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CURE

CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

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

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CITY NEEDS ADEQUATE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM FOR 7000 HUNGRY CHILDREN

by NIKKI SYMINGTON

Seven thousand children enrolled in San Diego schools are either malnourished or hungry, according to a recent survey conducted by the health services department of the San Diego Unified School District.

A coalition of citizens' groups and social welfare agencies, deeply concerned about this problem have formed the Citizens' Committee Against Hunger. The committee is studying the facts and bringing them to the public attention in hopes of having a priority placed by the city School Board on feeding San Diego's hungry school children proper lunches. Alfred Palmiere is secretary of the committee. The office is at 520 "E" Street, San Diego, telephone 239-2071.

The following resolution has been drawn up by the committee, which asks individuals and organizations to concern themselves with this problem and either endorse the resolution or use individual means to let the Board of Education know it has public concern and backing in tackling this problem:

"**For An Adequate School Lunch** Program in San Diego:

"Whereas, A recent survey conducted by the Health Services Department of the San Diego Unified School District reveals that about 7,000 enrolled students were either 'mal-nourished' or 'hungry'; and

"Whereas, Recent studies have established the fact that undernourishment is a major cause of underachievement; and

"Whereas, The San Diego School District does not now have a sound program to provide free or reduced price meals to children from low income homes; and

"**Whereas, A people** who have generously extended a helping hand to ease hunger around the world can no longer ignore the hunger of our own children by whatever source it is generated, whether ignorance, indifference, or poverty; therefore be it

"Resolved, That the Board of Education of the San Diego Unified School District take immediate action to ensure that free or reduced price lunches and breakfasts shall be made available to all children who cannot afford to pay the current charges."

San Diego, according to the SDCAH bulletin, is probably the only city among those with populations of 500,000 or more which does not have an adequate school lunch program for its disadvantaged children. The Committee Against Hunger urges that money be found to finance a program and has suggested various possible sources for funding.

Section 11872 of the California Educational Code provides that the Board of Education may, if it wishes to, invoke this section as a method for resolving the problem by enactment of a tax override. It is neither unprecedented nor unusual for school boards to use tax override powers for this purpose. At least one school district in this county employs the tax override in exactly this way.

Another suggestion is that 10 to 20 per cent of the $800,000 food services reserve funds be used. The annual interest earned by the reserve fund is $40,000. In recent years this has been sufficient to meet the maintenance and equipment-replacement costs of the food services division. Withdrawal of $100,000 to $200,000 from the reserve fund would result in a loss of only $5,000 to $10,000 in interest income, which seems a small price to pay for feeding hungry children.

Furthermore, federal food commodities are available to school districts under various provisions of the law. The San Diego School District uses only a negligible amount of such commodities.

SCHOOL ADOPTS NEW POLICY ON PLACING EMR STUDENTS

by HELEN BURKE

More than half of a group of students who had been placed in classes for the "educable mentally retarded," in recent screening by the San Diego School District were found to be actually capable of doing regular school work.

This startling statistic emerged early on in a new program of reevaluating the district's procedures for placing children in the "educable mentally retarded" (EMR) category.

Mexican-American and black students have been decidely over-represented in EMR classes. Whereas the overall average in such classes in San Diego elementary schools is 2.6 per cent, in southeast San Diego last year the average was 7 per cent.

Emerson had 18.4 per cent of its students in EMR classes; Logan, 15.8 per cent; Stockton, 13 per cent; Chollas, 13.5 per cent. Lowell and Balboa, the elementary schools with the highest percentages of Mexican-American students, had, respectively, 8.5 per cent, and 7.4 per cent in EMR classes.

In secondary schools the number of EMR students averages around 3 per cent; but at Lincoln Senior High, the average is 11 per cent.

Dr. J. Richmond Barbour, assistant superintendent for student services, told the writer recently that when these and other statistics were brought to his attention

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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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MOVEMENT TO OUTLAW POVERTY

by FRED PATTERSON

New actions have followed in the wake of the Urban League's public information campaign on the working poor and income maintenance.

