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CURE

CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

3944 ½ Third Avenue, San Diego, California 92103

JUNE 1975
Volume 8, No. 2

HHRA FOLLOWS UP ON HOUSING AUDIT

Is Lemon Grove developing into a racially unbalanced neighborhood? The Heartland Human Relations Association (HHRA) saw indications of such a trend after studying population data from the Grossmont Union High School District. To further investigate this apparent development, HHRA decided to conduct a housing audit utilizing procedures developed by National Neighbors Incorporated. ("Integrated Neighborhood and Integrated Education," which appeared in the last Newsletter, was written by Jean Milgram, the Executive Director of National Neighbors Incorporated.)

The purpose of such an audit is to determine if there is racial steering or other discriminatory practices in housing transactions. Racial steering is a practice in which home seekers are encouraged toward a specific area or areas or discouraged from looking in other specific areas because of their race, color, or ethnic origin. The audit was conducted by seven teams of four people, one white couple and one black couple. The couples of each team were matched according to income, number of children, and the type of home they were seeking. Each team was to visit six or seven real estate companies within a three-month period. Each team was to coordinate its visit so as to call on the same real estate office within 24 hours of each other and ask for the same house or the same area. At the end of each visit each couple filled out a data sheet independently of the other couple. The teams were trained in audit procedures through a series of three seminars beginning in February, 1974.

The actual audit was conducted in June, July, and August, 1974, with visits to fifteen real estate companies in the Heartland Area. All companies were members of the San Diego Board of Realtors and were large well-known companies. Each was visited by at least two teams.

Results

The study indicated that there was racial steering and other discriminatory practices. A computer was utilized to establish the statistical significance of the following items taken from the HHRA report to the Board of Supervisors.

"White couples were shown or offered 84 homes, while Black couples were shown or offered only 37 homes.

"White couples asked to see homes in the La Mesa area on 16 occasions. They were shown or offered 29 homes in La Mesa. Black couples asked to see homes in the La Mesa area on 13 occasions. They were shown or offered only four (4) homes in the La Mesa area.

"Five White couples were given discouraging remarks about Encanto and East San Diego, but one Black couple was encouraged to buy in Encanto.

"Three White couples were given encouraging remarks about La Mesa, but two Black couples were told discouraging things about La Mesa.

"Twenty-five White couples were freely shown the Multiple Listing books. while only 14 Black couples were shown the books.

"No racial remarks were made to Black couples.

"Twelve racial remarks were made to White couples.

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CARLIN CASE STATUS

In December, 1967, a class action suit was brought against the San Diego Unified School District to desegregate the schools. The suit was filed in the names of ten children: Anglos, Blacks, Chicanos, and Asians. The case, titled Carlin v. San Diego Board of Education, which has been delayed for many reasons, is now scheduled to come to trial in September before Judge Welsh of San Diego Superior Court.

The School Board established a committee of fifty members in 1965 to investigate racial segregation in the schools. This committee, chaired by Judge Lindsley and broadly representative of the community, submitted its unanimous report in 1966.

The suit was initiated in 1967 by parents who were disappointed and frustrated by the failure of the School Board to act aggressively and effectively to implement the recommendations of the Lindsley Report.

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CARLIN CASE

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The invalidation of Proposition 21 by the California Supreme Court in January resulted in the Carlin Case being reactivated and set for trial this fall. As a consequence, a group, calling itself the Committee to Support the Carlin Case, came together on April 2 to discuss a possible negotiated settlement or other action. A negotiated settlement would have included the following elements:

1) expansion of the voluntary ethnic transfer program,

2) expansion of the human relations program,

3) racially and ethnically balancing the teaching staff over the next five years, and

4) establishing three additional magnet schools.

Negotiations Fail

The group rejected a negotiated settlement because:

1) the expansion of the voluntary ethnic transfer program, as proposed, would not have provided significant integration (the District envisioned about 4,500 participating, principally minority children),

2) the voluntary ethnic transfer policy tends to skim off the most academically oriented minority students from the schools that most need this type of example, influence, and leadership, and

3) because of shortcomings in the present voluntary program, such as its failure adequately to prepare and work with both sending and receiving schools, parents, and students.

A negotiated settlement was not rejected because the group wanted mandatory busing. Many in the group hope that when the schools are integrated, whether by a court decision or other action, that a creative approach focusing on improved education, minimizing transportation and employing mixed strategies developed through citizen participation, will be used.

Looking towards this future, a committee of CURE is investigating other successful integration programs and exploring their applicability here.

The concern of many of those supporting the Carlin Case is that they not be simply labeled as pro-busing, because they are not, and, perhaps most important, because the focus on busing so often generates an automatic, but unnecessary emotional reaction which is not justified and makes working towards effective and acceptable solutions difficult.

The supporters are pro-equal-educational-opportunity. Unfortunately the settlement offered was simply too weak and ineffective. A negotiated settlement which effectively provided an equal educational opportunity to all students is all that is sought and would be most welcome.

Volunteers Prepare Case

Since it has not been possible in several attempts over the last few years to arrive at such a settlement, the group is proceeding to prepare for the case. The Committee to Support the Carlin Case is chaired by Ambrose Brodus of the Urban League. Sub-committees are doing library research, reading the

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"FRIENDS OF THE CARLIN CASE"

cordially invite

you and your guest

to attend their

WINE TASTING PARTY

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1975

5:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

in the

SAN DIEGO

TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Conference Room

10393 San Diego Mission Road
San Diego, CA 92108

Minimum donation $5.00
(check payable to)

Urban League-Carlin Case
4261 Market St.
San Diego, CA 92102

Casual

For information
263 7407

HRC BUDGET SUPPORT URGED

Funded at $307,000 last year, having utilized it all, and seeing even greater human relations needs, the San Diego County Human Relations Commission, (HRC), submitted a budget of $571,000 for 1975-76. However, though the Supervisors heard nineteen citizens support the HRC in public hearings on Monday, June 9, the following week they received a recommendation for a $175,000 budget from the Human Resources Agency Advisory Board, a group appointed by the Supervisors.

