[ms-0087.006.012.041]

CURE

CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

3944 ½ Third Avenue, San Diego, California 92103

FEBRUARY 1976
Volume 8, No. 4

For More Effectiveness

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION RESTRUCTURES

The San Diego Human Relations Commission is in the process of restructuring. The objective is greater effectiveness. The most important changes aimed at achieving this objective are a reduction of the number of commissioners from 48 to at least 25, and replacement of the present five standing committees with a Program Committee and task forces in which non-commissioners may also participate.

The restructuring proposal developed and approved by the Commission has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors. The Human Resources Agency which reviewed the proposal recommended that the Supervisors accept the proposal, but with the number of commissioners being reduced to 15, and with the Supervisors contracting through the HRS with the HRC for services. The HRC is funded by the County, but is a separate entity as a result of its creation by a Joint Powers Agreement with five cities of the County. In the past funds have been provided by the County to the HRC, but without any contract.

The restructuring came about as a result of a number of events. January 1975, the County hired Waymon Associates, Inc., to evaluate the Commission. That report was submitted in April. In addition, the Human Resources Agency Advisory Board had recommended changes, including a reduction in the number of commissioners from 48 to 15. At the same time some commissioners were critical of the relationship between the Executive Committee and the Governing Board of the Commission. They felt that the Governing Board was not exercising its responsibility, but often only rubber stamping action of the Executive Committee.

The Commission has recommended a reduction in the number of commissioners to 25, that the Executive Committee be replaced by an Advisory Council with limited duties, that most of the duties of the Executive Committee be assumed by the Governing Board, and that the Governing Board meet monthly. The Board had been meeting only every other month. It is anticipated that with a smaller board meeting being held more frequently there will be more discussion of issues by individual commissioners, more involvement in the decision making process, a quicker resolution of problems, and more informed decisions. There will be less likelihood of feeling called upon to rubber stamp decisions already made by others.

Probably the most significant change proposed is the one which replaces the present five standing committees: Health/Welfare, Education, Law and Justice, Housing/Community Development, and Employment Manpower, with a Programs Committee and task forces. The Programs Committee will consist of a chairperson, five commissioners, each representing one of the five program areas of the present five standing committees, and the Executive Director. Programs and

continued on page 3

PROJECT YES IN SECOND YEAR

Project YES is halfway through its second year. In addition to most of the original programs which were a part of it, there are some new ones in operation and at least one in the process of development. This article will take a look at some of these programs and at the population being served.

First, Project YES (Youth--Education--Society) is a community resource center working with the San Diego Unified School District and the community to facilitate school integration and improve the human relations climate in San Diego. It began in the fall of 1974 with a $223,828 grant from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The beginning of Project YES was described in an article in the September 1974 CURE Newsletter. The grant was renewed last fall.

continued on page 2

PROJECT YES

continued from page 1

There are three major components in Project YES under the project administrator, Sidnew Glass. They are: School/Community Activities, Multi-Cultural Education, and Bilingual Education. With the School/Community Activities component are four principal elements: Human Relations Conferences, Field Representatives who are assigned to work with specific schools receiving voluntary ethnic transfers, Assembly Programs which provide multicultural entertainment to promote intercultural understanding, and Career/Scholarship Information which includes Career Aides assigned to Lincoln, Morse, and Snyder, as well as booklets containing career and scholarship information which are available to all schools. This component is administered by Delia Morales.

The Multi-Cultural Educational component, under the direction of Delois Kelly, provides inservice training for teachers, maintains a multi-cultural library, provides Cultural Specialists to schools on request as consultants, and conducts the Education on Wheels Program at Lindbergh Elementary School.

Education on Wheels changes the bus ride for the ethnic transfer students going to Lindbergh from just a bus ride to a special educational experience. Students on the bus utilize casettes, film strips, and other materials during the ride. Sometimes there are special speakers and community field trips. This program is coordinated by Phoebe Hutcherson.

The Bilingual Education Component serves four schools: Balboa, Paradise Hills, and Sherman Elementary Schools, and San Diego High School. Rene Flores supervises this component. These schools were selected because of their heavy populations of students with limited English-speaking abilities. A bilingual field representative is assigned to each school. In three of the schools the dominant language, other than English, is Spanish. In one, the main minority population is Pilipino and the field representative is fluent in Tagalog.

