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CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY — SAN DIEGO

SOCIAL SCIENCES VERTICAL FILE

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

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NOVEMBER 1968

SAN DIEGO History Research Center SDSU

CURE WORKSHOP SETS A CITY IN MOTION

"Invite a cop to dinner."
"Train ghetto housewives as voting registrars."
"You need an engineer to design your registration system."
"So what's new?"

By Philip N. James

These are some of the reactions to the CURE-UCSD Extension Workshop held September 21st at San Diego State College. An overflow crowd of more than 650 participants attended the Workshop to hear a keynote address by Rep. James Corman (D.-Calif.), a member of the President's National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, and to find out how to become involved in the fight against racism in San Diego. Some were able to sign up for specific projects; in other cases groups formed during the workshop sessions agreed to continue meeting in order to explore avenues for action. A great many of the participants, however, felt a strong need to continue dialog. This was justifiably frustrating to many who wanted action immediately, but does point up an important community need which CURE and others are anxious to meet. Experienced and skilled dialog leaders are urgently needed for this task.

Why not "invite a cop to dinner"? One participant suggested that, since police seldom find the opportunity to socialize beyond the police force, we might draw policemen and their wives into a more liberal environment where the effects of racism could be discussed. Hundreds of similar programs were suggested by workshop participants, including the following:

- --Establish a permanent display of local Negro and Mexican Art in the San Diego Museum of Art.
- --Purchase a $5 share in the Southeast Business Development Corporation.
- --List your home for sale with a southeast San Diego realtor and tell your local realtors why.
- --Publish a series of low-key, dispassionate pamphlets providing well-documented background information and statistics on the effects of racism in specific areas.
- --Publish a series of "how-to" pamphlets for use by individuals or groups who want to get started into action.
- --Study documents like the "Kerner Report" and the "Lindsley Report" in depth.

The language needs of the Mexican-American community were recognized in several ways. The importance of early, intensive training in English was emphasized in two programs; one suggested a year of preschool English, while the other proposed "extended-day sessions" for English training.

A program aimed at police problems suggested that salary increases and promotions for police be conditional upon training through dialogues similar to "Design for Understanding".

The need for specific suggestions was emphasized over and over. One woman said, "A person who's white and wants to help is also very much alone in the white community." Her plea was for understanding and assistance for timid whites who want to become committed.

Most of the participants completed "skill sheets" which showed the ways they felt they could help. These sheets are still being tabulated; a cross section of the kinds of talent available and ready for work is given in the table on page 3. If you did not complete a "skill sheet", one is provided on page 3 of this issue. If you completed a sheet but have not yet been called, call us (286-2181) and we'll give priority to your interests. If you are in a project or program which needs manpower, tell us about it. Call Ruth Taylor, 286-2181, and we'll put you in touch with workers.

The CURE-UCSD Extension Workshop has "made a difference" in San Diego. The results will be felt for some time to come, but one fact is clear: San Diegans don't want to live in a racist society and are willing to work to change it!

Editors note: Ideas from the workshop to be continued.

CURE Has Its Own Phone Number Now.
Please Phone us at 279-8809

SOCIAL SCIENCES VERTICAL FILE

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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.

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PANELISTS PRESENT From Commission to Commitment

Sunday evening, October 20, 1968, a program focused on "City Government and Community Relations" was held at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 3502 Clairemont Drive, San Diego. Mayor Curran discussed city programs and his role as civic leader. Deputy Mayor Helen Cobb and Councilman Floyd Morrow also participated in the program.

This is the first of a series of five programs to study what is being done to alleviate the problems of racial minorities in San Diego and what we as citizens can do to help.

The purpose of the series is to follow up studies of the "Kerner Report" and prepare for a "Design for Understanding" series planned for January, 1969.

The areas to be covered are:

October 27 - LAW AND JUSTICE
Moderator: James Frew, Sr.
Panelists: Sgt. Carlos Gutierrez, San Diego Police Dept.; Asst. City Attorney Ken Lounsbery, Criminal Div.; Attorney Donald L. Clark, Legal Aid Society

November 3 - JOBS, WELFARE AND HOUSING
Moderator: Dave Stutler
Panelists: Howard Carey, Economic Opportunities Comm.; Urban Coalition Representatives (Jobs, Housing); Rev. Mel Harter, Member, Community Welfare Council

November 10 - PROGRESS IN EDUCATION
Moderator: Dr. Robert Coleman
Panelists: Rev. George W. Smith, Member School Board, San Diego Unified School District; Norman Hauser, Inner City Project; Judge Byron Lindsley, Chairman, Citizen's Committee on Equal Educational Opportunities, 1966; Elbert A. Colum, Director Extended Day Program, Lincoln High School

November 17 - WHAT ARE THE CHURCHES DOING?
Moderator: Dr. Gordon Martin
Panelists: Rev. Richard Shanor, METRO Branch of Methodist Union; Rev. Roland Faulk, San Diego Council of Churches; Shuford Swift, Citizens United for Racial Equality; Rev. Ellsworth Pryor, Episcopal Community Services.

