

[1964; July 23]

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CORE - Congress of Racial Equality  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTN: Marvin Rich

CORE MEETS RESISTANCE TESTING  
CIVIL RIGHTS ACT IN LOUISIANA

New Orleans, La., July 23: Immediately after passage of the Civil Rights Bill, CORE began an intensive testing of all public facilities in Louisiana. Ronnie Moore, CORE Field Secretary, stated that testing would be carried out in 22 cities. In initial testing, seven Negro youths were arrested when attempting to use the facilities of the public library in Monroe. A week later, 15 more were arrested at the library. No arrests have been made in other areas, but Negroes have been refused service in 40 percent of facilities tested, from an approximate total of 25.

In one incident, D.J. McDuffie, member of the Plaquemine City Council and mayor pro tem, is being sued by CORE workers Tolbert Harris and Spiver Gordon. The civil damage suit for \$500,000, the first under the Civil Rights Act, charged McDuffie with violating the 1957 Civil Rights Act, a section of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, simple, assault, disturbing the peace and defamation by use of profanity.

According to the petition, Harris and Gordon went to the City Cafe in Plaquemine to eat a meal, but their way was blocked by McDuffie, who held his hand on an empty soft drink bottle and said: "The first black ---- that steps in here, I'll knock his brains out." Since the way was blocked, the men left.

In another incident, Leola Hood, a Negro, was served a hamburger at the Tiger Drive-In in New Roads, for which she had to pay \$20.00. She obtained a receipt, which was turned over to CORE Field Secretary Ronnie Moore.

More-More-More

In other areas, crowds have gathered, to harass and threaten CORE workers attempting to use facilities covered under the Civil Rights Act. Moore stated that he would not release the schedule for testing until the test is in progress in any given community.

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