

762 Bollenbacher St.
San Diego, Calif. 92114
February 20, 1965

TO: James McCain - Director of Organization, National CORE

FROM : Hal Brown - Chairman San Diego CORE

Dear Jim,

This letter is to bring you up to date on the problem concerning the Socialist Workers' Party and the Communist Party in our chapter.

At the last general meeting held February 18th., the executive boards' recommendation (which passed 11 - 3) was voted on. The motion asked for the resignation of two of our members because it is felt that their membership in CORE is detrimental to our cause and if their resignations were not received, they would automatically be dropped from membership. As I predicted in my last letter to you, a fight would develop over who could vote as an active member. The membership book had been kept so poorly that it was extremely difficult to determine who was active and who was not. Our constitution reads that if an active member misses three consecutive regular general membership meetings without a valid excuse, he becomes an associate member which does not entitle him to a vote. Those who have not attended meetings in quite some time, as well as those who had missed three consecutive meetings wanted to vote on this motion. According to the membership committee and approved by me as chairman, some of those present were not on the active membership list. This resulted in a big protest and an attempt to keep the vote from being taken. Our first vice chairman, my chief opponent in the chapter, jumped to his feet and shouted, "This is no meeting - this meeting is adjourned." I proceeded to call for the vote above the yells and screams. The first vice chairman then rushed up to me standing between me and the general body to prevent my taking the vote on the question. I ask him to move. He told me to move him. I continued to call for the vote. The first vice told his faction to walk out. They did - we voted. The vote was 13 - 2 in favor of the motion. There was a great amount of confusion and threats. After the meeting was adjourned, members of the other faction opposing the motion began to use extreme profanity and threatened to do physical harm to some of us.

The past five months have been very painful and costly. After I saw the faction organizing and strengthening some five months ago, I began to be concerned. I began to investigate and after two months I was convinced that the split was not accidental but was planned. I cannot be manipulated by the SWP or the CP. This puts an obstacle in the way of their movement.

The hard reality of the situation is that if certain members of our chapter do not have their membership revoked, many of us will have to terminate our membership. Most of the chapter and practically all of the executive board feel this way.

Now! The other faction will continue to fight. They will probably write to you accusing me of being a dictator, a McCarthy, and who knows what else. You will have to judge for yourself. I anticipate a recall attempt against me - but that of course is their prerogative.

I do know that if the chapter cannot conduct normal business in the future, we will ask that the chapter be put in receivership. The Zoo project is fast reaching the stage of direct action and the chapter will have to be pulled together rapidly.

I know this report sounds as if the chapter is ruined. I guarantee you that it is not. We have now reached a certain maturity and stature in the community. Two things must be done in our community. We must assure the Negro community that our chapter is not a haven and a tool for subversive groups; and we must change the image of our chapter being a "white" organization fighting for the "black" people. This of course can only be done by pulling in more Negroes. This is my point of concentration and I think we will be successful.

Let me hear from you soon.

We shall overcome,

HKB:frb

Hal Brown