

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 21, 1964

CORE-SOUTHWEST OFFICE  
Rm. 203 2211 Bryades St.  
New Orleans, La. 70113  
Phone: (504) 523-7204

15 ARRESTED IN CORE LIBRARY TEST IN MONROE, La.

Fifteen Negroes were arrested on Monday for attempting to use three branches of the "white" public library in Monroe, La. In each case a group of Negroes, all residents of the Monroe area, requested library cards. When they were refused they took seats and vowed to remain until they received some satisfaction to <sup>THEIR</sup> the request for library cards. Library officials called the police and requested the arrest of the students. Within half an hour they were arrested on charges of disturbing the peace or ~~the~~ trespassing. The action was conducted under the leadership of CORE.

Arrested at the West Monroe Branch were Robert Saulsberry, 17, David Tribble, 19, Joe Tribble, 17, Willie Mellicon, 17. They are being held under \$500 bonds. Arrested at the Anna Meyer Branch were William Thomas, 19, Bessie Dill, 20, Diane Gordon, 17, Vera Stewart, 15, and Larry Edwards, 16. Arrested at the main library were Charles Presley, 26, Alice Smith, 16, Jacqueline Smith, 14, Tommie Robinson, 16, Marjorie Smith, 22, and Belva Stewart, 13. Those in the last two groups are being held under \$150 bonds.

Richard Haley, Associate National Director of CORE, said in Monroe, "This is a complete illegality. The students were model in their behavior and gave no reason whatever for police action. It is another glaring example - and there are many - that the city government of Monroe is committed to maintain racist domination regardless of the Constitution, regardless of the civil rights act, and regardless of the basic rights of the Monroe Negro population."

Earlier, on July 9, seven Negroes were arrested for attempting to use the libraries in Monroe. On that day 88 citizens of Monroe participated in a CORE testing program at restaurants, lunch centers, service stations and movie theaters. They were served at about half the places they tested. The testing project is a part of the CORE summer program in Louisiana.

# # # #

END.