

B of A
Read how I am
Diego CORE receives
Manna from Heaven?

Western Regional Office
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY
2085 Sutter Street
San Francisco 15, California JO 7-3430

May 26, 1964 (in the wee small hours, etc.)

TO ALL CHAPTERS: TO BE READ TO OR BY ACTIVE MEMBERS ONLY!

1. CONGRATULATIONS!! on your initial demonstrations against Bank of America, our FIRST truly State-wide project.

2. Mediation sessions between FEPC, B of A, and the CORE negotiations team are moving at a rapid and informative pace. A final decision should be reached in the next few days, hopefully in our favor. But, don't count on it. FEPC is pressing for an affirmative action program with B of A, so we'll keep our fingers crossed, but we are also prepared for continued action if necessary.

3. Demonstrations such as last Friday's should be continued, with more emphasis on community support. The following suggestions are offered for your consideration, but please remember that the decision is up to your chapter:

1) For those chapters that are located in a metropolitan area, you might rotate your picket lines from city to city. For example, if you picket on Mondays and Fridays, picket on Monday in your own city, and on Friday all of the chapters in your area converge on one particular bank in one particular town.

2) When you picket in your own city you might move your line to a different branch each time you picket especially to those branches in the ghetto.

3) Some chapters are working on a complete bank boycott (we've enclosed a sample leaflet that could go out into the community). Other organizations might want to lend their support by withdrawing their accounts from B of A. e.g., unions, churches, social clubs, businesses, etc.

3) Leaflet the entire community if feasible. If not, at least cover the ghetto areas. Spanish language leaflets to the Mexican American community.

4. If you haven't yet forwarded your local press clippings and chapter reports to the Regional Office regarding your initial demonstration, please do so at once. After each action send these into us immediately so that we can relay the progress to the rest of the chapters, and so that we can see where we stand.

5. Now - I need your help with a problem. We want to send out weekly progress reports, but you have the burden of disseminating the information to your chapter, before each action. I have three suggestions, and if any chapter comes up with better ways of handling this, please let me know so I can relay the info to the rest of the chapters.

1) Hold weekly meetings, at least of the exec board, on Tuesday or Wednesday. If I receive reports from the chapters on Sunday or Monday, I can have a progress report out to you by Monday night. This way, if you desire, you can plan the weekly action in coordination with the other chapters. Incidentally, if you can give us a rough plan of your next action this will help.

MEMO TO CHAPTERS RE B OF A - PAGE TWO - MAY 26, 1964

2) Have your phone committee telephone the members to give them the gist of the memo.

3) I am sending a copy of the memo to each of your officers and committee chairman. Then each of these people can have the members of their committee phoned, or if that committee is meeting during that week, the memo can be read at the committee meeting. In order to do this successfully, I still need the names, addresses and phone numbers of your officers and committee chairmen (home phone numbers also). As all of us know, no matter how careful we are, letters and phone messages get lost in the CORE office, so please give me your home addresses and phone numbers unless you don't want letters and messages directed to your home. The following chapters have sent their address lists (also remember to keep us abreast of any changes):

Bakersfield	Bruin	Santa Monica
Pomona	Mid Peninsula	Desert Pass (I still need the
Pasadena	Santa Clara Valley	names of committee chairmen)
Los Angeles	Berkeley	San Diego
Sacramento (List is	Richmond	
now out of date since		
elections)		

If any of the above chapters have held elections since you sent your lists, please send a new list.

5. We are using our own pocket money (which none of us can afford) to continue this project. As you all know, all of the chapters voted to send in \$25.00 to assist the project. So far only the following chapters have done so (if I have omitted anyone, please let me know):

Berkeley	Sacramento	Santa Monica Bay Area
Desert Pass	San Diego	
Los Angeles	San Fernando	
Pomona	San Francisco	

B OF A PROGRESS REPORT BY CHAPTER:

WRITTEN REPORTS:

1. BAKERSFIELD: 50 pickets. Silent demonstration ("This impressed the locals who have an image of CORE as a bunch of screaming psychos.") No incidents. Three Negro police and a detective in attendance. Public reaction - Primarily uncomprehension. "They have never seen anything like this in Bakersfield. 'What is CORE?' was the most frequent question. 400 leaflets distributed during action. Main branch has several Negro employees, and Bakersfield is considering moving the line to an all white branch. Bakersfield CORE feels that if they continue to picket this branch, the bank will transfer their Negro employees from the other branches to this branch. Welcomes suggestions from chapters. More slogans for picket signs: "We Shall Overdraw" and "Don't bank on discrimination. It's a bad investment in America's future". Bad press, from local papers. Have now established personal contact with press, and feel future press coverage will be better.

