[MS-0087.006.012.030]

CURE

CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

3944 1/2 Third Avenue, San Diego, California 92103

MAY 1973

VOL.6 NO.2

CURE's First Five Years: The Good And The Bad

by Keith Robinson

CURE is five years old this month. There are now, as there have been for the past five years, approximately 500 dues-paying members of CURE. In these two facts are good reason for cheerful optimism as well as sound cause for discouraged pessimism. Tradition requires us to look at the bad news first.

As CURE completes five years of struggling against the devisive, destructive forces of racism, it is discouraging indeed to look at an objective assessment of progress, for in such an assessment is the unavoidable conclusion that today there are probably fewer people working for equality, and the few remaining faithful appear to be considerably less zealous than they were a year or two or five ago. Perhaps some apparently worthy causes -- such as population control, environmental control, etc. -- have necessarily taken some of the energy and urgency out of the civil rights movement. Perhaps the ethereal "white backlash" has, in fact, materialized to the extent that minority groups are no longer thought of as having been quite so victimized by a white racist society. Or perhaps the minorities themselves are making fewer demands, speaking with less bombastic rhetoric, and accepting less than their fair share. Who knows?

For whatever reasons, CURE's constant fight to maintain a treasury and a list of workers is as difficult now as it ever has been, and the process of squeezing dollars and hours out of sympathetic members and citizens is becoming increasingly agonizing. However, the optimistic side definitely does exist, and lest we become too morose, let us reflect on these encouraging developments:

In a major change, not only of location but also in life style, CURE moved from the office in Jim Trent's Printcraft building at 3386 30th Street to a carriage house over the garage at 3944 3rd Avenue. All members owe Jim Trent a huge debt of gratitude, not only for his great generosity in providing free office space for the past two years, but also for his patience with our problems and his invaluable help and advice concerning matters of printing, such as the Integrated Cookbook and the newsletter.

Dr. Paul Strauss, husband of CURE board member Anita Strauss, purchased and refurbished the house at 3944 3rd Avenue in order to establish a psychiatric counseling service there. He and his associates generously allowed CURE to use the carriage house at the back of the property as an office. Through the kindness of many people, this office is becoming an excellent place to carry on the business of CURE. Board members and others who have seen it and worked in it (or on it) are unanimous in their enthusiasm and approval. Most feel that CURE is becoming a more permanent, dynamic, and professional organization as a result of the change. Naturally, the change requires large amounts of money and time, and the board of directors has issued an urgent appeal for both; PLEASE contribute whatever you can in time, money, or materials to help establish and operate the new office.

Also on the positive side is the mere fact of survival; in these times of ad hoc committees and underfunded organizations who begin in obscurity and proceed straight to oblivion, CURE can take pride in (a) hanging around for five years, (b) becoming slightly less obscure and more well known, and (c) staying solvent. (The board may have a hell of a time raising funds to meet expenses, but somehow the funds -- minimal though they may be -- continue to suffice.)

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CURE NOMINATION/ELECTION

The annual nomination of persons to serve on the board of directors will be held May 17, 7:30 p. m. at 3944 1/2 3rd Ave., San Diego. Members are encouraged to attend and to submit names for nomination. Election of directors will be by mail in early June. You will be receiving your ballot with notification of date and location.

GARDNER Urges Effective Action

by Anita Strauss

The whole area of civil rights and injustices was listed as one of the primary urgent problems in our society today by Dr. John W. Gardner, Common Cause chairman, who spoke April 4 to a group of 750 at a luncheon co-sponsored by Common Cause, CURE, and thirteen other organizations. Dr. Gardner stated that our generation has been charged with tackling the festering civil rights problems. This is a moral issue which must be faced, he said, and we must quit pretending that no problems exist.

