleasant as "another Berlin wall." Though the Seat Pleasant shopping center is only two blocks away, Cedar Heights residents have to circumvent the fence by a mile-long walk to get there. Following CORE threats of nonviolent direct action, the county commissioners presently are negotiating with CORE on plans to break through the fence.

As for Cedar Heights, the Washington Star said, in reporting the CORE cleanup campaign: "Caught in a tight wedge between superhighways, the small community has become a graveyard for abandoned cars, for every conceivable bit of household junk from boilers to bathtubs."

"Ridding the area of this accumulated junk was the first step in CORE's Cedar Heights Action Program, known as CHAP. Members of the CORE group, the University of Maryland chapter of Students for a Democratic Society and local residents joined in collecting the junk and loading it onto trucks provided by the county commissioners."

Other steps in the CORE program call for paving the streets, most of which are unpaved, low-cost housing to replace the present tarpaper shacks, construction of sewers, sidewalks and playgrounds, school integration and a workable urban renewal program.

"One of the individuals directly responsible for the start of the program," reports the Washington Star, "is Michael Tabor, a 22-year-old social worker who is CORE's chairman for Prince George County."

WIN AGREEMENT ON STORE JOB COUNT

An agreement on the issue of a store-by-store count of minority group employment in San Francisco department and drygoods stores, ended a dispute which had led to picketing of four stores by San Francisco CORE during the Christmas season.

The agreement is between the United San Francisco Freedom Movement, representing CORE as well as other local civil rights organizations and the Retailers Community Relations Group, representing 34 stores.

Their initial agreement had been reached a year ago.

Under the new agreement, negotiated through the city's Human Rights Commission, the Commission will make store-by-store counts every three months and submit the figures to the civil rights groups. Individual firms which do not adhere to a fair hiring policy will be dropped from the retailers' group.

It was the group's refusal to submit a store-by-store count directly to the civil rights organizations, which had led to the pre-Christmas picketing. CORE Chairman William Bradley pointed out that a store-by-store count is necessary "because some of the firms in the retailers' group are hiding behind the progress made by others."

The San Francisco Sun Reporter commented: "In forcing the Retailers Community Relations Group to install a complete program of fair hiring, the United San Francisco Freedom Movement has won an important victory. This victory can be attributed solely to the direct action and boycott engaged in by members of the movement."

BOYCOTT OF ONE STORE CHANGES TOWN'S JOB PATTERN

A two-year boycott by Oroville (Cal.) CORE of the Barnes Supermarket not only has made that store abandon its lily-white job policy, but has changed the employment pattern in the entire town. Negroes now are working at the local branches of Montgomery Ward, the Bank of America and several other downtown stores.

The boycott, bolstered by picketing, had won the support of more than 95% of the non-white community. Finally, following rumors that the store was about to close, management hired its first Negro clerk and the long boycott was ended.

Local CORE members consider the project a demonstration of the effectiveness of community action.

In Philadelphia
-A Program of "Little Schools"

A program of small, neighborhood schools especially geared for pre-school training has been launched by Philadelphia CORE in the culturally deprived North Philadelphia area.

"Philadelphia CORE selected North Philadelphia because two-thirds of the Negro population is compressed into this area where the incidence of poverty is the greatest, schools the worst, police harassment the most constant and housing the most dilapidated," explains James Williams, chairman of the group.

"Already, two school sites have been acquired, money for three more is available and the first five schools should be in operation soon. Though these first schools are being funded privately, we hope eventually to receive financial support from the Economic Opportunity Program in Washington."

To implement the school program, CORE has formed a state-chartered corporation involving members of civic groups, block councils, churches and individual North Philadelphia residents. Several CORE members are officers of the corporation.

The need for the schools is emphasized by the fact that 91,000 Philadelphia kindergarten children are presently without facilities to receive them and will remain so unless there is a massive building program. The little schools will be located in houses close to the children's homes. But while the emphasis will be on pre-school children, the schools also will provide tutoring and club activities for junior high school students and job counseling for young adults.
In Trenton and in Englewood, New Jersey, CORE groups are engaged in action campaigns aimed at drastically changing locally-drafted urban renewal plans so that they will comply with community needs.

