[MS-0087-006.017.026]

CURE

CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

3386 - 30th STREET, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92104

AUGUST 1972

Vol. 5 Number 4

SEGREGATION WINS, O'FARRELL LOSES; Who's Next?

by Roberta Heyer

In September 1959 a sparkling new O'Farrell Jr. Hi School opened its doors to a nearly all-white community. This September the school will open as a segregated minority school. The in-between integrated years produced sharp contrasts: nation-wide recognition for innovative programs and a student walkout; a model parent advisory committee and student attacks on students. Together the school and the community waged a losing battle against segregation.

Why does it matter if a school becomes segregated? Isn't it possible to have a quality all-minority school? CURE readers know studies consistently show that children do better in economically integrated schools. James S. Coleman continues to state that "quality education for children either of advantaged or disadvantaged backgrounds really depends upon experience with persons unlike themselves." Large numbers of minority citizens fall into the lower economic class, and therefore minority schools have more than the usual number of economically disadvantaged children. A minority segregated school will have low achieving students because of economic segregation. Irrelevancy of program, identity with peer groups, insensitive teachers, and low morale also contribute to non-learning.

Process is Disadvantage

A school in the process of segregation is at a disadvantage. There is no period on the way from multi-racial to segregated when the school has stability. This, unfortunately, is the one quality desperately needed. White children transfer or move to other school areas; minority children enter on ethnic transfer or new residence. The community is in a period of transition. Teachers seek transfers and staff changes occur every year. This factor of continuing change compounds the problems of a multi-racial school.

O'Farrell Jr. High stands as a prototype for San Diego schools, unless action can be taken to check segregation. The history of O'Farrell illustrates the immense difficulty of trying to do this.

Dr. William Jack Stone, O'Farrell's first principal, encouraged experimental team teaching, divided classrooms, and student-selected enrichment activities. The response to these programs varied from enthusiasm to sufferance.

In 1962 Dr. Frank Tait became principal. His approach employed more traditional methods and strong discipline, although some innovative programs continued. Home bulletins announcing necessary school regulations were emphatic in tone, causing many a new seventh grader to shiver with apprehension. A one-way traffic system in the halls irritated the students.

By 1966 there were 1000 minority students out of 2600 (see chart), but only a few were in the advanced classes or "high track." In September '67 one year before Bell Jr. High opened, 2800 students crowded into O'Farrell.

Prejudice of white parents was beginning to surface. A report on O'Farrell from the Metropolitan Ministries Group, November 1967, stated, "Minor incidents have been embellished and blown out of proportion by panic-stricken parents, and kids looking for a little excitement. The real problem is not with the kids, but with their parents. Some of the white parents are scared to death of Negroes. Other parents are upset and angry because they fear efforts to maintain an ethnic balance in the school will result in compulsory bussing... One source of the trouble has been an organized campaign to discredit the school."

Forces Behind Segregation

In 1968 O'Farrell floundered in prejudice, fear, instability, suspicion and conflict, each an outgrowth of forces operating for segregation. The first force was the eastward movement of

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ETHNIC DATA FOR O'FARRELL JR. HIGH
San Diego City Schools Pupil Ethnic Census

Date	Principal	Enroll.	Spanish Surname No.	%	Negro No.	%	White No.	%	Other No.	%
10/65	Tait	2590	345	13.3	439	16.9	1694	65.4		4.4
10/66	Tait	2607	327	12.5	594	22.8	1602	61.5	84	3.2
10/67	Tait	2800	408	14.6	705	25.2	1591	56.8	96	3.4
10/68	Smith	1868	262	14.0	623	33.4	932	49.9	51	2.7
10/69	Hennes	1458	240	16.4	612	42.0	569	39.0	37	2.6
10/70	Hennes	1513	250	16.5	627	44.4	542	35.8	49	3.3
10/71	Hennes	1504	253	16.8	775	51.1	429	28.5	47	3.2
4/72	Hennes	1474	253	17.2	794	53.9	377	25.6	50	3.3

MEMBERS ELECT CURE DIRECTORS

In May the election committee of CURE counted the approximately 140 ballots returned by members in the 1972 voting for directors. The twenty-seven candidates for fifteen seats on the board of directors were divided into two groups: "old" members, who had served one year and were seeking re-election for an additional year, and "new" candidates, who were seeking two-year terms. The division was a result of an amendment to the CURE constitution which calls for two-year terms, with eight directors elected in even numbered years and seven elected in odd-numbered years. Beginning in May 1973, only seven or eight seats will be vacant each election.