2. DESERT PASS (Palm Springs) - 20 pickets. Main Branch. First demonstration in Palm Springs. City Ordinance restricts number of pickets to one for every 30 ft. of frontage. Did not try to test the ordinance at this time. Distributed pickets around bank and parking lot.

DESERT PASS (Cont'd) - Line disciplined and orderly. No incidents. Good press both advance and during demonstration. Radio continually pointed out that the demonstration was peaceful. Know of 5 persons who closed accounts and told bank why. Picketing will continue, and when they are ready to increase the size of the line, NAACP will picket as a separate identity in an attempt to get around the city ordinance.

3. POMONA: Picketed main branch - busy intersection, so excellent visual contact with community was achieved. 30 pickets. Ran out of leaflets. Bank officials appeared very disturbed. Bank man took moving picture and stills of everyone on line. Police all over the place. One police car had police dog on stand-by duty. Heckling normal. Some expressions of sympathy. Maintaining leaflet distribution during the week. Major effort to be directed towards mobilizing greater community participation in picketing. Expect more Negro participation. Picket line did not seem to be disturbing normal business flow. Some advance press. Also action mentioned (no details) in Los Angeles Times.

4. RICHMOND: 15 pickets. Three plain clothes policemen in attendance. Chief of police introduced himself, asked questions about the picketing and gave the chapter a mimeographed list of city ordinances: "Although we know you at times use civil disobedience as a tactic, we didn't feel you would want to get into trouble unknowingly, so we hope this will help." Good relationship with police. Minor heckling. One bystander joined the group. Attracted much attention. Individual pictures were taken of each picketer. Singing and chanting around bank and parking lot. Leafleting. The bank is on a side street, so after the demonstration picketers turned in their signs, then walked around the block (covering the main street) singing "We Shall Overcome". One union official will encourage his men to join the line. They will be asked to attend a workshop in non-violence before participating. Picketing and leafleting will continue. Richmond's first CORE picket line. At least 4 persons asked how they could join CORE. Main reaction seemed to be minor interest (from the public) and some sympathy.

5. SACRAMENTO: 40 pickets. About 20 onlookers. Some advance press. Press reports of action seemed to be fair minded. Gave facts instead of opinions. Reported that the line was orderly. TV coverage was favorable. Leaflets circulated on day of action (mainly at colleges). Plans for coming week include circulating 3,000 leaflets especially to barber shops, beauty parlors and churches. 500 leaflets in Spanish. Continued leaflet distribution on next line. Press release to be issued day before next action. Picketing will continue, at main branch. Rally tentatively scheduled in public park day before action. Town has been extremely apathetic on all civil rights matters, so can only hope for some community support, but for the most part CORE will have to go it alone. A member of the NAACP Regional Office has publicly criticized CORE for picketing B of A. The member lives in Sacramento.

(TYPIST'S NOTE - The verbal reports following are not complete. It is easy for me to report on San Francisco's action because I live here, and on Richmond's action because I joined the line there (and because they sent in a written report) but I would like to give detailed reports on all chapters. I know that last week we asked you to phone and write-in your story, but with so much happening in so many fields (B of A, FEPC, Republican Convention planning, etc., plus the normal helping chapters and setting up new chapters, chet has not had the chance to relay the phone reports to me. Phoning is going to be impractical financially and procedurally. I apologize to those chapters whose verbal reports to chet are not included here, but if I wait until morning to talk to chet you will not receive this report in time for this week's action.

Your reports of your initial action, if you send them, will be included in next week's progress sheet. Be sure to include suggestions which might be helpful to other chapters, to the negotiating team and to Regional. Please send any criticisms also, but please accompany it with constructive advice, or ask us and the other chapters for advice if something does not seem right to you. Also send in human interest items.

If any emergency comes up and you need immediate assistance, or if an event occurs that you feel is 'hot' and should receive immediate state and nation wide publicity, then naturally, phone in this info.)

VERBAL REPORTS:

