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Russell Kirk

New Killers of the Dream Arise

If you are a self-proclaimed "civil rights leader," do you enjoy the right to knock people about as you please? So, apparently, thinks Floyd McKissick, national director of the Congress of Racial Equality.

At the convention of C.O.R.E., in Baltimore, McKissick and his henchmen were guarded by "Fruit of Islam" thugs from the fanatic Black Muslim sect. He's all through with non-violence, said McKissick — heaping abuse on President Johnson and others who have almost crawled on their knees to conciliate such as McKissick.

Kirk

"We now have new killers of the dream," remarks Miss Lillian Smith, the novelist, author of the best-selling novel about racial discrimination, "Killers of the Dream." "C.O.R.E. has been infiltrated by adventurers and nihilists, black nationalists, and plain old-fashioned haters, who have finally taken over."

It is somewhat curious that people like Miss Smith ever were taken in by C.O.R.E., which from the first has been an organization suffused with hatred. Its former national director, James Farmer, a clever demagogue distrusted by even the strongest enthusiasts in Congress for "civil rights" legislation, managed to dismount some months ago from the C.O.R.E. tiger, and now enjoys a plump job with the federal government. C.O.R.E. is almost bankrupt financially — and totally bankrupt morally.

Organizations like C.O.R.E., headed by fanatics and charlatans, command very little real support from the great mass of colored citizens. Their prestige, such as it is, was conferred upon them by timid politicians, silly lecture committees at colleges which invited people like Farmer to speak, and sentimental, muddled old ladies who made donations to what purported to be an organization championing civil liberty. How do these people like their Frankenstein's monster nowadays?

In Omaha, the National Guard has just put down a three-night destructive riot by Negro youths; more than a hundred arrests were made. Gov. Frank Morrison was far distant from Nebraska, away at the governors' conference in Los Angeles; but he knew all about the affair, and made a comment wondrously "liberal": The cause of the racial riot, he said, was "an environment that is unfit for human habitation in many areas."

If you don't like your house, chum, smash up the whole town. The McKissicks of this age are encouraged by the Morrisons. Did it ever occur to the Governor of Nebraska that people make slums, as much at least as slums make people? And there are people, Governor, who enjoy looting stores and stoning police. Do they need gubernatorial coddling?