Formation. Nov. 1963

General Situation

The formation of the NVAC was a direct result of dissension in Los Angeles CORE. For three years there had been two factions fighting within the organization. The "Action Faction" and the "Conservatives." Basically the struggle centered around a difference in orientation. The ABs were for strong militant direct action to be supported by community relations (publicity campaigns), the Conserv. orientation was just the reverse.

Both factions agreed that there was little support for CORE in the negro community. Only 33% of CORE was negro and most of the actions were predominantly white or sometimes all white. Almost all of the negroes in CORE were upper class negroes. Both factions recognized the need to get support from the masses of lower class negroes but there was a difference of opinion on how to achieve this. Because of the difference in orientation between the two factions there was a power struggle.

(I was in the action faction) One of the major things that infuriated the ABs was the fact that CORE was supposed to be an Action organization the consies would vote against actions, refuse to support actions, and sabotage actions. They were able to sabotage actions in many ways, give out bad statements to the press (they had captured complete control of the committee which was charged with the giving out of press releases) and when interviewed sabotaged the action. They would also stack a meeting and vote through the cancellation of an action. Because of this constant warfare it was almost impossible for an action program to succeed. It was also difficult for them to do
Chronology

Sept. 1963. CORE voted to begin a campaign against the board of Education to force them to de-segregate the de facto segregated schools in L.A. The U.C.R.C. and the NAACP had been negotiating for almost two years over this point and had made extensive investigations which we had the results of. The consies fought the program but lost. The campaign was to be directed by a steering comm. of one member of the action comm, one member of the education comm. and the project coordinator. They were to devise and run the actions and negotiations.

Sept 14-16 Training session for a fast. The trainees went 48 hours without food or cigarettes. They slept on the floor of the house in which the session was held.

Sept 13 8 fasters entered the hallway of the board of education and sat down. They would stay there with out food or smokes until the board gave in.

Sept 16 the first day of school. CRICC (Civil Rights Improvement Co-ordinating Comm.) tried to start a boycott of Jordan High. to protest segregations. (It fizzled and was completely aborted by the end of the week)

SEPT 19 Student protest march. 500 Students cut classes and walked in the rain from Wrigley field to the B of E. (6 miles). (Only 5 fasters were left the other three had dropped out.)

Sept 23 The last three fasters were pulled out by an executive board meeting with out thier consent. They were yanked out 1½ hours before the security guards were going to have them forcibly removed.

Oct 3 Study-in. Students came to the board and during the meeting lined the halles and quietly studied. 300 students came.

Oct-10 2nd Study-in 400 students

Oct 17 3rd Study-in 300"

Oct 24 4th Study-in 200"

Oct 24-25 All night vigil inside the B o E halls 150 persons. The consies were very agitated about this action and were against it. They started to say that it was illegal
because the membership had not voted on the. They were also mad because the Study
ins had been called off. The calling of the study-ins and the calling for the
vigil were done in accordance with the steering comm. set-up. After the vigil the
BoE claimed that we had broken into the office and stolen hyodermic needles
and that there had been licentious behavior in the halls. The consies released story
through the publicity comm. (consie controlled) that in effect agreed with the BoE.
Earl Walters made a statements over t.v. that backed up the BoE claim. None of their
claims were true and none of the consies had been on the action. Or anywhere near
it.

Oct31-Nov1 2nd all night vigil & There was a big fight in the exec. board as to
whether or not we could call a 2nd vigil. We won by a narrow margin. Only 29 of
our demonstrators got into the BoE hallways before the security gaurs locked the
doors (they had never locked the doors before). Later when we inside learned that
there were many people outside who wanted to inter we found a door that was ungaured
and opened it and sat down inside the door way to keep it open so that new people
could enter. The gaurs beat there way through us (injuring many) and arrested three
of us and got the doors closed. (we got some of the outside people in. The three
who were arrested were arrested for battery. The consies (none of them were present
at the action) issued press releases with out even talking to the people inside
the building. They made statements that were very bad and they in effect agreed
with the statements of the security gaurs. During the previous Vigil they had called a constitutions meeting of the membership to alter
the constitution. At that meeting they did not complete the constitutional changes
and they were finished at a meeting while the 2nd vigil was in progress. Due to the
fact that these meeting coincided with an important action none of the action people
were present. At this meeting they decided that all actions had to be originated
in the subject committee (housing, education etc) and approved by the membership.
this took away the duties of the steering committee and the traditional duties of
the Action committee. They also decided that the only people who could release
any public statements were the publicity comm.
Nov-7 3rd vigil. 50 people. They did not try to lock the doors. We had been able to get this third vigil approved because it was planned before the new constitution went into effect. (The board meted every Thursday and every Monday we had been having an action every Thursday since school began except Thanksgiving when they did not meet)

Nov-14 No action because nothing approved. This night a bill of actions was brought before the membership. This slate of proposed actions was gotten through the education committee because Rev. Samules brought in enough beer to get the consie members of the committee drunk. When the chairman of the committee (a consie) presented the actions to the membership he was sober and against them as he made quite plain. The ones that were passed were passed only because a minister from Plaquemine La. was attending the meeting and read the membership out when they voiced opposition to the actions. Enough people were shamed by him into voting for the action.

The actions voted in were;

1- sing-in. to sing inside the board meeting when they stop discussing the things that we want them to discuss.

2- A picket line inside the board room.

3- Christmas Carol and student march during the Christmas season. Students to march to the BOE and sing carols outside the BOE room.

4- student march between Jordan and South Gate high to show how easy it is to get from one school to another.

5- exchange white and negro students for a day. White students go to a negro school and vice versa for a day.

