

January 1, 1965

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Diego CORE  
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San Diego, California  
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CORE PETITIONS CITY: The San Diego Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality has again asked the City Council to intercede to arrange for discussion with the San Diego Zoological Society on alleged racial bias in hiring and on the working conditions of Negro women employees. In a letter sent to Mayor Frank Curran and every City Council member, CORE chronicled its repeated but vain attempts to get Zoo officials to even discuss the allegations of unfair employment practices. CORE pointed out that three letters addressed to Zoo Director Dr. C. L. Schroeder asking for discussion were answered by denial and rebuff. CORE's previous request to speak to the City Council on this subject was rejected on the basis that the City has no administrative jurisdiction over the Zoo even though the Zoo is on city property and is partially supported by City taxes.

Local CORE leader Hal Brown charged: "We have been trying since last September to simply talk to Zoo officials about their hiring practices and personnel policies but have been denied the right to even discuss the issue. We don't know why they are afraid," Brown added, "and don't understand why any publicly supported body should be able to refuse to talk to citizens who help support it."

CORE had requested a place on the December 22 City Council agenda to ask for intercession by the Council in arranging for discussion between CORE and Zoo officials. A second petition to the City Council members has now been made. Brown concluded by asking: "If all official forms of redress are blocked, then what recourse but demonstration remains open to CORE?"