A movement to outlaw poverty has been initiated with the Reverend Richard Schwitzgebel of Calvary Presbyterian Church, as chairman. Approximately 40 people are participating. The objectives of the group are: 1. to develop wide-spread community understanding of actions which will insure adequate wages and legislation for income maintenance; and 2. develop maximum influence on legislation for an adequate income maintenance program.

Separate task forces are preparing for local action, and for legislative support. Actions in planning in which all citizens can take part are: arranging forums or other meetings in various kinds of organizations in order to get the widest possible understanding of and exposure to this poverty issue; write or arrange conferences with state and congressional legislators in order to provide personal support for legislation; seek out better information on the issues of poverty and income maintenance. The Urban League is providing a center for collecting and providing such information.

Lastly, citizens can begin to ask questions of employers where low wages are paid. Wages below the minimum cost of living create severe problems for wage earners and the cost to all citizens increases as they must come to the rescue of poverty oppressed citizens through taxes.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

CURE and the University of California Extension last year encouraged concerned San Diegans to ask "What Can I do?" This fall, the questions are "Where are we now?" and "Where do we go from here?"

Beginning Oct. 1, University Extension will offer a "Practicum in Social Action" for San Diegans who care about what's been done and what needs to be done about the city's housing, employment, education, and other problem areas.

The three-credit course, taught by Dr. William Lee, professor of sociology at San Diego State College, will proceed from a general examination of man's efforts to understand his institutions and social arrangements to a very specific social action workshop.

In the first phase, students will research and evaluate programs and studies done in San Diego in areas of social concern and then form interest groups to develop systematic plans to make further changes.

The second part will consist of a community-wide workshop sponsored by University Extension on Saturday, Nov. 22, and directed by the "Practicum" students.

For further information, contact Betty Farson, University Extension, 453-2000, ext. 2076.

"White Americans will have to make the key revolutionary decision of how much pressure it will take to make them change."

--Lerone Bennett, Jr.

PROGRAM BEGUN IN LA JOLLA TO HELP IN MINORITY AREA

Strongly Oriented for Action (SOFA), a non-profit organization in La Jolla dedicated to improving the quality of interracial relations, has begun work in areas ranging from recreation to employment.

The Reverend Lonnie C. Wormley is director of the program, with an office at Prince Chapel, 7519 Cuvier St., La Jolla.

The SOFA employment committee, formed by the Reverend James Brabant, associate minister of the La Jolla Methodist Church, has completed a survey of La Jolla businesses to determine minority employment. Tabulation of the results is underway.

A volunteer staff member, Mrs. John (Chris) Justice is working with other volunteers on a tiny tots' recreational area on the Prince Chapel lot. SOFA hopes to expand its work with small children into a full-scale child care program this fall.

During the summer SOFA, in cooperation with the YMCA, provided a program of recreational activities. Alvin Edwards, a senior at San Diego State in the field of social welfare, worked as full-time youth director.

Nearly 150 children, ranging in age from two to fifteen, took part in the summer program, which included lessons in swimming, judo, modeling, and tennis, as well as arts and crafts.

Plans for the fall include a continuation of some of the recreational activities and the beginning of a tutorial program, along with a study room and a library. Up-to-date reference books and children's books are needed.

To share in the purposes of SOFA, you may contribute in the following ways: a campership, $25; monthly donations, from $2 to $100; or a general fund donation of any amount. Make checks payable to SOFA, 7519 Cuvier St., La Jolla, 92037. Telephone 454-4610. S.B.

"This the American black man knows: his fight here is a fight to the finish. Either he dies or wins. He will enter modern civilization here in America as a black man on terms of perfect and unlimited equality with any white man, or he will enter not at all. Either exterminate root and branch or absolute equality. There can be no compromise. This is the last great battle of the West.--W.E.B. DuBois.

