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CURE
CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY
ROOM 502, 520 E STREET, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101

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REBUILD RACIALLY IMBALANCED SCHOOLS???

By *Helen Burke*

12 of the 18 elementary schools, 2 of the 3 junior high schools, and 2 of the 4 senior high schools which are scheduled to be rebuilt on their original sites in San Diego are RACIALLY IMBALANCED. This is according to the definition added to the Administrative Code by the State Board of Education at its meeting in San Diego on February 13 -- that a racially imbalanced school is one that differs by more than 15 percentage points from the district - wide percentage for race and ethnicity.

The voters in San Diego are asked to approve a bond authorization of $91,310,000 in a special election on March 11. $25,839,000 of this amount is for replacing 26 "unsafe" schools that cannot be used for classroom purposes after 1975. 17 of these 26 schools are RACIALLY IMBALANCED. Another $42,598,000 of the total amount is to build new schools to meet enrollment growth needs. No doubt most of the "new schools" will be on the fringes of the city and will be as RACIALLY IMBALANCED as Patrick Henry High School and most of the other newer buildings.

Two facts have to be faced: (1) 26 schools cannot be used after 1975; (2) space does have to be provided for anticipated growth. Is there an alternative to rebuilding the 26 schools as now located and building "more-of-the-same" new schools?

The educational park idea, many people think, is the best alternative. The clustering together on one site (from 25 to 100 acres) of 15,000 - 30,000 students would not only improve racial balance but also would raise the quality of educational opportunity to new high levels. More effective and economical use can be made of such expensive facilities as gymnasiums, libraries, cafeterias, and auditoriums by eliminating the need for duplication in small neighborhood schools all over the district. Comprehensive medical, dental, and counseling facilities, closed circuit TV and computer technology would be feasible with so many students at one site. The learning opportunities for elementary-level children in music, art, physical education, foreign language, science, and mathematics would be greatly expanded through the use of specialists in those fields, who no longer would be traveling great distances to separate schools. Whole units could be designed with just the very young children in mind, because there would be more than 1,000 children at each grade level.

14 of the 26 schools to be phased out by 1975 are in one geographical area for which one educational park might be feasible: San Diego High, Memorial and Roosevelt Junior Highs, and Grant, Florence, Fremont, Garfield, McKinley, Brooklyn, Sherman, Logan, Emerson, Balboa, and Burbank Elementary Schools. Of the remaining schools there is a nucleus for two more educational parks. Surely some of the projected new schools to meet growth could be incorporated into plans for a comprehensive educational park system.

Many parents, no matter what their race or economic status, will be hesitant about making great changes in the family routine just to improve the education of other people's children. Two-way busing or open transfer plans are not acceptable to many parents for this reason. Many more parents would probably be willing to use public transportation or adjust their own routes to work to get their children to an educational park, if they knew their own children would have richer educational opportunities.

Rebuild another Logan or Sherman or Memorial on the exact same spot???? Some of us are thinking twice before voting for the bond authorization on March 11.

DOOR TO DISCOVERY SLAMS SHUT SUDDENLY

In December the Board of Directors of the Elementary Institute of Science was led to believe that the Office of Economic Opportunity would grant the Institute funds with which to operate until local sources could be explored for funds until February 28, 1969. The Institute was told to spend the funds immediately since it was an administrative decision that could be made locally.

However, on January 26, 1969, the Office of Economic Opportunity was informed that the Institute money was disallowed by the regional office of OEO. The decision has been appealed. The Institute, with an indebtedness of almost $2,500 did not learn about the Regional action until Sunday, February 2, 1969. Since the Institute is deeply in debt, has no funds with which to operate, and

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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.

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THREE TEEN POSTS TO CLOSE DOORS

Teen Posts in Linda Vista and San Ysidro without immediate help will be forced to close due to a cut in the operating funds of the Mexican American Advisory Committee (MAAC). The three teen posts are financed by the Economic Opportunity Commission(EOC) through the service agency MAAC.

The EOC board has ordered a priority on the financing of the teen posts for at least one more month. Larry Montoya teen post director for MAAC, says that they do not have the money, nor have they received the amount necessary to keep the posts open. The two teen posts and the developing National City Post have been funded in the past on a series of short term periods.

There are teen posts in Linda Vista, San Ysidro, Otay, Imperial Beach, Oceanside, Vista and Three in Southeast San Diego. All are funded from the EOC through other agencies and never directly budgeted. A group of concerned citizens want to change this method of financing the posts. They would like to see all the teen posts incorporated and hope that the EOC would provide a direct, budgeted income. This would allow the establishment of permanent ongoing programs at the youth centers.

The proposal for incorporation would set up a governing board comprised of at least one member of each teen post advisory board. This could faciliate the hiring of a professional staff of advisors, counselors, directors and program developers.

The Advisory board suggests that a self sustaining program which would allow the youth to earn money for themselves, the post they represent and a general scholarship fund would be a positive program.

Advisory board members are now in the process of seeking support for the incorporation plan from business, church, civic and community representatives.

A monetary crisis is present if the teen posts are to remain open five months until EOC summer funds are made available.

