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Dear Jim,

I want to speak to you about an issue which has created a crisis in our chapter. The same crisis has occurred in other chapters and I am sure the issue will come up within other chapters in the future.

Jim, our chapter passed a motion that prohibits our chapter's acceptance of persons as members if they are members of the Communist Party or the Socialist Workers Party. The motion reads as follows:

"that the San Diego chapter of the CORE go on record as being opposed to having in membership persons who are known members of the SWP or the Communist Party & further that any such person presently holding memb in the SWP & the Comm. Party be subject to constit proceedings as provided by the local & that constit." First of all I want to know if this motion is a legal one. This question has been raised and I declared the motion legal as I knew of no reason to state otherwise.

I informed you earlier that our chapter was having trouble internally. Now

I will spell it out for you.

Several months ago I began to see a definite split taking place in our chapter. Members of the Socialist Workers Party as well as one of our members who is believed to be a member of the communist party, formed a sub group within our chapter along with their sympathizers. This group became an anti Hal Brown group and was able to sway some of the executive Board members into their camps. No complaints or charges were ever made against me (at least openly) until a member of the sub group appeared at the Regional Convention to put out the word that I was only using our chapter as a stepping stone to become a national officer. Later this same person made other accusations against me, such as being a dictator and using the chapter to seek a political office. I won't even bother to defend myself against these charges, even though they were made informally, because to me they are utterly ridiculous.

The above incidents are not important of themselves, but added to the fact that my community resources bring back the information that the SWP's plan is to gain

control of our chapter make it a serious problem. Discussions take place at SWP meetings as to what progress is being made along those lines. ~~Some~~ My information comes from very reliable sources. ~~a member (Negro) of the SWP. My information is substantiated by the F.B.I. agent who is liaison man with the civil rights movement in our city.~~ Of course I cannot reveal my resources to the chapter, ~~the same as the F.B.I cannot reveal their informers to us.~~ This makes it difficult to convince the chapter that a subversive act is being planned. Many of the members are with me but there is a sizeable group that seems very sympathetic to ~~communist and SWP ideals.~~ extending chapter membership to those members who are members of the communist party + the SWP. Others are confused because of their lack of knowledge about the SWP. The SWP members of which there are three, and two members who are believed to be either active communists or who actively associate themselves with the communist party, will be brought up for expulsion. They, along with their allies, intend to make a fight out of it. This is having a disasterious effect on our chapter. Our chapter has developed as one of the strongest on the west coast — this problem can kill it. So far we have been able to keep this away from the press

(in spite of some real hot meetings). However, a reporter told me that he attended a SWP meeting and was told that there was a severe split in CORE and that I was going to make a press release attacking the SWP and our 1st vice chairman. (Our 1st vice chairman is a member of this sub group which opposes me. I do not believe he is a member of the SWP but his personal resentment of me has made him easy prey for any sub group.) The reporter questioned me and the vice chairman, and was told by both of us that we had no statements to make. The reporter became suspicious and finally told me the whole story.

Before I close Jim, I want to make some things very clear. I am committed to the civil rights movement. I have no intentions of providing an organization for which the communists and SWP can use to achieve their own goals. I consider their membership in our chapter a dangerous course to follow. I consider their objectives inimical to those of CORE and their association with our chapter places us in an extremely disadvantageous position in trying to reach the Negro community. This position is not spelled out in our national constitution. Locally, we have now taken a stand.

Locally, the bulk of the Negro people are employed by the Navy, civil service, and defense plants. These people are very concerned about leftist groups and infiltration in civil rights ~~groups~~ organizations. The SU (without CORE's permission) passed out their literature at the scene of Dick Gregory's appearance here for CORE - this only hurt our chapter's chances of involving the community.

Our chapter has gone on record concerning this issue. If we fail to expel those who admit to being members of the SWP and the Communist party, then I will resign from the chapter. The difficulty of expelling these persons is increased by the membership committee's inability to keep up to date the inactive or active status of the membership. There have already been many challenges and this is only the beginning.

I seek the advice and help of the national office and the NAC. Your immediate attention and reply is appreciated.

Your in freedom,

Hal Brown