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CURE

CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

ROOM 502, 520 E STREET, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 1
AUGUST 1970

Japanese Americans

Organization presses for needed reforms

by DON ESTES, *President San Diego Chapter, Japanese American Citizens League*

"For whom does the bell toll...?"

"All Japanese Persons, both alien and non alien, will be evacuated from the above described area by 12 o'clock noon, Wednesday, April 8, 1942..."

If asked which of the country's ethnic minorities had been subjected to the most discrimination and the worst injustices, very few Americans would think of answering: "the Japanese Americans." However if we consider it from the frame of reference of persons alive today, the answer may well be correct.

Like the Blacks, the Japanese Americans have been subject to color prejudice. Like the Jews, they have been feared and hated as hyper-efficient competitors. As a group they have been viewed by the majority as agents of an overseas enemy. Conservatives, liberals, radicals, the local sheriffs, the Federal Government, and the Supreme Court have all cooperated to deny this group the most elementary of human rights.

"No Japanese person will be permitted to enter or leave the above prescribed area after 8 a.m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the Provost Marshall...."

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) was founded in 1934 on the recognition that the first generation Japanese (Issei) and his children (Nisei) faced problems and adjustments that were, initially at least, peculiar to them. California (and the West) has long been noted for its violent anti-oriental posture. In the early decades of this century, our press was marked by paranoiac, mass anti-Japanese agitation. This prejudice recognized no boundaries of social class: the labor-dominated Asiatic Exclusion League lived in a strange fellowship with large California landowners. In a very short time the rest of the nation adopted what was referred to as the "California position," in opposing the "Yellow Peril" until Asians were finally and totally excluded from the U.S. by the immigration laws of the nineteen-twenties.

"Evacuees must carry with them on departure for the reception center the following property:..."

The J.A.C.L. is at present the only major national organization of Asian Americans that maintains a full-time Washington representative. The organization's membership consists of some ninety chap-

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Our New-Old Direction: Education

It is no accident that whenever serious minded persons begin to discuss the ills of society and possible remedies, more often than not the talk turns to education.

This happens with us, as Plato reports it happened with Socrates and his friends long ago, not simply because we ourselves may be involved in the imperfect art of accumulating and transmitting knowledge.

Nor does it happen solely because of our concern for children, our recognition that, as Martin Buber said, "One cannot in the nature of things expect a little tree that has been turned into a club to put forth leaves." *(A statistic here: From Mississippi recently have come study results showing that 244 black infants having a developmental I.Q. averaging 117 – as opposed to the 100 I.Q. normal for whites in America – had dropped, by the time they turned three years of age, to an average I.Q. of 86.)*

No, beyond these concerns, there is a further, overwhelming reason that we spend much of our time pondering the best course for education. It is for basically the same reason that John Birchers have mounted their SOS (Save Our Schools), and white Southerners have set up segregated private schools. For we share with them a common recognition - what Socrates recognized so long ago in postulating the conditions under which his Republic

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Color Our City Integrated

by NIKKI SYMINGTON

Business as usual is not going to be as usual this year. We are hitching our wagon to a brighter star -- more action and hopefully more involvement from members.

First on our agenda is an attempt to underwrite the newsletter financially. We are hoping to find donors in the business community to contribute one page or even one issue of the newsletter. George Scott of Walker Scott has been very generous and started us off with high hopes and 1,000 dollars.

These contributions would allow us to use membership funds to expand circulation, open an office, and engender greater activities within the community.

The least glamorous of all work is laying the foundation of a beautiful thing -- Beautiful people, come help us build our financial foundation so that we might start painting our city "integrated." We think this newsletter needs to be black, white, brown, and read all over!

If you are charming, humorous, or just plain persistent, we need you to help raise money. If you or your business could, would, will, might donate, or if you know of one who should (your competitor), call Estelle Wing, 224-8432, or Nikki Symington, 447-6254. The first 500 to call will receive life sized, autographed pictures of the CURE board.

County Human Rights Plans Move Toward Reality

by C. SHUFORD SWIFT

A sub-committee of the County Ad Hoc Committee for a Human Relations Commission has been appointed to begin work with the County Administrative Officer. Its job will be to develop final wording for the joint powers agreement through which the county-wide human relations agency will be established.

