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YW PRIORITY: END RACISM

Self Investigation Begun

By CHARLOTTE MILLS

"...peace and justice, freedom and dignity for all people" -- these are the stated goals of the YWCA. But each triennium convention struggles to narrow this concept to a few of the most relevant and pressing priorities for the nation's YW associations to use as guidelines in the succeeding three year programs.

This April in Houston, 2,500 women made an unprecedented decision: one "imperative," not several priorities. And that imperative is "to eliminate racism wherever it exists and by any means necessary."

Why the need in 1970 for this one, narrow, strong imperative in the face of the growing poverty gap, generation gap, acceleration of war, ecology crisis and women's liberation movement?

Racial problems are not new priorities for YWCA. Before the present civil rights movement YWCA took leadership in the 1946 convention mandate that all YWCA's integrate or cease to exist. Black leadership has been a hallmark of this agency ever since on national board, staff, and many associations.

For many years YWCA was the only place in most southern states where interracial groups could find a meeting place. Even in San Diego many of our isolated Y-Teens in suburbia have said it is the only place where they could live with, and know other races at conventions and retreats.

Why then this repetitious imperative? Simple. Time is running out. What really significant changes in our country and city and YWCA's have been made? Who can deny in the face of government report after report that racism is at the root of most of our national troubles?

The convention adopted a program of action under this racial imperative, each part of which invites discussion, and study of its racial overtones and different means of implementation. These are: eliminate poverty; end war - build peace; re-

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Integration Means Politics

By AIMEE LEE CHEEK

For the school board member or superintendent actively involved in integrating the schools, moral and legal questions have pretty much been answered, but practical problems remain. Practical problems mean money and busing. Right? Wrong. Practical problems essentially mean politics.

This was the lesson that more than 200 CURE members and guests ingested along with their bread, beans and barbecued beef at last month's luncheon at the Southcrest Recreation Center.

Both Mrs. LuVerne La Motte, president of the Pasadena school board, and Dr. Paul Salmon, school superintendent in Sacramento, emphasized the necessity of electing tough, dedicated school board members, and giving them tough, dedicated support, if integrated education is to be achieved.

"If the board of education and the superintendent really want integration," Dr. Salmon said, "they will be a powerful factor in getting it." Since board members have to be elected and retained in office, that means there also must be a "strong body of people who are willing to work for integrated education."

In Pasadena, where a majority of the board voted to go along with a Superior Court order to integrate schools in the fall rather than further delay by appealing the decision, some 45 community organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce, church leaders, and teachers' groups, have voiced support. Their help is vital, Mrs. La Motte said, in facing the "very vociferous, very angry" opposition, which she put at about one-third of the voters.

Opponents of integration "will go to any length to fight it," she added, pointing out that efforts to forestall the integration of the Pasadena schools include four court cases and a recall movement against board members, including herself. "I've had to have the hide of a rhinoceros to live through the abuse."

A further recognition of the political dimension of school integration came from the Rev. George Walker Smith, president of the San Diego city board of education. In a brief talk, he reminded CURE members that neither of the school board incumbents up for election last fall faced opposition, and he recommended that for the next election candidates who favor integration of schools should be searched out and supported.

"CURE has its work cut out for it," Smith declared. He challenged members to work toward integration concern on the part of the entire metropolitan area, including National City, Chula Vista, Lemon Grove, La Mesa and the Grossmont districts. "To say you can simply draw boundary lines to achieve integration in our schools is whistling Dixie in the heart of Logan Heights," he said.

Besides the necessity for political action, the speaker's remarks served to illustrate another practi-

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SPEAKING OUT

Comments on integrated education from the CURE luncheon speakers...

Mrs. LuVerne La Motte: "We will never get ourselves out of the hangups that plague us as adults until children of all races have an opportunity to learn together at an early age."

Dr. Paul Salmon: "Children put into integrated classrooms at grades four, five and six resegregate themselves. Last year we put children from kindergarten through third grades together. They did not resegregate.

"Integration ought to occur as early as possible."

Mrs. La Motte: "We decided not to appeal the Superior Court decision (to integrate schools in Pasadena in the fall) because we thought integration was the right thing to do."

