

Form 318

FACT SHEET

Q.

A.

CORE

38 PARK ROW

NEW YORK 10038



The following questions are frequently asked of Core Workers. Standard answers are given here to enable the worker to proceed with confidence.

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

1. *Q. WHAT IS CORE?*

A. The Congress of Racial Equality is a National organization with almost 200 local groups in every section of the country. CORE seeks to abolish all forms of discrimination based on race, religion or National origin through non-violent direct action, community organization and political action.

2. *Q. WHAT HAS CORE DONE?*

A. CORE has ended discriminatory practices in all parts of the country. In the South, CORE initiated and planned Freedom Rides that thrust

direct action into the hard-core areas of racial segregation. The rides and the sit-ins have desegregated thousands of restaurants, swimming pools, beaches, churches and other public places. In New Orleans, St. Louis, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Seattle, Denver, and scores of other communities, thousands of Negroes have secured jobs and promotions through the campaigns of CORE groups. Campaigns in the ghetto have resulted in Play Streets, in additional traffic lights, in the enforcement of laws governing minimum housing conditions, and in opposition to police mal-practice. Other campaigns have placed Negroes and other minority people in television and in magazine advertisement.

3. *Q. HOW DOES CORE WORK?*

A. CORE groups are interracial and use non-violent direct action methods. This is a step-by-step process beginning with investigation and going on to negotiation with those responsible for the discrimination. If talking does not work, leaflet appeal, pickets and sit-ins are used. It is the obligation of the CORE group to involve as many persons of the community as possible in any action taking place in that community or in any action that is of concern to the community.

4. *Q. WHY NON-VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION?*

A. Nonviolence has been effective. It has worked in cases too numerous to mention. This method

attacks the practice of discrimination but respects the person who discriminates. In this way, we can often win over the discriminator. In any case, we win the support of the public. Direct action has been effective. It involves the personal actions of people and permits people from every walk of life to participate *directly* in the struggle for freedom.

5. *Q. WHAT IS CORE'S GOAL?*

A. CORE seeks to achieve an integrated society where each individual is judged solely on his own merit. CORE believes that racial discrimination hurts all Americans; therefore, all Americans should take action to end it. CORE is interracial

in membership and staff.

6. *Q. WHAT ARE CORE GROUPS LIKE?*

A. Local groups elect their own officers, meet frequently and democratically decide what activities to pursue. Campaigns to end discrimination in their own communities, actions in support of our Southern groups, nation-wide boycotts, community organization and political action are some of the activities of the local Chapters.

7. *Q. WHAT DOES NATIONAL CORE DO?*

A. National CORE provides Field Secretaries and Task Force workers to assist Chapters in their local programs of community organization

and political action and to train Chapter members in the techniques of non-violent direct action. Freedom schools and voter registration drives are developed by National directly.

8. *Q. WHY SHOULD I JOIN CORE?*

A. It is the duty of everyone to help to bring about a first-class society. When you join CORE, you help yourself and you help America because racial discrimination is America's number one problem.

9. *Q. HOW DO I JOIN CORE?*

A. There are two ways. Active members must be screened, hence it is necessary to contact the

nearest Chapter or the National office if you desire this kind of membership. Associate Membership may be acquired by a contribution of \$3.00 or more with a request that you be enrolled as an Associate Member.

10. *Q. WHERE DOES CORE GET ITS MONEY?*

A. National CORE is financed by its Associate Members, churches, unions, civic groups and local Chapters. Local Chapters are supported by membership dues and by special benefits.

11. *Q. WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?*

A. Become an Associate Member and contribute

financially or become an active member and give time and energy. Tell your friends about CORE and show them the literature you receive. Support CORE action programs and never knowingly support any form of racial discrimination.

12. *Q. WHAT IS CORE'S NEW DIRECTION?*

A. CORE'S new direction consists of Voter registration, Job development programs, Political action, Consumer Education, development of cooperatives in farming, housing, the food industry, consumer buying and in intense Community organization to combat the social ills that created a class of disadvantaged people in the midst of an affluent society.

*"Phase Two of the Civil Rights movement means Total Equality.
To achieve Total Equality, three elements are necessary —*

*an improved self image for minority people,
development of economic power
development of political power"*

Floyd B. McKissick
National Director/CORE

