

# FREEDOM NEWS

## SEARS ROEBUCK: CAN YOU WORK WHERE YOU SHOP?

When did you last shop at Sears? Was it one week ago? Or, was it a month ago? How many familiar faces did you see there? Did you see your friends from South Madison shopping there? Probably. Three hundred and seventy-one Negroes have charge accounts at Sears. Did you see your friends from South Madison working at Sears? No. No Negroes work at Sears. Three hundred and seventy-one Negroes buy regularly at Sears, but not one of them works there.

Five months ago CORE asked Sears to integrate their Christmas hiring. They had two hundred and eighty-two white employees, and no Negro employees. CORE asked Sears to hire five Negroes in sales, clerical, trainee and managerial positions by March 15th. It is March 2nd. Sears is still an all white store.

In Madison, Sears hires neither Negroes nor union help. The Retail Clerks Union has not been able to organize Sears stores here or in Milwaukee. CORE is investigating Sears in Kenosha and Milwaukee as well as in Madison.

On March 15th, we hope we will see some familiar faces behind the counters at Sears. If we don't, maybe the three hundred and seventy-one Negroes who are regular customers will withdraw their charge accounts; maybe the rest of us will decide to do our Easter shopping someplace else. It may not be for a week or it may not be for six months, but we will see familiar faces working as well as shopping at Sears. And, if we don't see familiar faces behind the counters, there will be no familiar faces in front of the counters.

If you or someone you know wants a job at Sears, or if you or a friend of yours has applied for a job and been turned down, call the Employment Chairmen of CORE, AL 6-2952.

N.Y. RENT STRIKE

\*NEWS FLASHES\*

On February 1st, the total of "rent strike" buildings rose to 228. The landlords and the city are responsible for high rents, poor heating, falling plaster, rats and impossible living conditions generally. So far there have been no evictions although landlords have served 100 notices of dispossession. These will go to court soon and rulings favorable to the tenants are expected.

The effects of the Harlem rent strike have been widespread. The city is no longer saying that its hands are tied when it comes to enforcing health and building regulations. The city declared the Health Department could bypass the courts in complaints dealing with rats. Landlords are afraid that if they don't fix up their buildings fast, strikes will break out in the houses they own.

Never has so much attention been paid to slum conditions. The question is discussed on radio and T.V. and the N.Y. Times has given a full-page spread to the issue. The rent strike movement is getting results, but it has a long way to go.

\*WASHINGTON\*

The Supreme Court Monday let stand a lower court ruling that outlaws racial segregation of doctors and patients in hospitals built with the help of federal funds.

Maryland

400 Integrationists marched on the Maryland capital to protest tactics of police in last week's racial violence at Princess Anne when 300 Negro college students clashed with state troopers.

16 Civil Rights demonstrators were arrested at Annapolis, MD., Monday night for refusing to leave a restaurant that declined to serve them.

Jackson, Mississippi

The Mississippi Supreme Court Monday upheld the conviction of CORE leader James Farmer and 23 other "Freedom Riders" arrested during the summer of 1961. The court ruled that local authorities acted in "good faith" in an effort to keep the peace in ordering Farmer to leave the white waiting room at a bus terminal.

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JAMES BALDWIN WRITES

I was born in Harlem. There were 9 of us in a series of horrible apartments... My sisters and brothers and I slept 5 and 6 in a bed... I know about the rats and the plaster and the roaches and the lack of heat. I know the intent of the ghetto is to create so many obstacles that by the time you are 30 you have had it. The landlords, the city and the state ARE responsible. Things can be corrected but only if we force them to act. They will never do it otherwise... We cannot wait for Mr. Charley to give us our freedom... It is hard to find the landlord in the North. It's hard to find where the enemy is. I know where he is. He's in the bank... It is important to remember that once we get the vote in the South, the Democratic Party as we know it, and the Republican Party as we know it, and the South as we know it, and the country as we know it, will be different. Now a great many people in power know this, obviously, and are determined with everything they have in their hands to prevent such a transformation. And that is why the country at the moment is really, spiritually speaking, at the edge of civil war... It is important not to lose our courage and compromise. Don't believe anyone who says to relax and they will take care of it for us. It is important for us to take care of it ourselves and prepare ourselves for a very long and terrible battle which we can't afford to lose.

This speech heard here and there will be believed to be a speech



## Chicago Negroes Protest

On February 26th, 125,000 Chicago students decided not to go to segregated schools. They went to City Hall instead. They told the Mayor that they were tired of waiting for free schools and for integrated neighborhoods.

After demonstrating, they went to "Freedom schools" set up just for the occasion.

The students and the leaders of the boycott had been threatened. Negro councilmen appeared on T.V. and asked the students to wait. Cook County D.A., Daniel Ward, said he would prosecute people who kept their children home. But, none of the demonstrators were arrested. Instead, nineteen children visiting the Museum of Science and Industry were picked up for loitering.

Like boycotts in N.Y. and Boston the Chicago boycott was a success. It cost the city over \$10,000 and over half the Negroes in Chicago participated. Unless the School Board accepts the demonstrator's demands, students will stay away from school again very soon. They are tired of waiting.

## NEGRO HISTORY AT BAPTIST CHURCH

Why do we need "Negro History" week? On February , at the 2nd Baptist Church, a panel of CORE leaders spoke about the unwritten history of America-the history of the Negro. Slaves revolts before emancipation, Negroes in Congress after the Civil War, promises made to the Negroes by white politicians school textbooks which are "all white"- Americans forget and distort their history because they are afraid of it.

CORE workers also spoke about the history of the Civil Rights Movement, of a struggle now to get what was promised one hundred years ago.

Lee Zeldin, sent to Washington by Madison CORE, told about the fight to get the Civil Rights Bill through the House of Representative

Silas Norman led the group in freedom songs.

The program was arranged by Mrs. Olla Jordan.

Reverend Bailey asked for unity in the Negro community and praised CORE for coming to the Church.

## MADISON NEGRO GOES TO LOUISIANA JAIL

Last week, the United States Supreme Court upheld the conviction of Negro student Dion Diamond. Mr. Diamond was charged with disturbing the peace when he urged students at a Negro college in Louisiana to boycott classes in a protest move. Although Diamond was prosecuted on charges of disturbing the peace, 5 other charges, trespassing, breach of the peace, vagrancy, illegal and unlawful assembly, and inciting to riot were also filed against him. Diamond has returned to Louisiana to serve a 60 day sentence and pay a \$100 fine. "If I don't go back, no other civil rights demonstrator will be able to get a bond."

Diamond has already spent 60 days in the parish jail in Baton Rouge while waiting to be brought to trial. Then, he was in solitary. Every day, he said, white public school students were brought to view him in his cage. "See him?", the teacher would ask the students. "He doesn't look like a Communist trouble-maker does he? Well he is, just like all Northern niggers." One time, a little girl stayed after the others had left. "Say somethin' Communist mister," she said. Diamond would rather go to jail than forfeit the \$8,000 bail to the state of Louisiana. Diamond's fellow students at the University raised the money to pay for his plane fare and for his fine.