To Exploit Blackness is Un-American

by Daniel Brown M.D.

The slave populations of our past history - were classified as Negros colored and blacks.

In 1968 the decendants are called Negros - colored and black.

The 1968 citizens - so classified are American, still enslaved because of race and color.

A civil war and its emancipation proclamation, the right to vote and the right to an education - gives assistance to the slave descendants - but does not prevent continued political, social and economic exploitation - by our political, educational and religious leaders and its institutions.

Today-black consciousness, black art, black religion, black music, black identity, black power, black panthers, black heroes, black music, black society and black inventions are all suppressed by our former slave masters.

To exploit a man's person, is to suppress and to deny any hope for a future society - integrated.

Black is beautiful is enduring, intelligent and monumental.

URBAN COALITION - what is it?

By Clyde Thompson - Public Relations liaison man for the San Diego Urban Coalition.

"It is the overall objective of the Urban Coalition to marshall all of this community's public and private resources to coordinate their efforts to the end that successful programs are effected meeting the need of those in the community who are in need of a broad range of assistance". This is the credo of the San Diego Urban Coalition.

The National Urban Coalition was started in the fall of 1966, when the mayors could figuratively, if not literally, "smell the joint burning down."

Washington D.C. formed its Coalition about a month after the riots convinced everyone that something had to be done. Galvanized into action, they immediately began working with existing church groups to provide food, housing and emergency funds for burned out ghetto residents.

Nationally, the Coalition has leaders from five segments of American society: business, labor, religion, racial minorities and local government. John Gardner, former Director of Health, Education and Welfare is the chief executive of the National Urban Coalition. Assuming the top spot, Gardner said, "The cities cannot solve their problems without better mobilization of the talent, resources and leadership that exist in the cities themselves. We need new forms of collaboration between the various elements in the city.... city hall, business, labor and minority leadership and so on. The most significant effort to produce such a collaboration today, is the Urban Coalition.

The National Urban Coalition has a Steering Committee of 36 members, with more to be added to represent Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans and possibly educators, 15 of the 36 form the Executive Committee which meets more often than the larger group.

It is the Coalition's role to act as a catalyst for new programs or expand existing ones and have them run by specialized agencies.

Probably the most significant achievement to date by a local Coalition is mayor Lindsay's "Give a damn" program, in New York City. In the next issue we will explore the Coalition on the local scene and the people who make it tick.

Mr. John Gardner, National Urban Coalition Director will address the local Coalition the night of November 20 at the El Cortez International Room at 8 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend.

THIRTY TWO COP-OUTS and a WHAT CAN I DO?

Once in a City, appropriately named the "City In A Hurry", lived a good man and woman named Mr. and Mrs. What-Can-I-Do. The city was in a hurry to encourage industry, tourism, and its birthday celebration. Mr. and Mrs. What-Can - I - Do were concerned about something the city seemed in no hurry about, social justice.

And it was not without reason that they were concerned. In their city as in most in the country there were two kinds of human beings, the difference being one kind had black skin and the other white skin. The black people lived in crowded, deteriorated areas of the city, were poorly educated, too often unemployed and were considered by many, because of the blackness of their skin, to be less human than the white people.

The problem arose when the black people began to reveal that they were very unhappy. Some rioted, some stole, some yelled profanities, but mostly they asked to be treated like any other human being. Mr. and Mrs. What-Can-I-Do felt the situation was not good and something should be done, for they were good people and believed all people should have equal opportunities.

So Mr. and Mrs. What-Can-I-Do began to ask everyone "what can we do?" It was difficult to know whom to ask. All the professionals who had been hired to solve the City's problems hadn't made much progress. They had plans, reasons and excuses but still the black people remained socially, economically, and educationally inferior.

Mr. and Mrs. What - Can - I - Do hated to think the public officials could not deal with the problems of the people. Politicians, TV newscasters, educators, and experts spoke of more money, more time, and realistic programs - the diversity of which confused the What-Can-I-Do's. If Mr. and Mrs. What-Can-I-Do suggested or objected they were ignored, called militant, do-gooders, or radicals. Finally, the officials explained that integration rested in the hearts and hands of the people.

