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July 2

Speaking Out

by Harold Brown

(Chairman, SD Congress of Racial Equality)

VIOLENCE HAS COME to San Diego.

Racial violence was experienced in the "All-America City" by CORE demonstrators who dared unveil the Bank of America's lousy record of hiring Negroes.

CORE DEMONSTRATORS were victims to pushing, shoving, kicking, and hitting as the bank's big executives, sporting a look of enjoyment, had a "field day." Many demonstrators stated that they were physically pushed with great force, kicked and shoved by the bank employees. At the 42nd and El Cajon branch, a process server, who was passing out "restraining orders" to demonstrators, jammed one into my ribs.

The week before, a fifty year old woman was slugged in the stomach, and the pickets were jostled around. I am not talking about the south — I'm talking about San Diego!

THE GOLDEN WEST—land of opportunity!

Twice now we have exposed "big business" and their treatment of Negroes. Twice now they have run to their law to remove the irritant, so they can continue to discriminate in an "honorable" fashion. Each time, their white brother has welcomed them with a smile and "justice" is served.

Now once more, they have disarmed the Negro — taken away his most effective weapon.

THEY PASSED A LAW prohibiting demonstrations in Mississippi — but it's not as bad here — they let you have two pickets. If they are feeling pretty good they let you have four.

But a question still lurks in the back of their minds — did they really disarm us? Although they ran to their white brother to issue an injunction against us, limiting us to four pickets — will that make us quit? If it does, the Negro is a "dead pigeon" and his fight for dignity will whittle away to nothing.

THE ODDS ARE a thousand to one. So what can we do?

The bank is trying to beat us down by arresting us so we have to spend money for bail. Enough arrests and the little bit of funds are gone.

BANK OF AMERICA is banking on one thing — that the Negro community will not financially support their own cause. They are banking on the petty jealousies and individual selfishness of our people to kill off the greatest movement in San Diego!

But in order to stop this movement against San Diego "big business" exclusion of Negroes, they will have to kill me first — because I believe that no man in clear conscience can stand idly by, and lend witness to injustice.

I WILL CONTINUE to fight as long as I feel you are supporting me.

If you feel that we are not helping the cause of the Negro, then we had better fold up. On the other hand — if you feel we are doing some good — then support us. In some way — please support us. We cannot continue without money.

SEND A DONATION NOW to CORE, 2965 Imperial Ave., San Diego 2, California!