1. LOS ANGELES - Joint action with Los Angeles, Los Angeles State, Occidental, Pasadena, San Fernando and Santa Monica participating. 75 pickets. Ghetto branch.
2. MARIN - 50 pickets. Orderly demonstration. No incidents.
3. OROVILLE - 25 pickets.
4. SAN BERNARDINO - 20 pickets.
5. SAN DIEGO - 50 pickets. Highlight (?) of the day came when a large bucket of solid human waste was dumped on the picketers from the window of an upper floor of the Bank of America. Some of it landed on the picketers before continuing its fall to the pavement. According to chairman, Hal Brown, this did not discourage the recipients. Instead it made them all the more determined to end the practices that help to bring about such shameful incidents. Negro Newspaper photographer is believed to have photographed either the pile of waste itself, or has a picture of the B of A employees cleaning it up. It was allowed to remain on the sidewalk for a good long time before the bank finally cleaned it. Said Mr. d, when apprised of the incident, "Hope no CORE member happened to be looking up at the sky with his mouth open, saying, 'Manna from Heaven' just as it was being dropped!"
6. SAN FRANCISCO - Joint action with Berkeley, Berkeley Campus, Oakland, Southern Alameda County chapters, NAACP, ILWU, Ad Hoc Committee to End Discrimination, some clergymen, 25 citizens from Walnut Creek, college students (other than in the above groups) and other San Francisco residents. Estimated between 600 and 800 pickets. One Negro spectator was taken away by police, but we couldn't ascertain the reason (mistake - The Negro spectator incident was in Monday's demonstration). Main branch - Center of downtown. 800 to 1,000 spectators, many hostile. Some chanting, "CORE MUST GO." Swarms of police and plain-clothes men, some obviously indentifying those demonstrators who were at the Sheraton Palace and Automobile Row demonstrations, and who were subsequently arrested. An early crowd of more than 200 made it virtually impossible for the initial 30 demonstrators to move. The Picket Captain finally threw up his hands and cried, "May we have some room here so we can picket this bank? Would you please back up so we can picket?" One spectator, obviously intoxicated, was arrested when he refused to move by police order. He was insisting on his right to demonstrate against the demonstrators. Press coverage was complete, and most of it, good, both advance and current. e.g., (S.F. Chronicle) "At first the steps of the bank were so jammed with onlookers. . . . Soon, however, police, with the co-operation of the CORE pickets opened a wide corridor On Mondays the chapters mentioned above will picket in their own cities, and on Fridays, the demonstrations will be carried out first in Berkeley, then the next Friday in Oakland, and the next Friday back to San Francisco, these being the largest in the Northern Bay Area. The community will be encouraged to help end discrimination in other ways besides picketing.

7. SANTA CLARA VALLEY - (San Jose) Joint action with Mid Peninsula CORE participating. 70 pickets.

8. STOCKTON - 60 pickets. Floyd McKissick, CORE National Chairman, in between a luncheon, several meetings, a press conference, a general membership meeting and a fund raiser, participated in the line.

9. VALLEJO - Jerry Davis, chairman, who was going to bring his chapter to participate with Richmond CORE, started the day by injuring his knee, and is now in a cast from hip to ankle, awaiting an operation. He wasn't able to make this line but he says that as soon as he is able to be on crutches he'll be there.

Further Typist's notes: I'm sorry this memo is so long, but we have neither paper or postage money to send out separate memos, and you need the information.

1. Please help Regional and all our chapters by sharing your B of A experiences with them. Allow me, by sending your reports to us, to give you complete, fair coverage. PLEASE SEND THEM AIR MAIL (Where practicable) SPECIAL DELIVERY SO THAT I WILL HAVE THEM BY MONDAY MORNING. I've worked all night, tonight, and I'll gladly work all night, every night, if it means better communication and coordination.
2. No matter where your chapter is located, send your press releases to the newspapers and other media in Los Angeles and San Francisco. One copy to the City desk, one copy to a sympathetic person on the paper and in the other media. (Chapters, please send us sympathetic names in your area so we can send them to the chapters, in the next report.)

This way, if you are having trouble with local press coverage, we can get the word out around the rest of the state. Be sure you also send them to Regional. Also send one to National. They are handling publicity in the rest of the country for us.

3. If you feel you need additional help, let us know. Money permitting, we'll try to send a task force to you to help organize, give legal help, help with community support or whatever help is needed. Just let us know what kind of help you want so we can send the right person or persons. If you can provide transportation and housing, we can send them that much faster.

4. Keep looking for sympathetic local lawyers and bail bondsmen. Let them know that they won't be alone in helping your chapter, that other chapters are soliciting and receiving this help. Our lawyers are eager to confer with them to give them any advice pertaining to CORE legal matters and to answer their questions.

5. The sample leaflets and slogans sent out by Regional have been cleared by CORE attorneys. If you use other leaflets and slogans have your lawyer check the contents for possible legal complications before you print them.

6. Press coverage from most areas emphasizes that demonstrations are being carried on ALL OVER California, at the same time. It is important that we be able to maintain this kind of publicity.