6- Block const. of expanded facilities at Jordan

7- Pull of a student boycott.

The proposal for a freedom camp at the BOE was tabled. The freedom camp was to be that we pitch tents in the BOE patio and live there with teachers and other lecturers come up to speak to us.

A proposal to sit in the board members chairs and conduct a mock meeting in at the time of the regularly scheduled meeting was failed.
Nov. 18 sing-in at the boe. 20 people. boe said that if we did it again we would be arrested. They knew about it in advance. Fantastic opposition from consies.

Nov. 21 General election of CORE officers. *Nominees* a nominations comm. had previously nominated somebody for each office. The nominations comm was consie controlled. Nominations were also allowed from the floor. * means nominated by *Nominees* nominations committee. @ means consie @ means *action faction* $ means neutral

Chairman; Art Silvers## vs. Danny Grey@, vs Woodrow Coleman@.
Art-85 Danny 15, Woody 10

V. Chairman; Sylvia Richards##, Danny Grey@
Sylvia 76 Danny 35

2nd V. Chairman Paul Jackson##, Danny Grey@
Paul-50 Danny 10 Write ins for Taylor (NAACP head) 30

Treas Roberta Nicholson## vs. ?
won

Sec. Barbara Britton## vs. ?
won

After the election the action faction met at the olmpian coffee shop. At this time the suggestion of starting a new organisation was brought up. However it was decided to have another meeting to talk things over and see what we wanted to do. There were about 30 of us at this meeting. (After the elections the only other action taken against the boe was the caroling but with out the march. )

Dec. 3 Conference of the action faction at the office of assemblyman merv. Dymally. The meeting was supposed to be one of the the AF but the consies heard about it and Bruce Boyd and a few supporters attended. Also attending were some people from some of the negro democratic clubs that disliked core and had some the the mettein to tell us so. These groups had there day and were then asked to leave. After they were gone the 30 or so of us that were left discussed the situation. We decided that we could not work under the present conditions in L.A. core. It was decided to try and change core one more time and if this last try failed we would form a new Core chapter. We decided on 7 constitutional changes that we felt were absolutely necessary if we were to continue with LA core. These were, 1-Voting requirments were to be 1 months trial period, 1 orientation, 1 training sesion, one compleat action every 30 days. office work was not enough for voting membership.
2. The general membership votes to initiate an action campaign. The action comm.
is then in charge of the action and carries it out as it see fit. 3. Termination of an action campaign cannot be voted on without the prior approval of the action comm. 4. The project coordinator is in complete charge of all press releases given out about the action and he may request that a press officer be assigned to the project by the pub. comm. Campaigns may be recommended to the membership by the action comm. 5. Negotiating team may have a maximum of 4 members of which one has to be the project coordinator and the chairman of the action comm. or their appointees. These proposals were to be brought to the exec. comm of core to have them bring them before the membership.

Dec 5 Core Exec meeting. The exec board refused to bring these proposals before the gen membership. They suggested that we try to change the constitution by petition and then eventual vote. As this would take about 4 weeks we refused, especially because the amendments would have no chance of passing unless presented by the exec board.

Dec 7 Organizational meeting of the new group at Danny Greys house. It was decided to try to become a new CORE chapter with the name Central CORE. Investigating teams were made up to look for job discrimination. Jay Frank and I checked out several places and found two likely targets. Buic-pontiac factory and a drive in restaurant with two branches called the Wichstand.

Dec 10 meeting at Verna Williams house. Jay and I reported. It was voted to further investigate the Wichstand. The opposition of LA core to us was inclosed (see attached statement by Earl Walters. This was one of the mildest statements made.) The fact that LA CORE might prevent us from using the name core was discussed. It was known that they were trying to do so.

Dec 17 meeting at Jean Dalberts house. Report on the Wichstand from the negotiating
team, Robert Hall and Jerry Farber. (Robert Hall, Danny Grey, and Woodrow Coleman had been elected co-chairmen). It was decided to start action against the Wichstand on Dec 20 if no progress was made before that. The opposition of a core to us using the name of core had resulted in a letter from the national office saying that we should not use the name until the National Action Council met to decide on our status. We decided that if we entered an action under the name of core they would not make us stop.

The Wichstand

The Wichstand is a chain of drive in restaurants (two). Wichstand number one at the corner of Florance and Figueroa has been in business since 1939. It has had only one negro employee in all that time (he lasted a year) Florance and Figueroa is in the heart of the negro ghetto. The manager there is somewhat friendly to us. The wichstand has spaces for about 50 cars to have car-hop service and it has 14 seats inside the building. There is also a bar on the premises owned by the same people. Wichstand number two was built in 1958 at a cost of almost $1,000,000. It is located on the corner of Slauson and Overhill. This is just North of the Inglewood city boundary and is in an all white neighborhood. However it is only about 1 mile from the negro ghetto and some of its clientel is negro. It has space for about 50-60 car-hop service cars. Inside it has a regular restaurant seating about 100 people and a cocktail lounge. Both stands are owned by the Burford bros. #2 is managed by John Marshall who also has some control over #1. Marshall is in complete control and the Burfords usually don't interfere. At the time of our investigations the two stands had 95 employees none of whom were negro. Our negotiators tried to talk to the managers but Marshall would not see them. The manager at #1 however agreed to hire a negro girl and did so. However she quit after 3 hours claiming harassment by the other employees. The manager later hired two negro girls (one so light that you could hardly tell she was a negro, her hair was blond). However the owner
still refused to talk to us and so did Marshall. Our demands were the immediate hiring on a negro in each restaurant and compensatory hiring of negroes as spaces opened up up to a percentage of 10-20%. We also wanted monthly statistic of hiring and firing. We also wanted an agreement to hire on a non-discriminatory basis. All the time that we picketed we were heckled and many times a night cars entering the driveway would try to hit our pickets. We also drew a great deal of support from the negro community. Often they would bring coffee or chicken dinners down to the line. The negro gangs also supported us. The Slausens (#1 was in their district) kept a security patrol on 1½ hour shifts to protect our line. However the other negro gangs also supported us.