In Trenton, when a group of CORE pickets first appeared at Mayor Arthur Holland's home, they were confronted with two paddy wagons and police dogs, much as they would have been if they had attempted such a demonstration in a deep south community. However, there were no arrests. But on November 5, two CORE field secretaries, Herbert Callender and Louis Smith, and four CORE spokesmen were arrested at City Hall following a hearing on urban renewal and on January 29, five CORE spokesmen were arrested while sitting-in at the mayor's office. These cases are being appealed.

Target of the Trenton protest action is the third and final phase of the John Fitch Way urban renewal project, covering 104 acres in the downtown area. In the first two phases, over half the area went for state and city buildings. The city plans to devote the final phase to high income housing only. CORE urges that at least half of the Phase Three units should be low income housing. An immediate result of CORE action was the city's establishment of an adequately staffed relocation center for the Negro families to be displaced by Phase Three.

While CORE's Trenton campaign did not start until November, the CORE drive in Englewood got underway last June. As a consequence, federal approval of Englewood's urban renewal plan still is being withheld.

Following a complete study of the plan, Bergen County CORE voiced its opposition on grounds that the new housing was to be located in a ghetto area, was inadequate in quantity and was too high-priced.

Next, CORE canvassed individuals and neighborhood groups in the Fourth Ward with a view toward drafting an urban renewal plan suited to the community's needs. The CORE plan was drafted at a widely-attended public hearing, which followed a completely inadequate hearing held by the city. It was then forwarded to the federal agencies involved. Federal officials arranged a meeting between the CORE plan's spokesmen and city officials, but the latter remained adamant. Federal funds for the city's plans have not been approved, to date.

In Boston

Against Slumlords

"The Congress of Racial Equality, sparkplug of the new drive against slumlords, deserves commendation," said a Boston Globe editorial on January 14. "It should not be—and will not be—put off by more empty promises."

By "new" drive, the editorial referred to CORE's action following a disastrous fire December 30 on Hammond Street, Roxbury, in which four persons perished. Following the fire, CORE issued a statement pointing out that during its investigation of the past year, 73 building code violations had been discovered on the block where the tragedy occurred.

"CORE volunteers have been investigating complaints for a year," The Boston Globe pointed out in a full-page feature story a week prior to its editorial. "During that time, this volunteer group has recorded 627 violations of fire, health and building codes in 126 buildings owned by 48 different landlords.

"The CORE workers have gotten some results, but getting a plastering job done in a decrepit property is a major project and virtually all the landlords are still avoiding meeting legal and human standards in the maintenance of their property. CORE is not looking for frills. They just want violations of law corrected."

To ensure that there will be no more "empty promises," representatives of CORE together with a group of Roxbury tenants met with Mayor Collins on January 12 and presented him with a report, "One Year of Promise," which outlined CORE's efforts throughout 1964. Specifically they asked him to instruct city department heads to declare dwelling units with serious violations " unfit for human habitation," to have the Health Department use its authority in this regard and invoke provisions of the Sanitary Code that repairs can be made and billed to landlords and the initiation of a systematic code inspection program in the Roxbury area.

The mayor has promised to make weekly progress reports, "If the reports prove unsatisfactory, we will then demonstrate at City Hall," announced Alan Garten, chairman of Boston CORE.

IN BRIEF

Rev. B. Elton Cox, leader of a CORE mass demonstration on December 15, 1961, to desegregate lunch counters in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was acquitted by the U.S. Supreme Court on all three counts under which he had been arrested and sentenced to 19 months in jail. The successful appeal was handled by Carl Zachlin, CORE's chief counsel, and Nils Douglas and Robert Collins, CORE attorneys from New Orleans.