Members who served a full year in 1971-72 and who were re-elected for an additional year included Viola McKern, Mary Eunice Oliver, Keith Robinson, Dick Shanor, and Anita Strauss. Jane Emerson and Roberta Heyer, who were elected to fill vacancies during the year, were also considered "old" members and were re-elected for another year.

The eight "new" members on the board lend considerable depth and breadth of skills and experiences to the board, and this diversity in backgrounds and occupations is seen as a definite advantage by the board. For example, the number of contacts with other organizations — those which may, from time to time, wish to work with CURE — has almost doubled as a result of the affiliations of the new members. Some examples:

-Loch Crane, an architect, is a member of the Attorney General's Environmental Aesthetics Task Force, the Housing Authority Advisory Committee, and the American Institute of Architects, as well as Urban League, Neighborhood Youth Corps, etc.

-Joe McGuire, a consultant, has, in addition to his long experience in the field of equal employment, membership in the Mission Beach/Pacific Beach Planning Organization and Omega Psi Phi.

-Jean Kelley is a field director in Girl Scouts and a director of Mountain Happening, the intercultural camping program.

-Gerald Fox is on the board of San Diego Open Forum and Chairman of the Adult Education program in the Unitarian Church.

-Frank Jennings, a resource teacher with San Diego City Schools, is the author of Intergroup Relations units for elementary schools.

-Calvin Franklin, Alice Hoskins, and Virginia Gilloon are active in such diverse groups as Planned Parenthood, ACLU, NAACP, Sierra Club, Citizens Coordinate, Urban League, and many more.

In spite of all this variety, the directors seemed entirely capable of working well together at their first meeting on June 22. The enthusiasm and hope -- two qualities which are sometimes difficult to sustain -- were encouraging, and were immediately applied to such projects as the annual membership meeting in September, plans for which are well underway.

All directors, new and old, expressed a desire to get on with the business of achieving justice and equality, and the belief that such achievement is possible. It should be an interesting year.

ANNUAL MEETING GAINS MOMENTUM

Members of the CURE Board of Directors have been putting together plans for what may be the most successful annual membership meeting yet. Though all plans are still tentative, the general format appears stable at this time. All members of CURE will want to attend this meeting, which will include most or all of these features:

*Speaker-Art Seidenbaum, columnist for L. A. Times and outspoken advocate of integrated schools.

*Displays-Commercial, industrial, and Civic displays of programs and progress in equal opportunity.

*Food - Dishes of many ethnic and cultural backgrounds from recipes in CURE's Integrated Cookbook, cooked and served in authentic manner.

*Entertainment

*Friendship

As soon as the date is confirmed, all members will be notified. The date will be late in September. The directors strongly urge you to make every effort to attend this exciting and worthwhile meeting.

We expect to call on the membership to help with the meeting arrangements. Experience of committees on short term projects has shown that members enjoy the opportunity to work together, get acquainted and meet new friends.

Help will be needed in the following areas: publicity, food, entertainment, displays and exhibits. We would appreciate your sending us the coupon indicating how you would like to join the fun.

_I have some ideas or contacts for publicity
_I love to cook _I know people that love to cook _I know of a group that could help
_I am interested in offering or acquiring entertainment
_I can help make contacts for displays and exhibits
_I will help wherever you need me

NAME_____
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Mail to CURE 3386 30th St, San Diego 92104 or call 272-9449, 279-2106 p. m. 453-1998, 262-6624 Don't give up. All the owners of these number are busy people!