Dec 20 a 24 hour picket line was begun at #2. We discovered that #2 was the hang out of a multitude of white teenagers from Inglewood. Inglewood is an all-white anti-negroe city. Our line had no appreciable effect on his business. The white teenagers taunted us, and threw a few eggs and fire crackers at us. We started the line at about 9 in the morning. In the evening the teenagers stole the picket signs that were not being used. At 11:00 P.M. The line was called and an emergency meeting called at Mari Goldman's house. The reason for this meeting was because James Farmer had called her and ordered us not to use the name of core. We then decided to call ourselves the Non-Violent Action Committee. It was also decided to cancel the line at #2 because it was not affecting his business. We voted to start a line the next morning at #1.

Dec 21 picketing was begun at #1. After a few days it was decided to only picket from 4:30 P.M. to 2:00 A.M. as that was when they had the most business. Our line was very effective. By the managers own admission we cost him 80% of his business. A week or so after we began picketing the Witchstand got a temporary restraining order from an Inglewood judge that forbid us to picket. We ignored the order.

About 90 of our pickets were served subpoenas for contempt of court they were to appear
Friday Jan 10 was supposed to be the day that the judge held the hearing on the violations of the temporary restraining order. However as he had not yet made a decision on the injunction that hearing was continued until the 17 of Jan. On Monday Jan 13 the judge decided on the injunction. We were to be limited to 8 people and some other minor limitations. That night we had a meeting on the line and it was decided to violate the injunction whenever we could. We did violate the injunction for the rest of the week, however they did nothing to stop us. Friday, Jan 17. The hearings of the violation of the restraining order were held. Wirin got the other lawyer so boxed up that he had to drop the case. The Wichstand closed a few days earlier and has not reopened.

At the meeting of the 18th of Jan it was decided not to go up to the Wichstand at Slausen and Overhill. At the meeting of Jan. 25 Committee were set up to investigate new targets for future action. The targets were: Van De Kamps, Bakeries, Sees candies, and Bobys restaurants.

Hall of Justice Sit-In.

Jerry Farber, Scot Van Leuven, and Mike Robinson; all members of N-VAC; were arrested in Nov. on a CORE demonstration at the Board of Education. (This was before N-VAC was formed) The were tried and convicted to 1 yr. probation and a 50$ fine or 5 day's in jail. The lawyers later got the sentence reduced to 6 mos. probation and 3 days in jail. CORE decided to have some sort of demonstration while they were in jail. They were to begin their sentence Thur. Jan 30th.

Wed. Jan 29. Some N-VAC members (all ex-CORE members) were asked to attend an emergency Action Committee meeting of CORE to plan for the demonstration when the three went to jail. The CORE general membership had previously given their approval to any combination of sit-in, picket, or jail-in (The people who were on the demonstration when the three were arrested asking to demanding to go to jail with them). At the meeting Wed. night there were about
3 CORE members present (quorum for the committee is 8), 2 UCLA CORE members and 5 N-VAC members present. The feeling of the Action Chairman and some of the CORE members was that all that should be done was to have us sit and watch while they were taken to jail, then to sing as they entered the prison and then go over to the Board of Education and listen to the board's meeting. As this was a CORE demonstration N-VAC and UCLA CORE could only voice opinions. After much arguing N-VAC persuaded CORE to have a picket line around the hall of justice (where they were to serve their sentence) until the board meeting and then to take the picket sign into the board meeting and sit with them.

Thur. Jan 30. The people who were to go on the demonstration were supposed to meet at the CORE office in the morning. Only about 12 people showed up. Of these 6 or 7 were N-VAC and 2 UCLA CORE. (There would have been more N-VAC but our phone committee had decided not to call the membership as the action was to weak to bother with. During the morning the discussion of the previous night was resumed. The N-VAC people wanted to have a sit-in at the Hall of Justice. The action chairman was opposed to this. However N-VAC subtly threatened to call a rump N-VAC meeting and do it as an N-VAC project if CORE didn't. The Action Chairman of L.A. CORE then capitulated and put Danny Grey (a member of the N-VAC and former member of L.A. CORE) in charge (Later Art Silvers told the Action Chairman that Danny could not be in charge so he put Esther Gutenplan in command. As things were divided at that time we were to sit in until we were asked to leave. At 4:00 When the 3 were taken to jail and we began the sit-in the Action Chairman had been convinced to let us stay after being ordered out and to face the probability of arrest. The lawyer had told us that we would be arrested with out a doubt. We began the sit-in at 4:00. At 5:30 we were informed
by the police that we would be allowed to stay as long as we desired. Up until this time all the people on the sit-in and all those who came down to join were told that there was a 100% probability of arrest. At this time there were 23 people sitting-in who were willing to be arrested. 8 members of N-VAC (As soon as the sit-in was decided the N-VAC phone committee started to rally the members. This began about 4:00), 6 Members of CORE, 3 members of UCLA CORE, 2 members of the Youth Action Union, 1 member of Berkly CORE, 1 member of Valley CORE, and 3 unidentified persons. The sit-in was to last until the 3 got out.

