

1000 riders to hit Rt. 40

By GEORGE W. COLLINS

BALTIMORE

The threat of a massive freedom ride of "not 1,000, but 3,000," flared anew this week when several Route 40 restaurants reneged on their promise to desegregate by Nov. 22.

The Congress on Racial Equality called off a Nov. 11 demonstration when 35 owners, through the Maryland Commission on Interracial Problems and Relations, agreed to drop color bars.

However, Julius Hobson, CORE regional director, told the AFRO this week that a preliminary check showed that at least 10 of the 35 were still refusing to serve all.

The CORE official said a team of 20 persons would devote the weekend to checking all restaurants on the list.

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IT WILL report its findings at the end of the check, Mr. Hobson said, adding:

"IF IT SHOWS that a substantial number of the restaurants have acted in bad faith by reneging on their promise, there will be not 1,000, but 3,000 freedom riders on Route 40, not for one weekend, but every weekend."

Mr. Hobson also charged the commission with joining reluctant restaurant owners in a doublecross to get the Nov. 11 demonstration called

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-1,000 riders

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off. "Either the commission knew what was going on, or it listed owners who were not in favor of the proposal in the first place," Mr. Hobson declared.

The director said evidently the commission, like some of the owners, think "we're just playing with this," and added:

"I'm not accepting any more invitations to discuss anything." . . .

HE SAID the commission had asked him to attend a conference in Baltimore Wednesday, but "I won't be there."

"At these meetings government agencies and so-called liberals bargain away the rights of the minorities and I will have no part of it," he declared.

Asked when, if he determines the need, the rides will be held, Mr. Hobson told the AFRO:

"No dates have been set, but if preliminary checks are accurate, by the middle of December, freedom riders will not only be on Route 40 but all over Maryland." . . .

AMONG THE Route 40 restaurants agreeing to serve all by Nov. 22, with a promise that all others along the Maryland and Delaware section of the interstate highway scheduled to drop color bars by Dec. 15, were:

DELAWARE — Gleneste Glasgow Arms, Glass M. D. Gateway, Lyn Peter Pan, M. and

er; . . .
Erving, Sherwood Diner
the two Howard John-
and restaurants.

MARYLAND — Whistle Stop, Canvasback, Bayou, Skyway, Rite Tower, Flying Clipper, Academy, Redwood, Ideal, Green Derby Mayflower, Bridge Dinner;

Also Town House, A and P Aberdeen Restaurant, Edgewood Diner, White Star, Drago's, Bonnie Brae, Lakeside, S and E, Williamsburg, Double T, Sorrenti Pizza;

And Little Chef, Chesapeake, Swiss Inn, George's Restaurant and Drive-Inn, Sam's Truck Stop, Anchor Drive Inn, Chesapeake Steak and Seafood House, Madison House, North East Drive Inn and Essen.

The CORE official also accused the commission, headed by William C. Rogers, of being either "dishonest or careless." . . .

SEVERAL OWNERS on the list, preliminary reports show, Mr. Hobson said, already serve all customers or claimed they did not tell the commission they would voluntarily desegregate.

He also hit claims of Tony Konstant, chairman of a committee of Route 40 owners, who said some were angered because the list was published prematurely.

"The list was not published until the 21st. Besides that's no excuse because they knew it would be published in the beginning," he declared.

Meanwhile, the Rev. Dr. J. Logan Kearsce, leader of the fight against restaurant segregation in Baltimore, held no demonstrations over the weekend for the first time in three weeks.

For the past two weeks, more than 500 demonstrators sat-in and picketed at segregated restaurants throughout the city, and Annapolis. . . .

FORTY - SEVEN PERSONS, mostly students, charged with trespassing with trespassing. Most are free on bail awaiting jury trials.

However, several of those arrested in Annapolis refused bail and are being held at the Anne Arundel County Jail.

To protest the arrest of the students, one of whom is still on a hunger strike, demonstrators have been picketing the jail and the governor's mansion since Thanksgiving.

Dr. Kearsce, who said he halted the protest this week to "map new strategy," led a delegation of ministers and a business man in a sit-in Wednesday at Hooper's Restaurant. All were arrested and held for action of the grand jury.

The leader was arrested at Hooper's Nov. 11 when he and other demonstrators sought service there. That case is also pending.

Among new techniques and strategy planned by Dr. Kearsce is greater participation in the movement by prominent Baltimoreans. . . .

"IN THE next few days," he promised, "religious leaders from all denominations will be my guests for dinner at one of the downtown restaurants," he told the AFRO.

Businessmen, educators and other prominent citizens have also notified him of their desire to participate, the minister told the AFRO.

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