At the same time the public will be asked to submit names of people to serve on the governing board of the new agency.

The action was taken by eleven members of the Ad Hoc Committee, who met July 20 to proceed with the formation of the proposed new human relations agency.

The committee's recommendations, submitted April 1 after five months of public hearings, had been referred by the supervisors to Fred Morey, the County Administrative Officer, for review. Morey reported back to the supervisors on June 18, substantially supporting the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee.

The Ad Hoc Committee questioned Morey very closely Monday evening on the matter of subpoena powers. He had told the supervisors they could not legally grant the power of subpoena to the proposed agency, even though the request for subpoena power was one of the strongest recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Morey told the committee that soundings in Sacramento showed legislation to provide this power was not a practical possibility at this time. But he said the joint powers agreement itself could be written to require participating cities to make information available at the request of the agency.

Morey indicated preliminary discussions with San Diego supported this concept. Mayor Curran, in his testimony before the Ad Hoc Committee in January, endorsed subpoena powers for the agency.

A governing board of 15 to 24 members was recommended to the supervisors by Morey. However, in discussion with the Ad Hoc Committee he was very flexible on this point, as on others. He was more interested in getting on with establishing the agency than getting stalled on details.

The consensus was that a 48 member board was needed to get the broad representation that is essential for significant community input and control. A smaller group could be elected by the governing board from their members to carry out its policies. This smaller body might be called the agency or commission, but be responsible to the community-oriented board.

The sub-committee composed of Charles Reid, chairman, Ernie Azhocar and Mrs. E. C. Pengelley, will give principal attention to the relation of the governing board to the smaller executive group, and to the provision for access by the proposed agency to needed information, in lieu of subpoena powers. They will make contact with other cities in the county in developing the final agreement.

The Ad Hoc Committee is seeking people from the communities of San Diego County to serve on the governing board. They should be people actively involved and knowledgeable about their own community. Names should be submitted to: Ad Hoc Committee for a Human Relations Commission, c/o County Administrative Officer, County Administration Center, San Diego, Ca., 92101.

OUR NEW-OLD DIRECTION: EDUCATION

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might exist - that the kind of education we have determines the kind of society we have.

All this is by way of prelude to saying that the CURE board of directors has decided to concentrate its energies, as well as the rather prodigious but perhaps unfocused energies of other concerned citizens, on the problems of achieving good education, which necessarily means racially integrated education, in the San Diego area.

Those familiar with CURE recognize that this represents not a new commitment but the clarification and strengthening of an old. Integrated education is good education, Dr. Paul Salmon told the CURE luncheon, and this we have long believed.

Since the beginning, the CURE Newsletter has been a vehicle for ideas on education, much of the discussion at board meetings has concerned some phase of this topic, and board members have communicated CURE's stand on various educational issues to the Board of Education.

While continuing these activities, CURE hopes to engage its members and others in an enlarged campaign to bring into being here, for our children and ourselves, the kind of education on which a better society, a more perfect union of all peoples, can grow.

The CURE board believes that by providing a forum, through the newsletter and through periodic public meetings, it can help San Diegans come together to work toward common educational goals, both short and long term, on the way to integrated education.

Our job is the easier - though it can only be difficult - because other groups and individuals are already deeply involved in different phases of the problem. The CURE board hopes that these persons will share with us their research and expertise;

Father Douglas Regin of Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church, 239-1231, is chairman of the CURE committee on education. He will welcome expressions of interest from those who have time and energy to work. The work may vary from setting up future CURE luncheons to observing meetings of the Board of Education to speaking before PTA's. What we do, how much we do, depends upon the talent and dedication of those who volunteer.

One further point -- this does NOT mean that CURE considers itself a Johnny One Note organization. Our interest in the problems of hunger, housing, employment, law, and police, should and will continue.

But CURE must recognize both its limitations and its possibilities. By concentrating on one area which we consider basic to all others, and one in which, further, we stand a fighting chance of being heard, we intend to involve more of our members, increase our effectiveness, and, most importantly, bring about change.

