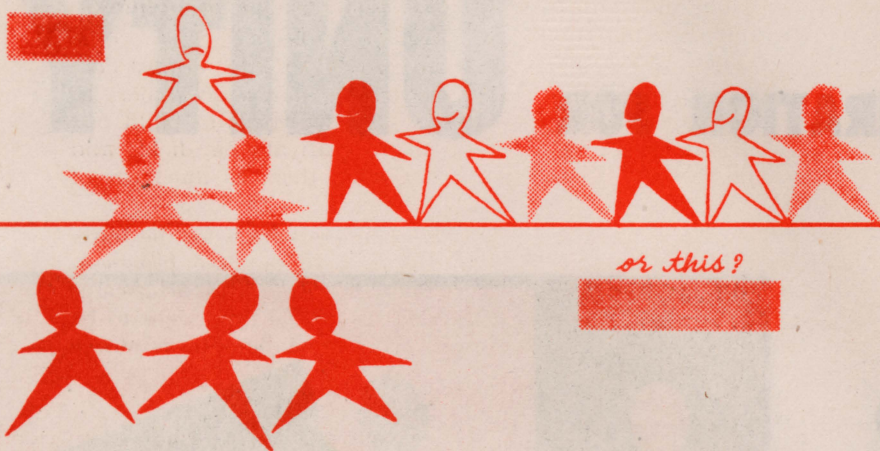


FEDERATION FOR **UNITY**



—
**THE
C.F.C.U.
STORY**
—





THE PROBLEMS OF PREJUDICE AND BIGOTRY NEVER END.

Sometimes, they lie dormant, simmering uneasily under a calm surface; sometimes they boil up into restless, threatening tensions or erupt into violence. At all times, the problems of hatred and suspicion and tension are with us. As often as not, we live our days unaware of them.

In Redwood City, a Negro veteran's half-built home is burned to the ground by unidentified arsonists. In Southern California, bitterness and tension are capped by open riots. A Jewish synagogue in San Francisco is smeared with the symbols of hate. A quiet neighborhood in Palo Alto, San Diego—you name the city—is suddenly split by prejudice and suspicion, directed against a Negro family, perhaps, or a Mexican family or a Japanese.

The tides of undemocratic patterns

And always, you have the slow, steady erosion of community life by the tides of undemocratic patterns of living, of segregation and discrimination. You have the wearing-down of the spirit of the victims of these patterns, the degradation and cheapening of fellow human beings, the high cost in endless ways to our communities.

Such are the products of hate and suspicion, prejudice and bigotry. And such is the setting in which the California Federation for Civic Unity, and its many affiliates throughout the state, work to promote better race relations, to achieve a more democratic pattern of living.

For the CFCU is simply a statewide federation of community organizations devoted to better interracial and intercultural relations—an organization to work with state government and state agencies on statewide problems—a coordinating body to strengthen the efforts of local groups to secure a more democratic pattern of living.

The problems we know today are neither new nor strange to California. Interwoven with our otherwise prideful past is a heritage of prejudice, of segregation and discrimination.

From the early days of our state, when the cry, "The Chinese must go", rose from San Francisco's sandlots, we have greeted many newcomers to our state with suspicion if not open hatred. We used them to build our railroads and our factories and, most of all, to cultivate our fields and build the nation's greatest farm empire. And used them as the butts of our prejudices.

If, in the beginning, it was the Irish or the Chinese who were the butts of our prejudice, later it was the Korean, the East Indian, the Japanese, the Filipino, the Mexican. And still later: the white Americans who came from the South—all from Oklahoma, if the labels of the time were to be believed. And finally, the Negro-American who came here to reinforce the state's great war industry.



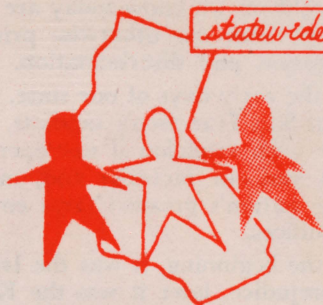
The war period saw these problems of interracial relations reach their greatest intensity. In an atmosphere of quiet hysteria, fed by false rumors and deliberate propaganda, Americans of Japanese background were torn from their homes, their farms, their businesses, their jobs and sent into what we politely called relocation centers. In Los Angeles, street fighting swirled around the heads of Mexican-Americans. And the war had barely ended when the Ku Klux Klan drew renewed breath and gave vent to old hates.

