

2965 Imperial Avenue

February 19, 1965

Wesley S. Sharp, Chief
San Diego Police Department
801 West Market Street
San Diego, California

Dear Chief Sharp:

As we witness each day in the news, the police function in a society can be a force for evil just as it can be a force for good. We are well aware that the San Diego Police Force protects the Negro community, even protects CORE civil rights demonstrators, but we are equally aware that members of the San Diego Police Force have attempted to harass and intimidate CORE and in this manner to frighten the Negro community into submission.

Historically, the police have always been the weapon manipulated by the majority power structure to suppress the minority. The acts of intimidation of the Negro by the police in San Diego will happen again, will happen more frequently and will increase in intensity unless those with courage among the minority speak out loudly and clearly; and unless those with the responsibility of office and with high ethical principle listen, and after hearing the evidence take corrective measures. This is exactly what CORE is asking you to do.

We request that you name a date before the end of this month when you will meet with one or several CORE officers to hear specific accounts of intimidation by the San Diego Police of CORE members or sympathizers. We ask that this meeting be late in the afternoon to avoid conflict with normal working hours.

Faith in and support of the police depends upon the effective and impartial administration of the police function. We assume that you understand this basic fact and will be eager to develop trust and respect of the San Diego Police Force within the Negro community.

Very truly yours,

Harold K. Brown, Chairman
San Diego CORE

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