

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Meg Redden

COLLECTION: 4700.0740

IDENTIFICATION: Member of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)

INTERVIEWER: Greta de Jong

PROJECT: Civil Rights

INTERVIEW DATES: December 8, 1996

FOCUS DATES: Summer of 1964

ABSTRACT:

Tape 1074, Side A

Introduction; born in Indiana in 1944; grew up in Iowa in a Baptist middle-class white family; believed most outrageous discrimination to be the separate facilities for blacks and whites; saw a lot of press coverage on the racial situation in the South urging her to become active; assigned term paper in high school with the topic American Negro; attended an integrated high school; small percentage of black people in Iowa so no racial problems; saw CORE announcement at Baptist college in Kansas in Spring of 1964 and applied; CORE designed to collect evidence against the state of Louisiana that the voter registration test was unconstitutional; CORE project started on June 10, 1964; training for CORE took place in Plaquemine; worked for project in Point Coupee Parish; moved to East Feliciana Parish on June 24 because registration books were going to be opened for two days; more violence in West Feliciana; training on protection, canvassing methods, filling out voter registration forms etc.; reactions from white people and black people in the community such as hate and fear from the white people and hospitality from the black people; example of Thelma Caulfield owning a gun because she was active in the freedom movement; description of the poverty the Caulfield family experienced as a result of racism; description of intimidation and violence used to scare those active in the freedom movement; movement supported most by churches where most of the clinics were held; CORE organized project from the main office in New York; goals of CORE project were to support the suit by the Justice Department and to form a freedom delegation to go the Democratic National Convention; leader of the project was Ronnie Moore; later got involved in anti-Vietnam war demonstrations and the equal rights movement; now works in business.

TAPES: 1 (T1074)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 45 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 31 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: None

RESTRICTIONS: None

