

Confidential copies to  
 Mr. Dumas Robinson  
 Mr. John Johnson  
 Mailed 2/7/65, signed for Harold K Brown by  
 SAN DIEGO CORE  
 2965 Imperial Avenue  
 San Diego, California

February 5, 1965

Mr. David H. Thompson, President  
 Citizens Interracial Committee of San Diego County  
 520 E Street, Room 609  
 San Diego, California 92101

Dear Mr. Thompson:

We acknowledge receipt of your complimentary copy of the letter sent to Dr. E. Minton Petter, President, San Diego Zoological Society and thank you for your effort to arrange and participate in a discussion involving CORE and the San Diego Zoo. We will be happy to initiate discussion under the provisions you stipulated in your letter recognizing that point #5 allows variation in procedure as the developing situation warrants. CORE will accommodate itself to any one of the suggested dates and times convenient to Dr. Charles R. Schroeder or other representatives from the Zoological Society.

As you must know, Mr. Thompson, San Diego CORE has been attempting to secure such a meeting since last September when preliminary investigation gave strong indication of discriminatory personnel practices by the administration of the San Diego Zoo. Three requests by CORE for joint exploration of the problem were rejected by Dr. Schroeder for reasons which grew increasingly specious. CORE's bid for a place on the City Council agenda to ask for intercession by this responsible body was denied on the basis of their lack of administrative jurisdiction over the Zoological Society. A follow-up letter to each of the City Council members including Mayor Frank Curran elicited the mayor's request to the Zoological Society and to CORE for acceptance of the Citizens Interracial Committee as catalyst for interaction. CORE has agreed and will continue to agree to use the good offices of the C.I.C. to arrange for meetings leading to the resolution of this problem. It is our understanding that the spokesman of the San Diego Zoological Society is not so inclined.

We recount this chronology to underline the sincerity of our policy to investigate and, where necessary, effect correction of racial injustice in a responsible, non-disruptive manner. However, all parties concerned should be aware that CORE is a direct-action organization, implacable in its determination to stamp out the evils of racial discrimination. If this commendable attempt by the C.I.C. to arrange for honest discussion is rebuffed by the Zoological Society, then CORE has no remaining alternatives but to take the case to the people, to the Federal Government representatives of the people, and to dramatize the issue by direct action.

Very truly yours,

Harold K. Brown, Chairman  
 San Diego CORE

cc: Mayor Frank Curran