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RESEARCH CENTER
On the Go!

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
Lesson 4: Mass Action Strategies

AMISTAD ON THE GO!

Amistad on the Go! is an interactive print and digital educational program that works in partnership with teachers servicing students from 6th to 12th grade to provide comprehensive lessons on the history of African Americans in the United States. Amistad on the Go! Toolkits include detailed curricula, student activities, and access to online resources all of which focus on the study of primary sources in and outside of the classroom. The Amistad on the Go! program also includes thematic traveling exhibitions and in-service training for teachers.

2018 ©Amistad Research Center, New Orleans, LA

Mass Action

Students from Jackson High School demonstrating during pupil boycott of school, Jonesboro, Louisiana, March 1965.

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Mass Action

Two Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) workers making signs, 1960s

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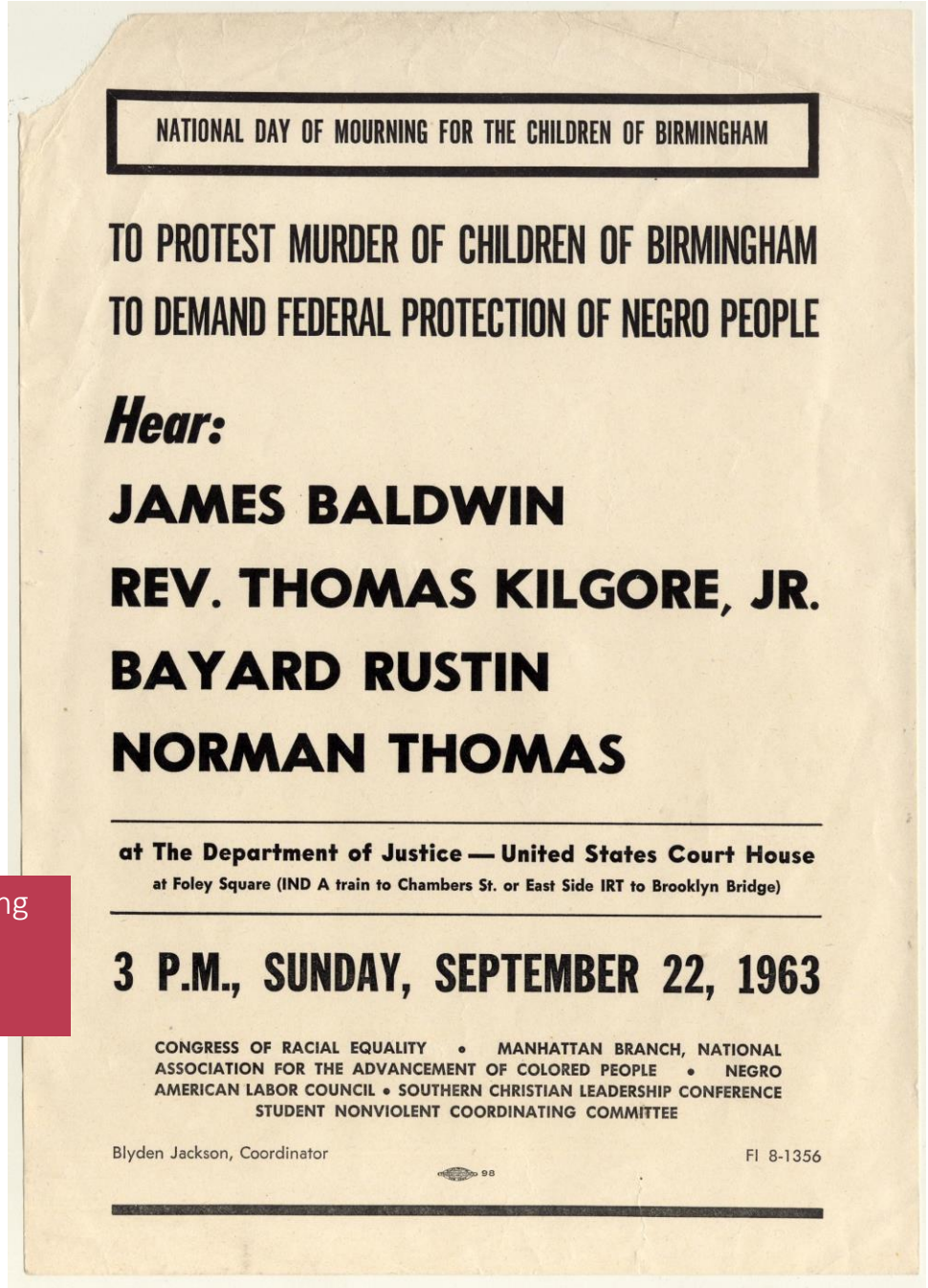
Mass Action



NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING FOR THE CHILDREN OF BIRMINGHAM

TO PROTEST MURDER OF CHILDREN OF BIRMINGHAM
TO DEMAND FEDERAL PROTECTION OF NEGRO PEOPLE

Hear:

JAMES BALDWIN
REV. THOMAS KILGORE, JR.
BAYARD RUSTIN
NORMAN THOMAS

at The Department of Justice — United States Court House
at Foley Square (IND A train to Chambers St. or East Side IRT to Brooklyn Bridge)

3 P.M., SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1963

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY • MANHATTAN BRANCH, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE • NEGRO AMERICAN LABOR COUNCIL • SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Blyden Jackson, Coordinator

FI 8-1356

Flyer for national day of mourning following the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, 1963.

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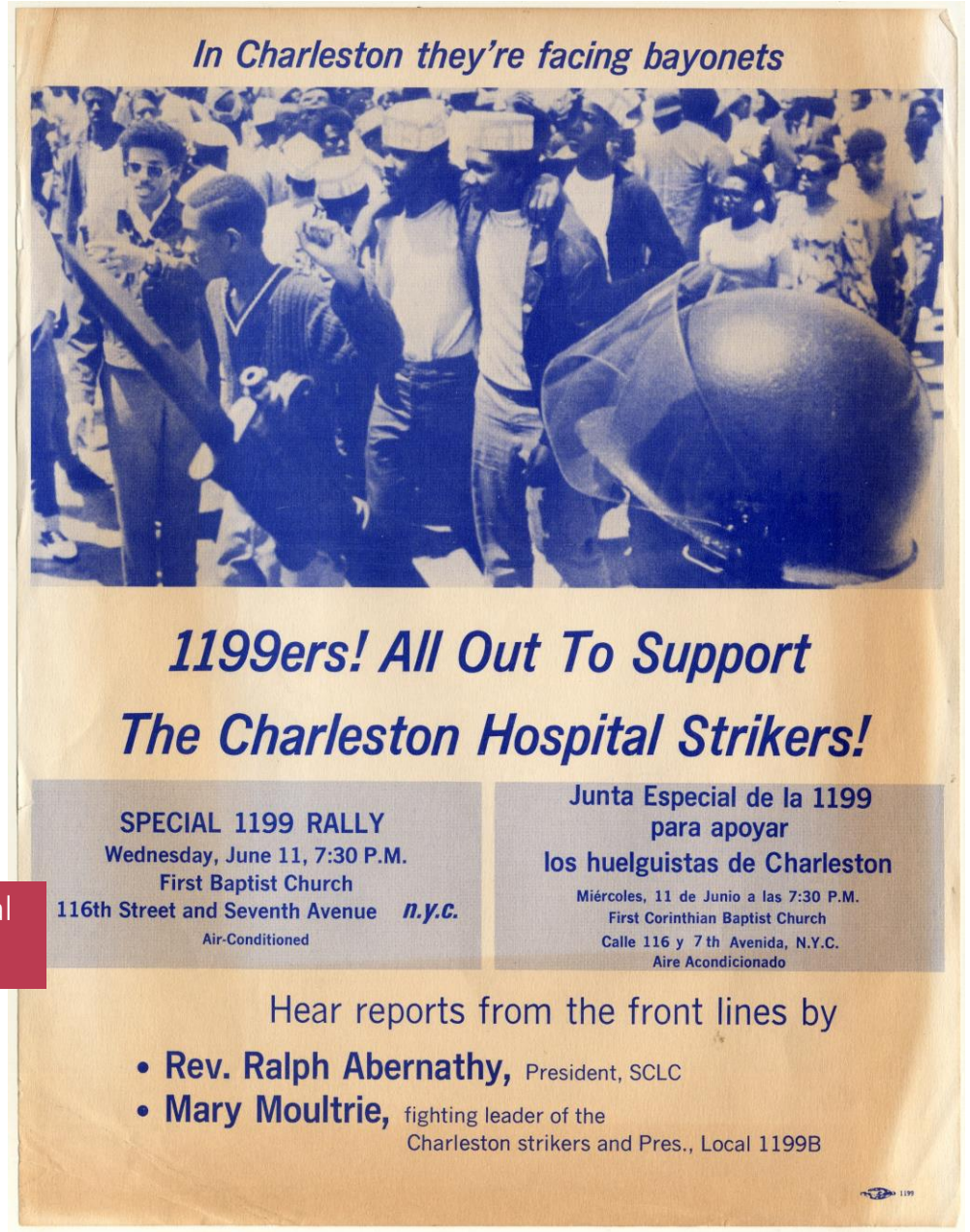
Mass Action