Dr. Salmon: "The concept of black community control over its schools has some validity. But unless the resources are there, education cannot be greatly improved. If a large number of poor people make up the community, their children need some other kind of model to break out of the cycle of poverty."

Dangers Seen in EMR Furor

To the Editor:

As a long time resident of San Diego, an ex-employee of San Diego Unified and an administrator of Special Education in Northern California, I feel a responsibility to answer the article "EMR Kids Take A Bum Rap."

The controversy surrounding EMR placement is not new to Special Education. As a matter of fact, some of us have known for years that this was, to say the least, an imperfect system which has never lived up to the expectations of its creators. Historically, EMR placement was intended, for many as a remedial program to cure learning problems so that they could again take their place in a regular classroom. Rarely has this occurred in practice. Instead, EMR classes have become the dumping ground for students with whom the General Educator could not or would not deal. We were (and are) trapped by our own creation.

The present controversy, however, tends to shed more emotion than understanding, and we may end up with an equally poor system for educating children if we are not more careful this time.

The fact that Blackness, Brownness and Poorness is found in disproportionate amounts in EMR placement is without a doubt racism to a large extent. But, to therefore make the statement that ..."With few exceptions, they have the capacity to complete high school, to go to college, and to become well adjusted, substantial citizens and wage earners," is not totally honest. "To go to college" is, I think, for most students in EMR placement an unrealistic goal. The rest of the statement is quite true.

Though I am sure that a few Black and Brown EMR students are average to very bright, many are slower kids (a little below average) who "look" MR on our culturally biased tests. If they were white and middle-class, they would do 10 to 20 points better. Proper testing will prove this out. Another problem here is that many children thought to be MR are really specifically neurologically damaged which manifests itself in some learning or behavior defect.

There are some other factors which are important. In any sample of the general population - white; black - white; brown - black - white; etc., you can expect about 3% to be mentally retarded. (Some say 5%, which I believe is too high.) Using the 3%, you can therefore expect about 700 Black and Brown mentally retarded students in San Diego Unified, and 2,800 white. Obviously, there are way too many Black and Brown EMR placements. Things are bad enough without implying that virtually all EMR placements are incorrect.

Much of the disparity of percentages between white and black-brown EMR placement is due to white middle-class parents fighting to keep their borderline child in the regular classroom or "protecting" him by private school placement. Interestingly, for the mildly retarded white student (middle-class), EMR placement has been very successful particularly at the elementary level.

One last point which I feel to be extremely important is that "Poorness" may be a key. Regardless of culture, the poor experience the worst nutrition, the worst medical care, etc. When we are discussing mental retardation, these factors are extremely important. A consequence of poverty is higher instance of defective and damaged children among the poor - black, brown and white; not so high, however, that it explains the disparity.

Racism we have in EMR placement - but the kind of racism it is needs to be understood so that it might be attacked properly. The elimination of EMR classes, as some have suggested, will not do the trick. There is a need for some type of special class for some students. There is also a need, and perhaps most importantly, for us to rethink our educational model at the elementary level quite completely.

Peace -

Milt LeCouteur

SLAM, Southern Legal Action Movement, a group of primarily young attorneys and law students is trying to serve the legal needs of the movement for fundamental social change in the South. For further information or to make a donation write: SLAM, P. O. Box 50435, New Orleans, La. 70150.

PROGRAM URGES "STAY IN SCHOOL"

The City, the School District and the Urban League have pooled their resources to develop a summer program aimed primarily at local area youth who need motivation to become involved in education.

"Stay in School," as the campaign is called, is designed to reach all Southeast area youth through a variety of programs. Special effort is made, however, to involve school dropouts and other troubled youngsters to encourage their continuing in school.

Youth are serving on committees which are developing programs for the Stay In School Campaign effort, as are businessmen and community people.

A Motivational Project for student tutors, began June 22 and ending August 7, has been initiated through San Diego Secondary Schools Compensatory Education Progran. More than 300 secondary students will be employed in the youth-tutoring-youth program. Employed through Neighborhood Youth Corps funds, they will be organized into teams of approximately 10 students, with each supervised by a community aide. Tutor teams will be headquartered at five schools in Southeast.

The teams will come together at a secondary center at regular times for motivational counseling programs. Such sessions will be conducted by trained counselors, team leaders and Urban League resource people.

