[ms-0436.002-017.015]

To: Jim McCain - Dir. of Organization, National CORE
From: Hal Brown, Chairman, San Diego CORE

These are my comments on the attached paper which was passed out at the general membership meeting of Feb. 18th. The signer of the paper, J "Bud" Gardner was accepted as a probationary member subject to the recommendation of the membership committee and the approval of the executive board for permanent membership.

J "Bud" Gardner, without permission, passed out SWP literature outside and inside the auditorium where our chapter was sponsoring the Dick Gregory - Lynn Chandler show. Bill Beard, the other SWP member answered this charge by saying that to prohibit them from doing this would be a violation of their freedom of speech.

(2nd paragraph)
The charges against them were that they were instigator of a plot to split our chapter and gain control; and most importantly they were members of organizations inimicable to CORE.

(3rd paragraph)
I was not aware ~~of~~ nor was the general membership, that these persons belonged to the

(4th paragraph)

The person refered to was recommended by the 1st vice chairman to fill the vacancy of direct action chairman. (Committee chairmen must be voted on by the chairman & 1st and 2nd vice chairmen. This took place during the heat of our demonstrations against the Bank of America. Although I did not know this person was a member of the SWP, ~~my~~ his recommendation ~~did~~ did not set well with me, however I did not fight against it.

The SWP had three members in our chapter. The third one joined the SWP under another name ~~and~~ so I must do some more investigation. There are also two members who belong to or associate ~~with~~ strongly with the CP. They have a ~~strong~~ strong group of sympathizers but there sympathizers are not known members of either party. There have been only two Negroes who have joined the SWP in San Diego. One of them has resigned recently.

[ms-0436-002-017-016]

TO ALL MEMBERS OF CORE:

Harold Brown has brought charges against two members of CORE and plans to oust a probationary member also. These charges are that two of these members are members of the Socialist Workers Party and one is a member of the Communist Party, and that these organizations are "inimicable to CORE."

Harold Brown wants to expel these members from CORE although he makes no claim that they have committed any actions harmful to CORE. On the contrary, these members have participated in CORE actions and one was arrested twice. He went to jail on one charge and now is under sentence along with other CORE members, including Harold Brown. They are now awaiting the outcome of the appeal against this sentence.

Further, Harold Brown, knowing that this CORE member was also a member of the Socialist Workers Party at the time he joined CORE, put him on the Executive Committee in charge of the Direct Action Committee!

Last summer, during the Bank of America action, this member was rewarded for his good work for CORE. Brown gave him a responsible post. Now--with no claim that he or his fellow member have committed any action to harm CORE--Brown wants to expel them!

What has changed? Not the Socialist Workers Party. Since its inception it has consistently fought discrimination. Opposition to Jim Crow has been a basic part of its program. Its members, black and white, participate in all actions against discrimination and for Civil Rights. We deny that the SWP is inimicable to CORE or any other organization fighting discrimination. We support ALL organizations in this field, CORE, NAACP, SNCC, and the Negro Nationalist groups. We don't tell them what to do or how to do it; we support every struggle for equality. We think our record of participation in the Negro struggle in San Diego is beyond reproach, and we promise to continue the same activity in the future.

No, the SWP hasn't changed. But can we say the same for Harold Brown? Why were members of the SWP acceptable to him in CORE in 1964 but not in 1965? He claims the SWP is trying to subvert CORE (with two members?) and that this is a violation of the CORE Constitution. Does Harold Brown mean that he didn't read the constitution until this year and was ignorant of its contents? Or is this just an excuse to expel these members so CORE in San Diego can become more "respectable" in the eyes of certain "friends" of the Negro People?

What makes Harold Brown's motives open to suspicion are the methods he uses. Witch-hunting and red-baiting are the favorite methods of the racists, Birchites, and reactionaries of all stripes. Every Negro organization, including CORE, has suffered these attacks. For a leader of an organization fighting for Civil Rights to use such undemocratic and politically discriminatory methods is--to say the least--shameful. It can only result in harm to CORE.

We appeal to the members of CORE to repudiate such odious methods and to maintain a democratic organization open to all who fight for Civil Rights, regardless of whether they belong to the Socialist Workers Party, Communist Party, Democratic or Republican Parties, or any others.

Socialist Workers Party
San Diego Branch

L. "Bud" Gardner
1853 Irving S.D.
Organizer