

FARMER LAUNCHES VOTER DRIVE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

At a rally in Columbia, South Carolina, attended by over 600 persons, CORE National Director James Farmer on April 25 launched a state-wide voter registration campaign which will constitute one of CORE's two main projects for the coming summer. The other is in Louisiana.

"The political situation has changed considerably since the recent death of South Carolina's senior senator," said CORE Organization Director James McCain, who is a native of the state and who is heading the CORE drive. "Governor Russell stepped down so that he could be appointed senator for the unexpired term. This means that South Carolina will elect two senators in the 1966 general election.

"If we work hard enough to increase the Negro vote by at least 100,000 or more, we definitely can make the difference in terms of who will be elected. Of course, no one knows at the moment who will run against Thurmond and Russell. We do know, however, that Russell is against the voting bill now before Congress and that Thurmond is against everything connected with civil rights." The unseating of Thurmond, who ran for President on the Dixiecrat ticket in 1948, will be one of the key objectives of our campaign."

During the first month of the campaign, 1460 Negroes were registered in the first, second and sixth congressional districts.

Klan Chief Blasts Governor

At a news conference just prior to a Ku Klux Klan rally in Hemingway, Imperial Wizard Robert Shelton denounced Governor Donald Russell for opposing his coming into South Carolina while remaining mum on CORE's voter registration drive.

"A Communist training school established in South Carolina by COFO arrived in Columbia last week to start a Negro voter registration, but we haven't heard any objection to that from him," Shelton was quoted as saying by *The State and The Columbia Record*.

CORE Organization Director McCain explains: "While the KKK chief is quoted as saying 'COFO,' he obviously meant CORE, since we are the only organization working on voter registration in Columbia as of the date the *State and Record* article was written."

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BOGALUSA FREEDOM STRUGGLE



This open coffin greeted CORE National Director James Farmer as he led the first Freedom March on April 9 in the Klan-ridden town of Bogalusa, Louisiana. It took place in the afternoon, six hours after an original attempt to march had been halted by police following an outbreak of violence from white on-lookers.

The marchers, including 400 Negro residents, urged that the city administration negotiate on their demands for desegregation of public accommodations, equal employment and educational opportunities and improved community facilities for Negroes.

Mayor Jesse Cutrer, Jr., greeted the marchers at City Hall and pledged to negotiate, but then balked on the grounds that he could not decide who represents the Negro community. Eleven days later, Farmer led a second Freedom March followed by picketing of City Hall. Picketing of downtown stores had started on April 14.

Following intercession of a 3-man mediation team, Mayor Cutrer finally started to negotiate with CORE and the Bogalusa Civic & Voters League. The mediation team includes Camille Gravel, an Alexandria attorney and former Democratic National Committeeman; Victor Bussie, president of the Louisiana AFL-CIO and State Senator Michael O'Keefe.

On May 23, the mayor in a radio address, announced a new policy on community desegregation and Farmer, speaking an hour later to an overflow rally at Ebenezer Baptist Church said: 'You are on the threshold of the greatest breakthrough in any southern city in the past few years.'

"The mayor had fine words and we must applaud them. But now we must

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FREEDOM MARCH THROUGH RANKIN COUNTY

Rural Rankin county, which set Mississippi's county record for the number of churches burned within the past year (five), was the scene of a Freedom March May 28-29 by some 300 Negroes and whites.

Aimed at protesting the seating of Mississippi's five congressmen and the voter discrimination which made this possible, the march was sponsored jointly by CORE and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. One of the demonstration's leaders was CORE Task Force Worker George Raymond.

"We want to let them know we're not afraid," commented Rube Lee Myers, a marcher from Haynes Chapel. But on this particular occasion there was little grounds for fear since state and county officials apparently were anxious to avert the kind of terrorism which has prevailed in this Klan stronghold. State and county police accompanied the marchers for the entire 15 miles—from Fannin to Brandon, the county seat.

When the marchers arrived at the courthouse, Mayor C. J. Harvey promptly met with their leaders. About 50 of the marchers were guided to the registrar's office to take registration tests and the remainder were escorted to an upstairs courtroom where they sang freedom songs until the start of the rally.

Main speaker at the rally was CORE National Director James Farmer, who predicted that as an outcome of the new voting bill, from one to two million southern Negroes will be registered within six months.

At present only 94 of Rankin county's 6,944 Negroes of voting age are registered in contrast to over 12,000 of its 13,264 whites.

CORE CHAIRMAN FIRED FOR LEADING PICKET LINE

The day after leading a picket line at the county office building protesting the appointment of two segregationists to the Montgomery County, Md., Human Relations Commission, Michael Tabor, chairman of Suburban Washington CORE, was fired from his job as welfare department social worker. County Manager Mason Butcher admitted that the picketing, which he described as "conduct unbecoming a county employee," was the sole reason for the dismissal.

A protest march on the county office building is being planned by Citizens Against County Tyranny, a local ministers group headed by Rev. David Harris Cole. The American Civil Lib-

BOGALUSA— (Cont'd)

see to it that the deeds follow the words. The fight is not ended—the most difficult part is ahead. You must hold your movement together."

