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PRESS STATEMENT

The pending legal action before the California Supreme Court dealing with the use of public funds in the replacement of pre-field act schools which are racially and ethnically unbalanced has been brought by a combined effort of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Western Region; the League of Women Voters, San Diego; Citizens United for Racial Equality, Inc., Richard Lopez and Joseph Andaya.

Since the 1954 Supreme Court decision which declared that segregated schools were unconstitutional, repeated citizens' efforts have been unproductive in altering the course of advancing segregated education. The violation of the rights of the minority for an equal educational opportunity is irresponsible. Decisions that perpetuate and aggravate segregation are indefensible. The promise of one indivisible nation with liberty and justice for all has been thwarted repeatedly.

Presently there exists the opportunity to correct, on a state-wide basis, a large portion of California's segregated schools through replacement of the pre-field act schools. Inclusion of compliance regulations to assure racial balance in the criteria for allocation of funds for rebuilding these schools would insure that a large number of schools in California would be racially balanced. An appeal for inclusion of this criteria to the State Allocations Board has fallen on deaf ears.

When the citizens' voices urging compliance with the law fail, the litigation process is the last course of action to make the law function and the only strategy to bring results. Therefore, a writ of mandate has been filed with the California State Supreme Court requesting that the State Allocations Board prohibit the release of $325,000,000 in state funds to replace unsafe schools unless racial or ethnic balance can be assured.

The press conference has been called today to allow this group to provide emphatic answers to recent comments and allegations directed to the irresponsibility of this action at this late date.

In San Diego the NAACP submitted recommendations to the school district for reducing school segregation in 1963. February 1969 the League of Women Voters did not support and CURE opposed the approval of bonds to fund pre-field act school replacement because there was no criteria for racial balance. The League of Women Voters and CURE have made repeated appeals to the school district offering suggestions and urging action. The school district has had 40 years to replace these schools. They have had almost 20 years to deal with segregation.

We believe it is time for the law to be upheld.

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