FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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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 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 trespassing. The action was conducted under the leadership of CORE.

Arrested at the West Monroe Branch were Robert Saulsterry, 17, David Tribble, 19, Joe Tribble, 17, Willie Mallion, 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 EWARTS, 16. Arrested at the main library were Charles Frazier, 26, Alice Smith, 26, Jacqueline Smith, 14, Tommie Robinson, 16, Marjorie Smith, 22, and Delva Stewart, 13. Those in the last two groups are being held under $250 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 86 citizens of Monroe participated in a CORE testing program at restaurants, lunch counters, 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.