[MS-0234.008.002.003]

San Diego Urban League, Inc.

January 7, 1980

STATEMENT OF CONCERN

We contend that the V.E.E.P. Program impacts quality of education in minority isolated schools as much as it does desegregation. There seems to be an inconsistency between one of the charges issued by the Judge and a section of his order of July 27. As the Task Force looks for ways to fulfill charge number one, it seems that the Judge's concerns regarding V.E.E.P. as reflected in order number eight (8) of the July 27 Memorandum Decision needs clarification. The reason being that although V.E.E.P. contributes significantly to desegregation, it appears to be a factor in the continuing lower pupil achievement in minority isolated schools.

A majority of the participants in the V.E.E.P. Program are students who achieved at higher levels in their resident schools. The removal of large numbers of minority students from the isolated schools has tended to create a "Brain Drain". When you have a situation where a large percent of the most capable leave any isolated school, all aspects of quality education are affected.

A clarification of the Judge's position on these areas should aid this Task Force in its work to deal honestly with the issue of quality education in the minority isolated schools.

ITEMS: (1) CHARGE NUMBER ONE (1), September 20, 1979

The Task Force is specifically charged to:

Monitor, analyze and evaluate the quality and methods of education in all minority isolated schools and recommend steps that should be undertaken to make certain that in all such schools, the quality of education is at a superior level and that all children are inspired to achieve.

(2) ORDER NUMBER EIGHT (8), July 27, 1979

The impact of the V.E.E.P. Program on desegregation is dramatically shown on plaintiff's exhibits 22 and 11. Exhibit 22 shows that most of the district junior high schools have a 20% to 50% minority population, but exhibit 11 reveals that the senior high schools in much of this same geographical area have only a 0 - 20% minority population. There were 2002 V.E.E.P. participants in junior high schools but only half that number,

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1057, in senior high schools during the 1978-79 school year. The ratios were similar to the 1977-78 school year.

The district is ordered to study this phenomenon, report to the court its causes, and suggest what can be done to reverse the trend.