During the night until about 6:00 people arrived and others left at various times during the night. Only 6 persons stayed the entire night (they left when the doors opened at 7:30 A.M. and new people arrived) of these 6 & 4 were from UCLA CORE and 2 were from N-VAC. All in all during the first day (4:00 P.M. - Jan 30 - 7:30 A.M. Jan 31) 37 people sat-in for various lengths of time: 14 from N-VAC, 7 from CORE, 5 from UCLA CORE, 2 from the YAU, 1 from Valley CORE, 1 from Berkly CORE, and 7 unidentified persons.

Jan 31. The sit-in lasted until 6:00 A.M. Feb. 1st when the 3 were let out of jail. This was 36 hours early. According to statements made by the police and sheriffs the reason that they were let out early was because of the sit-in.

4 persons stayed from early morning (7-8:30) to the end of the sit-in 23 hours later. All of them were members of N-VAC. 15 persons stayed from the time that the doors were locked (about 6:00 P.M.) until the end (6:00 A.M.). 9 were N-VAC members, 4 were CORE members, 1 was from UCLA CORE, and 1 was from the YAU. All totaled there were 34 people who sat-in the second day, 12 N-VAC, 11 CORE, 3 Valley CORE, 1 UCLA CORE, 7 YAU. The total number of man hours put in by each group over the entire sit-in were:

- N-VAC 250 hours
- CORE 110 hours
- UCLA CORE 85 hours
- YAU 35 hours
- Valley CORE 11 hours
- Berkly CORE 3 hours
- Unaffiliated persons 14 hours

Total: 509 hours.

Although this was a project carried out under CORE's name it was in actually sustained by N-VAC. This fact was recognized by the action Chairman of L.A. CORE
when he informed newsmen that this was a joint action of L.A. CORE and N-VAC.

None of the papers mentioned N-VAC. When the chairman of the Action Committee was not present which was most of the time an N-VAC person was spokesman.

At the meeting of Feb 2, it was decided to investigate Clifton's Cafeteria and the Hollywood Palladium. It was decided to begin negotiations with Van de Kamps.

Present at the hall of justice sit-in (C-L.A. CORE, N2NVAC U-UCLA CORE W-Valley CORE, Y-YAU, B-Berkly CORE, F-Unaffiliated. * means risked arrest, the number of hours follows. Each number is the number of hours at each time I.E. 6 19 means 6 hours then left then another 19 hours)

C ** 11, Bo b Hubbard
  C ** 10
  C * 14, Sam Lumpkin
  C 14, 4
  C 2
  C 2
  C 2
  C

V * 22, Jay Frank
  V 22, 5
  V

N ** 5, Danny Grey
  N ** 5 11
  N

N ** 2
  N

N ** 6
  N

N ** 2
  N

N ** 7
  N

in and out

C

Bo b Hubbard
Cleveland Wallace
Sam Lumpkin
Jay Frank
Le Faucette
Danny Grey
Germain Viltz
Richard Thompson
Mari Goldman
Bruce Hartford
Jean Samuel
Peter Samuel (action chairman CORE)

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Van de Kamp's

We began to investigate Van de Camps in the later part of January. Our investigation showed that Van De Camps (vdk) was a very large company with many division. The 3 divisions were Baking, Retail and Restaurant (including a line of frozen food). vdk has 6 restaurants, 1 drive-in, 1 bakery, 1 frozen food plant, about 500 retail outlets. The retail outlets are either shelves rented in supermarkets, large concessions rented in markets with a vdk girl taking the money, or independent shops. vdk is owned by General Baking. vdk resisted unionization for 20 years until General Baking bought them.

We found that there were no Negroes in the administrative staff, no Negro truck drivers, some Negro men working in the bakery, out of 200 women in the bakery 3 were Negro, out of those 3 1 was just promoted from clean up to wrapper after seven years the other two are still on clean-up. Out of 250 women in the frozen food plant there are no Negroes, there are 3 Negro janitors. The Restaurants hires a few Negroes, cook and 3 bus boys and bus girls. none of the waitresses and cashiers are Negroes (these are the ones that get to wear the fancy Dutch costumes). Out of about 500 women working in the retail division there are 5 Negroes, 2 of these are only part time relief girls. On our first negotiation session we talked to the personnel manager who was not able to give us any information.

He said that we would have to talk to that general manager Mr. Simon. We tried to make an appointment with Mr. Simon but we were not able to do so. After a while we sent him a telegram telling him that we would be in his office the next day. He then called us and set up a meeting with a labor relations specialist that they had hired. We told him that at that meeting we wanted no more than 6 persons from their side, and we wanted them to have a statistical breakdown of their employees by race and job category, we also wanted somebody there who could make decisions from vdk. They had 5 persons there. Larry Lawrence, the labor specialist, the personnel director that we had talked to before, and 3 union men, (2 from the teamsters and 1 from the bakers union). They did not have the statistical breakdown and they said that they would not give us one.

They also said that they were going to turn the whole matter over to the Human Relations Council or the UCRC. It was then decided to go into action against vdk at the next meeting.

Action

Feb 15-10 of the 30 or so retail outlets in the new community were assigned to teams of 2 or 3 to be leafleted beginning the 21st of Feb.

Feb 20
A picket line was thrown up around vdk's large restaurant-store complex on Wilshire Blvd next door to Orbachs. The line was from 5:00-10:30. About 45 persons participated.

Feb 21 ------ Mar 3
Leafleting on individual stores began. This was very poor very few people turned out and few stores were hit. Some stores let us stand next to the vdk shelf, other didn't.

Feb 28
A picket line from 5:00- at the ABC market at Manchester & San Pedro vdk had a large shelf there. About 10 people.