Budget figures for the Linda Vista teen post operation for five months are: $150 a month for rent, $800 a month for staff salaries (One full time director, assistant directory and clerk-typist), $200 for entertainment, $300 for program equipment, $300 for program supplies, $75 for office supplies, and $75 for maintenance supplies.

Anyone interested in assisting in the development or financing of the posts may volunteer services by phoning 279-2129 or, after 1 p.m., 278-5453.

DOOR TO DISCOVERY SLAMS SHUT SUDDENLY (Continued)

had no heat because a gas leak necessitated the shutting off of all gas for safety sake, there seems to be no choice but to close the Institute again until further notice and try to raise the funds to pay the debts. The Institute must seek a steady and reliable source of funds.

Recently the Institute received $500.00 from the San Diego Teachers Association - Sears Foundation Award, but that was for the establishment of new programs. It cannot be used to pay debts or for day-to-day operation expenses. Also, $100.00 has been received from Metro, a group sponsored by the Methodist Church and dedicated to working in the inner city. These funds were donated to be used for building materials with which to complete work on the downstairs.

Because there are $2,500 in debts with some bills seriously delinquent, and since there is nothing to pay for day-to-day operation, the Elementary Institute of Science is closing its doors indefinitely. If you care about children and could help, please call Winston Dean 262-2132.

EDITORS NOTE: This is a copy of the letter sent to the Board of Education by the Cure Board expressing this organizations' position and concern in regard to the March 11th Bond election.

On 2/5/69 the Board of Directors of CURE met and discussed the forthcoming school bond issue. Our Board members have always recognized the pressing need for funds to support our educational system, for additions and improvements in school plant, and for upgrading physical facilities.

Yet, our Board members are equally cognizant of the serious implications of the racial imbalance that has existed in our school system and which has increased in the face of the Lindsley report, directives from the State Board of Education, decisions of our highest courts, and a court action presently pending which the Board of Education is vigorously defending.

Had the Board of Education demonstrated by past action its total commitment to improving racial balance and were we convinced that the Board of Education would use bond revenues to alleviate imbalance, we would vigorously support and strongly urge our members and the public at large to support the bond issue.

However, we have not detected any appreciable commitment on the part of the Board of Education to improve racial balance in the city schools.

Accordingly, we most respectfully advise you that we are not urging support of the proposed bond issue at this time. At such time as the Board of Education lets it be widely known by word and deed that racial imbalance will be substantially reduced, and that bond revenues would be committed to this end, we stand ready to throw our full support behind the bond issue.

Classes available at San Diego State's experimental college are open to the public, just come to register.

Leroi Jones and Home; Lonny Rauell, 11 a.m., Monday, 5822 Linda Paseo.

Black Literature; Prescott Nichols, 7 p.m., Thursday, Business Administration 116.

Philosophy and History of the Black Panther Party; Ken Denmon, 7 p.m., Monday, Conference Rooms CDEF, Aztec Center.

Images of The Negro in American Literature; Dr. Karl Keller, 3 p.m. Thursday, Conference Rooms KN, Aztec Center Workshop-Seminar in Community Organization; Dr. Leon Nower, 3:30 Thursday, 5225 Campanile Dr.

What does Joseph McGuire, over 30, college-educated, middle class background, have in common with 321 young men, mostly high school dropouts, mostly under 20, mostly fitting the sociological category of "hard-core, disadvantaged"?

Well, there's his work. As Executive Director of Better Jobs Through Training, Inc., a federally funded project, he is vitally involved in the process of readying these young men for a move from the ranks of the unemployed to "meaningful positions" in private industry. "Meaningful" he defines as jobs with a good starting salary and strong possibilities for advancement.

And there's his skin. Most of the job trainees are black or brown; Joe himself is black.

There is his confidence in youth. "If 18-year-olds could vote," he says, "half of our problems would be solved."

But, most important, there is his almost old-fashioned belief in the second chance. Failure doesn't necessarily doom a man to more failure, he insists. With good training or, preferably, good education ("if the schools were really doing their job, there would be no need for this program," he points out), and with "will," "a man can make it."

Joe grew up in Washington, D.C., where his father worked for the Internal Revenue Service and his mother taught school, and attended Howard University there. Later, after two years of military service, he finished his undergraduate work at Villanova, with a B.S. in Engineering.

Joe found out more about other people, and added to this knowledge through years as a salesman. (In 1957 he moved to San Diego, having come here for a funeral; "I liked the town and stayed.") He served with CIC as Employment Director for a year, nine months of that year as a leader of dialogues at night, before moving into the job training program.

The program, one of several set up around the nation by the Department of Labor, is "necessarily trial and error," since it has no real precedent, but McGuire believes it has a greater chance of success than plans, advocated in some quarters, to funnel federal funds to private industry which would itself set up training programs. Too often, when this has been tried, he points out, the training has been much too restricted, and the trainee's new-found knowledge may become obsolete or useless soon after the government contract expires. "He has learned to fit a particular kind of screw into a particular kind of bolt. But the company buys a machine that can do it just as well as he can. So he's out of a job, and the government has wasted a lot of money."