"Power to the people", modern revolutionaries cry. But we would both modify and enlarge the slogan by recalling another. Achieving a decent education for their children was one of the overriding concerns of the Northern black men who met in conventions before the Civil War, (as it has been since. And this was their maxim: "Knowledge is power." Knowledge is power, power to the people.

-ALC.

JAPANESE AMERICANS

(continued from page 1)

ters with a total membership of over 26,000. Since WW II, the J.A.C.L. has taken the lead in pushing for the liberalization of legislation dealing with Asian Americans. The Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1952, the abolishment of the "Alien Land Laws" of sixteen western states, and the abolishment of the National Origins system are a few examples of our activities.

"The size and number of packages is limited to that which can be carried by the individual or family group."

Today the J.A.C.L. is broadening its scope to include the Sansei (third generation) and Yensie (fourth).

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

Repeal of the Emergency Detention Act is still pending before the House Internal Security Committee. In the words of the ACLU this provides "virtually unlimited powers to round up dissidents and place them in concentration camps for unlimited periods of time -- all without meaningful due process."

The Senate has already passed a repeal bill. Hearings have been completed in the house save for one witness -- Richard Kleindienst, Deputy Attorney General of the Justice Department. He was asked to testify weeks ago but has not yet appeared. Letters urging him to appear and to testify in support of repeal will help bring the hearings to a close and move the bill to the House floor.

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Concern for other Asian Americans has also come to the fore. The conditioning of the Asian (and White) mind and attitudes by the schools and the society appear almost like a conspiracy. The lack of sensitivity of White Americans toward Asian Americans is seen and felt every day. The difficult time in obtaining the repeal of Title II of the Internal Security Act of 1950 is witness to this fact.

Title II, a product of the Communist hysteria of the 1950's, is a law making detention legal without benefit of due process. Since this law has never been applied, it cannot be tested for its constitutionality. The existence of this act makes detention like that faced by Japanese Americans in WW II even easier. More importantly, this law enables the person or persons using it to do so without being held accountable for their actions. We know all too well from past experience that in time of crisis there is usually hysteria and the tendency to take the most expedient course.

"To repudiate a supervisor's resolution supporting the commander-in-chief in time of war is cheap and ill-advised."

Supervisor De Graff Austin
March 30, 1969

To date some two hundred organizations, including the California Legislature, have urged the Congress to repeal Title II. The President has indicated he supports repeal and the Senate has voted repeal by a large margin. Today the whole repeal action is blocked by the actions of one man -- Representative Icord of Missouri, chairman of the House Internal Security Committee.

During the repeal campaign in San Diego, the local J.A.C.L. chapter requested support for the repeal from the County Board of Supervisors. At that time we asked, through Jack Walsh, that a 1942 resolution of the Board of Supervisors that said in part:

"It is impossible to distinguish between loyal and disloyal Japanese." ". . . it would be dangerous to Japanese to move back here," he rescinded.

Supervisor Austin opposed the motion to rescind. It should be noted publically that Austin headed the local Parlor of the Sons and Daughters of the Golden West during the war. This group has a long and notorious history of anti-oriental positions dating into the twenties. The same Mr. Austin was instrumental in 1943 for the local distribution of an initiative to amend the Alien Property Act of 1920 so that no Japanese or any other individual holding dual citizenship could own land in California. It must be remembered that at this time, and until 1952, no immigrant Oriental was eligible for U.S. citizenship.

Today the San Diego J.A.C.L. Chapter is concerned that the San Diego City Schools is making little or no effort to develop Asian American study materials. Further, we note that little real effort is being made to recruit Asian American teachers. In terms of five years ago, the proportion of Asian American teachers to total staff has dropped 12.5 per cent.

The failure of the district to develop Asian American administrators is supported by the fact that out of a total administrative staff of 434, the City Schools does not have one Asian American administrator. This fact speaks only too clearly for itself.

Finally, much has been said and written about the WASP myth that Asian Americans "have made it" -- specifically Americans of Japanese ancestry have been used by the White community as the example. However, that idea is just a myth with a long bitter history to prove it just isn't so.

"Red China has been flooding the country with its propaganda and there are over 300,000 Chinese in the United States, some of whom could be susceptible to recruitment either through ethnic ties or hostage situations because of relatives in Communist China."

