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8/25/71

CORE to step up separate schools campaign in state

A national black organization opposing "forced" integration and advocating separate black and white schools controlled by the communities which use them Tuesday announced stepped-up efforts to sell their program in Alabama.

Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) national associate director Victor Solomon said at a morning press conference in Birmingham he will meet with groups in Birmingham, Mobile, Montgomery and possibly Huntsville.

CORE in earlier years was one of the civil rights groups most active in the South pushing for integration with such activities as the freedom rides.

SOLOMON SAID CORE's "most pressing" interest in Alabama at this point is the school situation, but he did not announce any definite plans to try to intervene in current school desegregation cases in the state.

He said he felt local groups working with CORE would certainly be concerned about such cases as that in Hobson City, and that there is a "possibility" they might "choose to intervene."

CORE's "Southern thrust" announcement came the same day officials in Hobson City and Calhoun County were in Birmingham federal court seeking to maintain separate, community-connected schools. It also came in the midst of announcements from Gov. George Wallace seeking to preserve neighborhood schools through executive edict.

may coincide with some of Gov. Wallace's position.

"We need as many friends as we can get," he said.

The Birmingham group working with CORE is headed by J. J. Israel, a local public relations man. Also meeting with Solomon Tuesday morning were Rev. J. L. Ware, president of the Birmingham Baptist Ministers Conference and Rev. H. L. Parker, a



JUDGE POINTER

minister formerly of Birmingham who has been working in New Mexico during the past year.

CORE has previously suggested a school plan for Mobile which would establish separate black and white school systems, each under the complete control of the race using the schools. The plan would provide for the systems to join voluntarily in integrated programs.

"WE BELIEVE there is value to neighborhood schools where the people feel they are truly theirs and where they have a chance to make excellent schools," Solomon said.

"And we are talking about going to the point where blacks can have power and control they have never had."

Solomon said CORE does not reject integration as a method toward black equality in education in all cases. But, he said, current integration efforts in the South are hurting blacks with such results as "widespread displacement of teachers and principals."

The CORE official said he is not disturbed that some of his group's ideas may coincide with some of his group's ideas

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