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278-CETA

March 23, 1979

Honorable Louis Welch
San Diego Superior Court Judge
Bill Kollender
Intergration Task Force Chairman

Honorable Louis Welch:
Chief Bill Kollender:

My recent acceptance of the opportunity to be a monitor has opened my eyes wide. After my first visit to a school, I became concern over what I observed. After talking with students, (Black, White & Brown), Parents and Teachers, I became upset. My upsetness stem from the fact that this program has been going on for nine months and no one has took a serious look at the negative psychological impact this has on the Black and Brown Students, not to mention the confusion created for the young whites.

First let's deal with intergration. Merely bussing white students to a predominantly Black School is not in itself intergration. The attitudes of teachers and students play an important part. From my observations, all the white kids who are bussed, play, eat and study together, the teachers stay to themselves.

There was no interplay with the resident Blacks and Browns. To add insult to injury, all of the special equipment and toys are not for the use of the resident students. Then to make matters worst, the resident students play with 1 or 2 balls for some 42 students, those who are bussed in play with 1 ball for every 5 or 6 kids, then those balls are left in plain sight behind chains and locks and the resident students are told "you can't play with those."

This is the worst type of lynching. It would be nicer to put a rope around the kids neck and push them off a chair. The damage that is currently being done may never be repaired in some of these youngsters. I can understand why parents are up in arms over bussing, it serves no purpose.

A continuation of this program as it is now would only be breeding grounds for tomorrow's bigots Black, White & Brown.

I strongly urge you to bring this program to an immediate halt and go back to the drawing board. We have everything to gain, nothing to lose.

I don't have the answer at hand, but in this case "Doing nothing is better than the current practices."

Respectfully,

Roland Esquire Holmes, Program Coordinator
United Way/CETA
264-2536

REH/ly

Memorandum

RECEIVED
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OFFICE OF THE
POLICE CHIEF

United Way
of San Diego County

7510 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard
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March 27, 1979

TO: Police Chief William Kolender
Hon. Louis N. Welsh, Judge, Superior Court

This statement was issued today by United Way. A copy is enclosed for your information and your files.

David B. Dreiman

Director of Marketing
and Communications

Enc.

DBD:gm

cc: Don Morgan
Claude Townsend

Don Wilson/CETA
Craig Stacey

News Release

United Way
of San Diego County

7510 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard
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March 27, 1979

Contact: David B. Dreiman
292-4455

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(OFFICIAL UNITED WAY COMMENT RE DEVELOPING NEWS STORY)

(Re: Letter to Police Chief William Kolender and Superior Court Judge Louis M. Welsh from Roland E. Holmes, program coordinator with CETA. United Way of San Diego County administers, for the City of San Diego, a federally-funded CETA program for non-profit agencies.)

Commenting on Holmes' letter, a spokesman for United Way declared:

"Mr. Holmes' letter, although written on a United Way/CETA letterhead, obviously is his personal statement and is not (repeat not) an official communication of United Way of San Diego County or CETA.

"It was written without prior knowledge or approval of United Way or CETA.

"We now are obliged to inquire further into this matter to determine what other abuse, if any, may be represented by this action, and what corrective step is appropriate in this situation."

-30-

Black Demands End Of School Busing Program

3-27-79

By KEN MIMMS
Staff Writer, The San Diego Union

A black monitor for the city schools Integration Task Force yesterday demanded an "immediate halt" to the busing of students to magnet schools.

Roland E. Holmes, a program coordinator with United Way/CETA, delivered a letter with the demand to Police Chief William B. Kolender, who heads the task force, and to Superior Court Judge Louis M. Welsh, who ordered its formation and appointed Kolender.

Kolender dismissed the letter, written on United Way/CETA stationery, as part of Holmes' "political strategy" to unseat City Councilman Leon Williams and Welsh refused comment.

Holmes, who has announced his candidacy for the 4th District council seat now held by Williams, said the letter was prompted by conversations with students and disgruntled parents and teachers during his monitoring activities.

"I have the feeling this whole thing (busing plan) is a joke as it is right now," he said.

"The (magnet schoool) learning centers have proven, if money and qualified teachers are available, anyone can be taught and that busing is not necessary. It also raises the question of why the money and the teachers weren't there in the first place."

Under the magnet program, minority and white students are voluntarily bused to designated schools in an attempt to achieve racial balance.

Kolender said Holmes had violated the "direction of the court for political purposes and I question the integrity of his comments. When he took the job (as a monitor), it was with the understanding that they (monitors) are arms of the court and their reports should go through me as stated in (Judge Welsh's) order," he said.

Holmes for the last 30 days has been voluntarily monitoring the magnet program at Chollas Elementary School in Southeast San Diego.

Holmes said his observations and talks with minority and white students, teachers and parents at the school have caused him to believe that the program's failures may be doing irreparable damage to children. "White kids stay by themselves and that does not help im-

"And minority kids do not understand why white kids (bused to their schools) have certain things on their

(Continued from Page B-1)

(Southeast San Diego school) playgrounds and they (minority children) can't play with them," he said.

One case involves neighborhood students at Chollas school who have to play with "one or two" balls for about 42 students, compared with "one ball for every five or six" bused students, Holmes explained.

"But these balls are locked up (after playground time) and the students (from the surrounding neighborhood) can't play with them," he said.

This kind of situation, and a "lack of interplay" between students affected by the busing program, will make a child a bigot within three years, according to Holmes. "I have no immediate answer to the problem but nothing, in this case, is better than what is being done," he said.