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CURE

CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

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

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Committment To Equal Education Dies For Lack Of Official Policy

Now It Is Time To Cry Foul

"Fair is foul and foul is fair, Hover through fog and filthy air." There is trouble brewing in the cauldron and ill omens surfacing for those concerned with equal education.

Item: Leon Paneta, Chief of Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, was forced to resign for vigorously enforcing the law of the land.

Item: The California State Board of Education in a private, emergency session repealed its policy on integration and went on record opposing the use of mandatory busing to desegregate public schools.

Item: San Diego City Schools Attorney Tom Shannon told the Board of Education that City schools are no longer under legal obligation from the State to racially balance the schools, due to the rescinding of the State Board's regulations on integration.

What these three recent developments represent is a loss of commitment to equal education and hope for curing one of America's greatest social diseases. They are setbacks to all who have believed and worked for a better future for all of the children.

The promise of the 1954 Brown decision which made school desegregation unconstitutional, wanes in the failure of officials and citizens to accept their responsibility to uphold the law.

CURE has been prompted to make its own emergency decision. We are encouraging people concerned with the future of America's children to return the enclosed petition with many or even single signatures.

They will be forwarded to the State and local Boards of Education and President Nixon. May 17th is the sixteenth anniversary of the Brown decision and the month the State Board has promised to unveil its new policy on school desegration. This will be an ideal date to deliver a citizens mandate, City Wide, State wide, and Nation wide, that we desire integration.

Let us assume our responsibility and find out if this is, indeed, a democracy. We believe the majority of Americans are for justice and the well being of children. Who knows, we might be the silent majority! Perhaps our school and government officials, as well as our

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City's Future Cries for Help Do You Hear?

By MELBA MARGOLIS

It is time for you to ask your federal government to help San Diego in community planning. All road blocks to the South Bay Terraces development have now been removed by the action of the School Board and the Planning Commission. Sadly lacking are effective safeguards against the expansion of economic and racial segregation.

As with other local issues, (the fate of CIC is a prime example), citizen action through the League of Women Voters, The Urban League, CURE, and others has resulted in only a short delay of a backward step.

Warnings about the extreme density of population planned for in the South Bay Terraces area, complaining about the inadequate parks, pleading to avoid a concentration of low income housing in the South East area, cautioning against expansion of economic and racial segregation have all been expressed but apparently not heard.

What we have heard is a confusion of conflicting statements from the developer and the governing bodies involved. A fear of a concentration of federally subsidized low income housing was expressed by the school board while a hope for federal controls was expressed by the planning commission.

The developer told the school board that there could be no low cost housing in the area because the cost for site development was too high. The FHA office, however, confirms that there is within the South Bay Terraces area a section called South Bay Gardens for which federally subsidized low income housing funds have been reserved. The credibility gap becomes a chasm. For further background see the CURE article in our Feb. issue.

At the Planning Commission meeting of March 18, the question was asked, "What will this area be

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'Benign Neglect' And S.D. Union

Setting the Record Straight

Daniel P. Moynihan's memo to President Nixon, in which he speculated that the issue of race could benefit from a period of 'benign neglect,' " somehow strayed into the hands of the press. He has since insisted that he intended to imply only that such administration figures as Attorney General Mitchell and Vice President Agnew should stop providing "opportunities for martyrdom, heroics, histronics or whatever" to hysterics, paranoiacs, and boodlers" on both sides of the explosive racial and social issues of the day.

But his statement, and the statistics from the Census Bureau used to support it, have invited another interpretation: that he recommended "benign neglect" of the entire racial problem.

While many condemned Moynihan's statement, others, as might be expected, welcomed it, and among these was the San Diego Union. In an editorial it declared:

Respite from Rhetoric

Census Bureau data on Negro economic advances listed in the White House mem-

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Must We Have Poverty?

Who are the poor? They are 30 million Americans whose income is below the poverty index, that is $3600 annually for an urban family of four. Children comprise 43% of the total, adults 27%, the aged 20%, and disabled 10%.

Of these, 20 million are whites and 10 million are people with black, brown, yellow or red skin color. Since, of the total population, 15% of whites are poor, and 50% of non-whites are poor, the implication is that one cause of poverty is racism.

