

COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION

07½ EAST FIRST STREET • LOS ANGELES 33, CALIFORNIA • TELEPHONE: ANGELUS 3-7083

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JEFF F. CARLOS
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Dear Reader:

For the first time in the history of Los Angeles, there exists today, within predominantly Spanish-speaking neighborhoods, a genuine, mass-based, civic-action organization designed to improve living conditions, protect group and individual interests, protest, remedy and prevent violations of human rights, and provide a medium for social expression, leadership development, and inter-group co-operation.


This is the Community Service Organization; location --, 2307½ East First Street, in Los Angeles' Eastside; phone, AN-37083.

The pages that follow present a graphic description of just how well we have realized our aims. They also indicate how much remains to be done.

Now we are engaged in a struggle for continued existence. Unless financial support is immediately forthcoming, we will soon be forced to close our doors forever.

If you believe in what we are doing, you can help us. YOU can join our organization; and you can send a financial contribution to the COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION at the above address.

Yours for a continued Community Service Organization,


HENRY NAVA
Chairman

HN:cm

VOTER REGISTRATION • CIVIL RIGHTS • NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT • HOUSING
LABOR RELATIONS • EDUCATION • SOCIAL WELFARE • HEALTH

THANK YOU MR. ROSS.

I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO TALK TO YOU ON WHAT C. S. O. HAS ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR. I SHOULD SAY BEFORE I START THAT IT HAS ONLY BEEN THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF SUCH MEN AS MR. ROSS AND YOU PEOPLE THAT ~~WE~~ HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH AND MADE POSSIBLE THE GOOD WHICH YOU ARE ABOUT TO HEAR.

BEFORE C. S. O. WE WERE FEW AND INAFECTIVE BECAUSE THERE WERE ONLY A FEW OF US WHO WERE REGISTERED TO VOTE. BECAUSE OF THIS OUR NEEDS WERE NOT BEING MET. OUR NEIGHBORHOODS NEEDED IMPROVEMENT AND OUR OFFICIALS IGNORED OUR CRIES. WHY? BECAUSE ~~WE~~ ^{ONLY} WERE FEW IN REGISTERED VOTERS AND DIVIDED. NOW ALL OF THIS HAS CHANGED AND WHY? BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN UNITED TO MEET THESE NEEDS THROUGH C. S. O.

THIS IS WHAT C.S.O. HAS DONE TO BRING ABOUT THIS GREAT CHANGE:

FIRST WE OBTAINED THE SERVICES OF SIX SPANISH-SPEAKING DEPUTY REGISTRARS. THIS HELPED TO ENCOURAGE OUR PEOPLE TO USE THEIR GREATEST PRIVILEGE. BEFORE C.S.O. WAS ORGANIZED THERE WERE ONLY A FEW REGISTERED VOTERS. NOW THERE ARE 6,000 OF US READY TO CAST OUR VOTES ON NOV. 8. IN THIS WORK WE COVERED FROM GILROY TO CASTRO CITY AND FROM PERMANENTE TO SALESIPUEDES. AND IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE SALESIPUEDES IS THEN DRIVE OUT TO THE EASTSIDE IN THE RAINY SEASON. THIS WORK TOOK US 1500 MAN HOURS OF EFFORT TO PRODUCE A MORE EFFECTIVE VOICE IN THE COMMUNITY.

BUT THIS WAS NOT ENOUGH, NOW WE HAVE COVERED THE SAME AREAS AGAIN IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO MAKE USE OF THEIR BALLOT.

ALONG WITH THIS C. S. O. HAS PARTICIPATED IN CIVIC AFFAIRS IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE PEOPLE THAT THE MEXICAN PEOPLE ARE A PART OF THIS COMMUNITY. CSO PARTICIPATED IN A CONFERENCE FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE SPANISH-SPEAKING CHILD. ALSO ITS MEMBERS PARTICIPATED ^{WITH OTHER MINORITY GROUPS} IN A PANEL ON PROPERTY VALUES & MINORITY PEOPLES.