And the Negro, who came here in increasing numbers as the war went on, was confined to ghettos. He found himself the last to be hired, the first to be fired. His efforts to find better housing were met with restrictions and covenants and neighborhood bitterness. And as war industry ended and something called reconversion took over, the Negro found that he was being converted, too—from wage-earner to unemployed. And the lines at the employment offices became, out of all proportion, more Negro than white.

There were people and groups of people who saw the injustice, the damage, the wrong in these things. They worked in their own way to better



coordination



statewide action



clearinghouse



consultation

race relations, to promote understanding, to create harmony and unity. Among these were two, with broader scope and broader background than most. They were the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play and the American Council on Race Relations.

The Fair Play Committee came into being in 1943 to defend the civil rights of the evacuated Japanese and to assist them in resettlement. It spanned the state, drawing its support from many groups, many individuals. With the end of the war, and an end to evacuation and resettlement, the Fair Play Committee turned its attentions to general majority-minority relations.

The American Council, a national body with headquarters in Chicago, established a regional office in San Francisco in 1944. Its professional advisory and consultant services to communities throughout the state were instrumental in forming and strengthening local interracial and civic unity groups.

The CFCU is formed

The two, through the year 1945, sponsored a series of exploratory discussions among local groups which culminated in January, 1946 in two major regional conferences and finally, in a statewide meeting. At that meeting—February 19, 1946 in Fresno—the California Council for Civic Unity was formed—renamed in 1947, the California Federation for Civic Unity.

Events moved rapidly then. In March, an Advisory Board was chosen, officers elected. By the end of April, CFCU reported thirteen affiliates, two applications for membership, cash on hand of \$110 and pledges of \$95. Thus, the Federation launched its career.

In 1947, the Federation faced new challenges. The American Council, which had footed a substantial part of the bills for the first year and a half, was withdrawing from the field, closing its Western Regional office and taking a new direction for its work.

The withdrawal of the American Council faced the state organization with the task of raising a budget and establishing itself on its own. This was the central task during 1947.

Two meetings held

Two statewide meetings at Asilomar laid the necessary foundations. The first, in February, reported forty-three affiliates but the treasury available for the Federation's independent existence was at its usual low

level. Nevertheless, the delegates drafted a broad program, set fresh goals and moved forward to the task.

A second statewide meeting in the Fall completed the necessary re-organization. Along with a new name, the Federation was given a new set of officers, its Board of Directors was set up on a representative basis, a minimum budget of \$15,000 was set as its financial goal.

Finances necessarily occupied a considerable amount of the officers' and directors' attentions. The task of raising funds to meet the budget designed to permit the Federation to function on a minimum but effective level was tackled, north and south, with increasing vigor. And although its treasury never has permitted the breadth and intensity of activity its members want, the Federation was able to launch an effective program.

In its first year, the CFCU supplied its members with useful information bearing on race relations problems through a running series of action letters. It organized a series of regional conferences among local groups that were helpful in introducing techniques of community action and promoting closer coordination and cooperation among them.

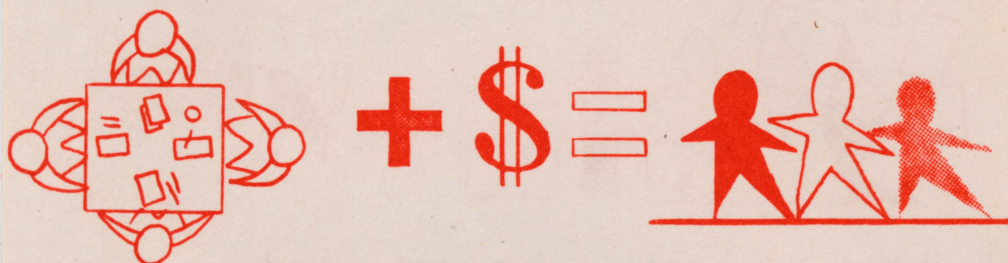
"Blueprint for ACTION"

Its second year saw the publication of "blueprint for action", designed to supply specific, detailed guides for local groups in meeting particular problems of race relations. A second series of the "blueprint", designated as an "information series", was intended to supply organizational and background information useful to local groups.

A program of voluntary field service, intended to lend the experience of older, better-organized groups to the smaller councils and committees, was launched in the summer of 1948 as a means of building the strength of the Federation and to develop regional support for local groups in meeting local problems.

These activities—along with the continuing problem of raising money to maintain the state offices and enable them to function—held the Federation's attention. But in the process, it became even clearer that there were real and necessary functions for a statewide organization to undertake.