"J. Edgar Hoover, to a House Appropriations Committee, April 1969.

"The bell tolls for thee..."

Better Americans in a Greater America.---

Motto of the Japanese American Citizens league.

CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY
279-8809

I am interested in the areas of:
.....education.....housing.....employment.....other

I would like to participate in:
.....volunteer bureau
.....speakers bureau
.....writing/production of newsletter
.....fund raising
.....community organization

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Sometimes we receive requests for use of our open mailing list from groups dealing with solutions to racial problems. Please indicate on which list your name should be included ..... open mailing list ..... restricted list.

Look for the Union Label

by BILL ROE

On March 31 of this year, the United Farmworkers Organizing Committee won for a small segment of American Farmworkers in the table grape industry the benefits of a union contract.

For those farm workers and many others, the past four months have produced a harvest of many contract victories. These victories have given renewed strength to the philosophy of a non-violent struggle for justice.

However, this struggle for the migrant workers is not over. Many stores in San Diego are now carrying Union grapes but only a few are labeling them. If you wish to support the grape workers, ask to see the Union Label. For more accurate information you may call the Grape Boycott Office at 295-4200. A free monthly newsletter is available for the asking. Remember, buy Union Grapes!

WHERE THE ACTION IS

There is a critical need for a preschool facility in the Linda Vista neighborhood. Because of a successful pilot project held last spring, the San Diego Branch of the American Association of University Women is helping the Linda Vista Neighborhood Service Center, A M.A.A.C. project directed by Mrs. Ana Ramirez, to organize a preschool for the fall.

Individuals or organizations who are willing to volunteer cash donations for operating expenses or material and equipment are urged to contact either Mrs. Louis C. Adamo at 453-5063 or Mrs. Hans Emil Brandt at 222-5847.

The League of Women Voters is sponsoring two programs concerning law and justice. A Mock Trial will be held on Sept. 17, 7 p.m., USD Law School. Jury will be picked from the audience. The League's Administration of Justice Committee will have informative meetings with speakers on July 30, Aug. 6, and Aug. 13. 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. For information call 232-8583.

GuideLine is a new San Diego County information and referral service. If you can't remember that name, that number, that service, ...If you need translation service, ...If you aren't sure what an agency does or doesn't do, ... If you need resource information, ... Call 234-4665.

Seven Maids A-Cooking - We were gratified that seven CURE women responded to our Cook Book idea. Now we need recipes. Send us your best--especially those that might be representative of various nationalities. Also send us your favorite stories about food. Did your child say something cute about eating?

During the past month the CURE board voted to take the following actions:

- The petitions urging school integration were sent to President Nixon with a letter asking that we get on with the job. Final total: 858 signers. Copies of the petitions were also sent to:

Governor Reagan, California Supt. of Schools Rafferty, Attorney General Lynch, State Board of Education, each of the state and federal legislators from San Diego County, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, state and federal legislative committees on education, San Diego County Board of Education, and the San Diego Board of Education.

- On June 23 Shuf Swift, president of the CURE board, appeared before the city council during the budget hearings to urge that the city set aside money for a human relations agency. None had been specifically allocated in the budget, but we were told that there was money in the unallocated fund that could be used if the city and county decided on a plan which required such funds.
- On June 30 Shuf Swift appeared before the San Diego School Board to urge that money be set aside in the school district's budget for school integration. He deplored the fact that the expansion of the Fremont-Silvergate pilot projects had been eliminated.
- On July 12 Larry Carlin, Shuf Swift, and Melba Margolis took part in Jim Hill's talk show "Keep the Faith" on KCBQ.
- On July 16 Rev. Tom McPhatter and Shuf Swift appeared on Roy Elwell's talk show "Topic" on KFMB.

CURE

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The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a forum for the dissemination of information and the expression of opinion among those concerned with combating racism. CURE believes the opinions herein need to be expressed, although they may not represent official policy of CURE.

Chairman Board of Directors: Shuf Swift 223-8602
Co-Editors: Nikki Symington, 466-7592
Aimee Lee Cheek, 286-8723
Editorial Board: Richard McKenna, Eric Odendahl, Susan M. Burson, Clarence Irving, Al Urista

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ROOM 502, 520 E STREET, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101

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