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CURE

CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

3386 30th STREET SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA 92104

OCTOBER 1972
Volume 5 Number 5

SEIDENBAUM AND CURE: OCTOBER 7 EL CAJON

The committee responsible for CURE's annual general membership meeting met on September 14 to try to take care of a seemingly infinite number of details; details which, the committee felt, must be taken care of in order to provide the best possible evening for those attending the meeting. In discussing plans, committee members were particularly pleased with the speaker, Art Seidenbaum, columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

When asked why every member of CURE should attend the meeting, committee members gave these reasons:

1. To support the work CURE has been doing in education, in employment, and in getting the message to the white community.
2. To listen to Art Seidenbaum discuss with wit and insight a few of the current issues.
3. To be entertained by authentic ethnic music.
4. To eat a terrific dinner.
5. To find out what's happening in the San Diego county area in the field of human rights.
6. To have a great time, seeing old friends, meeting new ones, and (CURE hopes) rejuvenating one's interest in equality and justice.

The price of a ticket to the meeting – $5.00 per person – was thought at first to be expensive, but members of the committee explained that in order to meet expenses and still serve a high quality dinner, the price was necessary. "Besides", said Sherry Bloom, committee member, "I think our members will consider $5.00 a bargain when they realize it includes the dinner AND a speaker of Mr. Seidenbaum's calibre!"

The location – Sears Community Hall in El Cajon – was selected primarily because of the excellence of the facilities and the exceptional courtesy and cooperation of the Sears staff. However, committee member Shuf Swift reported that the committee felt the meeting should be in different areas of the county each year, and that CURE's support from the El Cajon – La Mesa – Lemon Grove area warranted a meeting in that area. In any case, the hall is ideal, the parking is ample, and the Sears personnel are anxious to help.

The Board of Directors of CURE expressed the desire that the meeting would serve as a catalyst to move all members to increase their level of involvement in the work that must be done. Directors felt that pleasant surroundings, good food, and an outstanding speaker would blend together into something which could be a significant step forward in CURE's attempts to combat racism.

The committee urged all members to call or write immediately for tickets, not only for themselves, but for friends and associates as well.

ACT NOW!!
MAIL TO CURE – 3386-30th Street.
San Diego, CA 92104, 295-5800 or 272-9449

RESERVATION DEADLINE is Noon October 5, 1972. No dinner tickets will be sold at the door.

Please make_____ # of dinner reservations for me. ($5.00 per person) $_____ is enclosed (Make checks payable to CURE)

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ **Zip**_____

Phone No._____

Tickets will be sent by return mail.

(For admission to the program without dinner the charge is $1.00 per person.)

Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m.
Program begins at 8:30 p.m.

CITIZENS FORM =CAUSE: NO ON 21

by Shuf Swift

"No public school student shall, because of his race, creed, or color, be assigned to or be required to attend a particular school." These are the words of Proposition 21, the regressive initiative sponsored by Assemblyman Floyd Wakefield, also called the "Neighborhood School Initiative." Californians Against Unequal Schools & Education, (=CAUSE), is a state-wide action group organized to defeat Proposition 21. Among those who have already joined the fight against this proposition are Assemblywoman Yvonne Brathwaite, the California Federation of Teachers, the NAACP, the Community Relations Conference of Southern California, the American Civil Liberties Union, the League of Woman Voters of California, The State Board of the California PTA, the California School Boards Association, the San Diego Teachers Association, The San Diego Federation of Teachers, the San Diego Ecumenical Conference, the Assembly of the Executive Committee of the United Church of Christ – San Diego County, and Citizens United for Racial Equality.

The San Diego Board of Education added its voice in opposition to Proposition 21 on September 12 when it voted 3-0 to oppose the proposition. Board member Johnston urged a strong board stand against Proposition 21. He was supported by George W. Smith and Richard F. Kreile. The Los Angeles school board also took a position in opposition to Proposition 21 with only one negative vote.

Wilson Riles, State Superintendent of Schools, commented in Coronado on September 13 that the initiative, in his opinion, was unconstitutional. He stated that our main concern should be with providing quality education for all and that Proposition 21 generated an emotional climate that hindered this effort. He said the state should provide only broad guidelines, that local districts should be free to solve local problems within these broad guidelines.