It became clear that CFCU could serve its member organizations both through information and consultation. It could strengthen the hands of local groups by organizing statewide and regional support on which they could rely. It could serve a necessary purpose, too, in acting on behalf of its membership as a statewide action group. Out of the experience of these two years came a clearer picture of how the CFCU can serve.



Here, in brief outline, is what CFCU proposes to do:

It will serve as a clearing house: for the exchange of experience and information, the distribution of useful materials, action letters in urgent situations; description of activities of member groups.

It serves as a consultant: to aid local groups in the development of program and plans, to advise them on techniques and methods, to inform them on policies and practices, to aid them in emergencies.

It serves as a coordinator: through its constant communication with local groups throughout the state, it helps to direct efforts into coordinated channels, to utilize in coordinated or combined programs the full strength of a statewide organization instead of the scattered strength of random local groups.

It serves as a statewide action group: to meet those situations which are accessible only through a statewide agency and which require study and solution on a statewide basis.

Results are not automatic

There is, of course, nothing automatic or inevitable about CFCU's program. It will work only to the extent that the local organizations and their supporters contribute to it, not only in terms of money but in active support and participation as well.

Nor is CFCU a one-way street. The local community stands to gain just as the state as a whole and the statewide organization stand to gain from local participation and support.

CFCU will benefit you by strengthening your hand, aiding you to achieve a broader civic unity, a more democratic community.

CFCU will benefit you because, alone, you place definite limits to your accomplishments; in cooperation with similar groups throughout the state, you expand your limits and bring still broader goals within reach.

CFCU will benefit you because no community, no man is an island but are rather integral parts of a comprehensive community, subject alike to the storms as well as the warmth of its climate.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

- American Jewish Congress, Los Angeles
Women's Division
- Bell Town Improvement Club
- Berkeley Interracial Committee
- Casa Blanca Unity League
- Civil Rights Defense Union of No. Calif.
- Fresno Council for Civic Unity
- Harbor Council for Civic Unity
- The Intercultural Fellowship, Fresno
- The Interracial Committee, American Friends
Service Committee, San Francisco
- Interracial Committee Santa Ana YWCA
- Japanese American Citizens League,
San Francisco
- Jewish Labor Committee, Los Angeles
- Jewish Public Relations Council, Oakland
- Jewish Survey and B'nai B'rith Community
Committee of San Francisco
- Los Altos Fair Play Committee
- Los Angeles County Committee on
Human Relations
- Los Angeles Council for Civic Unity
- Monterey Peninsula Council for Civic Unity
- National Association for the Advancement of
Colored People, San Francisco
- Oakland Council for Civic Unity
- Oakland YWCA
- Pomona Council for Civic Unity
- Redlands Council for Civic Unity
- Redlands Unity League
- Redwood City Council for Civic Unity
- Richmond Council on Intergroup Relations
- San Bernardino County Council of
Social Agencies
- San Bernardino Unity League
- San Diego Community Relations Committee
- San Fernando Valley Council on Race Relations
- San Francisco Council for Civic Unity
- San Francisco YWCA
- San Jose Council for Civic Unity
- San Luis Obispo County Council for Civic Unity
- Santa Barbara Council for Civic Unity
- Sierra Madre Civic Group
- Sonoma County Committee on Fair Play
- Vallejo Council for Civic Unity
- Ventura County Committee for Civic Unity
- YMCA-YWCA Race Relations Group, Berkeley
- YWCA Public Affairs Committee, Long Beach

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- North Peninsula Council for Civic Unity
- Palo Alto Fair Play Committee
- Pasadena YWCA
- Pacific Coast Council on Intercultural
Education
- San Bernardino Council for Human Rights

These are our tools:

Clearing House...

—for the exchange of experience and information, the distribution of useful materials, action letters in urgent situations; description of activities of member groups.

Consultation...

—to aid local groups in the development of program and plans, to advise them on techniques and methods, to inform them on policies and practices, to aid them in emergencies.

Coordination...

—through its constant communication with local groups throughout the state, CFCU helps to direct efforts into coordinated channels, to utilize in coordinated or combined programs the full strength of a statewide organization instead of the scattered strength of random local groups.

Statewide action...

—to meet those situations which are accessible only through a statewide agency and which require study and solution on a statewide basis.

Your financial support, your participation can help put these tools to work for a more democratic pattern of living together in California. Act now—for details, phone or write:

California Federation for Civic Unity

101 Post street

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San Francisco

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