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January 25, 1965

TO: Jim McCain

FR: Louis S. Smith, Northeast Regional Director

RE: Field Report for N.A.C.
Period: Sept. 1964 - Jan. 1965

I. Program, objectives and activities.

After spending July in Mississippi, and most of August in Atlantic City with the F.D.P. challenge, I proceeded to begin the job I was originally hired for. I located and set up this office, hired field staff, and an office secretary, and drew up the following outline of procedure.

A. I broke the region into sections and assigned field secretaries to each.

B. Instructed the field staff to make short visits to each chapter so that we could get an overall picture of the chapters in our region. Armed with this information I could isolate the weakest chapters and concentrate on them first.

II. Staff.

Herb Callender-Field Secretary, assigned to New York State and has since been on loan to Trenton CORE to establish techniques for dealing with urban renewal.

Joyce Ware-Originally assigned to New England, but with the dismissal of John McDowell, I have been using her as a "floater". She is now assigned to New York City on some special pilot projects but she has also been used in areas outside of the city.

Eric Mann-Field Secretary, assigned to southern half of region and given the task of cleaning up Trailways which is a hangover project from previous National policy. (See V)

Judy Howell-Task Force, Youth Co-ordinator. . Presently working on the Remedial Reading Program. (See V)

We have an "unknown" task force worker with Brooklyn CORE. I became aware of this only last week. Apparently this position was arranged when rent strikes were the big thing in New York.

My feeling is that this worker should be supported by the chapter and not the National Office.

III. Facilities.

A. Regional Office located at 48 W. 125 St. Phones are EN 9-0100 and EN 9-0101

B. Automobile owned by me which is used in the field. The only financial arrangement is that I have an Esso credit card to be used only for the maintenance of this auto.

C. The only equipment we have that belongs to CORE is a typewriter (non-electric); the desks, files, and an air conditioner are the property of the landlord and their use is included in the rent.

IV. Budget

I have, to this date, not worked up a budget because this office handles no money, and aside from the expense reports turned in by field staff, the auto and its accompanying expenses, we have only the rent, $125.00 a month, and the phone.

All bills have been paid by the national office and the records of payments are on file.

We have no debts or obligations that are unknown to the bookkeeping department.

V. Evaluation.

Before attempting to evaluate the Northeast Regional set-up, I find it necessary to list the following major difficulties that had to be overcome in the five months of our existence.

A. No direction from above.
B. The breakdown of relations between the National Office and the New York chapters.
C. The lack of service given to the chapters outside New York City by the previous field staff.
D. My own lack of familiarity with the region.
E. Shortage of staff.
F. Lack of funds for travel.
G. Personnel problems.
H. Lack of a Regional Action Council.

Taking the sum of these problems plus the fact that many of our chapters have suffered in their attempts to change direction, it has been a miracle that we have accomplished what we have.

I do feel, at this point, that we will be, within the next month, in a position to be a real asset to the regional chapters. Within the next two weeks, I will make a tour of the New England chapters after which I will then be in a better position to assign the field secretaries to the chapters in most need. I expect, by convention time to have a complete and comprehensive report on each chapter with concrete recommendations.

We are now in a position to assist our chapters with programs centered around community organizing. An example is the report on Kingston CORE submitted by Joyce Ware (See her report). I have since been to Kingston, and using techniques learned through the Trenton project (Herb Callender's report), the chapter is moving and becoming a real force in the community.

Let me add, that we would have been much further advanced if it had not been for projects such as Trailways which were thrust upon us by previous National Office commitments.

We have been able to establish a chapter in Pittsburg, Pa. and Carlisle, Pa. Until now, we only had one chapter in the entire state, Philadelphia, and that was located in the far southeast corner which left the rest of the state free of any CORE activity. I plan to establish chapters in Harrisburg and Williamsport this summer.

We now have a group in Wilmington, Delaware seeking to join CORE. Either Joyce Ware or myself will be going there on the second of February.