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=CAUSE (Cont'd)

The Bagley Act, passed by the Legislature in 1971 and signed into law by Governor Reagan after extensive study, provides such broad guidelines. Proposition 21 would repeal the Bagley Act.

Far-reaching effects

What else will Proposition 21 do? It will freeze hundreds of thousands of Black, Mexican-American, and other minority children in the inferior segregated schools to which they are now assigned. It will reverse the California State Supreme Court decision of 1971 in Johnson vs. San Francisco School Board holding that, although no pupil is to be bused without parental consent, assignment to schools is a necessary and proper school district function. According to lawyers who have studied it, it will prohibit practically all known and tested methods of eliminating inferior segregated schools.

Through its repeal of the Bagley Act it will eliminate the requirement for racial censuses which are essential as indicators of imbalance. A recent report by the Bureau of Intergroup Relations of the State Department of Education showed that the degree of racial isolation in the schools in our state is increasing. One third of all Black pupils attend schools that are 90% or more Black. Almost 50% of Mexican-American pupils drop out of school by the 12th grade. Forty two percent of Anglo students attend schools that are over 90% white. Such data and the reports based on them are essential in order that the problems which exist, whether we collect the data or not, can be dealt with most effectively and efficiently.

Restricts local districts

Proposition 21, through its repeal of the Bagley Act, is likely to encourage Courts to order busing because no other mechanism for complying with the supreme law of the land will be available. The Bagley Act is a very moderate proposal establishing flexible guidelines to aid local districts and to encourage districts to plan ahead to avoid busing controversies. For example, because of earthquake requirements established by the Field Act, many new schools must be built in San Diego by 1975. Planning for such rebuilding was approved by the San Diego School Board also on September 12. As long as this planning procedure is actively underway and high priority in the planning is being given to reducing racial imbalance, as required by the Bagley Act, this very fact will provide a legal defense against court ordered mandatory busing. Under this process this district can make progress. This district is particularly fortunate when compared with other districts in that its problems, though serious and worsening through inaction, can still be reduced by the creative application of methods other than massive mandatory busing. Busing could probably be avoided completely today, if the Bagley Act had been in effect in 1966 at the time of the Lindsley Report. In summary, Proposition 21, through repeal of the Bagley Act, will lock San Diego schools into a steadily worsening situation of racial imbalance.

Regressive Legislation

Proposition 21 would not only prohibit the moderate proposals made to the San Diego Board of Education on April 11, 1972, to move toward more balanced schools with increased opportunity for equally effective education for all, but would also force the Board to end the Fremont-Silvergate Model School program which has been so successful. It would end the Voluntary Racial/Ethnic Transfer program in which almost 2000 students participated last year. In both of the programs students are assigned to schools because of race, which Proposition 21 would prohibit. Proposition 21 is regressive because it would require the Board not just to stand still, but to move backwards by eliminating these excellent, tested programs.

It would prevent the changing of attendance boundaries, the construciton of educational parks, the pairing of schools, when these actions had as their goal the promotion of better racial balance.

In all likelihood Proposition 21 is contrary to the fundamental law of the state and the nation as Mr. Riles states. If passed and challenged in the courts, it will be struck down as unconstitutional. That is what happened to the like spirited Proposition 14 eight years ago. Proposition 14 was voided by the State Supreme Court in 1966 and by the federal Supreme Court in 1967. But in the meantime Proposition 14 has done irreparable damage to race relations in California. Its vicious after effects still linger. As Wilson Riles points out, Proposition 21 is already increasing such unhealthy tensions.

Racism and poverty are the two fundamental issues facing this country today. Segregated education is unequal education. This is baldly and tragically demonstrated by the test scores and racial census of the San Diego schools. The segregated, unequal education, which grows out of racism, is a factor in perpetuating poverty. Racism further compounds and confounds the problem because it also generates unequal employment opportunities. The dizzy, frustrating circle must be broken in as many places as possible. The Bagley Act which simply calls upon school boards to give attention to the racial and ethnic distribution in their district and to give high priority to reducing and eliminating any imbalance that is found, is a first step in breaking this circle. Proposition 21 would repeal this act and once again lock us into the destructive cycle of social isolation, segregated education, unequal education, unequal job opportunity, poverty, and impoverished lives.