What is the so-called poverty index? The poverty index was developed by the war on poverty program to insure that the poorest of the poor would get its benefits. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has determined that the minimum need for an urban family of four is at least $5500 annually. The BLS figure for San Diego is $6600. These determinations would suggest the number of real poor in America may exceed 60 million.

Who are on welfare? There are 9.6 million Americans on welfare. Of these, 4.8 million are children, 1.5 million are mothers with preschoolers, .8 million are disabled persons, .4 million are mothers of school children, 2 million are the aged, and 80,000 are employable men.

Who are the working poor? They are 18.6 million Americans in families where the head is non-aged and non-disabled; 45% of these were in families where the head worked full-time yet the family remained poor; 35% were in families where the head worked parttime yet the family remained poor. So 15 million Americans are in families where the head works full or part time, yet the family remains poor. The implication is that another cause of poverty is our economic system.

What can be done? We should enact national legislation to provide income supplementation to bring all individuals and families up to the poverty index -- $3600 per year for a family of four.

What would this cost? In order to eliminate absolute poverty, $27 billion would have to be transferred to those below the so-called poverty line through an income supplement program. This money would be poured back into the economy as the poor would buy goods and services. The economy would be stimulated, employment would increase and business would pay more taxes.

What will it cost if we don't eliminate poverty? The cost will be billions for increased feeding, housing and health services for the indigent; billions for icreased welfare and its related bureaucracies; millions to fight increased crime.

A welfare mother gets $40 per month to care for her teenager. If he gets caught stealing something he needs and she cannot afford, it costs taxpayers $23 for each day he is in Juvenile Hall and $10,000 annually if he ends up in California Youth Authority. It is not possible to estimate the cost in loss of human resources among the 30-60 million Americans kept at subsistence levels.

What about the welfare system? The present dehumanizing welfare system would be eliminated along with many other bureaucracies which deal with poverty in bits and pieces such as rent supplements, food stamps, commodity food distribution, child feeding, leased housing, social services, thus saving millions of dollars.

What about state and local funds for welfare? Funds now being used by state and local governments to support the welfare system and other poverty-related programs would be available for other uses.

Where will the money come from? The money will come from the same federal sources that fund the present welfare system and other inadequate and wasteful programs that fail to deal with poverty. It will come from the same federal sources that subsidize Senator Eastland, who got $117,000 for not raising cotton and other farmers like the two in the San Joaquin Valley of California who each got $3 million last year in farm subsidies. It will come from the government that grants the richest people in the country (mineral and oil interests) 27-1/2% depletion allowances (tax exemptions), making it possible for Atlantic Refining to escape paying federal taxes last year.

It will come from the same source that has committed us to build an ABM system at a cost of $4 billion -- $10 billion -- $40 billion, and the same source that spends $30 billion fighting an undeclared war in Southeast Asia.

Eliminating poverty is not a matter of increased taxes, but rather a matter of shifting our national priorities from destruction to caring for humanity, as proposed by those who wrote our national constitution.

Are we ready? A recent Harris poll reported that 51% of those asked favored a guaranteed income for a family of four at $3000. YES WE ARE READY.

What can we do? We can flood House Ways and Means Committee with letters, wires and phone calls to get Corman's bill on the floor of Congress where it can be made a matter of public debate and the House can be allowed to act on it.

- The movement to outlaw poverty, 390 S. 39., San Diego. 264-3212. R.S.

CITIZENS AND COPS TO STUDY PROBLEMS

Dr. Jerome Skolnick, author of The Politics of Protest, will deliver the keynote address at a daylong seminar Thursday, April 2 on the problems of violence and the role of citizens and law enforcement.

The program, scheduled to open at 9 a.m. and close before 4:30 p.m., will be held at the college for women, University of San Diego, Alcala Park.

Participation is limited to 200, of whom one-fourth will be young persons. Anyone interested in attending may telephone the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Inc., 239-7036, to reserve a place, $5 including lunch. The meeting is one of a series planned by the Police and Community Relations Committee of the San Diego NCCJ.

CURE

Published monthly by Citizens United for Racial Equality, Inc. 520 E Street.

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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PLAY FAIR FOR CHILDREN

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fellow citizens, need to be told that we intend to see justice prevail.

