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CURE STATEMENT TO SAN DIEGO SCHOOL BOARD

January 13, 1970

CURE has appeared before you previously to urge you to reduce the racial imbalance in our schools caused by segregated housing patterns. Consequently, we are pleased to see you expressing your fear that the South Bay Terrace development may become segragated. We particularly commend Mr. Steele for his refusal to vote until a stipulation pressing for integration could be included in the resolution. You have sometimes pointed out that you have no control over existing housing patterns. In this case, you can influence a developing pattern.

CURE believes the area has the potential of becoming integrated. Its closeness to segregated Southeast San Diego will make it possible for residents of that area to move easily into new housing while remaining close to friends and relatives and jobs. At the same time a number of the adjacent areas are white or in some degree integrated. Encanto and the Navy housing area are examples. These conditions should encourage integration.

How can integration be further encouraged? Integration can be promoted by insisting on a broad range of housing being offered; low cost, as well as more expensive homes; multiple dwellings and single dwellings; rental units and private homes. These various units must themselves be integrated in the master plan.

The developer has brought in engineers and studied the land. He is now grading it in order to build on it most profitably. He is responsible to see that grading is done in such a way that homesites are safe and meet other standards. We believe he has an equal responsibility to study the social consequences of his design and use a plan incorporating the features mentioned that will enhance integration. One of our principal concerns is that one plan for this development proposes putting 32,700 people and twelve schools in an area only one by two miles. We question whether this density can lead to either quality living or quality education.

The Supreme Court refused yesterday to hear arguments that de facto school segregation resulting solely from housing patterns should be permitted. Their refusal gives a clear indication of the board's responsibility in this case.

What can the school board do? The board has the right to require the developer to provide a firm master plan of the total subdivision in order that the board might examine it and evaluate how well the plan promotes the possibility of this area becoming integrated. Unless the plan, in your judgement, promises a real potential for an integrated neighborhood, it should be disapproved.