August 16 is show time for youth involved in the School Campaign. Local area youth with talent will be given an opportunity to perform for the public in a polished professional atmosphere.

Lisa Brown, popular nightclub entertainer, will direct the show. Some youth will aid Miss Brown in assistant director capacities. The entire show will be return-to-school oriented.

Some campaign activities will continue through the 1970-71 school year.

Ambrose Brodus, Urban League's community organization specialist, is coordinator of the campaign.

George Frey and Lisa Sanchez of city schools are district coordinators of the Youth Tutoring Youth Program.

Tom Johnson heads the exhibits committee; Mary Jimmerson, awards committee; Neil Petties, special contacts.

Integration

(Continued from page 1)

cal point: there is no one way to achieve integrated education. The integration plan must be tailored to meet the needs of a particular community. But in most large cities, like San Diego, where people of different races do not live in close proximity to one another, any scheme for school integration will have to involve expanding attendance areas and busing pupils.

"The cost of busing, "Mrs. La Motte said, "is much less than the cost of the inequities and dangers" of segregated schooling.

"The neighborhood school is most convenient," she added. "And if you cling to this concept, you will always have segregated schools."

She said the projected costs of busing next year in Pasadena would be about $800,000, constituting about 2 per cent of the district's budget. Federal, state and private foundation grants, however, would keep the district expenditure at about the same level as before integration.

Busing costs must also be considered in the context of the tremendous costs of compensatory schooling, she pointed out. The Pasadena district spent "a good many millions of dollars" on compensatory education, but these efforts were largely unsuccessful.

About busing, Dr. Salmon commented ruefully, "When I was a superintendent in the suburbs, I spent most of my time fending off parents who were demanding busing for their kids."

In Sacramento, if a school bond issue passes in November, four large centers for elementary school children, divided into kindergarten through third grade, and fourth through sixth grade, will be constructed. The attendance areas would be large enough so that no child would be bused because of his color. No child would ride farther than three and a half miles, or more than 19 minutes.

While still in its first phase, the integration program in Sacramento scored several remarkable achievements.

"Although most people in Sacramento opposed integration in the beginning," Dr. Salmon said, "after the first year 86% were in favor of it.

"The achievement of minority kids since the end of the second year and thereafter has steadily improved.

"The patterns of segregation began to break down, both among the students and their parents. We provided transportation to after-school activities for both. Actually, we found that more parents of pupils being bused than parents of ordinary pupils participated in PTA."

Perhaps most importantly for the future of the city, school integration stopped the "white flight" from the central core of Sacramento, Dr. Salmon said. Until 1966 the central city area was losing 1.5 per cent of its Caucasian population each year. Since integration, this trend has not only been stopped but has reversed itself. There are now 2 per cent more Caucasians in the area than before integration began.

Melba Margolis, CURE vice president, was in charge of arrangements for the luncheon. The meal was prepared by the women of Calvary Presbyterian Church, with all profit going to them.

Members of the CURE board for this year were elected. They are C. Shuford Swift, Melba Margolis, Dorothy Lloyd, Nikki Symington, Richard McKenna, Paul Young, Estelle Wing, Charles McMahon, Burt Rivas, Gladys Gallian, David Neptune, Anita Strauss, Thomas McPhatter, Donald Curtain, and Douglas Regin.

YW's Priority

Continued From Pg. 1

shape the quality of our environment; revolutionize society's expectations of women and their own self perception; intentionally involve youth in leadership decisions.

The San Diego Board responded immediately by assigning a committee to investigate all aspects of our own structure for racism, unintentional or not.

San Diego YWCA for some years has felt its largest commitment was to Southeast San Diego. Its Nominating Committee actively recruited for more Black and Brown women, its staff was consciously integrated. Monthly art exhibits lift up minority creative talent; weekly dances give leadership and employment to minority youth.

But this is not touching the basic racism in our acceptable "normal" culture and *investigate*, though a seemingly harsh word, is our intent.

Associations across the nation will respond according to their particular competence and interests. Being a volunteer agency our effectiveness will depend on who will volunteer and what her commitment will be. Diversity of young - old; black - white; left - right; poor - middleclass; is here. The structure, the staff assistance and the one imperative is here. How can you help?

CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY
279-8809

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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.