We believe the evils of segregation have prepetuated themselves too long and that the best hope to break this society crippling chain is in the public schools.

In deciding to enforce public schooling over 100 years ago, the states decided society had the right, even duty, to prepare children for the world equally.

American schools have been the great equalizers of opportunity and creators of unity through the greatest mixing of persons together any nation in the world has known. Except in the case of black children.

Tom Shannon also told the Board of Education members that "I believe that the repeal by the state board of its pupil racial balance regulations will force the state appellate courts to decide the San Diego case strictly and solely on whether there is a federal or state constitutional duty to racially balance the pupil population of public schools which are now inbalanced through no fault of the school district."

Shannon's removal of responsibility for school segregation from the district needs some examining.

"De Facto segregation which supposedly results by accident from housing patterns is the reality of the North and big cities -- and is not always an accident." So says Life Magazine, March 13, 1970.

The article goes on to say, "Many local authorities prepetuate discrimination in the zoning and busing patterns they use to assign pupils to schools, in the locations they choose for new school building sites and in assigning teachers and financial resources."

San Diego long practiced optional zoning on the fringes of ghetto schools. An outstanding example was the situation of Lincoln, with 90% black, and the optional school, Crawford overcrowded with white students.

In the words of Leon Panetta, "The law of the land, after all the bloodshed, the marches, the demonstrations and the legal and legislative battles, is quite simple: discrimination in education will not and cannot be tolerated under the Constitution and must be effectively and affimatively corrected now. This is not simply an educational whim or a social experiment, as some would have us believe. It is a mandate of the law."

When we speak of education we talk of our future. Will our children through our "benign neglect" find themselves facing the same problem, greatly multiplied, we face now? Will they ask 16 years from now, as we must, why didn't you do something?

We speak proudly of our cultural heritage. Will our gift to our children be the ruins of its great promise.

Mrs. Louise Dyer, chairman of the Board of Education, was quoted in last years bond election bid as saying that the choosing of physical sites for schools was an entirely separate matter and had nothing to do with segregation.

We are willing to redraw boundary lines, rezone, build educational parks, create and find new educational methods. We are in favor of quality education for all of America's children, and are prepared for busing or whatever is necessary for a particular community.

40% of our children are already being bused to school. Is not some of the agitation and opposition to busing a reflection of deeper white unwillingness to accept schooling with a large number of blacks? Parents fear slow learning, inferior teachers, books and equipment, gang wars, dope peddlers and whatever.

The problem in black schools exist in the white schools too. But many of the problems in minority schools are a result of depriviation and separatism. Whites initated and practiced the concept of racial inferiority and separatism, and now only whites can put an end to it.

Please join us in reminding Mr. Nixon that he promised "to bring us together." The question must be asked bring who together? Blacks, whites, browns? Where will he bring us together if not in the schools?

Or did he intend only to unite that great, fearsome beast dubbed the "Silent Majority" for which he rationalizes leadership of the lowest common denominator.

The courts have shown us what the Constitution requires, the future warns us of what our society requires, and our consciences know what all our children require.

Sign your name. Enlist some friends to circulate petitions. The responsibility is in our hands. N.S

CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY
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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

DON'T PASS THE BUCK !

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like in 25 to 50 years?" The answer from the chairman of the Planning Commission was simple and to the point, "We are not here to discuss that." To insure that someone takes the responsibility for at least trying to provide a future San Diego fit for human life, the board of CURE now urges each of you to take action. There has been too much confusion, too many conflicting statements, too much reliance on verbal assurances of good intentions, too much buck passing. Until a trusted outside agency can clear up this mass of confusion and assure us that a sound program for the area has been developed, all federal committments to South Bay Terraces should be stopped. Write or telegraph Mr. Samuel J. Simmons, Assistant Secretary for Equal Opportunities, at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Normandy Building, 1626 K Street, Washington, D.C., 20410.

DON'T PASS THE BUCK!

WHERE THE ACTION IS

Where are You? Fighting for a good cause or pussyfooting through a revolution?