Because of the extremely tight County budget situation this year all agency budgets are being very critically examined. The HRC budget is receiving a particularly critical review for several reasons. Although recognizing that funds are very limited this year, the HRC Governing Board saw a need for expanded human relations services that could only be met by an expanded budget. The Board felt a responsibility to request a budget of $571,000 for 1975-76. Though the letter accommpanying the budget tried to make clear HRC's awareness of the budget situation, there has been criticism by some that the HRC was insensitive in submitting such a request. In addition, after the budget submission, the evaluation of the HRC by Waymon Associates Incorporated, (WAI), was presented to the Supervisors. This study, requested by the Supervisors, had been in process since January. The evaluation, though supportive of the HRC, pointed to changes needed to make the agency more responsive and efficient. Critics of the HRC are citing the critical findings and recommendations as reasons to cut the HRC budget.

Waymon Evaluation

In brief, Waymon Associates saw the HRC as active, competent, and professional, with a high degree of credibility, with its limited number of users, needed, and moving toward greater effectiveness, but needing to clarify goals, improve its contacts in the broader community, improve its own internal "human relations", reexamine the size of the board, reorganize its administrative structure, and tell its story better in the community.

A number of supporters of HRC, including board members, agree that the observations and recommendations of the WAI report should be considered. However, they point out that the appropriate response to the report is not to eliminate or reduce the functions of the HRC, but to continue the funding of the HRC and use the report to effect changes to improve the performance of the HRC.

CURE Recommendations

CURE has made the following recommendations to the Board of Supervisors:

1) Continue the present HRC as a functioning organization. If there is a decision to reorganize the HRC, do so within the present framework and with the involvement of present commissioners. That is, do not terminate the present joint powers agreement, but amend it. 2) Fund the HRC at about $336,000 for 1975-76. 3) Reject as inadequate the budget of $175,000 recommended by the Human Resources Agency Advisory Board.

Such a process would be evolutionary, rather that revolutionary. In CURE's opinion it would not only permit the HRC to continuously provide effective service now being given, but would help it to more quickly provide the improved services called for in the WAI evaluation and sought by the Human Resources Agency Advisory Board.

Support Urged

Once again CURE urges support for a human relations agency, and for the present HRC in particular, for all the reasons already cited. Since public budget hearings are ended and the budget is now being acted upon, it is urged that those who share CURE's concern call your supervisor immediately and express your support for the HRC in whatever way you feel is appropriate.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES For Fiscal Year June 1, 1975 to May 31, 1976
(includes a newsletter subscription)

Student . . $2	Contribution . $25	Donation . $____
Individual . $5	Sustaining. . . $100	
Family . . . $8	Organization. $15	

NAME . . . . . PHONE . . . . . .

STREET ADDRESS . . . . . .

CITY . . . . . ZIP . . . . . .

I am unable to send money now, but want to remain on the mailing list. ____

HHRA FOLLOW UP

Continued from page 1

Actions

HHRA has presented the results to the Board of Supervisors, the La Mesa and El Cajon City Councils, and the San Diego County Human Relations Commission, as well as to the press. Although the information has also been discussed with representatives from the Department of Justice, the objective of HHRA is not to single out any individual realtors as scapegoats, but rather to demonstrate the problem clearly and begin a dialogue aimed at correcting it.

This HHRA has done. They are now working with Vincent Odom, Chairman of the La Mesa Board of Realtors, to develop an in-service training and orientation program for realtors. Part of their thought is that racism is a subtle and pervasive condition, and many of us are unaware of our own prejudiced behavior. HHRA feels that an educational program that reaches many is more appropriate than punishment of a few, who like the many, are responding to life-long habits, and might only resent the punishment without ever really coming to understand how and why their behavior was unfair.

CARLIN CASE STATUS

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School Board minutes, studying school boundary changes and optional attendance districts, special projects, and fund raising. (See the invitation to the wine tasting party.) Melba Margolis is coordinating volunteers. Those interested in helping are encouraged to contact Melba at 277-0983 or 234-3673.

The support committee has been meeting monthly at the YWCA downtown. The next meeting is at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, July 10. All are welcome.

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AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE CURE BOARD

Each year at this time you are asked to do two very important things.

One is to renew your membership in CURE. The other is to elect new board members.

When you renew your membership you go on record as a person who believes in the real value of racial and ethnic integration and the right of all citizens of this country to equality of opportunity and equality and justice before the law. Beyond the witness your membership gives to the community, your annual dues allows CURE to work to bring about an open, integrated community.

This brings us to your second important task; election of new board members. The CURE Board determines how your dues will be used. What is more important, the board controls, by its activities and decisions, the general effectiveness of the total organization. At the annual meeting you nominated board members. Now you have the opportunity to elect those who will be determining the directions of CURE.

A ballot and return envelope are enclosed for your convenience. Please mark your ballot and put it, ALONG WITH YOUR DUES, into the envelope and mail it to us right away.

PLEASE DON'T DELAY!

Thank you, Dick Berry, President

CURE

Office 295-5800

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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.

Board of Directors

Loudin Beam, Richard Berry, Joan Bigge, Bertha Crowell, Arthur Deutsch, Virginia Gilloon, William MacInnes, Joe McGuire, Viola McKern, David Quessenberry, Verna Quinn, Jane Senour, Shuf Swift, Martha Vickers.

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