Volunteer Organizations to solve the dilemma sprang up. There were many; white ones, black ones and brown ones, bad ones, good ones and other ones. Each knew exactly the key to the problem and what the answer was. They were sometimes very suspicious and jealous of each other. The organizations disgusted the What-Can-I-Do's by their denouncements of each other as the minority, radicals, militants, communists, conservatives, stooges or racists.

One organization suggested that the What-Can-I-Do's volunteer time and services to teen posts, access centers, neighborhood houses, Headstart or Urban League. But Mr. and Mrs. What-Can-I-Do had only four hours one day a week to donate, due to the family, job, PTA, Cub Scouts, dancing lessons, baseball games, the lawn and church. When called to work or attend a meeting it was always a bad time for their schedule.

One day Mrs. What-Can-I-Do did call to volunteer and was never called back. Greatly discouraged and quietly relieved she decided volunteer programs were too unorganized and unreliable to be effective. And she did want to be effective. After all, when the PTA called, they signed you up, and called to remind you. PTA's made you feel wanted and needed. Also, the programs were mostly held in the places where the black people lived and Mr. What-Can-I-Do wasn't too sure she should drive there.

Then, there had been the time when Mr. What-Can-I-Do had gone to help and been rudely ignored and coldly treated by some of the black people. The What-Can-I-Do's really hated to go where they weren't wanted. And they were good people giving up valuable time and that should be appreciated.

They had very little extra money or services to give. And Mr. and Mrs. What-Can-I-Do didn't think they should have to give up anything. They just thought it would be nice if black people had all they had.

The What - Can - I - Do's became more troubled all the time because there seemed to be nothing they could do. They became very angry and very vocal. They declared they didn't want any more talk about the problem, they just wanted someone to tell them what they could do. They were particularly sick of talk about getting rid of the system. How could racial injustices be part and parcel of the institutions and perpetuated by them? Mr. What - Can - I - Do talked about this constantly pointing out there was nothing wrong with the system "just look at all the good people like us trying to find something to do."

Unhappy with the white organizations the What-Can-I-Do's went directly to the black people. They liked the black leaders they met for they were articulate and much wiser than white people. And it felt good to know black people. It proved the What-Can-I-Do's were good people. Certainly better than other white people. But soon the What-Can - I - Do's became disenchanted with the black leaders. For the black leaders were always too busy for social hours. Besides, they kept telling Mr. and Mrs. What-Can-I-Do to go back to their white community and help to change attitudes, hearts, minds, housing and schools. But this seemed to the What-Can-I-Do's as the most unrealistic of all solutions. Although they didn't ever tell anyone. They knew that their neighbors would never understand. And who wants to talk to someone who doesn't understand? Besides they were trying to get black people included in the society not themselves excluded.

Then the final insult. Mr. What-Can-I-Do asked his usual question of a black man. The young man replied, "if you are committed to racial justice you will know what to do." This was the final absurdity. Hadn't Mr. and Mrs. What-Can-I-Do gone to everyone and asked what to do? No one had any answers.

The What-Can-I-Do's decided to redecorate their house and let someone else do something about the social injustice. (N.S.)

where the ACTION is

What can I do? What can I do? A cry of futility or escape through semantics?

YWCA Mother's Project needs volunteers to assist in the nursery care program. Bring your own children with you. Also help provide transportation. Call Jean Mierlot, 477-1163.

Good Neighbor Center wants help with classes, child care, aid to newcomers. Call Mrs. Gregg Nesbitt, 276-1337.

Try tutoring for the San Diego Unified School District, both during school hours and after, all ages. Call Mrs. Lottie Hess, 298-4681, Ext. 491.

New Scene Players, 3880 Franklin Ave., need community participation. Call Roland McFarland.

Office Help Needed by the Congress of Racial equality, call George Stevens, 232-2738.

People to People Project, call Bob Coates or Reverend George McKinney, 236-3434 or 262-0421.

Headstart can use your time and services. Call Reverend Rothaar, 264-0179.

The Mexican - American Neighbor Organization (MANO) needs volunteers to help in clinics in San Diego, also Tijuana. Call Jack McGee, 277-4702(home) or 437-6559 (work).

Cure would like to know if you know of or are you associated, with a dialogue or action group? Please share with us the name, location, contact person, his home number and the projects. There may be someone in your area that would like to work with you. Send to Dorothy Lloyd, CURE, 520 "E" Room 502. Please note to add Room 502 to the CURE mailing address.