A new program under the Multi-Cultural Education component is the Desegregation Research Specialist. Melba King, the Desegregation Research Specialist, is gathering information on successful integration programs in other districts. This information will be shared with the community through workshops or conferences. At least one workshop is planned for this spring.

In addition to these programs, there is the Project YES Action Line. Lillian Mitchell receives calls or referrals from community residents, parents, and school personnel concerning incidents of a racial nature or involving ethnic transfer students. She tries to answer the question, to refer the problem, if appropriate, or to resolve the problem through mediation and counseling. In short, she serves an an omsbudsman. Lillian is very much concerned that her role not be limited to a band-aid type of operation. She looks for solutions that will get at the roots of the problem, while she takes care of the individual immediately. For example, she has helped parents of students participating in the ethnic transfer program to form a Satellite Parent Group in their own neighborhood. Teachers and staff from the school to which their children are bused will meet with the Satellite Parent Group in its own neighborhood.

In other situations she has worked with the central administration to make changes in policies and procedures which are not working.

Project YES is serving 86 schools with a total population of about 80,930. Since the total district enrollment is about 123,000, Project YES is involved in schools which contain two thirds of the district's students.

The staff of Project YES reflects the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic nature of its task. There are seven Anglos, thirteen Blacks, eleven Chicanos, seven Asians, two Puerto Ricans, and one who identifies with none of these categories.

Project YES is now incorporated as a non-profit corporation. It will be seeking funds in addition to those received from HEW. Jane Senour, a member of the CURE Board of Directors, is the present Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Project YES. Because Project YES is new, experimental, exploring new territory in education, dealing with a number of groups, each with its own expectations, and because much of the task involves human relations problems, the responsibility for chairing the Board has not been routine. It has been a challenge, but one being handled very well by Jane.

CURE

Office **295-5800**

Published by Citizens United for Racial Equality, Inc. 3944½ Third Ave., San Diego, CA 92103

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, Dick Berry, Arthur Deutsch, Virginia Gilloon, Irene Greiner, Dorothy Lloyd, William MacInnes, Joe McGuire, Verna Quinn, David Quessenberry, Jane Senour, Shuf Swift, Muriel Taylor, Martha Vickers.

HRC RESTRUCTURES

continued from page 1

activities of the present five committees will be assigned to task forces. When new needs emerge, either from the community or as perceived by commissioners, they will be evaluated by the Programs Committee and, if appropriate, assigned to a task force tailored to deal with the specific problem. Non-commissioners will be invited to participate on the task forces. Staff, when needed, will be assigned by the Executive Director.

There are a number of advantages to this new procedure. There will be a centralized planning group which includes the Executive Director, and which represents all areas of interest. This group can evaluate proposals, coordinate Commission work, prioritize efforts, and provide more effective follow-up programs. In the past, standing committees have been quite autonomous. There was no mechanism for coordinating efforts nor for assigning priorities to activities. Participation by non-commissioners permits the utilization of valuable resources in the community. It also allows the Commission to maintain its present level of activities, and even expand it although the number of commissioners is being reduced. The participation of non-commissioners increases the involvement of the community in Commission work and exposure of the Commission in the community. Doing away with the present standing committees also makes for more flexible use of both staff and commissioners. It will be easier to make assignments in more than one area where interests, skills, and experience of an individual staff officer or commissioner are broad.

Over the past few months the Commission has been involved in a wide range of activities. As the new fiscal year began, the Commission was lending assistance to the local resettlement of Vietnamese refugees. In association with a coalition of other community and service agencies problems of sponsorship, housing, employment, training, and cultural differences were addressed. The International Council of the Arts, a Bicentennial project of the HRC, is accelerating its activities in support of the upcoming Bicentennial events. The group has served as the local coordinating unit for a series of ethnic art exhibits being held in the State Capitol Building.

Oceanside recently experienced tensions resulting from a police-community relations problem with racial overtones. The Commission was called upon by community leaders and officials to assist in resolving this and other human relations problems. The Education Committee of the HRC, for example, met with various school groups in Oceanside, including school board members and administrators, to discuss human relations problems affecting the schools.