PEOPLE PANELS

CURE has presented eighteen interracial panels in the last nine months, appearing before church groups, PTA's, adult school classes, high school classes, senior citizens, social agencies, and Open Door for Dialogue. We have had repeat presentations -- two at Murray Manor Senior Citizens, and three at Sierra Vista High School in Santee, with more to be scheduled there in the fall.

We have enlisted new panelists from Asian American groups, the new Indian Center, Chicano Federation, Black Clubs in high schools, state college, Chicano and Indian organizations and others.

We find these people so worth knowing we want to share them. We have been extremely encouraged by the results of the panels, and are now ready to expand the program. We feel every group in the community could benefit by scheduling a CURE People Panel. Call Vi McKern at 469-3777 or the CURE office 295-5800.

O'FARRELL

(continued)

and some new ones added, such as Teleng, an English class taught with the use of TV programing, individualized math programs, and summer orientation for incoming seventh graders. But to little avail.

A dedicated staff, innovative programs, involved parents, and expensive equipment could not halt the movement toward segregation. This movement, with its accompanying instability, student polarization, and poor school performance, could not be checked by the O'Farrell community alone.

On April 28, 1971, after an imaginatively planned and well-attended Creativity Fair at the school, four ROTC students, acting as guides, were attacked toward the end of the evening, each at different times. "In each case the attacks were unprovoked and deliberately malicious, "to quote from a May 5 school bulletin.

Two weeks later a delegation of 100 parents and teachers from O'Farrell appealed to the Board of Education for help with two problems: disruptions and ethnic imbalance. (See chart) The Board listened sympathetically, but took no action.

During May and June of 1972 community members presented to the Board and staff at the Ed Center various plans for improving the racial balance at O'Farrell. All knew by this time that O'Farrell's problem was also the problem of the larger Morse area. The future of Bell and Morse were predictable. On June 13 the Board directed the Superintendent to present in two weeks alternative plans for the three CAC's to consider. A glimmer of hope flickered in the O'Farrell community. On July 11, the Board reversed its earlier decision and tossed the problem back to the people. The CAC's of Morse, O'Farrell and Bell were directed to come up with a plan acceptable to the community.

WHY ?

Parents and staff of O'Farrell disagree on the reason for the failure of the school. Some blame lack of sensitivity of the staff, lack of strong discipline and the hostility of black students toward white students. Others cite the cause of failure as ethnic imbalance, economic imbalance, need for community control, or failure of the School Board to act.

Where does the responsibility for quality education lie? Has San Diego nothing more to look forward to than an ever increasing number of schools, caught in the unstable, disruptive movement toward segregation? At what point will the forces operating for segregation be checked, and by whom? A group of O'Farrell parents and staff thought they alone could change the course of history. They failed.

THE DREAM

The California State Education Code 5002 states:

"It is the declared policy of the Legislature that persons or agencies responsible for the establishment of school attendance centers or the assignment of pupils thereto shall prevent and eliminate racial and ethnic imbalance in pupil enrollment. The prevention and elimination of such imbalance shall be given high priority in all decisions relating to school sites, school attendance areas, and school attendance practices."

REALITY #1

The San Diego Unified School District provides a seminar program for "first order gifted" youngsters. "First order gifted" are children who test in the top one-tenth of 1% intelligence range of the entire district. After a child passes a screening process, his parents are contacted and he is offered the opportunity to participate in this very special program.

Elementary grade seminars are offered at only three school sites, Farnum Elementary in Pacific Beach, Jackson Elementary at 54th & El Cajon, and MacDowell Elementary in University City. Class size is limited to 18 pupils. Pupils can progress at their own rate in special fields of interest while enjoying the benefits of special enrichment opportunities geared to challenge these "potential leaders of tomorrow."