The Heartland Human Relations Association has opened an information center at 8780 La Mesa Blvd., La Mesa. It is open from 10 to 1, Monday through Friday, to keep the community informed of needs, events and activities in the Heartland area related to Human Relations. Materials on Human Relations are available. "Good Neighbors Come in All Colors" bumper stickers are in good supply. Anyone interested in helping in the office, contacting business people or working on publicity, please call 460-2744 between 10 and 1, or call Barbara Collis evenings at 465-8031.

The Community Relations Conference of Southern California, Executive Director, Dr. Julian J. Keiser, has begun Housing Coalition chaired by Curt Moody seeking to raise $30,000 to place a full-time low income housing lobbyist at Sacramento. The appeal for one dollar contributions is catching on. Out of 6,000 solicited thus far, $2,500 has been received. Larger contributions are being sought on an individual basis. By April, the decisions must be made whether there are sufficient funds to hire a lobbyist and staff. If you have a list to mail the appeal to or would like to contribute, call 295-2607 (Los Angeles) or write: Community Relations Conference of Southern California, 4034 Buckingham Road, Suite 209, Los Angeles, 90008.

Christa Eichhorn is giving up her job as volunteer chairman of CURE. Many thanks are due her for the fine job she has done. The new chairman is Grace Shelton. If you need a volunteer or wish to be one, call her at 488-5563.

An excellent study of the education park, and its feasibility for San Diego, is available (for about 75 cents) from the League of Women Voters, 232-8583.

Do you want a mediocre man to be your doctor, your lawyer, the teacher of your children? No? Well, then, how about a mediocre justice for the Supreme Court? Sen. Russel B. Long, D-La., says "brilliant ... upside-down thinkers" on the court are destroying the nation and recommends a "B student or C student" like Judge G. Harrold Carswell.

If you share our belief that Judge Carswell's nomination is an insult to the U.S. Supreme Court and to the millions of Americans who look to the Court as their champion in the fight for full equality, write now to your Senators, urging them to declare publicly their opposition to the nomination.

The California Indian Association, Area 7, will sponsor a conference on opportunities in higher education on April 25, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at Mesa College. Call Leland Majel, 277-5072, or Marilyn Halpern, 453-0778, for further details.

NEGLECT BENIGN OR MALIGNANT?

orandum from presidential adviser Daniel Moynihan contain heartening statistics for all. It would be tragic if the figures were lost in the fury of debate over administration civil rights policies.

A third of all American Negro families earned $8,000 or more in 1968 according to the Moynihan report, more than double the number in 1960. Even allowing for dilution of the dollar by inflation, this is a substantial advance.

The average young Negro couple outside the South earns 99 per cent of the income of the average young white couple.

The number of Negroes in professional and technical jobs doubled between 1960 and 1968, 2½ times the rate of increase in those categories for whites.

The number of Negro college students rose 58 per cent between 1964 and 1968 to 434,000.

These are gains far more meaningful than the creation of race-oriented classes on campuses or an organized march. They indicate that in terms of genuine human progress, the goal of equal opportunity for all is improving.

The statistics represent action that speaks louder than rhetoric, and achievement beyond passion and words.

Leaving for the moment the, to our mind, irresponsible conclusions of the editorial, it should be noted that Moynihan's statistics tell something less than the whole story. Census and Labor Department statisticians who prepared the source report, according to The New Republic, quarrelled seriously with the assertion that "outside the South, young husband-wife Negro families have 99 per cent of the income of whites." Moynihan should have noted, the statisticians thought, that this was true of only 135,000 out of 1.5 million non-Southern Negro families.

Furthermore, in a typical mid-income category (around $7000) it took three workers in a Negro family to equal the income of one worker in a comparable white family.

Still, we would agree with Moynihan and the Union that there has been "heartening" progress toward more equal economic opportunities although the goal is still far off. But we emphatically disagree with the implication of the Union's remarks: that therefore black studies, "organized marches," and other expressions of black pride and hope somehow lack validity.

While we would be the last to fault the present good intentions of a certain segment of American business toward minority groups, it surely would not be amiss to point out that for many years black men were the last to be hired and the first to be fired, if indeed they could find jobs at all. Without the marches, without the rhetoric, without the passion that the Union seems to find so objectionable, how many, we wonder, of these "meaningful" gains would have occurred? --ALC

CURE

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