"WHY DID It Happen", original dramatization of "The Kerner Report" opened Saturday, October 19, at the Jewish Community Center, 4079 5th Street. The dramatization will run Thursdays: October 31, November 7 and 14; Saturdays: November 2, 9 and 16. Donation is $1.00 per person and time is 8:15 p.m. Take some friends, enjoy a night out, and see a moving comment on our society.

People Wanted for Tuesday 8:00 p.m. dialogues at the Unitarian Church 4190 Front Street.

Omega Psi Phi presents a pigskin classic honoring the San Diego--Tennessee State football game, Saturday, November 23, 10-2:00 p.m., at the Vacation Village Hotel. Donation $2.00 in advance and $2.50 at the door. Music will be provided by the Dynamics. Call 278-8154.

Message Information Center (MIC) is a loose and open coalition of Cardijn Center, Neighborhood Services and the New Adult Community. By calling 232-6621, information will be available about the what, where's and when of activities. Constant information and news-service will be provided. Volunteers are needed to man the phones on a four and one half hour shift per week, to work on research and diffusion, rechecking teams, and contact persons. If you would like to help or have MIC assist your organization get in touch at 555 19th Street, or call 224-9680. Wonder what's the latest with the Grape Boycott? Have some information? Phone Message Information Center 232-6621.

"Designed for Understanding Each Other", at the Linda Vista Presbyterian Church, 2130 Ulric, Black, Browns, and Whites will join in on the presentations Tuesday nights. It began October 29, however, it's not too late to begin. The time is 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., free babysitting will be provided with a two dollar fee for adults, students fifty cents.

A Series of Studies of the Kerner Report will be continuing at University Lutheran Church, 9595 La Jolla Shores Dr. Call 453-0561 for information. The Congregational Church of Pacific Beach 2088 Beryl Street is initiating a study for 8 consecutive Mondays, beginning October 21, 7:30-9:30. Call 488-2477 for information. For information on beginning dialogues the La Jolla Presbyterian Church will be organizing new groups, call Reverend Walter James, 454-0713. The University of California Extension, 453-2000, Ext. 2076 sets up community seminars. YWCA groups are forming, contact Barbara James, 273-5486. A Serra Mesa Group is also forming, call Melba Margolis, 277-0983.

The CURE Board Meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 4190 Front Street. All CURE members are invited to attend and all others are welcome.

The next MER Meeting will be November 13 at 8:30 p.m., Chollas View Methodist Chruch, 942 N. 47th Street. Note: where were all the people who signed up as being interested in education and the Movement for Educational Reconstruction at the workshop? They weren't at the October meeting. Too Busy?

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520 E STREET SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101

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MANPOWER FOR ACTION

Please complete this Skill Sheet, as instructed below, and return to:

Citizens United for Racial Equality
Room 502
520 "E" Street
San Diego, California 92101

Retain other copy of the Skill Sheet and the Organization list for your information and reference.

CURE Skill Sheet

CURE Wants to match willing people with jobs to be done. If you are looking for some way to help, please complete and return this skill sheet to us. We shall try to help you get started. The regular feature of the CURE Newsletter, "Where the Action is", may give you some ideas, also.

Please check the boxes opposite skills you want to contribute. You may wish to indicate an order of preference with numbers, or special proficiency with an asterisk. Please elaborate, using extra paper if necessary. The skills listed are suggestive only; please tell us what you can do best.

☐ Typing	☐ Medical (give specialty)	☐ Fund-raising assistance
☐ Secretarial (shorthand, etc.)	☐ Nursing/Health care	☐ Public Relations
☐ Report/Proposal Preparation	☐ Teacher/Tutor	☐ "Willing & Able"
☐ Graphic Arts (printing, etc.)	☐ Folding/Addressing	☐ _____
☐ Telephoning	☐ Arts/Crafts	☐ _____
☐ Driving/transportation	☐ Social Work	☐ _____
☐ News/Story writing	☐ Discussion/study leader	☐ _____

When can you best help? ☐ Mornings ☐ Afternoons ☐ Evenings ☐ Weekends

How much time do you have? ☐ Whatever's needed ☐ Depends on job ☐ Very little

Where can you work? ☐ Anywhere ☐ Prefer near home ☐ Prefer at home

Transportation: ☐ Have own ☐ Can take others ☐ Need rides

Names of schools children attend: _____

Organizations (PTA, service clubs, professional, etc.): _____

Vocation: _____ Bus. Address: _____

Suggestions for new programs or activities:

Any particular organizations you'd like to work with or areas of interest?

Those on our mailing list now, please tell us

We've had requests for the use of our mailing list. May we give out your name in response to such a request? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Zip _____