

CORE - Congress of Racial Equality
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTN: Marvin Rich

47 Restaurants To Serve Negroes
CORE Postpones Ride On U.S. 40

New York City, Nov. 9: More than half of the restaurant owners along U.S. Route 40 in Maryland and Delaware have agreed to desegregate. The 47 restaurant operators thus averted a massive CORE Freedom Ride set for Saturday, November 11.

CORE National Director James Farmer, Eastern Regional Representative Julius Hobson and New York Chairman Gladys Harrington jointly announced the decision.

Last Friday, Hobson, CORE Field Director Gordon Carey and Baltimore Chairman Joseph Sheehan said some 1,400 Freedom Riders would go ahead with plans to test segregated eating places along Route 40 unless a "substantial number" of owners promised to serve Negroes.

Mr. Farmer said the 47 owners who agreed to desegregate had met the organization's condition and the ride would be delayed "for the time being."

CORE gave the rest of the proprietors until December 15 -- Bill of Rights Day -- to follow suit.

The Commission had been working with a restaurant owner's committee set up at the request of the White House and U.S. Department of State.

Tony Konstant Chairman of the owner's committee, predicted that all the owners would agree to integrate "within the next two weeks."

The full text of the CORE announcement follows:

"CORE feels that the decision of 35 Maryland and 12 Delaware restaurant operators to provide equal service for all is a Thanksgiving present for the American people.

"We know that integration of these restaurants will be accomplished smoothly and with the support of employees and customers alike. CORE offers to assist in making the change in policy successful.

"At the same time we shall continue to test the other restaurants along this major federal highway. We hope that with the successful integration of these restaurants the others will also establish a democratic serving policy. We offer the remaining restaurants until December 15 (Bill of Rights Day) to desegregate. If not, we shall feel free to take necessary action.

"We are grateful to the restaurant operators who made the decision, to the U.S. Department of State, to Maryland officials, to the Middle Atlantic civic and community leaders, and to hundreds of Freedom Riders who stand ready to continue the drive for full freedom.

"CORE pledges to take action to end discriminatinn in every area of Maryland in public accommodation, restaurants, and housing and employment."