Dr. Gardner was optimistic about the future of concerned citizen action. He gave the following pointers

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NCCJ Coordinates "Quality" Conference

by Shuf Swift

"How can the community, its citizens, and organizations become more involved in education?" "How are schools and school boards dealing with efforts to achieve equality in quality education for all students?" Answers to these and other questions will be sought at a conference on "Quality in Equality - And Equality in Quality Education - A Total Community Responsibility" sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews at De Sales Hall, University of San Diego, on Friday and Saturday, May 11 and 12.

Nine work groups will be formed to discuss various aspects of educational needs in this community and to come up with recommendations as to how these needs can be filled. However, efforts will not end with the conclusion of the conference on Saturday. Work groups will also carefully consider how their recommendations can best be implemented. Participants will be encouraged to continue to meet to insure necessary and appropriate follow-up to insure action.

The following nine topics, one for each work group, have been selected. "Ethnic, Social and Cultural Isolation in the School and Community." "The Responsibility for Developing Cultural Identity." "Human Relations in the School and Community." "Community Involvement and Participation in Schools." "Teacher and Student Rights." "Participation of Minority Groups in Policy Making." "Opportunities for Minority Groups in Educational Administration." "Transition in Education and Innovations." "The Role and Image of Women in Education."

CURE is one of the more than thirty organizations co-sponsoring this conference. Registration fee is $10 for non-students, $3.00 for students. For more information call 232-6113.

Office
9 – 1 CURE
295-5800

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.

Executive Board

Pres. Keith Robinson 279-2106
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Sec. Virginia Gilloon 274-6583
Treas. Shuf Swift 223-8602
Exec. Sec. Dorothy Lloyd 295-5800

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Loch Crane, Jane Emerson, Calvin Franklin, Alice Hoskins, Frank Jennings, Jean Kelley, Joe McGuire, Viola McKern, Mary Eunice Oliver, Dick Shanor, Anita Strauss.

Dear Readers:

Five years I've willingly devoted to being a founder, and paid/part-time/volunteer executive secretary for CURE. These have been challenging, rewarding and enjoyable years. I have met exciting, vital people and events -- had some victories and some frustrations. Much of the work has been unglamorous and behind the scenes, but this was my preference. Recently, my role with CURE changed. Economic conditions in the aero-space industry prevent me from continuing to enjoy the luxury of donating my skills to you. I am going to share a few parting thoughts with you.

Where have the activists gone? Civil rights is not the number one "popular" cause at this time. Many people in the white community don't want to hear any more about it. The economic and political climate has reversed itself from five years ago. In some instances activist leaders have been subtly bought off through employment into non-vocal positions within the system, or starved off from program reductions. The struggle for basic necessities sometimes leaves little time to struggle for human rights.

The current racist political climate demands more of us now than ever. Lofty words of idealism will not suffice. Fickle retreat and melting into our white communities with a pathetic cry of "What's the use?" will not hold the line either. We must continue our unyielding struggle for justice. Skills must be sharpened and energy organized to prepare for progress. The pendulum swing between racism and justice will continue whether we're involved or not. If we remain steadfast, we can keep it from swinging too far backward. The eternally aggravating "What can we do?" must be turned into "What we will do."

Let us look at the assets of CURE and similar citizen organizations.

1. Autonomy - no one subtly controls our voice through legislative purse strings.

2. Potential power of the mobilized vote and public outcry.

3. Mandate of moral conviction - racism is destructive and WRONG!

4. The constitution of this nation promises equal opportunity for every citizen.

CURE is at a turning point. Five years of volunteer energy have sustained us. For various reasons the core volunteers can no longer carry the load. The future of the organization can follow any of three possible directions: 1) leadership through a new core of enthusiastic volunteers; 2) acquisition of funding to enable employment of staff to lead the organization into a professional, credible posture; 3) a slow attrition leading to oblivion.

As a reader, or member, what future do you want for the organization? Does it even matter? Are you going to volunteer your talents? money? expertise? Will you leave it for someone else to do? There is a physical plant, an organization, five years of experience and a reputation. What should be done with them? 295-5800, 3944 1/2 Third Ave., S. D. 92103.