Feb 29 Picket line 12-3 at the vdk complex on Wilshire. 15 people.

March 4 6:30
Shop-in at Shoppers Market 43rd & Cente ral. The shop-in consisted of us going into the store wearing our signs, marching through the store and up and down the aisles. Then going to the vdk shelf and placing all the vdk products into the shopping carts and then leaving the carts at various places around the store. KCOP and a radio station covered this shop-in. About 25 people participated. That night we also went to the ABC 53rd & Main, Von's 50th & Vermont, ABC Food Giant 73 rd & Compton, Safeway Sunset & La Brea, and Hollywood Ranch Market Fountain & Vine. By the time we had gotten to the last store we had only 18 people left. At the last store Mari Goldman's two rear tires were slashed.

xxx
Bruce Hartford
Marie Goldman
Bob Freeman
Annette Becker
Wilfred Heddspeth
Roberta Krisky

Jerry Farber
Diane DuFaut
John Freeman
Woodrow Coleman
Jean Dalberg
Le Fauzette

Danny Grex
Jay Frank
Mike Robinson
Candy Brown
Germain Wiltz
Fred Krisky
Mar 5
Shop-in.
Food Giant- Crenshaw nr. Rodeo
Von's - Santa Barbara & crenshaw
Foodfair- 51th & crenshaw
Vons - 88th & western
We had some radio & t.v. (KTLA) coverage at the first store. the 2 von's stores both were
the type that had vdk cashiers. at these stores we only loaded up the cart and left them
right there. at the 88th & western store they called the cops and about 4 or 5 cars showed
up. but they did not arrest us. there were about 15 of us. (average) (10 stores to date)

jakie king  jerry Farber  danny grey
danny cohen  bruce hartford  woody coleman
mari goldman  jay frank  bob freeman
john freeman  earl rohades  mike robinson
sue kovnor  roberta krinsky  fred krinsky
diane DuFoe  charlse bratton

Mar 6
shop-in
Safeway-midtown
Thriftymart-vermont & adams
Alexanders - 30th & vermont
abc - manchester & san pedro
abc - 108th & main.
fuzz called at the last store. they took our names and identification but did not arrest
us. they took my name even though i was taking pictures and not shopping in.

bruce Hartford  jerry Farber  woody coleman  charlse bratton
mari goldman  danny cohen  danny grey
annette becker  bob freeman  john freeman
roberts krinsky  fred krinsky  sue kovnor
jay frank  jean dalberg  jackie king

(15 stores to date)
Mar 7
shop-in
All repeats of stores previously gone to. we have so far been refraining from going to
better food markets because they have been co-operative from the start.

shoppers - 43rd & central
food giant - 73rd & compton
Vons - 88th & western
Vons-50th & vermont at this store we did not go in because we had to delay our entering
the store after we got there due to the fact that new people were coming
and others had to eat. when we were ready we found that the manager
had called the police and several cars were waiting for us. (he had
been tipped off because we had met in the lot). Due to the fact that
his store was almost empty and we did not want to be arrested is no
one saw us we told the fuzz were we were going next and then went there
they did not believe us and did not follow us so we had no trouble at
the next place.

Vons - Crenshaw and Santa Barbara
Shoppers 43rd & Central.

bruce  woody  danny
sue  jay  roberta
fred  jerry  esther gutenplan
annette  jean  richard thompson
jackie  howard minkin  charlse bratton
Mar 9
a shop-in was called but not enough people showed up to have it.
Mar 12
another shop-in was called but the persons with the signs and leaflets did not arrive
so there was no shop-in.
Mar 14
sit-in
A sit in had been planned for the vdk restaurant on wilshire. However they were closed
for remodeling, we changed the place * of the sit-in to there restaurant at their main
plant near glendale, on san fernando road. The sit-in began xxxxxxxxxx 3:45
and ended about 8:00. We sat-in so as to block the main interance to the dining room
and so as to block one of the enterances to the bakery shop. some people did not step
over (or on us) and thus were burned away, but i would say that an equal number went
in to eat just to have the pleasure of stepping on us. all the demonstrators were roughly
treated, all were kicked and stepted on, some had things thrown at them and others
were stabbed with forks. one demonstrator (jerry farber) was thrown out flat and kicked
in the stomch another jay frank was thrown out and kicked in the groin. everyone was
hurt to some extent. I had to leave the demonstration after about an ½ hour because i
could not remain non-violent. i took photographs for the rest of the time.
there xxx was a great shortage of negroes on the sit in but no shortage on the line out­
side.

on the sit-in (* only part of the time)

woody coleman
alleh ? freind of roberta
jerry farber
richard thomson
bruce hartford*
on the line out side or other outside work
danny grey
al oliver*
ben goldman*

Mar 15
sit-in.

the sit-in began the same as it did on the 11th. the sit-inners sat in
at about 3:45. There was the usual comotion. one of the custemers grabbed sue kovner
and annette becker by the hair and pulled them out of line. After a while the fire
department came and began to take pictures. They then said that the sit-inners were
violating a fire ordanance. they then cleared the building and took some more pictures.
I was taking photographs for us and was asked to leave. A few minutes after i was
forced to leave the building they began arrests of those sitting in. those arrested
were.

woody coleman
lee arond*
jerry farber
jay frank
on the outside were
danny grey
richard thomson
kathy ruble
the tires of richards and bens car were punctured (all four of them) and something was
poured in bens oil. air was let out of jerrys xxx tires, some of those arrested were
carried out in strechers and some were carried out by hand. jerry, jay, & woody xxx
(all stretcher) were put in the paddy wagon roberta, sue, (both s) and annette were put
in one police car, fred allen, & danny in another, and lee in a third.