In the ten weeks of training, McGuire hopes to expose the young men "to the total situation." Along with vocational instruction and job-related mathematics and English, the program emphasizes awareness training for both employer and employee. "Each must know what the problems are, not necessarily to change them, but at least to know them and be able to deal with them," McGuire says. "The employer has to learn how to respond to this blackness or brownness, has to learn to handle himself in a white world."

The problems of young trainees are somewhat special (for example, a man may have a high school diploma but only a sixth grade education; the general educational level of the trainees, according to tests, is about eighth grade, although most have completed more schooling than that). But McGuire sees their problems as related to and part of the problems of society as a whole. And it is society as a whole that really concerns him.

"If you upgrade education in your district," he contends, "education will be upgraded in mine."

"If you really want to stamp out narcotics, it will be done."

"If you demand real representation on the city council, you will have it."

"If you can effect interracial housing in your community, it will influence others."

"Any changes that are really beneficial to the quality of human life will filter through from your community to ours."

His own favorite pipedream is the setting up of dialogues, not on racial problems, but on people problems, especially those of parents and children. "All youth is disadvantaged these days," he declares. "Parents fail to participate in schools, social functions, the everyday affairs of their children."

(Continued on back page)

CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

☐ I want to help; please call me. My telephone number is _____

Enclosed is $ _____ for:

_____ Subscription to newsletter
☐ To my address
☐ To names and addresses enclosed

_____ Memberships for me or those whose addresses are enclosed

☐ I cannot send money now but will contribute, time, services, facilities.

☐ I would like to write, research or publish in the newsletter.

I would like to be on the Open ☐ Restricted ☐ Mailing list.

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I am interested in helping in the areas of:

☐ Education ☐ Housing ☐ Employment ☐ Neighborhood discussions ☐ Volunteer bureau ☐ Speakers bureau

☐ "Telephone Tree" ☐ Other (specify) _____

A Membership to CURE includes Newsletter Subscription

where the ACTION is

In this day of many questions and conflicting answers the often asked, and usually unanswered question is "where were you?" Indeed mankind and history may someday shake its head collectively and wonder why so few came to help when humanity cried.

A campaign organization is being formed to promote the return of Leon Williams to the city council in September. Mailers, phoners, fund raisers and campaign funds are needed. Send to 6952 Eldridge St., San Diego, 92120. For further information call Marie Widman 262-6194 or Sylvia Shapiro 583-1626.

The legal problems relating to the Commodity Food Distribution Program have been resolved. Volunteers are needed to help churches distribute food to 21,000 people. Phone the Metro office 234-3158.

The Good Neighbor Center was wiped clean during the Christmas holidays and needs to be restocked with food. Drivers are also needed to supply transportation. Phone Metro 234-3158.

A Design for Action will be sponsored by the Greater Parish Ministry of the Presbyterian church and Metro. The lectures will be held on Sunday evenings April 20th through May 18th. Things are still in the jell at this point. For registration information phone Metro 234-3158.

Episcopal "Design for Understanding", Tuesdays, April 15, 22, 29 and May 6, 13, 20, 27 - 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Great Hall, 5th Ave. at Nutmeg, San Diego. Contact for information Reverend Charles Conder 298-7261. Prices $10 single, $15 couple, $5 student.

The school board has an obligation to replace unsafe schools and to build to meet growth needs. They have an equal and concurrent legal and moral obligation to reduce de-facto segregation. Both obligations are inextricably intertwined. The CURE Board of Directors, (5 of 7 participating), after careful consideration, now oppose the school bonds because the school board has not indicated the funds will also be used to reduce racial imbalance, an equal and concurrent obligation.

The Board of Directors council of San Diego County of Churches at their regular meeting on Friday, February 21st, voted their support on the School Bond issue on the condition that they expect the School Board to alleviate the racial imbalance in the school and seriously consider creative approaches (e.g. Education Parks) to our educational program in San Diego.

"The Federation of Mexican American Organizations is meeting Wednesday night, February 26, to vote on opposing the school bond as a bloc," said Dr. Steve Moreno.

An Education Committee, headed by John Ericson met with school administrators on February 20. They met to discuss crucial issues which pertain to the Mexican Americans.

The Education Committee is meeting and will report the outcome of the discussion and also make its recommendation to the Federation on whether it would be to the advantage of the Mexican American to support or oppose the school bond election.

Strictly Social Everyone welcome there's a picnic, March 16th, beginning 12 noon, Balboa Park, Pepper Grove. Bring your food, family and lets get acquainted. (If it rains forget it and we'll see you the next Sunday.)

PROFILES (Continued)

"I'm one of those who believes that kids who turn to narcotics or violent behavior are saying, 'help me.' "

McGuire wants to get parents away from their TV sets, into groups talking about common problems preferably before they happen, deciding what they can do collectively. Kids need to know, he says, "Really, our parents do give a damn."

It is in this context, of the need to deal creatively with problems facing us all, that he says, "You don't need to worry about that black community, you need to worry about your own."

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