

a national organization with affiliated local groups working



to abolish racial discrimination by direct, nonviolent methods

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
~~POST OFFICE BOX 1111~~
~~SAN DIEGO 13, CALIFORNIA~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
2965 Imperial Avenue
San Diego, Calif. 92102

September 15, 1964

- JAMES FARMER
NATIONAL DIRECTOR
- RICHARD HALEY
ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR
- CARL RACHLIN, ESQ.
GENERAL COUNSEL
- ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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- JAMES BALDWIN
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- GOODWIN WATSON
- JOSEPH WILLEN
- JERRY WURF
- CHARLES S. ZIMMERMAN

C.R. Schroeder
Director, San Diego Zoo
P.O. Box 551
San Diego, Calif. 92112

Dear Dr. Schroeder:

In response to your reply to our request for a meeting with you and other representatives of the Zoological Society, we are pleased to have your stated assurance that the Zoological Society does not entertain any policies of racial discrimination. However, we were not questioning your employment policies. In this instance, we are concerned, as we always have been, about improving the condition of Negroes and other minority group persons.

It is far from being a secret that minority group persons suffer daily from practices of racial discrimination. We have made no accusations that the Zoological Society is guilty of any such practices. However, we had hoped that you would have been more receptive to a meeting to discuss some facts which have been brought to our attention concerning the exclusion of Negroes in practically all of your job categories except that defined as custodian and groundsman, and the working conditions under which the Negro women custodians work.

We are aware that many of your employees are union members, but as you stated, the happiness and well-being of all your employees are the responsibility of management.



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SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

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Therefore, because we are concerned about bettering relations between Negro and white persons, and because we have dedicated ourselves to this task, the CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY requests again to meet with you at your earliest convenience.

In reply to the latter part of your letter, we had hoped that specific language was not necessary in a letter. Secondly, we had hoped that obligation would not be a consideration for Zoo representatives and CORE representatives to discuss what may or not be a problem which affects the Zoo minority group employees. If you recall, we had not requested a negotiation. We merely asked for a meeting to discuss areas of concern to all of us.

If you require more specifics before you can agree to a meeting, we will be happy to comply. However, the request for a meeting is for the purpose of discussing such specifics.

Yours sincerely,

Harold K. Brown
Chairman, San Diego CORE

Harold K. Brown
HKB:mg

cc: Mr. Bud Place, Mayor's Office
Mr. James Barham, Teamsters Union Local 481
Mr. Robinson, FEPC
Mr. John Johnson, Urban League
Mr. Carrol Waymon, CIC