* is juveniles.
Sit-in#3
March 21 1964
A sit-in was called for the restaurant on Laural Canyon in the valley. By about 3:30 there were 35 people picketing. Earlier in the day Robert Hall and Mike Robinson were picked up by the police at Dooley's hamburger stand near the office. A girl named Sidney was also picked up. All were picked up on suspicion. Every N-VAC member who was present (a membership meeting had been called to take place on the line) was asked to vote as to whether or not chains were to be used on this sit-in. The vote was 11-1 for it. Those who expressed willingness to sit-in were taken over to Le Fauquette's house and the chain-in was discussed and there was a rehearsal. The 15 persons who were sitting in were willing to chain themselves together. Each person carried one chain and a padlock. At a given signal they would all chain there left leg to the right leg of the person on there left. The 11 who were not going to chain themselves together would sit-in front of the chains to give them time to put on the chains. The chains were not to be put on until the police and the fire dept. had already declared us a fire hazard and said we would arrest us. At about 4:30 we went inside the restaurant and sat down. A few minutes later the fire dept. came and went through the rigamarole. When they started to arrest us we put on the chains. They delayed about 10 minutes and then brought in a bolt cutter. They carried out most of us in stretchers by 5:30 all of the arrests were over. There was no violence except for one person spilling hot coffee on me and the police being a little rough with Robt. Hall, Annette, and Danny Cohen. All the men were put in a paddy wagon and the girls in a police car. The men were taken to North Hollywood Precinct station where they were booked on breaking a fire ordinance.
Those arrested were (denotes those with chains)
Robt. Hall* Mike Perlowin* Annette Becker*
Mari Goldman* Jerry Farber Cleveland Wallace*
Bruce Hartford* Doug Nelson Danny Cohen*
Woodrow Coleman* David Hoeffler Howard Wildin
Robin Hirsch
The girls were taken to Lincoln Heights jail. Everyone stayed in jail until arraignment.
The girls all shared the same cell. All the men except Bruce Hartford, Danny Cohen, Cleveland Wallace, and Mike Perlowin also shared the same cell, the odd shared a different cell. The men were arraigned in Van Nuy's court and charged with violating a fire ordinance disturbing the peace and something like trespass. The bail was set at $1,000. The girls were arraigned at downtown court and charged with violating a fire ordinance. Bail for them was set at $250. The girls were bailed out of Lincoln Heights in the early afternoon.
The two were transferred from Van Nuy's to Lincoln Heights even though the police knew that our bail bondsman was on his way to Van Nuy's. When we arrived at Lincoln Heights they made us change into prison blues. They tried to give us x-ray's but we refused. We were kept there until late afternoon when we were released (this was late Monday) [21th].

Raid #1
March 22 1964
There were about 30 people who were picketing at the Laural Canyon restaurant, in the heavy rain. There were not enough persons who were willing or able to get arrested to repeat the previous day's performance. It was decided to go to the Rosco restaurant with about 10 persons and to sit-in until the police came to arrest them and then to leave. This they did.

Shop-ins were planned for the 28th but not enough people showed up to do it.

April 3 Raid #2
After meeting at the office and the Glendale restaurant a picket line was begun at the Glendale restaurant. About 10 members of the Nazi party were present. 6 of the were in full uniform. They picketed and chanted. Later 9 of went on another raid. We hit Rosco, Laural Canyon and Pasadena.
on the raid were
Charles Bratton
Danny Grey
Richard Thomson (lookout)
? with a beard (tom)

Bruce Hartford
Jay Frank
Annette Becker

Marlene Dickson
Le Faucette
John Tavasti

The next weekend more demonstrations were planned but not enough people showed up to carry them out.

April 18
Shop-ins
ABC 54th & Main
Food Giant 73rd & Compton
ABC Manchester & San Pedro
ABC 108th & Main
Vons 88th & Western
Thriftymart Vermont & Adams

At the last store (Thriftymart) As we walked out of the store the police said that we might be under arrest. We stood outside the store and sug. Then one of the officers asked us to show identification which we refused to do. Then one of the officers said that we were not under arrest and we started to leave. Before we had got to our cars another officer said the we were under arrest so we went back to the front of the store. Then they made like to put us in the police car so we sat down and locked arms. The manager of the store came out and said that he was making a citizens arrest. The police then broke Mari out of the circle and drug her to the car. They then tried to take Annette. Annette was being held by Robt. Hall on one side and me on the other. To break my grip they grabbed me under the throat and pulled my head back, choking me. They then did the same to Robt. They then dragged Annette to the police car. The sargent came and said that if we would cooperate they would not arrest us. We asked if we were under arrest and he said that if we would give our names we wouldn't be. So we got up and left (with the girls) some of us did not give our names as we were not asked to do so after the sargent talked to us.

| Danny Grey | Mari Goldman |
| Bruce Hartford | Robert Hall |
| Woodrow Coleman | Jay Frank |
| Charles Bratton | Annette Becker (last shop-in only) |
| | Richard Thomson (first 4 only) |
It was planned to have a rally at South Park Sunday the 26th at 2:00 p.m. and then to go to the Van De Kamp's restaurant on Wilshire. We were supposed to go and speak in different churches to get the church people out. However the only church that would let us speak was Rev. Dawkins church (this was the Sunday before) he had promised us support but later reneged. On the 26th Robt Hall and I went out to distribute leaflets about 12:00 while Woody, Annette, Jay, and Reginald stayed in the office.