ALL OF THIS HAS PAVED THE WAY TO BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS THAT DIVIDED AND SET OFF THE MEXICAN - AMERICAN COMMUNITY FROM THE REST OF THE PEOPLE.

WE MUST NOT FORGET OUR NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN INDIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR SOME VERY NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS.

WE HAVE WORKED HARD FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO IN WHAT EVER WAY WE CAN. I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO PARTICIPATE MORE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF YOUR COMMUNITY AND ESPECIALL THROUGH C. S. O. ... BECAUSE IN UNITY THERE IS STRENGTH AND DIVIDED WE FALL.

BEFORE I CLOSE THIS TALK I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT COME NOVEMBER ~~4~~ VOTE AS YOU LIKE BUT VOTE. AND TO THOSE OF YOU WHO CANNOT VOTE ENCOURAGE THOSE WHO CAN TO DO SO.

SAN JOSE, CSO
140 1/2 E. Santa Clara
San Jose, California

Mr. Cesar Chavez

To the ~~DeWingfield County~~ CSO:

We have won the first step. The Assembly Committee on Governmental Efficiency and Economy recently passed the Old Age Pension Bill, AB 941. This is the first time we have gotten over the first hurdle. Congratulations to those of you whose work in your communities or at the Mobilization in Sacramento changed enough votes to make this victory possible.

But this is only the first step. A. B. 941 has been referred to the Ways and Means Committee of the Assembly. The bill requires money to put the Old Age Pension Bill 941 into effect and the Ways and Means Committee is the group which must pass on all appropriations. Before the bill can get out on the floor where all Assemblymen will have a chance to vote on it, it must get through the Ways and Means Committee. This is the second round.

So, for the second round our job is to contact every member of the Ways and Means Committee. Begin immediately to send them letters and telegrams. These should be personal letters. Make it a good job. But act right away. If you have no meeting arranged, call one now.

In addition, contact the Assemblyman in your area if he is on the Ways and Means Committee and arrange for an appointment when he is home. It doesn't matter that you have seen him before. We have to get enough votes to get the bill passed by the Ways and Means Committee. As soon as you have seen your Assemblyman, or have some word from him, let us know which way you think he is going to vote. We have to know by May 10, 1955. Your organization will also be required to send a representative to Sacramento sometime around May 16, 1955 for a general mobilization; so please send us also the name of the representative you expect to send.

Thank you very much. The enclosed list will aid you in contacting your representative.

Sincerely,

Mr. Leo Sanchez

Leo Sanchez, Chairman
Northern Group

*Please answer soon
in regard to this matter
so we may make our plans
LS:ra*

Enclosure

Senator: Don't forget to answer

this is my second letter to you.

C.S.O. Committee Functions

1. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Shall be responsible for formulating a program for bringing new members into the C.S.O. and putting this program into operation. At least once a year this committee shall put on an intensive six weeks membership drive, with the cooperation of all active C.S.O. members. The Chairman of this committee shall welcome and introduce all new C.S.O. members and guests to the general membership.

2. VOTER REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Each year this committee shall obtain volunteer deputy registrars, arrange to have them instructed by the Registrar of Voters, and conduct a voter registration drive throughout the Spanish-speaking neighborhoods of San Joaquin County. It shall also be the responsibility of this Committee to put on a "Get Out The Vote" drive during all crucial elections. All active C.S.O. members shall be expected to cooperate with this Committee during the voter registration and get out the vote drives.

3. CITIZENSHIP COMMITTEE

Shall recruit students for Citizenship and Basic English classes, arrange for these classes through the Adult Education Division, and provide a continuing counseling service at each school where the classes are held, which shall include filling out appropriate forms, answering questions, provision of C.S.O. study material and general cooperation with students and teachers.

4. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Shall work for the expansion of educational opportunities in the Spanish-speaking neighborhoods, and shall encourage the Spanish-speaking population to take advantage of existing educational programs. This committee shall be particularly interested in seeing to it that Adult classes, geared to the needs of Spanish-speaking young adults and parents are made available through the Adult Education division. This committee shall assist other C.S.O. committees in obtaining appropriate educational material.

