[MS-0436.002.016.013]

December 9, 1964

Dr. Charles Schroeder, Director
San Diego Zoological Garden
P. O. Box 551
San Diego, California

Dear Dr. Schroeder:

During our conversations in September of this year with reference to the requests by CORE and the issues raised by them relative to the alleged working conditions of some of the minority groups workers at the zoo, we pointed out that:

1. CIC was concerned primarily with the handling of such issues in a manner most conducive to continued good community relations between and among all segments involved in community affairs
2. CIC, at that time, was not in the position to judge the validity or lack of validity of CORE's allegations; nor would CIC make such a judgement even if we were in possession of all the facts and figures. We noted that such was not the proper role and function of our agency as relates to this particular matter.

Rather, our role is attempt to create an atmosphere in which CORE and your office might in an objective and peaceful fashion settle such differences in a manner acceptable and satisfactory to you both.

OBSERVATIONS

This background information will serve as a basis for the following observations and recommendations which have grown out of the subsequent three month period of CIC's involvement in community affairs.

1. On several recent occasions we have discussed with Harold Brown of CORE the continuing mounting concern, in the Negro community, over the issues raised by CORE in the communications from his office to you.

2. Today, our office received two calls (confidential) which raised these issues again and indicated a rather strong sense of urgency about them. This call was obviously not from CORE, but from a community agency representative equally concerned about community feelings in these specific issues.

3. Reference to CORE's concern about alleged conditions at the zoo has been made at open and public meetings on at least three different occasions within the past two months by persons other than those associated in any official way with CORE, according to reports reaching our office.

RECOMMENDATIONS

With these facts and observations before us, and with the objective of bringing about a condition which will avert any unpleasant and disruptive events, and of reducing growing community tensions in this regard, CIC makes the following recommendations with the hope that these will be seriously considered and given a fair chance to operate.

1. That both CORE and personnel from the San Diego Zoological Gardens agree to come to a meeting to discuss these issues in a non-threatening manner; this meeting to be convened by CIC at the earliest convenient date.
2. That CIC invite to this meeting representatives of the following organizations, and that the meeting be open only to those invited: The Urban League, NAACP.
3. That CORE and the zoological authorities agree to permit CIC

through an appointed Ad Hoc Committee make a survey of whatever records are pertinent to the issues as they emerge at the proposed meeting; the results of said survey analysed by CIC's committee and another meeting then scheduled with CORE and zoo authorities.

4. That all such meetings be unpublicized until an agreement is at least reached; the time of any publicity, if any, and its content be agreed upon by both CORE and the zoo authorities.

5. That agreements to initiate this procedure be communicated to CIC in writing and expressing any concern not covered herein.

Sincerely yours,

Carrol W. Waymon
Executive Director,
CITIZENS INTERRACIAL COMMITTEE

CWW:gf

cc: CORE