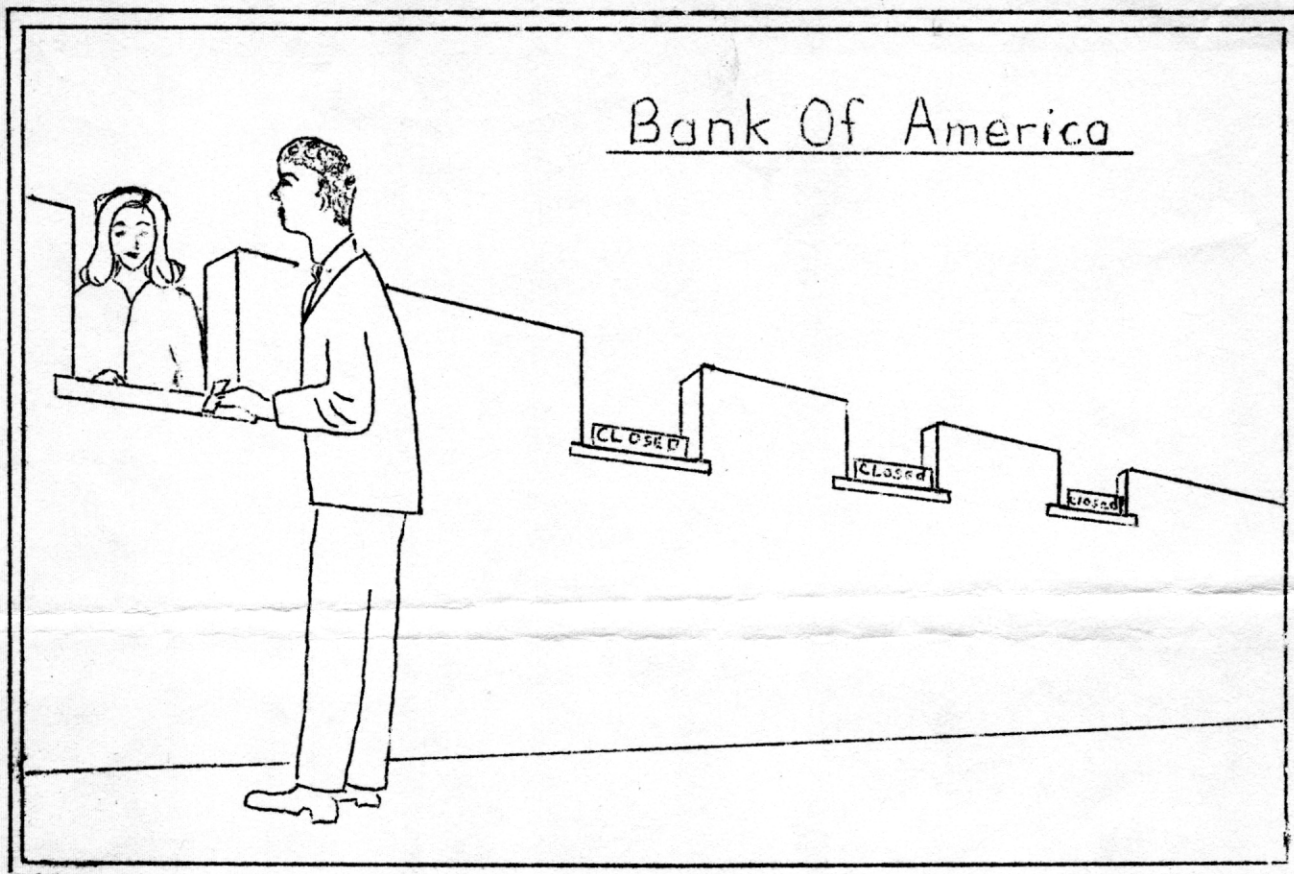
7. If individual students or student organizations ask about our demonstrations encourage them to help end discrimination. They don't have to join CORE, nor need they picket. If, however, they do join the line, present them with the CORE Rules For Action and make sure they understand them. Perhaps they would like to distribute leaflets, or encourage their teachers, clergymen, other organizations, and their parents to end this discrimination. This naturally pertains to any groups other than student, also.

LATEST NEWS!!! B of A has another full page ad in today's (May 27) Chronicle. If the ad also appears in your city please let us know.

that's it!

chet duncan, Regional Field Secretary

MAY 27, 1964



"I want to withdraw my account, too."

YOU CAN HELP END DISCRIMINATION by

WITHDRAWING YOUR ACCOUNTS FROM BANKS THAT HAVE POOR HIRING POLICIES.

Bank of America employs 30,000 people.
Only 2.22% of these people are Negroes.

These few Negroes are placed, mainly, in
Ghetto branches of the bank

YOU CAN HELP FURTHER BY JOINING OUR PICKET LINE EVERY MONDAY FROM
4 TO 6 P.M. AT BANK OF AMERICA, POWELL AND MARKET, SAN FRANCISCO.

For further information call San Francisco CORE - JO 7-5929
1821 Fillmore Street

Sponsoring Organizations:

ILWU
Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union
Baptist Ministers Union
Leading Clergymen

NAACP
Ad Hoc Committee
CORE
(Labor donated - San Francisco CORE)