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Speaking Out

by Harold Brown
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CIVIL RIGHTS ACTION is once again getting out of low gear.

Since President Kennedy's assassination there has been very little action to speak of except for S.N.C.C. (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) in its ever persistent drive for voter registration and abolishment of discrimination in public accommodations in the south.

BUT NOW THINGS are coming alive again and once more the Negro seems to be preparing for another push.

In Atlanta, Georgia, Negroes are going to jail in defiance of a court restraining order which would keep them from demonstrating against white bigotry; in New York, thousands of Negroes are boycotting schools in a fight against school de facto segregation; in Cleveland, Negroes are taking militant action against discrimination in housing and school segregation. Other cities that will soon be hot spots are Baltimore and Philadelphia.

WITHIN THE NEXT three months many cities throughout the nation will experience accelerated action from Negroes who are becoming increasingly more tired and frustrated from facing the day-to-day insult of being treated like a third class citizen.

"Tired of being poor-tired of being a so called Negro — I just want to be free." These are the words coming from the mouths of many Negroes who are constantly scratching the itch to be free, and the hotter the weather the worse the itch, and the worse the itch the harder the scratch.

I LIKE THE WAY William Clay, St. Louis, Missouri alderman puts it, "We can endure the cold winters in jail if the white man can endure the long hot summers in the streets."

Negroes are realizing that if the fight for full equality of opportunities is not accelerated and the big push to eliminate discrimination in all areas is not continued, all past effort can be wiped out in a very short time.

SAN DIEGO, the all-American City, is a good example of what can happen. For years Negroes throughout the nation have been fighting against discrimination in housing.

Now San Diego's Negroes are standing around looking at each other after watching thousands from San Diego's white community sign a petition that will not only do away with the Rumford Fair Housing Law which prohibits racial discrimination in housing, but also will make it impossible to get any more legislation passed pertaining to housing discrimination unless there is another constitutional amendment.

CALIFORNIA IS the only state in the nation that is taking steps to remove laws from the books that prevent racial discrimination.

The Negroes of this city should be aware that San Diego was one of the biggest contributors toward getting the required 600,000 signatures.

San Diego is a strong ally of the "initiative" which is against fair housing and against equal opportunities in housing for Negroes.

ALL OUR WHITE friends and all the speech making that some of them have done during the past years have not proved to be sufficient to keep San Diego from becoming a chief supporter of an act taken against Negroes and against the fight for equality.

But this isn't the first time that action of this kind has been taken in this country. The excuse for such action is that laws such as the Rumford Fair Housing Law is a violation of human rights. The same excuse was given for maintaining slavery in this country.

ACTIONS TAKEN to weaken the fight against white racism in this country finds San Diego again a good example. Just recently a court ruling made by Judge Whelan limited CORE to the use of three pickets in our fight against the Gas and Electric Company. All other forms of demonstrations at any branch of the Gas and Electric Company were ordered as unlawful.

CORE is not even to say that San Diego Gas and Electric discriminates, even though we know it does.

EVERYBODY KNOWS that discrimination in employment exists on a large scale in this country. The president of the United States knows it; most of our country's high officials know it; Judge Whelan knows it; and employees and employers of the Gas & Electric Company know it; yet it is a violation of the law if CORE says that G & E discriminates when evidence points toward CORE's being correct and Gas & Electric never even concerning itself with trying to prove CORE incorrect.

The **"RED HOT"** summer is coming. Will San Diego add to the heat? Will San Diego's Negroes accelerate their fight for equal opportunities? If you support CORE, then you support accelerated action and a **"hot"** summer!

Let us know where you stand!

GIVE US A CALL at 234-2586 or stop in at our office and let us know you are for increased efforts in the civil rights struggle or just say, "I'm for a **RED HOT** summer."