At about 1:30 a police sergeant came into the office and asked Woody questions about the route we were going to take to Wilks. At about 1:30 police came to the office with warrants for the arrest of Woody, Annette, and Jay, all of whom were dragged into waiting police cars. These warrants were sworn out on Friday on a complaint by the manager of the Thriftymart at Adams and Vermont. The police could have served these warrants Saturday because we were all in the office and they knew it but they wanted to use them to break up the rally. When Robt and I got back from leaflet distribution we found out about the arrests. We then went to Celes Kings office to arrange bail and to call the press. We then went to the park where we found that Mari and Danny had just been dragged off. Councilman Lindsay was there but all he said was had we permission to use the park.

A number of CORE people were there because James Farmer had been holding a meeting of the Executive boards of the SO. Calif chapters earlier in the day. I had called to a restaurant where I knew some of them were eating. Jerry started the rally and then took the people over to demonstrate against Newton street police station who had made the arrest. While making a telephone call there I was arrested. Eventually over 40 people were on the picket line including J Farmer. I was handcuffed and taken to the glass house where I was put in with Danny and Robt, later were taken to Lincoln Heights and put in solitary confinement because we started a bus load of prisoners singing. We were bailed out late that night.

Arrested were

Bruce Hartford
Woody Coleman
Jay Frank
Annette Becker
Danny Grey
Mari Goldman
Robert Hall
Charles Bratton was picked up a few nights later.
5-2-64
There was a picket line at Van De Kamp's restaurant on Wilshire. There was only a few people present.

5-9-64
Another picket line was called for the Wilshire restaurant. Not enough people showed up to have it.

5-11-64
The trial of the 4 adult defendants of the first sit-in began. The charges against the 6 juvenals had been dropped by the judge some time earlier. The charge of trespass was dropped by the court before the trial began. An all white jury was selected. It had two mex-americans. Herb. Porter the attorney for the defense did not present any witnesses. The trial lasted over a week. The 4 defendants - Woodrow Coleman, Annette Becker, Jay Frank, and Jerry Farber- were convicted of violating the fire ordinance and of disturbing the peace. They were sentenced on 6-11-64. Woodrow got 15 day's and the other three got 10 day's (actually it was jail or fines of 150$ and 100$). The reason that woody got more time was that he appeared to be the leader. The charge of disturbing the peace was dropped by the judge.

6-6-64
Sip-in #1 VdK Wilshire.
The sip-in is where we go into the restaurant and order a cup of coffee and then take as long as possible to drink it. The sip-in lasted from 3 - 7:30. All totaled about 100 people participated! The management was annoyed. We also had a picket line going on outside. Many of the sip-ins had signs at their tables.

6-13-64
Sip-in #2 VdK Wilshire.
This sip-in began at about 12 and lasted till about 8. There were about 75 people participating.

6-15-64
The 4 convicted sit-ins began to serve their sentences. It had been decided not to appeal the cases.

6-18-64
Sip-in #3 VdK Wilshire
This was the most successful sip-in to date. This was due to the fact that it was a thursday night and the restaurant was very crowded. The management was extremely annoyed. There were about 50 persons participating but we cut down on there business a great deal. However like the previous sip-in we fell short of a great success, by an extremely small margin. In the other sip-ins the addition of 10-20 more people would have caused long lines to form of waiting customers and would have driven away a great many more. On this sip-in if everyone had sat at table alone that would have been enough to ruin there business.

6-20-64
We have heard over the news that VdK has gotten a Temporary Restrainting Order prohibiting our demonstrating untill the judge can decide about an injunction.
On the 24th, Jerry and Annette completed there sentences. Jerry and Jay however refused to leave the jail cell unless Woodrow was also released. They were eventually carried out of the cell ('very roughly jerry was kicked in the balls by an officer etc.) and dressed and dumped out on the sidewalk. A round the clock sit-in on the steps was began untill Woody was released. Jerry and Jay stayed the whole time others stayed for parts of it. There were participants there also from CORE, Bruin CORE, and Valley CORE. some of those participating were (denotes those who stayed at least one night).

Robert Hall*  Sue Akerstien*  Marlene Dickson*
Annette Becker*  Cleveland Wallace  Berrynice Powdrill*
Mike Robinson*  Sue Welsh  Mike Wolfson*
Richard Thomson*  Roberta Krinsky  Charlie Samuels*
Danny Grey*  Fred Krinsky  Amiee *
Bruce Hartford*  Judy Rubenstein  Jon Tavasti*
Mari Goldman  Sheila Tomlinson  Rev. Jones
Larry  Caroline Sweezy*

7/2/64
Sit-in # 5
Sit-in # 5 was at Laural Canyon. There were about 25 persons taking part but this was enough to really block up there business. We say many customers turn away because they could not be seated and there was a large waiting line. They took extensive pictures and several times asked us to leave.

7/11/64
Picket line at Wilshire. We were (7 of us) served with our contempt of court notices.

7/11/64
The shop-in trial began. On trial were Danny Grey, Woodrow Coleman, Annette Becker, Robert Hall, Mari Goldman, Jay Frank, Bruce Hartford, and Charles Bratton (who had only been passing out leaflets not handling goods). The judge was Mario Clinco and the prosecutors was Robert Rowe assisted by Bruce Nelson. We were convicced of trespass and disturbing the peace and found not guilty of malicious mischiefious. Later we were sentenced, after refusing probation, to 30 for all except Woodrow and Charles who got 60 days. Woody's sentence was longer because he was evidently the leader and charless because of his record. The trial took a long time most of which was spent in selecting a jury. They refused to let a Negro sit on the jury and eventually kicked off 18.