Shortly after midnight on the previous day two whites were arrested for attempting to set afire the church where Farmer spoke.

In his radio talk, the mayor promised that all city ordinances requiring segregation would be repealed, that Negro policemen would be hired and that the city council will act on Negro demands for sewage and water mains in their area. He also pledged that "anyone, white or Negro, who attempts to violate the rights of another or cause bodily harm will be promptly arrested, charged and prosecuted." He asserted: "Everyone must recognize the fact that federal laws supersede city and state laws in the field of civil rights for all citizens."

As this issue goes to press, some of the downtown stores are still being picketed and the pickets are being harassed repeatedly by gangs of whites. The parks have been closed since May 19 when a white mob armed with brass knuckles, clubs and guns attacked Negroes who came to desegregate Cassidy Park. The day after the mayor issued his policy statement, a crowd of whites tore down the park's gates. The Negroes plan to return to the park soon. Bogalusa—along with the rest of Louisiana—will be a focus of CORE's summer program.

Industry's Role Challenged At Stockholders Meeting

Although Reed Hunt, Chairman of Crown Zellerbach Corp., barred any statements by persons attending the annual stockholders meeting in San Francisco, the issue of segregation at the company's Bogalusa plants was raised during the question period.

When Rev. Harry Scholefield, representing the First Unitarian Church, which is a stockholder, started to make a statement, Hunt interrupted him with "We are not here for speeches; if you have a question, I'll be glad to answer it."

At this point, CORE Vice-Chairman Wilfred Ussery, who recently returned from Bogalusa and who held a proxy from Attorney Frank Brann, rose and asked: "Is it not correct that as of today, the facilities in the Crown Zellerbach Bogalusa plants are segregated—time cards, lunchrooms, drinking fountains, etc.?"

"I dealt with that question in my statement," was Hunt's reply. Actually, he did not. While he stated that "discriminatory signs have been removed," he omitted the fact that segregation still prevails throughout the plant and that the workers are represented by two separate unions, one white, one Negro.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Rev. William Parsons, a member of the Bogalusa Committee of Concern, which is headed by Ussery, told of having visited the Bogalusa plants recently and having observed the segregated washrooms and drinking fountains. The Committee of Concern is a San Francisco group formed "to urge Crown Zellerbach to assume positive leadership in bringing freedom, justice and equality to Bogalusa." Crown Zellerbach is Bogalusa's major industry.

erties Union will challenge the dismissal.

The two appointments which the CORE group protested were those of Rev. William Adams, who gave the invocation for Governor Wallace of Alabama during his election campaign appearance here and Mrs. William Brueggeman, who is affiliated with ultra-rightist groups and has opposed publicly the penalizing of discriminatory barbers and restaurant owners. Rev. Adams was nominated to the Human Relations Commission by John Henry Hiser, a county councilman who also is an outspoken segregationist. Two years ago Hiser closed his theaters rather than integrate them.

Withhold U.S. School Aid

As a consequence of a complaint filed by Suburban Washington CORE, the U.S. Office of Education has withheld federal aid to the schools of Prince George's County for the 1965 fiscal year. This was disclosed by OE officials at a meeting with a CORE committee, headed by Tabor.

"The county enforces a strict neighborhood school system on white residents, but not on Negro residents," the CORE complaint charged. Negro students are bussed from all over the county to a small number of Negro schools such as Fairmount Heights Senior High School and Douglass Senior High School."

CORE PICKETS—AND COUNTER-PICKETS—AT WORLD'S FAIR



FIRST CORE DEMONSTRATION IN BIRCHITE STRONGHOLD

A newly organized CORE group recently conducted its first demonstration in Santa Ana, seat of Orange county, southern California's stronghold of ultra-rightist organizations. The town has made headlines recently because of its police chief's unsuccessful attempts to break the John Birch Society's control over the police force.

The demonstration, involving 35 pickets, took place in front of the local branch of Thriftmart Supermarkets, a chain which for more than a year has been a target of Los Angeles CORE and the United Civil Rights Committee as a consequence of its discriminatory employment policy.

"Although we were legally picketing on the sidewalk, we were threatened with arrest," reports CORE Field Secretary Louis Smith. "Marine military police arrived with two Navy paddy wagons to carry us away. The arrest attempt was called off only after I told management and police that we would bring suit if our picketing rights were impaired.

"Next, management encouraged teenagers to ride through our line on skateboards and to block it with bicycles. Then, employes blocked the sidewalk with shopping carts, forcing us into the street. A white minister among the pickets was insulted continuously by the youths. As the pickets concluded the demonstration with some freedom singing, they were attacked by supervisory employes. Credit should be given to members of this new CORE chapter for averting injury and preventing major violence."

More than 100 CORE pickets—and nine counterpickets—marched in front of the New York City Building at the World's Fair on April 25, ending a picketing ban which had prevailed throughout the Fair's first season. The counter-pickets called themselves the Society to Prevent Negroes from Getting Everything (SPONGE), a name which originated among commuters during last summer's white backlash.