Two of the seminars are located in the northwestern part of the city. Jackson is the only one located south of highway eight at a fairly central location. This makes it the most accessible to children from the southeastern part of the city. Jackson and Farnum are considered racially balanced schools. According to the January 1972 ethnic survey the schools are:

	Wh.	Bl.	Sp sur-name	Orien-tal	Other
Farnum	83.9%	7.5%	6.6%	1.7%	0.3%
Jackson	84%	7.7%	5.8%	1.7%	0.8%
Mac-Dowell	92.1%	0.1%	4.6%	1.2%	2.0%

The program at Jackson is being moved to Hearst Elementary in the more affluent white Del Cerro/San Carlos area. The survey shows 96.3% white, 2.2% Spanish surname, 1.0% black, 0.5 oriental at Hearst.

Parents' reaction to the move is mixed. Some who are pleased feel Hearst offers newer site facilities and absence of traffic noise and dust. Others feel fortunate to be included in the program, and choose not to question the move or rock the boat for fear of losing the project. Third, there are those who believe it should remain at Jackson because of the central location and valuable resources available at Hoover High and Horace Mann Jr. High.

CURE believes a program located in a balanced school being moved to an unbalanced school is one more example of the district's perpetuation of segregation. Our potential leaders — MOST OF ALL — should have the education of a multi-racial world in order to be able to cope with society's problems. These children aren't being educated solely for their own edification and enjoyment. They are the investment and hope for our future. AND -- so are all our children, regardless of percentage points on the IQ scale.

REALITY #2

A new subdivision in Southeast San Diego in the Vista Madrone area is planned for 142 single family units. Projections show that about 90% of the 48 anticipated youngsters from the development will be black. Plans are for these youngsters to attend Encanto Elementary. The Oct. 1971 ethnic sur-

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FARM BUREAU SPONSORS LANDLORD-SERF LAW

By Karen Lepper

In 1970 from 5,000 to 7,000 lettuce workers walked off their jobs to demonstrate their desire to have a union of their own--to be represented by the United Farm Workers. The growers then agreed to negotiate. Fruitless talks continued for seven months, while the lettuce industry introduced legislation such as the new Arizona law which prompted Cesar Chavez' recent fast. Out of faith and love and in total commitment to non-violence, Cesar took only water for 24 days. This contrasts sharply with the ruthless tactics used by Agribusiness and the Farm Bureau to prohibit the just equalization of power between the growers and the workers.

The Farm Bureau has been ignoring the small farmer and leading the attack on the farm workers' struggle to attain unionization, unemployment compensation, decent wages, and overall better living conditions. The Farm Bureau is developing a business empire including insurance, oil, fertilizer, finance companies, mutual funds, shopping centers, and a travel agency. This multi-billion dollar tax-exempt Farm Bureau spearheaded the repressive Arizona law. The law throws out a smokescreen of "secret-ballot elections" while disenfranchising the migrant workers with complex election procedures; prevents an effective boycott, with unduly severe punishment for infractions; and grants growers 10-day injunctions against strikes, long enough to get the crop harvested.

The Farm Bureau also heads the campaign for a similar measure to be on the California ballot in November. The California Agricultural Labor Relations Initiative will appear under the guise of helping farm workers, but it would destroy hopes and aspirations of farm workers in this state by destroying their union.

Let us not forget that the average life expectancy of a migrant worker is 49 years. The infant mortality rate is 125% higher than the national rate; death from pneumonia and influenza 200% higher; death from TB and respiratory ailments 260% higher; 15% of the workers surveyed in 1969 suffered pesticide poisoning. Over 90% of farm worker housing units do not have a sink; over 95% do not have a flush toilet; over 96% do not have tub or shower. The typical farm worker family has an income of $1,900 per year. In California one-fourth of the workers are children under 16.

On the other hand, consider the strength of the Farm Bureau and other Agribusiness interests. In California a mere 7% of the farms occupy 80% of arable land. The top 2.4% of the farms employ nearly 60% of the hired farm labor.

Farm workers are asking people across the nation to boycott non-UFW head lettuce so that the growers will be forced to negotiate with the farm workers, thus giving farm workers a measure of control over their own lives and a decent life. Two support groups involved in various forms of action meet regularly in San Diego. You may learn of ways to help by calling or attending their meetings. San Diegans por La Huelga meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30 (276-2035); Interfaith Committee for Reconciliation & Justice meets every other Tuesday morning at 7:30 (270-2230).