Thoughtfully,
Dorothy Lloyd

To the Editor:

It is rare indeed when a Black man gets an opportunity to visit South Africa, a country known the world over for its extreme racial policies. Having received a visa several months ago, such an opportunity now exists for me to visit and tour the Republic of South Africa. An eight week trip is planned beginning late April.

The South African Government granted the visa despite national publicity given to my waging a peaceful protest demonstration three years ago at Rancho La Costa's Tournament of Champions golf event in northern San Diego County involving Gary Player, the South African professional. The essence of the protest-as lettered on my shirt-was "No Ashe, No Player!" meaning that if Arthur Ashe, the tennis star, could not then play tennis in South Africa-as he was not permitted to do-, Gary Player on the other hand should not be permitted to play golf in the United States.

The success of the demonstration was well beyond expectations. Los Angeles' major newspapers plus the New York Times carried lengthy articles with photos covering the incident. At the same tournament the following year I was again present but without the lettered sign on my shirt-it really wasn't needed- as a reminder of the original protest and the continuation of the basic problem in South Africa. Six months later Lee Elder, having been invited by Gary Player, became the first Black professional to participate in a multi-racial sports event in South Africa. He appeared in the South African Open, the major golf event in the country.

To climax the whole affair, I decided in April 1972 to apply for a visa to see for myself just what are the prevailing conditions in South Africa. This was granted several months later.

Not having the full personal means to finance the trip, I am appealing to possible interested individuals or groups to have them share in this unusual experience by partially sponsoring the trip in return for a presentation to any designated group upon my return to the United States in June. Sponsorships are being sought in the amount of $100, $200, or more. If interested in more information or arranging a future presentation write to me at: 8 South 21st St, San Diego, CA 92113, or phone 232-5500.

JOHN WILLIAMS

Five Years

Continued from page 1

We think -- we have little in the way of empirical evidence -- that CURE has awakened some white citizens to the realities of white racism; we even think we have changed a few minds about what should be done by whom; but the establishment of a truly just and brotherly community seems almost as far off as it seemed five years ago:

"Housing remains segregated, despite VA and FHA laws regarding discrimination;

"The school board continues to muddle about with a pathetically impotent "human relations" program and NO integration program, despite the pleas of thousands of citizens and dozens of organizations;

"Many departments in city and county civil service remain lily white, despite the heroic work of those responsible for the Affirmative Action innovations.

Five years ago the civil rights movement was given impetus by the riots in various parts of the country, and by the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy; outraged citizens by the thousands called up civil rights organizations begging to help: what, they demanded, could they do to hasten the arrival of a more sane society? Perhaps the absence of tragic and dramatic events has contributed to the seemingly lethargic attitudes in evidence today. If so, this also is bad and sad news, for it implies that we are unable to see the more meaningful if less spectacular evidence all around us.

To the faithful 500, CURE sends thanks, love, and respect, along with a plea for renewed dedication and increased participation. To non-members, CURE sends an invitation to join the struggle; let us come together to help prevent any more dramatic and tragic events.

CURE owes many thanks to many people and organizations for their help and/or contributions in setting up and furnishing the new CURE office at 3944 1/2 3rd Ave. A few of the generous ones:

Dr. Paul Strauss, M.D.
Raffee's Carpets
Loch Crane, of Loch Crane and Assoc., A.I.A.
Norm Dunnigan, Balboa Electric
John Kilcoyne, K. B. Electric
Dave Wren, Highland Plumbing & Heating

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES for Fiscal Year June 1, 1972 to May 31, 1973
(includes a newsletter subscription)

Student.....$2 Contributing...$25 Donation...$_____
Individual...$5 Sustaining.....$100 Subscription without
Family.....$8 Organization...$15 membership.....$2

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT CURE BY HELPING WITH.

