

A black and white photograph of a woman with short dark hair, wearing a white lab coat. She is holding a large white sign with the text "WHERE IS DEMOCRACY" written in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. She has her right index finger pressed against her lips in a "shh" gesture. The background is a chain-link fence. The sign is tilted slightly to the right.

WHERE
IS
DEMOCRACY

CORE

CORE Offers An Answer

Democracy is that form of society . . . in which every man has a chance and knows it.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL

Democracy is liberty plus economic security. We Americans want to pray, think as we please—and eat regular.

MAURY MAVERICK

WHAT CORE WANTS is no secret. Nor is it anything strange or new. CORE simply wants for all Americans, regardless of race or creed, their constitutional rights and guarantees. But it wants these as more than words in law books. It wants them as a reality in terms of jobs, housing, education and a fair chance at all the opportunities of American life.

A century ago, after the Emancipation Proclamation, Wendell Phillips said, "The pro-



clamation frees the slave but ignores the Negro." CORE says, "The Negro will no longer, can no longer, be ignored." CORE seeks not only an end to the formal segregation practiced in the South, but to the de facto segregation that exists in the North. It wants an America in which race or

creed will be neither asset nor handicap.

There's an old saying, "Wanting won't make it so." CORE was founded in 1942 to translate "wants" into action. In the words of James Farmer, CORE's founder and now its national director, its purpose was "to substitute bodies for exhortation." Its special technique has been a militant non-violence. The effectiveness of this technique, in compelling action to end discrimination, was demonstrated by CORE in dozens of communities before it attracted

national attention by the CORE-led Freedom Rides, the lunch counter "sit ins" and the massive Birmingham demonstrations.

CORE does not advocate demonstrations for their own sake. It aims always at tangible results. CORE victories have included desegregation of bus lines and terminals, lunch counters, theatres and swimming pools — many of these in the deep South. It has broken through the color barrier in housing developments, and its action program has persuaded numerous firms to open jobs to Negroes. Its activities, often unpublicized, criss-cross the country, from Mississippi to Chicago, from New York to Los Angeles.



CORE's major emphasis is on the fundamental problems of voter registration, Negro employment and integration of schools and public accommodations. As a result of a voter registration campaign in South Carolina, Negro voters in one precinct elected 16 of 17 representatives to the Democratic county convention. In Columbia, the Negro vote was decisive in defeating a segregationist candidate for mayor.

MILITANT non-violence has transformed the whole struggle for Negro equality. It has extended the struggle from the courts to the streets. It has enabled a large, and steadily growing, number of people, Negro and white, to participate in the struggle in an important and useful way. As a result, barriers, once considered so formidable, are now beginning to crumble all over America. But obviously much remains to be done. CORE invites your participation.

CORE is an inter-racial organization without religious affiliation. It is open to anyone who wants to fight discrimination and who will adhere to CORE's rules. The only people not welcome in CORE are "those Americans whose loyalty is primarily to a foreign power and those whose tactics and beliefs are contrary to democracy and human values." CORE believes that militant non-violence, to be effective, must also be responsible. It expects all



members to respect these basic action principles:

- Investigate the facts carefully before deciding whether or not racial injustice exists in a given situation.
- Avoid malice and hatred toward any group or individual. Never use malicious slogans or labels to discredit an opponent.
- Meet anger in the spirit of good will and creative reconciliation. Submit to assault without retaliation. This is the essence of non-violence.

CORE believes that equality for all is a cause that demands the support of all Americans, Negro and white, who value the democratic principles on which this country is founded. It is not someone else's responsibility. It is ours, whoever we are.

"We better know there is a fire whence we see much smoke rising than we could know it by one or two witnesses swearing to it," Abraham Lincoln wrote. "The witnesses may commit perjury, but the smoke cannot." The smoke of Negro protest is now rising all across the American horizon. Only the foolish will wait to see the flames.

CORE

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