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Speaking Out

by Harold Brown

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No crumbs for CORE!

CORE chapters in the state of California are joining together in statewide projects aimed at combating discriminatory practices. Instead of each chapter negotiating with a particular company in its own town, there will be a statewide negotiating committee that will negotiate for the whole state. Statewide projects will only consist of large companies with outlets throughout the state.

The important note is that when a state project has been accepted by the local chapters, no agreement will be accepted unless the agreement includes meeting the CORE demands throughout the entire state. It will be an all-or-nothing matter.

Thats why I say "No crumbs for CORE!"

This is the tune that will be played this summer, and for as long as the fight continues. No crumbs, no excuses, no nothing. Nothing but the things that all Americans have, and we don't have, will suffice.

Negroes are pulling together now, even in San Diego.

We have finally understood that unless we work together and each accepts his responsibility, we will be talking about freedom for another one hundred years.

San Diego has slapped it's Negroes in the face too long, and then bought off our so-called Negro leaders, better know to us as "Toms." to keep the peace in the Negro community.

San Diego was no different from every other town. The white community only recognized the Negroes who "caused no fuss." These Negroes were known in the white community as "respectable Negroes." In the Negro community they were known as spineless traitors who practiced extreme conservatism because of fearing the white man and his powerful sword.

But those days are gone, and I hope forever!

Today is a new day.

The white community can no longer depend upon "respectable Negroes" to keep the peace — because keeping the peace means no progress for the Negro — maybe a few crumbs—but no real progress.

The trend is toward more militancy—not toward conservatism.

The "stall-in" was not merely a radical stunt conceived by some young fools looking for publicity. This was a thought-out program, representing the feelings of frustrated, intelligent young and old Negroes. It represented the feelings, not of one group, but many groups.

So the white power structure, whether it likes it or not, must deal with a new "respectable Negro" — one who demands respect from both white and Negro community.

It's amazing how long we have been willing to accept the crumbs, and an inferior status. But those days are dying fast too. The Negro seems to be waking from a deep sleep, as though he had been drugged.

Now, we are wiping our eyes and beginning to see the light. Prodded by militant civil rights organizations who are willing to be beaten, hosed, and jailed because they are not satisfied and will no longer accept crumbs.

Now it is time for another page of this revolution to be written. A page that will tell how the Negro pulled together into one mighty force.

How the doctors trained and their offices instead of running their offices instead of runing to the white community to hire girls who could get a job practically any place; how teachers spent many hours after the final bell rang, to help the many Negro students develop an interest in learning and encouraging them to study and to seek a better life than they now have; and how the ministers all of a sudden began preaching about the heaven that could be found on earth if Negroes would only fight to get it, and how the ministers opened their churches as training grounds for their congregations and poured the Sunday collections back into helping their parishoners work their way out of this black hell.

This is a magnificent page of the revolution — one that would make any grouo of people stand ten feet tall. What does the white community call it? Oh yeah, "pulling yourself up by your boot straps."

Well, that is what we intend to do—pull ourselves up—and push anyone down—who will deny us our rightful place among the great peoples of the world.

Please! Let's write this page soon.