

a national organization with affiliated local groups working



to abolish racial discrimination by direct, nonviolent methods

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

2965 Imperial Avenue
San Diego, California 92102
October 26, 1964

Dr. Charles B. Schroeder, Director
San Diego Zoological Garden
Post Office Box 551
San Diego, California

Dear Dr. Schroeder:

As pointed out in earlier letters, it is CORE's practice to make thorough preliminary investigation of allegations of discriminatory practices and to come to amicable understanding and possible correction without resort to direct action tactics. We would particularly like to follow this traditional practice with the San Diego Zoo since we share in San Diego's pride in this institution.

However, the time is past, Dr. Schroeder, when the Negro community will docilely pay taxes to support public agencies where Negro women are only hired to clean the toilets and where Negro men are blocked from the entry position in a personnel set-up where promotion comes from within.

It is necessary to point out boldly that local CORE officials have met with and have been authorized to be spokesmen for at least eight of the eleven full-time and two part-time Negro employees of the Zoo. More important, we must remind you that CORE has been and will continue to be an effective spokesman for the Negro and other racial minority groups in any and all cases where injustices seem evident. We would prefer amicable private discussion and improved understanding on both sides but if a session of reasoning together is categorically rejected by you, then we will be spokesman by means of public demonstration.

This is our third letter requesting friendly inquiry and discussion of what appears to be a problem. We see no reason why a publicly supported agency should not be willing to talk to any responsible group who think they have a sincere grievance. We propose an evening meeting on Friday, October 29 or Monday, November 1, or a meeting at your convenience on Saturday, October 30. We shall await your early response.

Respectfully,

Harold K. Brown, Chairman
San Diego CORE

- HKB:ac
- cc: Mr. Bud Place, City
- Mr. James Barham, Teamsters
- Mr. Robinson, FEPC
- Mr. John Johnson, Urban League
- Mr. Carrol Waymon, CIC