We have no chapters in the state of Delaware which I find ridiculous as here is a state that still has the whipping post and probably all of the other factors of a society that will legally condone such an act as punishment.

I have also laid the groundwork for the establishment of CORE chapters in southern New Jersey where we have none, except for the chapter I established in Camden. I am working on a comprehensive report for you spelling out the reasons why civil rights activity is badly needed in the areas mentioned above, as some of the conditions are equal to the deep South.

VI. Recommendations and Miscellaneous Remarks.

A. That James Farmer spend more time in personal visits to his chapters.
B. That his secretary be instructed to give the CORE chapters adequate prior notice of Jim's appearances in their locale.
C. That N.A.C. members pay periodic visits to the chapters they represent and send reports to their regional office.

I remain,

Yours for freedom.

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Trenton, New Jersey
Herb Callender-Field Secretary N.E. Region
January 21, 1965

From: Nov. 1964 to Present

Program:

A. Objectives:
To change present plans of urban renewal in Trenton so that there is:
1. Adequate relocation facilities in Trenton's John Fitch Way Project #3.
2. That there will be low rent housing built as part of the reuse of the Fitch Way area.
3. That out of this project there can be mobilization of South, East and North Trenton areas; to combat housing, education and employment problems.
4. The recruitment of these people would be for membership in the reorganized CORE chapter.

B. Activities: (See attached fact sheets)

1. Making contact in the John Fitch Way area.
2. Door-to-door informing of residents of their rights under urban renewal.
3. Meetings with city officials in Trenton to obtain information on plans for Fitch Way area.
4. Meetings with community in east, south and north Trenton.
5. Training of interested people for various positions; i.e. public relations, housing chairman, schools chairman, etc.
6. Picket lines (There have been two)
   a. City Hall
   b. Mayor Arthur J. Holland's home
7. Planning direct action project.
   (Scheduled for latter January)

Staff:

1.	Herb Callender	Age 31	N.E. Field Secretary
2.	Marva Amis	21	Volunteer Worker Phila.CORE
3.	Fran Crayton	21	" " Bklyn.CORE

Duties:

Field Secretary

1. Develop program for project
2. Participation in all organizational efforts
3. Arrange and attend all necessary meetings
4. Participate and supervise all direct action sub-projects
5. Document all information received on project
6. Arrange for rallies, fund raising affairs and speaking engagements.
7. Set up community office for Trenton chapter
8. Act as community and public relations man
9. Work with remaining members of chapter
10. Supervise community organization around present urban renewal movement.
11. File reports on projects with National and Regional offices
12. Keep NE regional chapters abreast of progress in Trenton
13. Train local residents for specific functions in a CORE chapter

Volunteer Workers:

1. Door-to-door mobilization of community
2. Assist in most duties of field secretary
3. Clerical and documentational work
4. Assist in workships and training programs

Facilities:

Auto: Owned by: Louis Smith N.E. Sr. Field Secretary
1960 Dodge Seneca
Good condition (after necessary repairs and snow tires)

Financial arrangement: CORE Esso Credit Card

Evaluation: (See attached fact sheets)

We were able to mobilize approx. twenty-five new members from the Negro community for chapter. There have been two picket lines,

City Hall and the Mayor's home, to dramatize the problems around the issue. In addition, there are current plans for direct action demonstrations, the first of which will be latter January and will involve chapters from N.Y., N.J., Pa. Civil disobedience as well as picket lines will be used to further bring to light the many problems around the issue. This will be followed by a reorganization meeting approx. middle of Feb. at which time a temporary formal chapter structure will be formed. Election of officers and program will be developed, at which time, we hope, the chapter will be a viable, independent unit.

The significance of the Trenton project as an example of what can be done with urban renewal problems stands out in the meetings that have been held with chapters in the NE region. To discontinue the activities here would be a tremendous defeat to a serious and effective organizational effort carried on by the NE region of CORE.