What can you do?
=CAUSE Urges the Following Actions

1. Vote NO on Proposition 21 on November 7.
2. Discuss the proposition with others and urge them to vote NO.
3. Circulate literature. (Call 295-5800 9-12 a.m. Mon-Fri) or 277-0983 for literature.
4. Make arrangements for your group (neighborhood, school, church, service, political, etc.) to have a program on this issue. Call 295-5800 (9-12 a.m. Mon-Fri) or 277-0983 for a speaker.
5. Suggest your group's newsletter carry facts about Proposition 21. You may reprint this article or portions of it.
6. Write letters to community leaders, newspaper editors, friends throughout California, telling of your opposition to Proposition 21.
7. If you have questions or need information contact the San Diego Chapter of =CAUSE, 3386 30th St., San Diego, CA 92104 295-5800 (9-12 a.m. Mon-Fri) or 277-0983.

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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
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DREAM AND REALITY

The dream came over on a slave ship
Chained in agony the whole miserable trip
But it came, it kept coming through the long suffering time
The same dream that was humming in Nat Turner's mind
A dream too patient, too Black, too weary, too angry
To be anyone's dream, but our dream.
Brothers, this dream didn't come to amuse, it didn't come to
confuse or further abuse. . .Black people.
Brothers, this old ancient dream came because it had to come
I had to come, you had to come, we had to come, collectively together,
And if being our dream, an ancient oppressed people's dream
Separated it and colored it Black
If Uncle Tom should awake and call our Black dream a mistake
Can anyone take a used dream back?

That's why, we and I, knew reality had to come.
It had to come when Malcolm X died,
It had to come when Black Souls cried.
It had to come too late for the Junkie who overdosed his wake-up,
Too late to keep Cinderella Diana Ross from wearing white make-up,
Too late to keep Wino Willie away from the liquor store,
Too late to give him a reason to keep living for;

But sure as Grits is Grocery, It had to come;
It had to come, because God in the costume of
Abraham Lincoln, didn't love Us.

It had to come when they murdered Martin Luther King
For trying to teach us, to love us,
It had to come because nobody loved us, not even Us,
Brothers and sisters, it had to come, and when it's here
When at last our dream is clear
Brother, you dream away one
Sister, you dream away one
I'll dream away one
Because, brothers and sisters I knew
Reality had to come.

The above poem was written by Olen Pennell a Black 21 year former inmate of the maximum security cell at the Men's House of Detention in Brooklyn, N.Y. He is now living in San Diego.

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?

FARMWORKERS ENDANGERED

By Proposition 22

by Karen Leppor

Proposition 22

After repeated unsuccessful efforts to pass repressive anti-farmworker legislation in California, the Farm Bureau, lettuce growers, and other agribusiness interests have qualified an initiative for the November ballot.

There is widespread evidence that signatures on the petitions to qualify the measure for the ballot were obtained by fraud. Secretary of State Edmund G. Brown Jr. has requested thorough investigations by the various district attorneys. People were told the measure was to "lower food prices," to "help the farmworkers," and that Cesar Chavez, who in reality strongly opposes the measure, supports it. Brown has filed legal action to have the measure removed from the November 7 ballot.

The future of the farmworkers' cause for justice may be decided on November 7 if the people of California vote on the Agricultural Labor Relations Initiative – Proposition 22. Proposition 22 is aimed at destroying the farmworkers' union; it would stop unionization of farmworkers in California.

Decades of Injustice

Farmworkers have historically been denied the rights other working people have enjoyed for generations: the right to unemployment insurance, to an equal minimum wage, to protection from dangerous working conditions (such as exposure to pesticides), to decent housing, and the right to sit down with employers as equals across the negotiating table and not as rented slaves in the fields.

Now agribusiness seeks to deny farmworkers the most sacred rights of American working men and women: the right to strike, to engage in collective bargaining, to boycott. The four major obstacles to unionization in the proposed legislation are:

1) It sets up an election procedure that is a fraud since it disenfranchises most farmworkers.

2) It destroys the boycott–the farmworkers' most effective non-violent tool.

3) It abolishes the right of farmworkers to strike.