Flyer in support of Charleston Hospital Workers Strike, 1969.

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Mass Action

May 5, 1964

Nashville N.A.A.C.P. Branch

Sponsors

Civil Rights Mass Meeting

Tues., May 5, 1964, 7:30 p.m.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

949 37th Avenue, North

Guest Speaker

ALFRED BAKER LEWIS

National N.A.A.C.P. Treasurer

Program

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION SHOW

MAY 14—MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

Pre-show–7 P.M. Main Telecast–8 P.M.

Tickets are on Sale. Call the N.A.A.C.P. Office 255-1607

Support the Spring Membership Drive

Mrs. C. E. McGruder, Branch President

Flyer for NAACP meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, 1964.

Mass Action

Ronnie Moore, James Farmer, and A.Z. Young at Bogalusa, Louisiana, march, Spring 1965.

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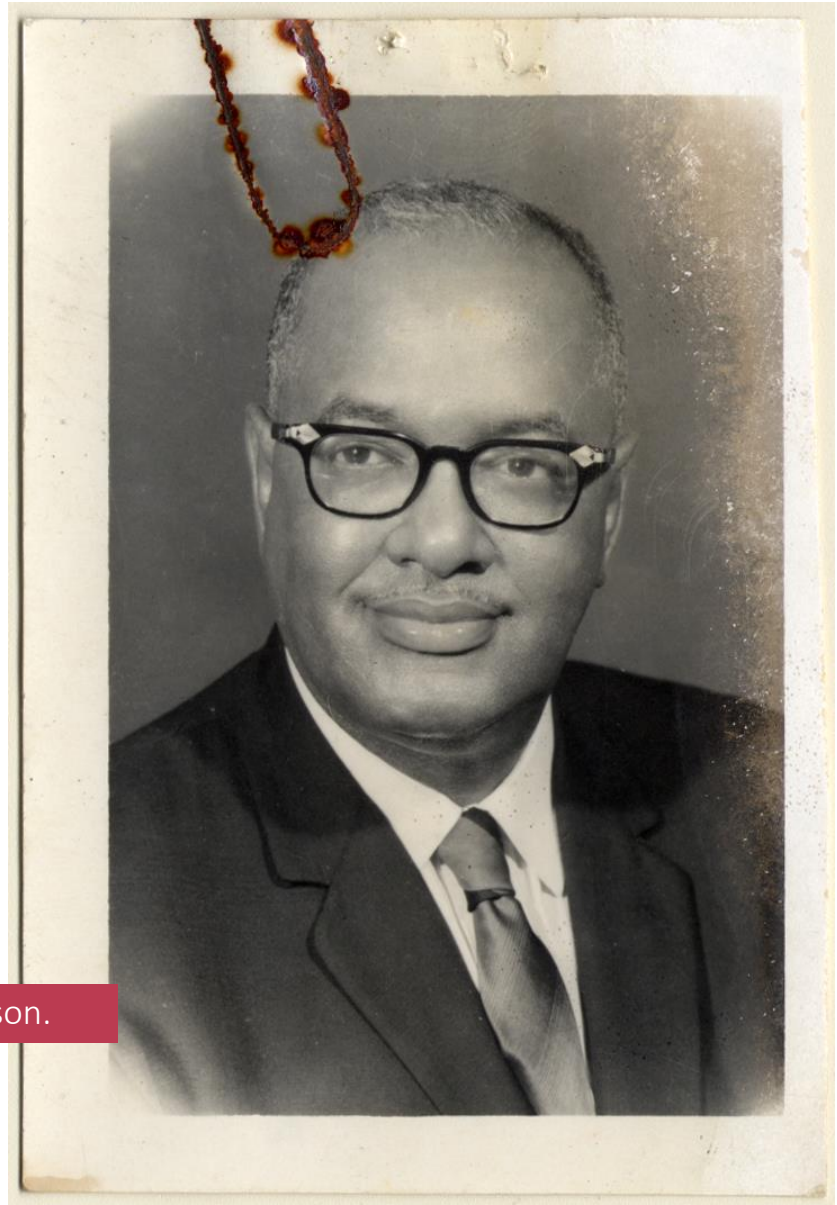
Baton Rouge Bus Boycott, 1953



Rev. T.J. Jemison.

Baton Rouge Bus Boycott, 1953

Empty North Baton Rouge Bus. Photograph by Francis Julias.
From Louisiana State Museum

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Baton Rouge Bus Boycott, 1953

The Free Ride. Photograph by Francis Julais, 1953.
From Louisiana State Museum.

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Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955

Claudette Colvin.

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Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955

Flyer for public talk by Rosa Parks following the Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1956.

FIRST TIME IN BALTIMORE!

HEAR!— MRS. ROSA PARKS

Whose arrest, because she refused to be segregated, led to the Bus Boycott in Montgomery, Alabama.

BALTIMORE BRANCH N.A.A.C.P.

KICK-OFF MASS MEETING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1956 - 3 P.M.

SHARP STREET METHODIST CHURCH

Dolphin and Etting Streets

—Music by Famous BALTIMORE CHORALE—

under direction of Gerald Burkes Wilson

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!
And Get One More!

Good Music

Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson, President

Admission Free

Dr. Charles Watts, Treasurer

Parks, Rosa. *Rosa Parks Papers: Events, -2005; Featuring or honoring Parks; 1956 to 1959.* - 1959, 1956. Manuscript/Mixed Material. https://www.loc.gov/item/mss859430239/. From Library of Congress

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Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955

Paid advertisement stating the grievances of the Negro community, their proposals and the nature of the protest movement. It appeared in The Advertiser - Journal, Christmas Day (Sunday, Dec. 25), 1955 (5B: 6-8).

TO THE MONTGOMERY PUBLIC:

We, the Negro citizens of Montgomery, feel that the public has a right to know our complaints and grievances which have resulted in the protest against the Montgomery City Lines and our refusal to ride city busses. We, therefore, set forth here some of the many bitter experiences of our people, who have, at various times been pushed around, embarrassed, threatened, intimidated and abused in a manner that has caused the meekest to rise in resentment:

COMPLAINTS:

1. Courtesy: The use of abusive language, name calling and threats have been the common practices among many of the bus operators. We are ordered to move from seats to standing space under the threat of arrest, or other serious consequences. No regard for sex or age is considered in exercising this authority by the bus operator.

2. Seating: The bus operators have not been fair in this respect. Negroes, old, young, men, and women, mothers with babes in their arms, sick, afflicted, pregnant women, must relinquish their seats even to school children, if the bus is crowded. On lines serving predominantly Negro sections, the ten front seats must remain vacant, even though no white passenger boards the bus. At all times the Negro is asked to give up his seat, though there is not standing room in the back. One white person, desiring a seat, will cause nine Negroes to relinquish their seats for the accommodation of this one person.

3. Arrests: Numerous arrests have been made even though the person arrested is observing the policy as given us. This year the following persons have been arrested and convicted, although they were seated according to the policy given us by the bus company. They are Claudette Colvin, Alberta "Coote" Smith, and Mrs. Rosa Parks. Among others arrested at other times are Mrs. Viola White, Miss Mary Wingfield, two children from New Jersey, and a Mr. Brooks, who was killed by the policeman.

4. Two Fares: Many house-servants are required to pay an additional fare if the bus is late getting to town causing them to miss a bus going to Cloverdale or other distant points. Some of these have complained that on returning from work similar incidents have occurred necessitating the payment of double fares.

Excerpt from "To the Montgomery Public" in *The Advertiser—Journal*. Montgomery, Alabama, December 25, 1955.

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Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955

MONTGOMERY BUS PROTEST

CHRONOLOGY

December 1, 1955, Thursday

Nothing reported. Mrs. Rosa Parks arrested on City Lines bus for violating segregation laws. Mrs. Parks refused driver's request to move and give her seat to a white passenger.