I would strongly recommend that National CORE continue to support this project and this chapter until the chapter is ready for independent activity. Trenton being the State Capital can truly set the example for many cities in the Tri-States as well as throughout other areas of the country.

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COPY Made 20 January 1965 (Original, Nov. 19, 1964)

TO: NORTHEAST REGIONAL CHAPTERS

RE: Trenton, N.J. and John Fitchway #3 Urban Renewal Project

FROM: Herb Callender, Northeast Regional Field Sec.

FACT SHEET #1

I. Background

The Negro slum area of Fitch Way has been chosen as the site for middle and upper income housing built with Federal funds under the urban renewal program. 256 families are to be moved out of this area. Of these 256 families, 77% are Negroes with low income. Therefore Trenton CORE has requested that a relocation office be set up in this area to aid these families in finding other homes, also that low income housing be built there in addition to middle and upper income setups. In effect, this would"kill two birds with one stone" in that it would give the families of low income a decent place to live and provide adequate schooling. We feel that this was significant in that both the neighborhood and the school would be integrated which after all is the basis for all CORE activity.

On 5 November 1964, accompanied by Trenton CORE, Lou Smith-Regional Director, Herb Callender-Field Secretary, Joyce Sherick-Bronx CORE member, Dave Crittendon-Regional Office Secretary, and Marva Amis-Philadelphia CORE member, attended the City Council meeting where approval of the Fitch Way project was very sensitive to the presence of

CORE, and responded by having Herb Callender thrown out of the meeting and subsequently arrested, charging him with disorderly conduct and disruption of a public meeting. The other CORE people including Mrs. Ruth Lewis, chapter chairman of Trenton CORE, were also arrested on the same charge, because they staged a sit-down demonstration outside the City Council doors protesting the present plans for Urban Renewal and the unjust arrest of Herb Callender. This was the first time any civil disobedience had occurred in Trenton and the "responsible Negro leadership" together with the City officials have responded by denouncing CORE and its actions. Expect no help from the local NAACP as some of their members are even expected to testify against us at our trial.

II. Urban Renewal

All Urban Renewal Projects must meet certain standards and have workable programs. John Fitch Way #3's workable program has 7 points, four of which directly concern us in this project. The four listed below were approved on 11/16/64 by the Federal Government.

1. Money available
2. Feasibility
3. Citizen participation
4 Relocation apparatus

In order to qualify for relocation, you must prove to the Federal government that you have clean, safe housing available. This project cannot do this as the amount of housing of this quality does not exist. Section 221 of the Special Financial Program states that the Federal Government will insure all housing built with Federal funds and buildings must have fire walls for FHA approval.

III. Facts on Trenton

I wish to reiterate that no action has occurred before in Trenton. The NAACP has not engaged in active programs concerning the needs of the poorer Negro population. The "responsible Negro leadership" we feel is led by persons who have or are obtaining personal goals because of their inactivity on the issues of urban renewal and other relevant social issues. As an example of the status of this "responsible leadership", the husband of one of the responsibles heads the Redevelopment Bureau. Several others are involved in real estate sales and are closely linked to the power structure of the town.

IV. New York and New Jersey Chapter Support

A meeting was held on 11/16/64 at the Regional CORE, 48 W. 125 St. Numerous CORE chapters were present and were given the above details and were urged to support the Trenton chapter. They all promised to do their utmost to support any action planned. Chapters present were asked to send letters to the following political figures in Trenton:

Governor Hughes
Senator Case
Senator Williams
Mr. Weaver-Head of Housing Home Financing Agency, Wash.D.C.
Mr. Frank Thompson, Mercer County Congressman

Sample Letter:

Strongly request that you press for a Delay of the issuance of Federal funds for John Fitch Way Project #3 in Trenton, N. J., pending investigation of compliance with Federal standards.

