

CORE - Congress of Racial Equality
38 Park Row, New York, N.Y. 10038
(212) CO 7-6270
ATTN: Alan Gartner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORE REGISTERS OVER 4,000 VOTERS

Canton, Mississippi, August 30, 1965 -- In a county where official figures show that registered white voters amount to more than the number of voting age whites, CORE workers have helped to register over 4,000 Negroes in the past three weeks. Madison County has 5,622 voting age whites and 6,256 registered white voters. Until this past month, the number of Negro registered voters was below 300 out of a total Negro voting age population of over 10,000.

Other developments in Madison County include the desegregation of the county's school system, whereby over 100 Negro youngsters will attend previously all white schools for grades 1, 2, 3, and 12. During the summer, over 400 Negro youngsters participated in the Operation Headstart program, the largest such program in Mississippi.

During the past three weeks, six downtown stores have been picketed protesting their failure to treat Negroes courteously, and their refusal to hire Negroes in any other than menial positions. Negro men and women in Madison County have joined together to form the Madison County Sewing Co-operative to produce men's shirts and thus provide a supplementary income for Negro families.

###