December 2, 1955, Friday

Nothing reported

December 3, 1955, Saturday

"Negroes urging bus boycott," Journal, 1. Unsigned circulars urging protest of arrest and trial of Rosa Parks circulating in Negro community.

December 4, 1955, Sunday

"Negro groups ready [Monday] boycott of City Lines," Advertiser-Journal, 1A:4, 6A:1-2. Negro leaders plan Monday night meeting for "further instructions."

Portion of the chronology of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955.

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Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (middle) and Ralph Abernathy (right) were two of the leaders of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Here, they are shown later during the start of the Selma-Montgomery March in 1965.

Freedom Rides

2 ACTION INSTITUTES

NORTH—Housing is the main area of racial discrimination in the north. Therefore, CORE this summer is conducting a special Action Institute on nonviolent techniques as applied to the housing issue. Since Boston CORE has experienced several years of successful housing action, Boston has been selected as the site. The date—*July 29 to August 6*. The cost, including room and board, is $75. Some scholarships are available.

SOUTH—CORE's regular summer Action Institute will be held this year in northern Virginia from *August 13 to September 3*. It will include training both in the theory and practice of nonviolence to combat racial discrimination. Experts in this field will lead the discussions and the action projects. The cost, including room and board is $150. Some scholarships are available.

PERSONS INTERESTED IN ENROLLING IN EITHER OR BOTH OF THESE ACTION INSTITUTES SHOULD PLACE THEIR RESERVATIONS WITH THE NATIONAL CORE OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

FREEDOM RIDES ROLL ON

In the last CORElator, James Farmer, CORE national director, issued a plea from jail in Mississippi for more Freedom Rides. His plea has been answered and continues to be answered.

The total number of Freedom Riders who have converged on Jackson, Mississippi and have been jailed there now totals 160. But there are also Freedom Rides through other sections of the south.

CORE organized an interfaith, interracial group including four rabbis, seven Negro ministers and seven white ministers who rode from Washington to Tallahassee. Ten of the group, together with three members of Tallahassee CORE, were arrested for "unlawful assembly" at the Tallahassee airport restaurant (operated by Union News Co.), when they attempted to get food prior to their flight home. The arrest came after they had sat-in without eating for an entire day. They were convicted and sentenced to $500 fines or 60 days in jail. The case is being appealed. Following negotiations with CORE in New York, Unions News announced it would serve everybody, whereupon city offi-

(*Continued on page 2*)

CORE-LATOR

Published by the CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY, 38 Park Row, New York 38
A National Organization with affiliated local groups working to abolish racial discrimination by direct nonviolent methods
James Farmer, *national director* Jim Peck, *editor*
JUNE 1961 No. 90

JAILED FREEDOM RIDERS VISITED

by Charles Oldham

(Editor's Note—Charles Oldham, CORE national chairman, was one of the attorneys at the first trial of Freedom Riders in Jackson, Mississippi. As this CORElator goes to press, 160 Freedom Riders have been arrested in Jackson. Most of them have chosen to remain jailed-in rather than pay fines. Two of them, Price Chatham and Newell Weber have been on a hunger strike since their arrest June 2 and June 6, respectively.)

This photo shows James Farmer, CORE national director, heading a group of Freedom Riders being transferred from the Hinds County Jail to the penal farm. Following an incident of violence by guards there, the Riders were returned to the county jail and finally transferred to the Mississippi State Prison in Parchman, where they are lodged in the maximum security section.

The maximum security section consists of a flat one-story building surrounded by a high wire fence topped with rolls of barbed wire. Entrance is gained by passing through the chain link fence at a gate operated by a guard in one of the four towers. The building has three sets of locked doors which must be opened before you can get to the cell block.

After being ushered into the cell block, I found that the Freedom Riders had brought integration to Mississippi—not in interstate travel where segregation is illegal—but to the penitentiary where the State of Mississippi has complete control. White and Negro prisoners are housed in the same cell block.

The Freedom Riders are subjected to the same rules as maximum security felons. They are rarely permitted out of their cells. They are not permitted

(*Continued on*

CORE-lator, June 1961

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Freedom Rides

PAGE 12 THE LOUISIANA WEEKLY, New Orleans, Louisiana, Saturday, December 16, 1961

Freedom Riders Tell Of Lurid Experiences In Miss. Jails

Three members of the Congress of Racial Equality who were convicted as Freedom Riders and who recently completed their jail terms in Jackson, Mississippi, say the penal institutions of that state are sub-standard, regardless of what penologists contended during a recent meeting here.