SELF-HELP HOUSING AN ANSWER

by MARY SMITH

While I was working as a VISTA volunteer, I became familiar with the many government programs for providing housing for low income people, including the concept of self-help housing. I became convinced that San Diego could provide low-income housing for the many who need it.

San Diego's housing need is critical especially for the person of low moderate income. Approximately 37 per cent of San Diego residents have a take home pay of less than $7,000. Very little housing has been constructed that would fall within the means of these people.

Last year the average sale price of homes built in San Diego was $28,000, and most of the multiple units were in high rental classification.

Moreover, many low-income families pay high rents for substandard units. The Housing Authority reports 19,110 sub-standard dwellings.

A 1968 Federal Housing Administration survey showed a vacancy factor of 1.7 per cent; a vacancy factor of at least 4 per cent is regarded as desirable.

Approximately 20,000 units are needed immediately, according to the Housing Authority. The need for the next five years is estimated to be between 45,000 - 50,000 dwellings.

Rent controls have not been considered a practical solution by the city. On the other hand, the Leased Housing Program has been able to provide very few units: as of July 31, only 75 units had been found, with more than 820 applications by prospective tenants on file. Construction by various developers at present will provide approximately 2,900 units, most of which will be apartments.

This leaves a great gap between what is needed and what is being provided and is still not giving people a home of their own.

There is no concentrated effort at lower cost construction of homes. That building costs must stay as high as they are, is accepted.

However, a developer from El Centro has built a concrete slab-on-grade house which costs about ten dollars per square foot. With this low-cost plan in mind, I approached various local officials and planners.

For one reason or another, it was thought it couldn't be done. Yet a furnished demonstration house is at the county fair grounds in Imperial, California.

A group in San Diego is interested in starting a pilot project with this type of construction. There is some land available in San Diego on which a modest three bedroom home could be built for approximately $10,000 including land costs.

It still must be determined if plumbers would lend their support in keeping costs down and if FHA would approve the plans.

New solutions to the housing problem must be tried. The following recommendations are from the *American Builder*, November 1968:

"Abolish all local building codes ... state building codes should be adopted... based upon model codes already devised by the federal government.

"Nationalize apprentice training ... a national training program in the construction trades, directed particularly at the hard-core unemployed and subsidized by the government.

"Organize an industrial union for housing... this might eventually make the construction of low-income housing by composite crews a reality."

Proposals from the President's Committee on Urban Housing (the Kaiser Committee) include an experiment in which poor families would be given a federal allowance to spend for housing anywhere they like. This is what I would like to see implemented. With the assistance of federal funds, low and moderate income families could afford homes of the type I have described. →

READINGS IN BLACK AND WHITE

by SYLVIA MUSIK

One Year Later: An Assessment of the Nation's Responses to the Crisis Described by the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders. Urban American, Inc., 1969.

The picture that is painted here of the progress made in the year since the first report presented by the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders is a gloomy one. As discussed in the two parts which comprise the book, "Slums and Ghettos" and "One Society or Two?", little has been accomplished. Some change has occurred, but not enough; for instance, there have been more incidents, but less full-scale disorder, because of more "efficient" police and military response. The depressing conclusion: "We are a year closer to being two societies, black and white, increasingly separate and scarcely less unequal."

CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED:

Ebony, August issue, devoted to the Black Revolution. Articles by Lerone Bennett, Jr., Charles V. Hamilton, Bayard Rustin, Vincent Harding, and others.

Dissent, July-August issue, on Black Rage. Articles on black intellectuals, Eldridge Cleaver, black reparations, campus turmoil, and separatism.

Research has shown that self-help housing is by far cheaper than housing built by the government. It is also more satisfactory, for then a person owns his own home. The government is subsidizing developers now. As long as the government is going to subsidize someone, why not subsidize the PEOPLE?

CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY
279-8809

I am interested in the areas of:

____education ____housing ____employment ____other

I would like to participate in:

____neighborhood discussions
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____speakers bureau
____telephone tree
____writing/production of newsletter
____publicity
____fund raising
____community organization

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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.

where the ACTION is

The September CURE Board meeting will be held Sept. 10, at Mrs. James Symington's, 6235 Roselake, San Diego. Ph. 466-7592. Everyone and anyone is welcome.

"Race Relations and Management Problems" will begin Sept. 30 with a discussion of the report from the National Commission on Civil Disorders, a film on race relations and an attitude test. The nine week course will be offered by the University of California Extension this fall to help San Diego executives and administrators better understand and solve the problems of their disadvantaged employees. Fee for the class, which will meet on Tuesdays from 7-10 p.m., is $60. Enrollment is limited, so early registration is advised. To obtain a brochure containing more details about the course, or to receive the fall catalog, Explore, call University Extension, 453-2000, ext. 2061.

San Diego State College's Extended Services division will offer about one hundred courses this fall, including a number on problems of racial minorities. The bulletin of courses will be available in early September. Information can be obtained by telephoning Extended Services, 286-5147. Students may enroll in a course by attending the first class meeting.

Courses include: "Crisis in Minority Education," Monday, 7 p.m., Wright Brothers Junior High, instructor, Dr. M.R. Petteys' begins Sept. 22; "Inter-Group Relations," Wednesday 7 p.m., Oceanside High, instructor, Dr. Francis Ballantine, begins Sept. 17.

"Teacher and Student Protests," Wednesday, 7 p.m., location to be announced, instructor, Dr. David Strom, begins Sept. 24; "History of Black Literature," Tuesday, 7 p.m., Horace Mann Junior High, instructor, Dr. Karl Keller, begins Sept. 23.

"Social Dialects in American English," Wednesday, 7 p.m., Horace Mann, instructor, Dr. Richard H. Hendrickson, begins Oct. 8; "The Negro in American Civilization," Tuesday, 7 p.m., La Mesa Junior High, instructor, Dr. William Cheek, begins Sept. 23.

"Ethnic Studies," Tuesday, 4 p.m., La Mesa Junior High, instructor, Thomas McJunkins, begins Sept. 23; "Sociology of Black Consciousness," Tuesday, 7 p.m., SDSC B.A. 250, instructor, Frank Muchenje, begins Sept. 23.

SCHOOL ADOPTS NEW POLICY ON PLACING EMR STUDENTS

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this past year, by Rosa Maria Garcia, past chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Improving the Education of Mexican-Americans, as well as by others, he "immediately" decided something had to be done.

The district has now adopted a policy that not over four per cent of any one ethnic group, citywide, shall be placed in EMR classes. Instead of administering one test to Mexican-American students who are being screened for possible placement in EMR clasees, three tests will be given: an individual examination in Spanish, a non-verbal examination, and the conventional examination in English. Black students will be given two tests instead of the usual one; a non-verbal, and the conventional examination.

A farther-reaching and more immediate change is a plan to "de-certify and re-program" a number of EMR students. Each year for the next three years, students in EMR classes in grades 3 and 6 and 9 will be screened to see whether they were wrongly placed. The screening for the first year has already been done and included students in grades 10 and 11, as well as 3, 6 and 9.

The results are amazing and prompt deep regret that so many students over the years have been deprived of a richer curriculum. Out of 692 EMR students, the district evaluators decided that 354 should be moved from EMR to a special "bridging program" and ultimately to regular classes. The evaluators were unsure about 97 of the 692 and want to retest them. Only 241 out of the 692 were considered to have been "appropriately placed."

The question should be asked whether *any* students should be segregated into EMR classes, whether current tests can actually determine a person's potential, whether our ideas about "intelligence" and about "who is educable" are broad enough, and whether any "intelligence" tests should be given.

The changes the district is finally making are largely the result of hues and cries from people from the Mexican-American and Black communities.

The Citizens Interracial Committee Final Report 'Sunday in the Park' is now available for $.50. Write or phone CIC at 1501 Sixth Ave., San Diego, 92101.

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