....Membership ....Research projects ..... Fund raising
....Panel speaking...Phoning ..... Education committee
....Newsletter ...Cookbook sales ..... Employment committee
....Other (please indicate your interests below.)

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

STREET ADDRESS. . . . . .

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

____ 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?

Viva La Huelga!

by Viola McKern

I have been a supporter of the cause of the Farm Workers since the historic lettuce strike of 1933-34 in Imperial Valley. The story of farming in this corporation dominated state is one of appalling exploitation and denial of basic human rights: low wages (10¢ an hour in the Valley in 1933); lack of any kind of legal protection; unbelievably bad housing; drinking water from irrigation ditches; (modified to some extent with great difficulty over the years); peaceful meetings broken up with tear gas by sheriff's deputies.

It includes experiences like that of ACLU attorney Al Wirior in Brawley in 1934 -- abduction from his hotel by deputies; blindfolding; manhandling; being transported seven miles into the desert to be thrown into an irrigation ditch full of water; his party next day taken forcibly to the San Diego County line and ordered never to return. It includes the jailing in the late 30's of those who tried to help the workers organize, -- some of them social worker friends of mine. It includes more than a dozen young farm workers sentenced to San Quentin prison. According to the then chaplain at San Quentin, Rev. Lawrence Wilson, conviction was based on possession of supposed communist literature, under the California Criminal Syndicalism Act of 1953 (11400).

At last Cesar Chavez has succeeded in organizing a union. He has arrayed against him all the resources of the multi-million dollar conglomerates such as Teneco. Increasingly national religious and other bodies such as the YWCA are supporting the Union cause. The National Council of churches supports a ministry under Chris Hartmire and his staff.

San Diego has long had an Interfaith committee to support the Farm Workers. On Saturday, March 17, we joined with caravans from all over Southern California to converge on Calexico, where the workers are on strike against D'Arrego.

First we visited Union Headquarters (since destroyed by arson) where we talked with the workers. We then joined them in picketing Safeway, the supermarket most closely identified with agri-business. This was the first time in all my years of support that I had carried a banner and stood shoulder to shoulder with the farmworkers. For me it was a celebration of our common humanity.

From Safeway we went to a school where all the caravans unloaded their mountains of food. (The strikers are trying to survive on $5.00 a week.) There followed an introduction of caravans -- students, priests, pastors, Chicanos, Anglos, Blacks - all kinds. There was campesino music, stories of struggle, of hardship, of mistreatment by police and courts. One very tiny woman told of being hauled into court, not to be tried but to be jailed - the judge shouting at her, - "I want you in jail for a month". There were rap sessions, tears and laughter. Their faces reveal the hardships they have seen. They also reveal their strength. I came home more committed to their cause than ever. I shall continue to boycott Safeway and all but union (black eagle) lettuce. I hope to find new ways to support them.

JOHN GARDNER

to make possible more effective action.

1. Sustained action: Stamina is a requirement. Nothing is accomplished when we dash in on a wave of enthusiasm and are gone the next day.

2. Focused action: "Random indignation can do us in." Focus on a few problems, mobilize the kind of clout that will solve the problems, then move on.

3. Inside, outside alliances: No group can win without inside men and women who want reform, and the insiders cannot win without help of outside citizen groups. Together, they form a powerful combination.

4. Tell the story, loud and clear: Let people know what is happening, and get into the media.

5. Alliances: It has been proven that it is possible to have ad hoc alliances of great power with other groups. "It would be insane for any of us to allow the slightest organizational vanity to get in the way of those alliances."

6. Professional cutting edge on our work: There is no validity in the old belief that only really wicked people have to have really good lawyers. We must do our homework better, have better analyses, and be as effective professionally as anyone in the battle.

Dr. Gardner expressed concern that the American people appear to have lost their sense of the future and their confidence in their institutions. A promising sign is the maturing of citizen action with concern for the future in areas such as environment, war and peace and injustice.

For membership or other information about Common Cause, call 459-0825.

CURE

CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

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