National Director James Farmer flew to Berkeley to personally express, at a mass meeting, CORE's support of the free speech movement at the University of California which climaxed on December 3 with the arrest of 784 student sit-inners.

For the second successive year, as a result of CORE action, blackface was eliminated in the New Year's Mummers Parade in Philadelphia.
YEAR'S DRIVE WINS JOBS IN NEW JERSEY BREWERS

Last February, West Essex CORE came to the support of Negro brewery workers who, though classified as seasonal employees, worked year-round and performed the same duties as regular employees but for less pay and fewer benefits.

In May, the CORE group picketed the New Jersey Brewers Association, as well as the National Labor Relations Board, which was processing the Negro workers' complaint.

At the year's end, David Anderson, chairman of West Essex CORE, was able to announce an agreement with the Brewers Association which he described as "a significant accomplishment in attaining job opportunities for minority groups in a major American industry."

Under the agreement, the workers previously classified as seasonal, have been given regular status and access to join the unions, which previously had been denied. The unions, Teamsters Locals 4, 153 and 843, cooperated in working out the settlement.

In addition, the agreement established an accelerated program to employ more Negro drivers on beer deliveries to New York. This will be particularly meaningful with Ballantine's, whose total delivery to New York comes from its Newark plant. Other beer firms covered by the agreement are Anheuser-Busch, Pabst and Rheingold.

WIN FAIR JOB PACT WITH MICHIGAN AAA

The American Automobile Association in Michigan has negotiated a fair employment agreement, ending an action campaign by Detroit CORE which started in the fall of 1963 and was highlighted last October with the arrest of two CORE negotiating teams on "trespassing" charges.

First Negro to be hired following the settlement was Francine Turner, a Northwestern High School graduate who had been working in the City-County building as a clerk-typist. According to a survey made by CORE prior to the settlement, AAA throughout the state employed only 17 Negroes in a work force of 2,000.

Under the settlement terms, AAA agreed to give CORE a census by job category, to discuss employment in all its Michigan offices, to meet periodically with CORE on implementation of fair employment and to advertise as an equal opportunity employer.

To Rebuild Louisiana Churches

With materials supplied by CORE and labor volunteered by Southern University and Tulane University students and local residents, two churches burned to the ground near Jonesboro, Louisiana on January 17, will be rebuilt. Both churches—Pleasant Grove Baptist and Bethany Baptist—were used by CORE for voter registration activities.

Coordinating the rebuilding is Field Secretary Jerome Smith, who a few months ago coordinated construction of the CORE community center in Harmony, Mississippi. He has negotiated an agreement on student volunteers in conferences with both university officials and student spokesmen at Southern University in Baton Rouge. It was Southern University students who played a key role in the Baton Rouge freedom struggle of 1960 and 1961.

Jonesboro residents already have raised $3,000 to help cover the cost of materials. The churches were valued at about $35,000.

The church burnings came only a couple of weeks after CORE had started testing public accommodations and exactly a month after CORE had won a prolonged campaign to desegregate the library. In fact, the very day before the fires, CORE had conducted tests in which Negroes were served without incident.

The library desegregation took place on December 16. By closing time, 236 Negroes had secured library cards and a few Negroes were still in line. The following day, chairs and tables were removed, but the library was open.

The restaurant-testing started shortly after New Year's. The M & D Restaurant on Main Street served Negroes for the first time—even though the price of milk was found to be 60c. At the Blue Grill, the testers were served, although several members of the Jackson parish sheriff's department who were eating there, got up and went outside until the testers had disappeared.

DESEGREGATE GAINESVILLE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

Thirteen members of Gainesville (Florida) CORE were prepared on January 18 to form a human chain in front of the entrance to a white junior high school if the school board persisted in its refusal to admit Negroes to nighttime vocational classes.

But the action was made unnecessary when four Negro women, who had been turned away a week before, were admitted without incident. CORE Field Secretary Spiver Gordon accompanied them. The school is only two blocks from their homes. The all-Negro Lincoln School, to which they had been directed the previous week, is three miles away.

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