Julia Aaron, Doris Castle and Jerome Smith, some of the first Freedom Riders who ventured to test the segregation policies in travel facilities at Jackson, Miss., served a combined total of 235 days in the Mississippi jail.

SAME SHEET 50 DAYS

The trio told the Louisiana Weekly that conditions in the Jackson jail are sub-standard and that they, as well as the regular prisoners suffered alike. Freedom Riders, however, were harrassed and experienced difficulty in receiving mail and in procuring medical aid, they declared.

Jerome Smith said he slept on the same sheet for 50 days before receiving fresh linen, then slept twenty-odd days on the changed linen before being released. During the time, also, Smith said, he wrore the same trousers and shirt for 70 days before receiving fresh clothing.

TELL OF SACRIFICE -- Having completed terms in Mississippi jails for "Freedom Riding," and having been recently sentenced to jail in New Orleans for picketing Canal Street stores which have jim crow lunch counters, these three young members of the Congress of Racial Equality tell their experiences to Rev. Avery C. Alexander, chairman of the Consumers League of Greater New Orleans. Left to right are Jerome Smith, Julia Aaron, Doris Jean Castle and Rev. Alexander. -- (PHOTO BY PORTER)

Excerpt from "Freedom Riders Tell of Lurid Experiences in Miss. Jail" in *The Louisiana Weekly*. New Orleans, December 16, 1961.

“Rising of the Bread”
Student Sit-ins

CORE-sponsored pickets of lunch counters at McCrory’s and Woolworth’s on Canal Street, New Orleans, circa 1960-1961.

Oretha Castle Haley and Doris Jean Castle (pictured here) were sisters who were members of New Orleans CORE chapter.

Audio Clip: Oretha Castle Haley interview, C.O.R.E. Participation (7:14 minutes)

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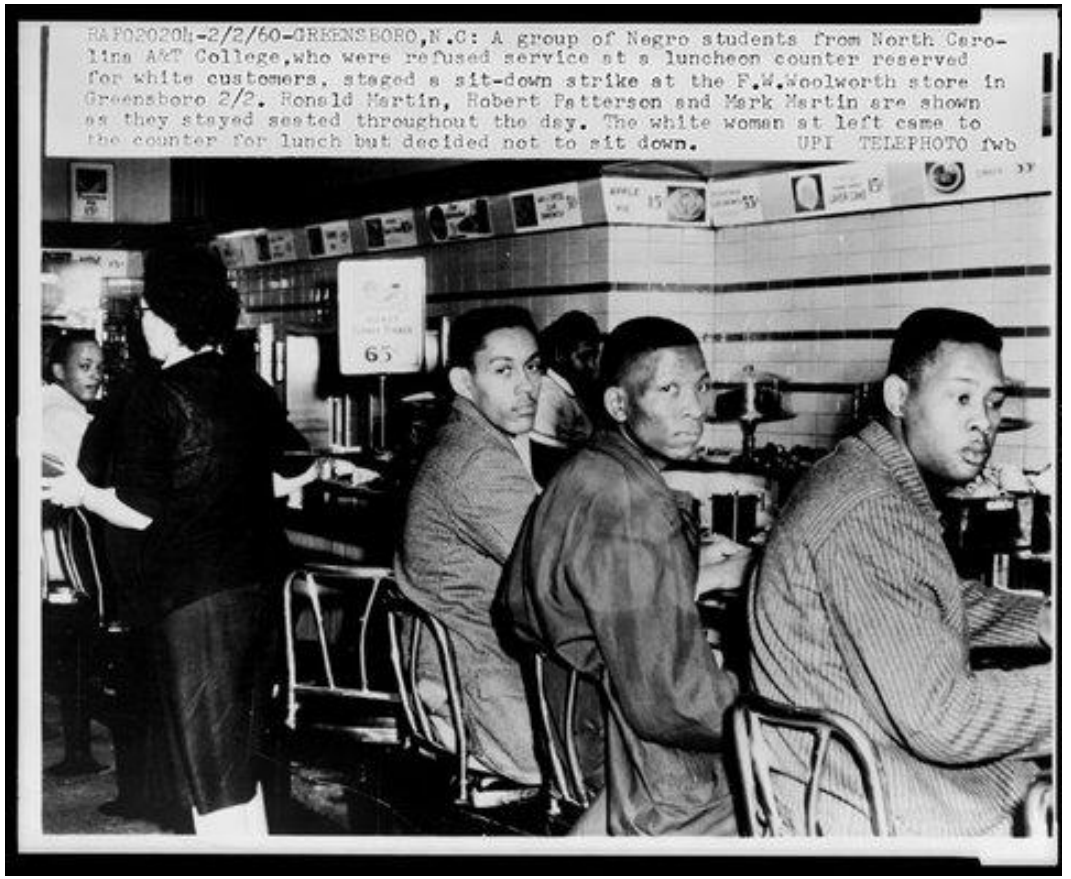
“Rising of the Bread”
Student Sit-ins



