

**1960s**

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**"Philadelphia Citizens Ask Rights Guarantee"**

**NO AUTHOR GIVEN**

# Philadelphia Citizens Asks Rights Guarantee

PHILADELPHIA — The U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals, which is now headed by Judge William Hastie, learned here last week that there are apparently misunderstandings a-plenty about the purposes and motives of Negro and civil rights leaders and groups.

This fact developed in Federal Court here last week before the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed a suit which arose over a charge that the Philadelphia Police Department has misused its power and denied the civil rights of citizens under Police Commissioner Frank Rizzo.

The Court said that it would give Community Legal Services which brought the suit time to further amend its petition for an injunction and indicated it might consider hearing testimony on such a plea if the new reasons for such a suit warranted it.

The suit asked that the Federal Court appoint an "overseer" for the Philadelphia Police Department to see that the civil rights of citizens are respected.

The police Commissioner is accused of personally leading the heavy police contingent which violently quelled a 3,500 Negro student demonstration on Nov. 17 at the School Board Administration Building.

Civil rights leaders and many witnesses claim that the student protest was surely but perfectly orderly, until Rizzo and his police contingent began violently breaking it up.

One of the principals in the suit, William Mathis, chairman of the Philadelphia Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), has been enjoined in a companion Philadelphia

Common Pleas Court injunction, along with Walter Palmer, head of the Black Unity Movement, from organizing demonstrations during school hours.

Mathis testimony at the Federal Court hearing implied that he "could care less" about the injunction and that he certainly was not guilty of organizing the 150 student demonstrations in question.

Mathis said that for several years he has been of the opinion that demonstrations and picketing are not accomplishing anything in the civil rights movement and are ineffective and passé.

He pointed out that several leaders of CORE and a few other Negro organizations throughout the nation say that they feel the same way about such demonstrations. CORE's national chairman Floyd B. McKissick has made such statements.

Another of the misunderstandings which was analyzed during the Federal Court hearing was whether the Community Legal Services, Inc. project which is a program funded with federal, state and local anti-poverty funds was properly empowered to bring the suit in behalf of financially poor injured students against Police Commissioner Rizzo, an agent of the city government which finances the program.

Opponents of Community Legal Services bringing the suit contended that the poverty agency's legal action was virtually a demand for Police Commissioner Rizzo's ouster. Some Negro civil rights leaders have actually demanded that Rizzo be removed due to his handling of numerous racial riots and

incidents.

However, Mrs. Lou Foret, attorney for Community Legal Services, told the Federal Court that the suit she filed was never intended to oust Police Commissioner Rizzo.

She said her clients, the financially poor Negro children who were injured by police in the demonstration and their parents were merely asking the Federal Court to appoint a temporary receiver to institute "certain improvements" in the Philadelphia Police Department which would guarantee that all of the rights of citizens would be respected.

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Pittsburgh Courier

"Philly Holds CORE Leader, 3 More in School Protest"

NO AUTHOR GIVEN

PHILADELPHIA -- Four Philadelphia leaders, one of them, William Mathis, Philadelphia leader of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) have been held for court on charges growing out of the rioting which resulted when police broke up a protest by some 5,500 students at the School Board Administration Building here last Nov 17.