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In San Diego, chain-in brings court-ban

SAN DIEGO — This is not the deep South, but at least in one respect one would be hard to find much difference.

No handbills, no sit-ins and no picketing. That was the court's edict to members of the San Diego Congress of Racial Equality and others seeking to enforce equal job rights demands at the San Diego Gas & Electric Co., the scene of this city's biggest and most protracted equal rights demonstration.

It was two days before Christmas when the members of CORE revved up their campaign against jimcrow at the huge public utility by staging the first chain-in in San Diego's history, and probably the first on the West Coast.

Picketing hadn't done it, and neither had peaceful sit-ins, which were ignored by the utilities management as were the demands of the protesters. That brought on the chain-in, during which seven CORE members chained themselves at the E Street and Sixth Avenue entrance of SDG&E's office building in downtown San Diego.

Shortly thereafter a restraining order was served on 27 CORE members. Undeterred by the restraining order, five additional members of CORE spent their Christmas afternoon in front of the utility company — on the picketline.

A hearing in Municipal Court was scheduled for Jan. 2 to decide whether a permanent restraining order should be issued against the civil rights demonstrators. On Jan. 9 the pickets who have been served with copies of the restraining order while walking the picket line are scheduled to appear in court.

National officers of CORE and Hollywood personalities were expected to attend a mass meeting on Friday evening (Jan. 3) at Memorial Junior High School, 2884 Marcy Ave.

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