Ronald Martin, Robert Patterson, and Mark Martin stage sit-down strike after being refused service at an F.W. Woolworth luncheon counter, Greensboro, N.C. 1960. *New York World-Telegram & Sun Photograph Collection*. From Library of Congress.

Audio Clip: Oretha Castle Haley interview, Sit-ins (5:13 minutes)

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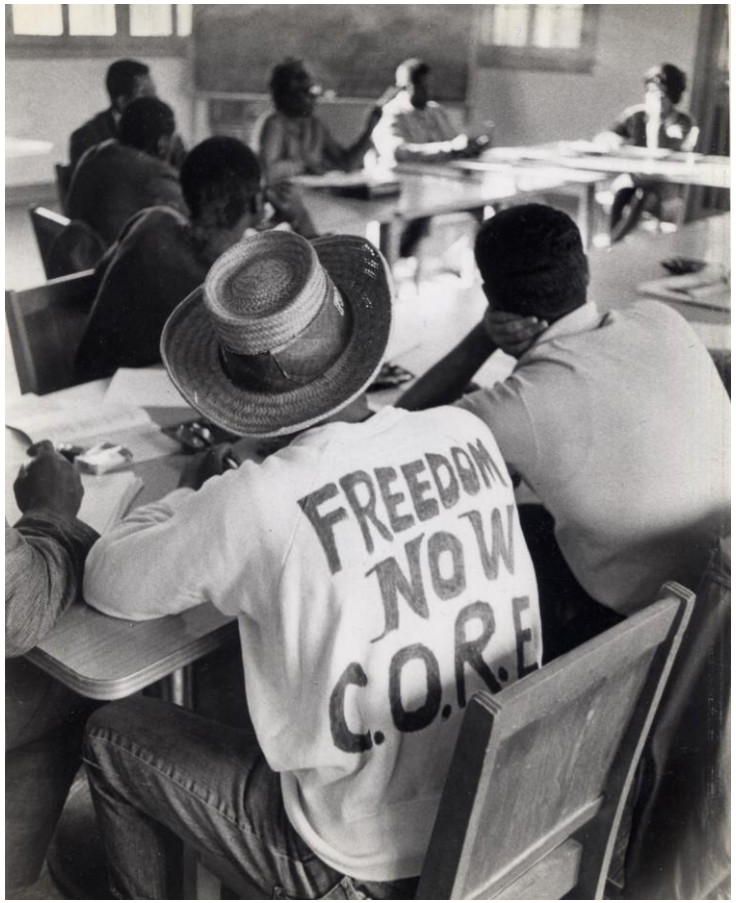
"Rising of the Bread"
Student Sit-ins



Training session for CORE and SEDFRE workers, Gulfside, Mississippi, January 1966

“Rising of the Bread”
Student Sit-ins

CORE-sponsored pickets of McCrory’s and Woolworth’s on Canal Street, New Orleans, circa 1960-1961.

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"Rising of the Bread"
Student Sit-ins

CORE-sponsored pickets of McCrory's and Woolworth's on Canal Street, New Orleans, circa 1960-1961.

“Rising of the Bread”
Student Sit-ins

CORE workers singing freedom song after a rally,
Jonesboro, Louisiana, March 1965

Audio Clip: “Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me ‘Round” (4:00 minutes)

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March on Washington

Photograph of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, 1963.

Audio Clip: “Keep Your Eyes on the Prize” (3:01 minutes)

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March on Washington

Photograph of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, 1963

Audio Clip: “We Shall Overcome” (2:34 minutes)

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