TO: Mayor Arthur J. Holland, City Hall, Trenton, N. J.
Sample letter:

_____CORE wholeheartedly supports Trenton CORE in their efforts on John Fitch Way Project #3.

It is urgent that you send night letters or telegrams to the above-mentioned persons demonstrating your support for Trenton CORE. Please stand ready to give your support when and where needed for this Urban Renewal Project in Trenton. This project has great significance in that it will be a showcase for the type of effort CORE is going to endorse nationally on a program for integration through well designed urban renewal projects. The habit of rebuilding ghettoes must go and go NOW.

You will be promptly notified when any action has been formulated.

Yours for freedom,

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TO: Lou Smith

FROM: Joyce A. Ware, Field Secretary, Northeast Regional Office

RE: Report for NAC

PERIOD: September - January, 1965

First, I think what is necessary in this report is a description of the N.E. Regional Office. The office had four full time Field Secretaries and one Regional Director.

We the Staff did an analysis geographically of the region, taking into account the total numbers of chapters affiliated and unaffiliated. At that time we had staff persons to adequately cover the North East Region.

The area contained some 67 chapters of affiliated and unaffiliated status. At that time we divided the territory among the staff persons taking three and four states respectively. The intention was to visit each CORE chapter in the region, making a report as to its quality in terms of:

1. Is there a chapter?
2. What kinds of persons are in the chapter?
3. What are their potentials?
4. Can the chapter be rebuilt or can the chapter be strengthened?

I was immediately assigned to the states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut having some eleven chapters total.

I immediately went to the Worcester chapter of CORE in Mass. spending a week and half there with the chapter. The chairman of the chapter is Mrs. Ruby Jarrett, an ex-CORE member from Chicago. The chapter is young and has a great deal of potential. The program which we expounded was very general, in terms of getting a chapter to analyze the local situation around housing, education and employment before going into any set action. Also knowing the advantage of what kind of community you had, and which was more viable. In the midst of my visit to the chapter, a regional project was coordinated around the Mississippi situation. The emphasis of the project was the focus to get federal protection for the workers and the people in Mississippi who attempted to register. The techniques used were the focusing on the local offices of the F.B.I. with demands which were consistent in concern. The local chapter of Worcester had a sit-in inside the local office of the F.B.I. (I might add that this chapter was the first chapter or any interest group to actually get inside the offices of the F.B.I.) The demonstration lasted some ten hours before it ceased.

I left Worcester Sunday Oct. 18, and went to Springfield, Mass. to visit with the local chapter there. Essentially the same procedure was worked there in the major problem of most of the chapters, which is knowing the value of priority in the context of projects.

At Springfield, however, we did talk about the specifics of a program in which the chapter was participating, revolving around the school situation in Springfield with the NAACP. The chairman of Springfield CORE is Oscar Bright, and the chapter consists of about 15 other people, some of whom are also in the NAACP. Specifically, I was interested in ways to build a strong chapter made up of community people, and moreover having a sound and concrete program. That chapter visit lasted some four days at which time I departed.

Upon returning to New York City, I immediately became involved in the Trailways project which centered around a complaint from some 5 porters who worked at Trailways, and which Core had involved itself in a year ago. The involvement was very personal in that it specifically dealt with 5 porters, but moreover it dealt with the employment practices generally. (See attached sheet on the Trailway project.) Specifically, the job of a field secretary was to coordinate the activities that CORE chapters carried out.

In the midst of the Trailways project, I attempted to set up an Area Conference with the chapters in the New England area to be held the third week in November at which point we had received tremendous support from the chapters involved, because of the prospectus presented by James Farmer at the Nyack conference. We felt and so did the chapters that their own procedures and future should be discussed. The area conference was called off in the hopes of having a Northeastern Regional Conference under the direction of Bob Curvin and Shirley Lacey.