Backed by CORE's two court victories upholding the right to picket at the Fair, the pickets had been prepared to swear out arrest warrants against any Pinkerton policeman attempting to interfere with their rights. The Pinkertons did confiscate some of the placards at the Fair's gate, but sufficient placards were concealed under overcoats. Once the picket line was established, the Pinkertons made no attempt to disperse it.

The demonstration was the first direct action in CORE's campaign to defeat Mayor Wagner in the coming election "because of his obvious disregard for the Negro and Puerto Rican communities and the major problems of New York City," stated CORE Regional Director Joyce Ware.

In Brooklyn, CORE National Director James Farmer has endorsed the formation of a local Freedom Democratic Movement and has backed the candidacy of the local CORE chairman, Major Owens, for City Council.

WIN PACT WITH D.C. REALTOR

An open occupancy agreement which, according to Mordecai Johnson, Chairman of Washington CORE's housing committee, marks "the first time that a Washington, D.C., realtor has taken a stand to break the 'white noose' around the nation's capitol," has been reached between Washington CORE and the William Calomiris Investment Corporation.

"This also marks the first time a real estate company has made a commitment to a civil rights organization to sit down and go over a list of its white property in order to achieve true open occupancy in housing," Johnson said.

Apartments in predominantly white buildings will be advertised in the Negro press as well as in the major dailies.

WEAVER REJECTS URBAN RENEWAL PLAN OPPOSED BY CORE

Robert Weaver, administrator of the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency, has refused to approve an Englewood, New Jersey, urban renewal plan which Bergen County CORE has opposed.

Suppressed by City Hall for a month, Weaver's letter to the Mayor was made public after news of it had leaked to the local newspaper.

Upholding the CORE group's contentions, Weaver wrote: "The fact that the proposed sites are within a predominantly Negro section of the city and the fact that the public housing units would constitute a major relocation resource for Negro families displaced by the urban renewal program, lead us to conclude that the current proposals would substantially contribute to minority group segregation in the public housing unit. Our

concern regarding this issue has been heightened by the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964."

Bergen County CORE had charged, in addition, that the number of units proposed was inadequate, that they were too high priced and that the plan contained no provisions for improving blighted areas. After canvassing individuals and neighborhood groups in the Negro area, CORE drafted its own urban renewal plan, which was 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 plan have been withheld since last June when CORE initiated its campaign for an urban renewal plan which meets community needs.

FREEDOM RIDE NORTH



Twenty-one civil rights workers from Selma, Alabama, arrived in Syracuse, N. Y. aboard this chartered bus May 5 on the first Freedom Ride North, sponsored jointly by CORE and SNCC. Some 400 persons including members of upstate CORE groups and local residents greeted the riders at the bus station and marched with them to Clinton Square for a rally addressed by CORE National Director James Farmer.

During their 2-week stay in Syracuse, the Selma rights workers picketed the plant of Niagara Mohawk Power Co., target of a CORE fair employment campaign, engaged in several street rallies, canvassed the Negro community and engaged in two civil disobedience actions. One was a sit-in at Niagara Mohawk's "Powerama" display in the Syracuse War Memorial. Seven sit-inners including two of the Selma Freedom Riders, John Hope and Ester

Delock, were arrested. The other five were Rev. Emery Proctor of AME Zion Church, Robert Tenney, executive secretary of the Syracuse Peace Council and Pat Sandov, John Williams and Leroy Wright, members of Syracuse CORE. The second civil disobedience action, on the day before the Selma Freedom Riders' departure, was a sitdown on the steps of the home of Gus Waters, vice-president of Niagara Mohawk. Two of the Selma contingent and two members of Syracuse CORE were arrested. Coordinators of the Selma group were Scott Smith and John Hewlitt.

The Freedom Ride North, aimed at "dramatizing northern hypocrisy on the race issue," had been announced at a joint press conference by CORE National Director James Farmer and SNCC Executive Director James Forman. Other Freedom Rides North are being planned.

The main target of this one was Niagara Mohawk, a big upstate utility, which out of a total work force of 1500, employs only nine Negroes, all in menial positions. After over a year of attempted negotiations, Syracuse CORE started direct action in mid-March with picketing and several sit-ins. On April 8, a stall-in by four CORE-driven cars blocked entrances to the plant for over two hours. Roger Knapp, one of the CORE members arrested, jailed-in and fasted for 11 days and on April 19, negotiations got under way. They are still in progress but, as this issue goes to press, no settlement has been reached.

FREEDOM HOUSE TO HONOR SLAIN CORE OFFICIAL

Cleveland CORE marked the first anniversary of the death of its vice chairman, Rev. Bruce Klunder, by launching a local and national fund drive for a Freedom House in his honor.

Rev. Klunder was killed April 7, 1964, when a bulldozer accidentally backed up over his prostrate body during a demonstration against de facto school segregation.

"The Klunder Freedom House will be located in the central area where residents can learn the role of civil rights organizations in effecting social change," said Ruth Turner, executive secretary of Cleveland CORE.

The fund drive was launched at a memorial service at Friendship Baptist Church, attended by some 400 persons. Chief speakers were Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, a leader of the Freedom Democratic Party in Mississippi and John Lewis, national chairman.

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