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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where the ACTION is

Cookbook Anyone? For two years CURE has been living from hand to mouth. Maybe we could make some "bread" with a cookbook!

Dr. Bruno Bettelhein, professor of psychology at the University of Chicago has said that "Food is the greatest socializer." Perhaps learning to cook and to eat foods from different cultures might break down some barriers.

Do you have a favorite recipe that is typical of some ethnic group? Do you know any anecdotes about food that might enliven a cookbook? Are you a hausfrau who has not yet found her niche in the fight against racism? Can you write, draw, type, proofread, or collate pages? Call: 279-8809.

The door is always open for CURE board meetings. The next one is July 14th, 7:30 p.m. Call CURE, 279-8809 for further details.

The Mental Health Clinic planned for East County needs your support. Out-patient psychiatric and psychological services would be offered to those unable to pay. Under the Lanterman, Petris, Short Bill, the State would provide 90% of the funds and the county 10%. Convey your support to: W. W. Stadel, Director, Community Mental Health Services, 225 West Dickinson St., San Diego, Calif. 92103.

At the CURE luncheon on June 10, Dr. John Ford, member of the State Board of Education, urged CURE members to protest the appointments of right wingers to the state Board of Education and the Equal Opportunities Commision. Write Governor Ronald Regan now!

Yellow Submarine Nursery School needs baby sitters, transportation, builders, painters, building materials, money, etc. Don't let it sink--Call Pat McGlathery at 448-2807. Funds are needed now and may be sent to Pat at 9169 Emerald Grove, Lakeside, Calif. 92040.

What Color Is Love? is the title of a slide talk prepared by the Adoption Services of San Diego County. The program focuses on the placement of the black child with a black couple, transracially with a white couple, and with a single parent. Hopefully this presentation will help locate homes for the black and brown children waiting for placement. Programs may be scheduled on short notice and there is no charge. Call 279-8300.

Crave good conversation on a long summer evening? A multi-racial dialogue, one evening a week for eight weeks, is now being organized, with Sylvia McCloud as coordinator. If you'd like to participate, call 460-4714 after 6 p.m.

Operation Recapture is conducting a book drive. Reading material that you take for granted is desperately needed by Black and Brown inmates now in prisons. Books that pertain to their history, social conditions, and cultural achievements will greatly help these people realize their identity and their potential. Send books to: OPERATION RECAPTURE, Seminole House, 4848 Seminole Drive, San Diego, Calif. 92115. Call 583-3821 for pick up.

A crisis center for the East County area, offering free services ranging from psychological assistance to the makings of a meal, has opened in Lakeside.

People for People in El Cajon and the California Social Workers Organization are cooperating in setting up Crisis House, 8659 Winter gardens Blvd., Lakeside. It is open 6-10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 6-12 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The telephone is 449-2474.

Since there is no paid staff, volunteers are needed for a wide range of activities, including telephone answering, providing transportation, and janitorial work. Also needed are canned goods, furniture, clothing, and money to pay the rent and buy supplies.

Can you spare 3-1/3 hours, one day a week? Then KOGO-Call for Action wants you. Telephone volunteers will refer people in need of help to the appropriate agency, after Call for Action gets underway in August. Training sessions being July 16. Call 224-6122 or 582-3333.

High school girls who might be spending the summer at Juvenile Hall are going to the Community Day Center instead -- a unique program of the city Probation Department to help them find their identity before it's too late. A teacher of arts and crafts (on Mondays) and art supplies are needed. Telephone Sara Cholewa, 263-1166.

CURE sent telegrams to Assemblymen Wilson, Deddeh, Barnes, Hom and Stull urging "No" votes on the state legislation forbidding mandatory school busing.

However, the bill passed in the assembly and will soon be considered by the state senate. CURE urges you to write your state senator now urging a "No" vote on Assembly Bill 551.

So much is happening with La Huelga these days that people are confused. To eat grapes or not to eat grapes? The simple answer is Yes, if the grapes are in a box with the AFL-CIO Farmworkers union label.

For a more complete answer, attend a program at Madison High School, 4833 Doliva Dr., on July 2, 7:30 p.m. to be presented by San Diegans for Heulga and the Cardign Center legislative committee. Telephone Gene Platten, 582-7773.

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