The Trenton project was underway in Trenton, N.J. and the first of December I was called to Trenton to work with Herb Callender to coordinate chapter

support and no research on the whole question of Urban Renewal. (See sheet of the Trenton project)

Before the Trenton Project, I visited the Kingston chapter of CORE and the attached sheet describes the chapter and the program which was worked out and is successfully working now. (See attached report on Kingston CORE)

At this stage of the game, we are presently coordinating with the local N.Y. chapter a program in working with the group of Social Workers, who call themselves the SOCIAL WORKERS FOR CIVIL RIGHTS. The emphasis of this program is to get workers into the offices of the chapters and man a desk for the purpose of giving services to the community which they would not normally receive.

The one other project which is under consideration is the setting up of an East Harlem project using volunteers to be coordinated under the Regional Office. However, we are not prepared at this stage to go into the meat of the project because it is still in the preliminary stages.

In consideration of expenses, my expenses have balanced out to about $60.00 per month.

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January 18, 1965

TO: Lou Smith

FROM: Eric Mann

RE: Field Secretary's Report for NAC

PERIOD: Sept. 1964 - Jan. 1965

During the period stated in the outline I have worked to some degree with the following chapters: Syracuse, Yonkers, New Rochelle, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Mount Vernon, and many of the chapters in New York City.

Trailways

The Trailways project brought me in contact with our chapters in Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia, as well as the New York City chapters. I am presenting a very superficial report on Trailways because a detailed report on the subject will be forthcoming as soon as some form of conclusion to the project can be achieved. Nonetheless, some general conclusions can certainly be drawn at this point:

1. The project was unsuccessful. There were many reasons for this but the primary one seems inherent in the project itself. That is, having originated from National, then being followed up by Regional, and then brought to the chapters, the chapters felt no vested interest in the

project because they did not plan it, did not know about it, until their help was needed.

Also, the project itself was very difficult to pull off because of 1. the racial antagonism of management. 2. the size of the company. 3. the amount of work it would take to truly mobilize the Negro community in any way. 4. the lack of inherent emotionalism of the issue, which made it difficult to arouse the interest and enthusiasm of the "man in the street."

2. The project gave me some excellent insights into our chapter structure, and sharply focused some of the problems in several chapters.
3. The project involved CORE in a dispute with a discriminatory union and helped initiate some thinking on our policies in such a situation. Enclosed is a copy of a short position paper I wrote about our relationships with discriminatory unions.
4. The project involved the Philadelphia chapter in a dispute with the Philadelphia NAACP which has united the chapter, given it some excellent publicity, and in a small way changed the balance of power in the Negro community in CORE's favor.

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January 20, 1965

TO: Jim McCain
FROM: Judy Howell, Task Force
RE: Progress Report on the Progressive Choice Reading Program

It has been very difficult to organize the Progressive Choice Reading Program pilot projects. There have been four (4) main reasons for this difficulty.

1. This is the first time that the chapters have been confronted with a program of this type.
2. The young people that are involved with CORE usually are not and do not hang out with illiterates or drop-outs.
3. Some chapters in communities that need this help the most are completely uncooperative and uninterested in the program (i.e. N.Y.CORE)
4. The chapters that have a program already set up say they want to incorporate PCRP into it, but refuse to sit down and arrange testing date. (i.e. CCNY CORE).

The first pilot project was opened in the South Bronx at St. Anne"s Church, 140th Street and St. Anne's Ave. on Saturday, Dec. 19, 1964. Dr. Woolman brought the Institute of Educational Research staff up from Washington to train 4 instructors. Brooklyn and CCNY observers voiced interest in the program.

A testing date was set for Sat. Jan. 9, 1965 at St. Anne's. National CORE brought testing materials for the young people. However, we had a very poor showing. Out of 50 young people contacted, 10 showed up. The tests were given and 8 people were found eligible for the program. There will be another testing period on Jan. 22, 1965. Harold Davidson of Bronx CORE has urged several community groups to help him assemble a sizeable showing at that time. I will be meeting with all of the interested chapters this week. My main concern is to get the actual teaching started in the South Bronx, so that it can serve as an example for the other chapters in the pilot area.