4) It makes collective bargaining impossible.

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where the ACTION is

The Southeast Community Crisis Center

needs your help. They are strongly committed to working for and with the people who live in southeast San Diego to help them meet the problems they face.

Emergency food to needy familes and individuals is one of their most often used services. Help is needed to fill the cupboards between now and December. You can help by putting on a food drive. The following food items are needed now:

canned meats, fish, stews, etc.
canned fruits and vegetables
rice, noodles, packaged potatoes, etc.
powdered milk
soups
juices
baby food

If you are interested in helping them get food for Thanksgiving so they can provide familes with a typical Thanksgiving dinner, they would appreciate donations of turkeys, hams, dressing, potatoes, vegetables, cranberry sauce, etc. This is a worthy project for girl scout and boy scout troops, churches, and other groups.

For further information call the Crisis Center at 239-0325 or 239-3117 and leave a message for Jo Siegle.

Metro Volunteer Tutorial Program

School has started again, and so has the Metro Volunteer Tutorial Program. People are needed now to work with children on a one to one basis, at schools in all parts of the San Diego area. The emphasis is placed on helping children develop a greater sense of self-confidence, human worth, and dignity.

For the 4th semester, Metro is helping people get involved in tutoring by providing information on a variety of tutor training opportunities, and in continuing assistance and guidance for volunteers on the job.

For information on how YOU can become involved in helping children in this valuable program call Larry Johnson, Metro Tutorial Coordinator, 234-3158 or write METRO Rm 502-520 E St. San Diego, 92101.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

An all-day workshop will be held October 11th at Mathews Campus, UCSD. Co-sponsored by NCCJ and the San Diego County Human Relations Agency, and endorsed by the San Diego Chamber of Commerce and the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, this workshop will attempt to clarify Affirmative Action laws and determine courses of action for implementing these laws. Speakers include Carroll Waymon and Victor Villalpando and expert panelists. Limited registration of 150 served on a first-come-first-served basis is $10 per person.

Proposition 22 (cont'd)

The so-called "secret ballot elections" essentially disenfranchise the migrant worker. No worker can vote unless he has worked 14 out of the last 30 days for the specific employer involved. (Highly unlikely a harvest worker would still be around.) No worker can vote if he voted in the same geographical area during the preceding 12 months. The date of elections "SHALL BE SET AT A TIME WHEN THE NUMBER OF TEMPORARY AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYEES ENTITLED TO VOTE DOES NOT EXCEED THE NUMBER OF PERMANENT AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYEES ENTITLED TO VOTE." This means that if a grower employs 45 fulltime workers (like irrigators and tractor drivers), no election could be held except at a time when there were no more than 45 migrant workers on the job. This means the temporary harvest workers, the ones who need the protection most, who are hired by the hundreds and thousands during harvest time, for example, would never have a chance to vote. It is these migrant workers who support Cesar Chavez and are most likely to vote for the United Farm Workers Union.

Boycott a Crime

This initiative would take from farmworkers their most effective non-violent tool, the boycott. It makes the secondary boycott a crime punishable by one year in jail, a $5000 fine, or both. It would become a crime to picket a retail store despite the free speech protections of the Constitution. It prohibits use of the generic name when asking people to boycott an agricultural product. Asking people to "boycott lettuce" would be illegal since "lettuce" is a generic name.

Stop the Stike–On with the Harvest!

In case of strike, employers can get a 60-day restraining order to allow for "conciliation" . . . ample time to get the crop harvested and to market.

This is Collective Bargaining?

The proposed law provides for certain "management rights" which cannot be the subject of collective bargaining. These "management rights" include the right of management to determine the methods, equipment and facilities to be used (making it illegal for workers to try to bargain for pesticide protection). It would give management the right to contract out any part of the work, continuing the unjust labor contractor system instead of the equitable use of a hiring hall.

People Power

A quarter of a million dollars has been spent getting the measure on the ballot. Farmworkers don't have this kind of money power to use in fighting this initiative, but they do have people power. There are many ways to help. Persons interested in helping defeat Proposition 22 or requiring a speaker for meetings or churches may call the United Farm Workers offcie at 235-6265 or the Interfaith Committee at 270-2230.

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CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY
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