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CURE

Published monthly by Citizens United for Racial Equality, Inc., 3386 - 30th St., San Diego, California.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a forum for the dissemination of information and the expression of opinions 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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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES for Fiscal Year June 1, 1972 to May 31, 1973
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____ I am unable to send money now, but want to remain on the mailing list.

Sometimes CURE receives requests for use of its open mailing list from groups dealing with solutions to racial problems. Should your name be included on the _____open list or_____ restricted list?

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THE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STRUGGLE

by Jeff Ghelardi

The first problem with affirmative action in employment is clarifying the concept. It is not a vague generalized philosophy such as the term Equal Employment might convey. It is not a negative action program requiring employers not to discriminate. An affirmative action program is a deliberate plan, usually authorized by ordinance, resolution or other official action, designed to achieve racial/ethnic and female parity in employment.

Bitter experience has shown that to be effective, an affirmative action plan must contain two essential elements:

1. A specific objective tied to a timetable, usually parity at all salary levels in five years, with interim objectives as to minimal acceptable progress on a yearly basis.

2. The hiring or assignment of full time, qualified personnel to administer the program.

The second problem in establishing and implementing affirmative action is institutional resistance. Most agencies claim they are already doing everything possible to hire and upgrade minorities. Those which agree to begin programs do so only after intense community pressures, and often under the threat of litigation or other coercive measures. And once implementation is under way, the hard-line discriminators come to the surface, employing all the subtle and imaginative roadblocks they have learned from generations of practicing their art.

The solutions to this second problem are much the same as those used to combat other forms of institutional racism. Those "on the inside" who are sympathetic to the concepts of affirmative action must do everything they can within the limits of their positions to support it. They must also funnel information out to the activists whose jobs are not as threatened by such activity. The activists in turn must use this information to bring to bear all possible pressures from community organizations and committed individuals upon agency officials. This means such things as presentations before boards, city council, etc., mailing campaigns, law suits, flooding of public meetings, promotion of stronger legislation — in short, any and all ethical and appropriate methods available.

The affirmative action programs now under way in San Diego were brought about by the use of such methods over a period of years by a large number of persons and groups. Two citizen committees, the Citizens Committee for Affirmative Action, co-chaired by Cliff Blevins of Legal Aid and Jane Emerson of the League of Women Voters, and the Ad Hoc Committee for Affirmative Action under Joe Flores of the Chicano Federation, have coordinated the movement.

The city, county, and Unified Port District have adopted affirmative action programs; they will be as effective as citizen interest and administrative diligence can make them. Efforts are now under way to establish an affirmative action program in the San Diego Unified School District. The reaction has been predictable: "We already have an affirmative action policy. We are color-blind. We can't find qualified applicants." School board members as elected officials fear the political consequences of an aggressive minority hiring program. Administrators in turn feel the need to protect their positions. Consequently, another arduous battle is ahead to integrate the teaching and supportive staffs of San Diego schools.

How this battle will tie in with the movement to achieve racial balance among students remains to be seen. The stakes are high, but so will be the returns. Citizens interested in this vital project may contact the above committees or CURE.

REALITY *(continued)*

very shows Encanto 45% white and Fulton, an adjacent school, only 8% white. This new development is located almost on the Encanto Fulton boundary lines.

Parents in the Encanto school district have struggled for years to maintain a multi-cultural community. Assignment of more black youngsters to Encanto will further the imbalance, and will be an affront to the struggle of these concerned parents. Since the balance at Fulton is beyond recovery, these children should be assigned to that school. It is better to continue with one black school at Fulton and keep the one at Encanto in balance. Aggravating imbalance at Encanto results in two unbalanced schools. Every policy to support this community and to control the balance needs to be implemented. These people cannot win their battle for a multi-racial community without supportive decisions from the school district.

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