In late spring 1975, the Commission's Housing/Community Development Committee published A Handbook for Tenants and Landlords. Judging from the tremendous response to it (several thousand copies have been distributed and more are requested when available), it has been an extremely useful tool in advising people of their rights as tenants and landlords and in assisting them in obtaining these rights.

The region's first Affirmative Action Clearinghouse was established with a federal grant of $80,000. The purpose of the HRC building at 3730 Fifth Avenue, is to eliminate the artificial barriers to employment caused by discrimination because of race, creed, sex, age, or physical handicap. The Clearinghouse staff of five provides its services to private businesses, public agencies, schools, and service organizations.

In addition, the HRC handles many individual complaints or requests for assistance. While this type of service will obviously continue, the emphasis will be on working with other groups, government agencies, business and industry, and community organizations to facilitate dialogue and get at the roots of problems. The restructuring should assist in this effort.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES For Fiscal Year June 1, 197 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. ____

Where the Action Is

PROGRESS REPORT FROM ELEMENTARY INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

Friends of the Elementary Institute of Science appeared before City Council, January 14, in an appeal for funding. They asked for $21,000—the amount of annual support needed to make up for county revenue-sharing funds which have recently been terminated. Tom Watts, a teacher from Audubon School, gave a brief discourse on the history of the Institute and the types of services it provides to multi-racial groups of young people. In regard to the unique quality of these services, he said there are only four other such agencies in the world: one in St. Petersburg, Florida; the other three being in Bordeaux, France; London, England, and Tunis, Tunisia.

The other speaker was Bob Russell who teaches at Mesa College and is a leader in A.B.E. (Association of Black Educators). Mr. Russell spoke of the ever-increasing need for scientists and the necessity to encourage minority people toward careers in science. The racial make-up of the Institute participants at this time was said to be 50% Black, 25% Chicano, 23% Americans of European descent, and 2% Native Americans and Pan-Asians.

At the close of the presentation Leon Williams moved, seconded by Jess Haro, that the question be turned over to the Public Safety and Service Committee for study, followed by the unanimous agreement of the other Council members. Incidentally, when that committee meets, Mr. Watts and Mr. Russell will be asked to attend, at which time they can offer further testimony and answer questions.

A hearing on this subject has been set for Thursday, Feb. 26 at 8:30 a.m. in the City Administration Building. Leaders of the Institute expect the City Manager to oppose their request for funding. Supporters of the Institute are urged to be present at the hearing.

CURE BOARD VOTES TO OPPOSE SENATE BILL 1

Senate Bill 1 is a 753-page proposal titled the "Criminal Justice Reform Act." In an effort to recodify and systematize the present federal criminal justice code, a bill has been produced that goes far beyond the present law and is a threat to rights guaranteed in the First Amendment. Some of our reasons for opposing Senate Bill 1 are as follows:

(a) it permits an unprecedented amount of suppression of information.

(b) it gives immunity from prosecution to many federal officials.

(c) it places more restrictions on every kind of demonstration.

(d) it broadens the conspiracy charge.

(e) it attempts to circumvent the 1972 Supreme Court decision on capital punishment and provides mandatory executions for certain crimes.

(f) it calls for stiff sentencing and makes parole and probation harder to obtain.

(g) it authorizes wiretapping and directs telephone companies and landlords to cooperate with such procedures, thereby taking away more right to privacy.

(h) it permits conviction of defendants for crimes which they were induced to do by improper pressures of police agents, and puts the burden of proof on the defendant.

These provisions are but a part of the long array of hazards to a free society. The Los Angeles Times editorial of Sept. 15 said of S. 1: "Whatever this bill is, it is not simply an effort to pull together and rationalize existing federal law. It is, rather, a reflection of an authoritarian view of the way government should function, and a radical departure from the letter and spirit of the Constitution."

CURE encourages you to urge your U. S. Senators to work to defeat Senate Bill 1.

. . . . . .

CURE
CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY
3944 ½ Third Avenue, San Diego, California 92103

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 714
San Diego, CA.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED