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CURE
CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY
520 "E" STREET, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101

March 6, 1970

Secretary George Romney
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Romney:

CURE, Citizens United for Racial Equality, is a local organization with about 500 members whose common concern is the promotion of racial equality in San Diego. Enclosed is a copy of our current newsletter marked to point out an article of interest to your department. Also included is a copy of the presentation which we plan to make to our planning commission on March 18. (The March 4 meeting which is noted having been continued.) The clipping from the San Diego Union newspaper may also be relevant to this issue.

As explained in these enclosures we are gravely concerned about the South Bay Terraces development. Are federal funds involved? If so, what kind and how much? Are the safeguards built into federal programs being carefully followed?

We would appreciate your help in insuring that South Bay Terraces does not become San Diego's first tenement.

Sincerely,

Melba Margolis

Melba Margolis
(Mrs. Ralph Margolis)
Vice Pres. Board of CURE

Incl: 3

Planning Commission March 4, 1970

CURE, Citizens United for Racial Equality, is a local organization with about 500 members whose common concern is the promotion of racial equality in San Diego. Our by-laws state that one of our prime purposes is to implement the findings of the Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders. To fulfill that purpose we appear before you today to convey our grave concern that without safeguards the South Bay Terraces development will become racially and economically segregated.

The Report of the Kerner Commission states, "Enactment of a national fair housing law will eliminate the most obvious barrier limiting the areas in which non-whites live, but it will not deal with an equally impenetrable barrier, the unavailability of low and moderate income housing in non-ghetto areas...Federally aided low and moderate income housing programs must be reoriented so that the major thrust is in non-ghetto areas."

We have heard the developer of South Bay Terraces say publicly that there is to be no low cost housing in this development. Perhaps today the use of the words "low cost" is in itself an anachronism. The times require that provision be made for low, moderate, and high income housing to be wisely integrated into the total plan. We would be equally concerned if this area were to become all-high income or all low income housing.

So far we have been unable to learn whether there is to be any federally subsidized low income housing in this project. If so, it would be important to know how much and where; but even if there is none, the recommendations of the Kerner report are still valid. We believe that the City Council had similar concerns when it passed the resolution stating, "That in view of the magnitude of this proposed development and its proximity to an area of the City increasingly occupied by minority groups, and in recognition of the City's responsibility for anticipating and minimizing potential human relations problem areas, it is the objective of the City to insure as far as possible that a balanced community will result and that racial, ethnic and economic imbalance be avoided." We understand that it is possible that the action taken today may not be open to further appeal by citizens; if so, it would seem to us that it is your responsibility to insure that the objective of that resolution is met.

We believe that it is well within the realm of possibility to require the developer to provide detailed plans showing how the area is to be integrated economically. Since so many of our low income citizens are also racial minority citizens, this action in itself would permit if not insure some racial integration. Creative advertising campaigns could be designed to attract people of all racial and economic groups to live in an integrated community. Beyond this we urge you to carefully consider whether even high income housing with the crowding planned for in this area could provide for quality living. Has adequate provision been made for open space? The American family cannot survive in a pressure cooker!

The Kerner report states, "Residential segregation prevents equal access to employment opportunities and obstructs efforts to achieve integrated education. A single society cannot be achieved as long as this cornerstone of segregation stands." The time has finally come for citizens to stand up and say, "Stop! We have not solved the problems of this generation. Do not plant the seeds for the problems of the next generation. Let us leave our children a legacy of good will."