Some one in the prosecutors office told us that they were not allowed to have a Negro on civil rights case juries. Our attorney Luke McKissak did a terrif job.

8/1/64
Training session.
Training session was extensive and very good. Later we went to Fletcher and San Fernando for a picket line.

7/25/64
Picket line at Laural Canyon. The picketer were threatened with being mopped with hot tar.

8/1/64
Training session and picket line
We had an all day training session in non-violence which was very extensive and very good we covered everything from picketline to sit-in with all kindea of harrasment. Later we had a picket line at Fletcher and san fernando.
The second sit-in trial began. The defendants were Woodrow Coleman, Amnetee Becker, Mari Goldman, Richard Thomson, Robert Hall, Bruce Hartford, Jay Frank, Clevland Wallace, Mike Perlowin, Doug Nelson, Robin Hirsch, Dave Hoeffler, Howard Minkin, Danny Cohen, Jerry Farber. The judge was named Holaday, the prosecutor (a Goldwater Republican) Bruce Nelson, and our defense attorney was Hugh Manes. The judge was very bad and autocratic. He very strictly limited the voir dier. He made many other rulings against us.

We were convicted of breaking the fire ordinance and aqulted of disturbing the peace and of trespassing. The jury was out 2 day's.

During the lunch break we picketed the Van De Kamps outlet at the grand central market.

8/10/64
During the lunch break we picketed the Van De Kamps outlet at the grand central market.

8/11
Picket at Grand Central

8/12
Picket G.C.

8/13
Picket G.C.

8/14
these date may be slightly wrong

8/17
Picket G.C.

8-5-64
On the night of 8-4-64 it was announced over the radio that the FBI had discovered the bodies of the 3 civil rights workers in Mississippi (James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and micheal Schwerner). About 3 A.M. that morning we called together a N-VAC meeting at Jerry Farber's house. It was decided there to try to get all the civil rights groups in town to participate in a mass sit-in demonstration at the Federal Bldg to begin that evening. The purpose of this demonstration was to last indefinitely and in the hope of getting enough people together so that we could spill out into the street. It was decided at the meeting that N-VAC people had to be in complete charge. That morning we called up all the CORE chapters and friends of SNCC and they agreed to cooperate including that N-VAC should be in charge. We called together a press conference for noon. At that time Levi Kingston from friends of SNCC came with a press statement that said that he was calling the demonstration (he had earlier agreed not to use this statement and especially not to have only Sncc name on it) he also brought with him Earl Walters from the UCRG. During the conference he said that this was not to be a demonstration but a memorial which was the very thing that we had been most against and the reason why we had wanted to be in complete charge, we wanted a demonstration that would be noticed in Washington not a memorial. Later in the day L.A. CORE said that they couldn't participate officially unless some of their people were running it. When we got to the Federal Bldg we found out that SNCC intended to have a silent vigil and if we wanted to have a sit-in they would not co-operate. We then began our sit-in while the vigilant, thus there were two demonstrations. They told people not to join our sit-in. They eventually could not stand silently for over an hour so they changed their demonstration to a picket line with singing. They had about 70 people max at any one time. We had about 30 max. at any one time. About 3 A.M. that morning we decided to cancel our sit-in because it was just disrupting the civil rights movement to have opposing demonstrations. At ah time we left we had about 11 people and they had about 5 guarding the coffin. The coffin which they had carried around on the picket line symbolised the death of the three workers. They kept the vigil going for about 5 days.

8-8
There was a picket line at Laural Canyon (?)

8/9 10 11 /64
On the nights of these date we put up the 100 posters that we had silk screened. They were
about the size of picket sign and said DONT BUY VAN DE KAMPS they discriminate against negroes. Support our demonstrations. NAACP etc. It also had our symbol on it. We put these up on walls fences etc.

8/15/64
We had a sort of "Chain-in" at the Thrifty-Mart at Adams and Vermont. What we did was for those who were on trial or who had been on trial chained themselves wrist to wrist and stood along side the entrance to the market. We wore signs saying 60 days in jail, 30 days in jail, on trial now etc. We also had a picket line. Those who were chained
Bruce Hartford
Danny Cohen
Woodrow Coleman
Robert Hall
Jerry Farber
Robin Hirsch
Jay Frank

8/16/64
small picket line Adams & Vermont 3-5 people

8/22/64
Picket line at the Better Foods Florence and San Pedro 15-20

8/29/64
Picket line at The Shoppers mkt. 43rd & Central 10-15

9/5/64
Picket line at the Shoppers mkt, 43rd & Central 5-10

9/11/64
Picket line at ABC 54th & Main 4-5

9/12/64
same 8-12

9/18
same 4

9/19
same 6-8

9/25
same 4

9/26
same 5-6

10/3
picket food mkt. Santa Barbara near Western 2-3 woody annette Bruce

10/4
same 5 woody Caroline Bruce Richard Danny G.

10/9
same 2 woody Bruce

10/10
picket Wilshire restaurant?
10/17
picket line at Vons 51st & Vermont called but not held due to lack of people and signs.
10/24
picket line at Vons 51st & Vermont (2-3 people)

During the last 2 months we have been expending most of our energies in fund raising to pay off our large debts. We owe about $5,000 to the bail bondsman and several thousand dollars are needed for legal costs. Actually not so much now that we have gotten a $3,000 transcript free. We have had 3 parties raising about $500 and have sold about $200 bumper sticker.

DISCRIMINATING TOBEGINS

DISCRIMINATING STICKER-WITHOUT YOUR MONEY

DISCRIMINATING STICKER-WITHOUT YOUR MONEY