5. HEALTH COMMITTEE

In the interest of improving general health and sanitation conditions and standards, this committee shall endeavor to bring about the expansion of existing city and county health services into the Spanish-speaking neighborhoods, and the creation of such additional services as appear to be needed. This committee shall also cooperate with existing health agencies by bringing their services to the attention of the people, and encouraging the people in every way possible, to take advantage of such services.

6. WELFARE COMMITTEE

Shall familiarize itself with the services available through local welfare agencies and refer needy persons to appropriate agencies. It shall also be the responsibility of this committee to see to it that Spanish-speaking welfare clients are given just and courteous treatment by relief agencies. In the event instances of discrimination arise, this committee together with the Civil Rights Committee shall do everything possible to eliminate such unfair treatment.

7. SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Shall conduct various social functions throughout the year in order to raise funds and encourage good relations among the people of the organization and of the community. Such funds shall be turned over to the Treasurer immediately after collection. At the general meetings of the membership, this Committee shall be responsible for the handling of the "paquete misterioso", the refreshments and occasional entertainment.

8. NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Shall be responsible for encouraging the people in sub-standard neighborhoods to work for the basic ~~and~~ neighborhood improvements such as sewers, paved streets, sidewalks, street lights, traffic signals, playgrounds, etc. This Committee shall also attempt to advise the people of such neighborhoods as to ways and means through which their own properties can be improved, through home improvement loans, etc.

Inasmuch as such sub-standard areas are often selected by municipalities as logical sites for slum-clearance, urban renewal, industrialization etc. the Neighborhood Improvement Committee must keep abreast of such municipal planning and alert the people of the area as to the advantages and disadvantages of such programs.

9. PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

The Publicity Committee shall establish contact with the press, radio and other communications media and shall be responsible for seeing to it that all items of general interest emanating from C.S.O. programs are publicized through these media. All C.S.O. committees shall keep the Publicity Committee chairman informed of projects which they wish to have publicized. In the event that for any reason the Publicity Chairman is unable to provide this service he must immediately advise the appropriate Committee chairman or the President, so that someone is definitely charged with the responsibility of seeing to it that the important news item is given adequate coverage. The Publicity Committee is the C.S.O. agency for guaranteeing that the C.S.O. receives credit for its accomplishments. New members will only come into the C.S.O. to the extent that they believe the C.S.O. is accomplishing valuable objectives. If these accomplishments are not publicized these potential members will know nothing about the C.S.O. and will not be interested in joining.

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every chapter and the National organization have provided scholarships to deserving youngsters to enable them to continue their education.

Urban Redevelopment—The Stockton chapter has taken the lead in combatting the ravages of current “bull-dozer” tactics or what we have come to know as Urban Devastation. Other chapters also active in this struggle are Bakersfield, San Jose, San Bernardino, and Oxnard.

The above statewide and local projects represent the core program of CSO. The organization’s program is not complete. Obviously there are problem areas which have not been attacked due to staff shortage and/or financial limitations.

The essential point to keep in mind regarding this organization is its dedication to the proposition that it will wage a militant battle for the improvement of conditions in existing problem areas or in problem areas which may develop in the future.

From the foregoing brief description of the CSO movement it should be obvious to the reader that CSO, while non partisan regarding political parties or candidates or other limited goal groups, is a militantly partisan organization regarding issues where the rights of minority groups and all Americans are at stake. We endorse and cooperate in programs which promise to improve the social-economic level of our group and conversely oppose and fight any development which may jeopardize the equal opportunity of any citizen to enjoy the advantage of this society.

The reader is invited to participate in the program of this organization either actively as a member by joining a local chapter or as a contributor. For further information contact

CSO NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

2701½ E. FOURTH STREET

LOS ANGELES 33, CALIFORNIA

in San Jose, North Monterey County, Visalia, Bakersfield and Barstow have protested police abuses and have followed through, wherever necessary, into the courts in order to protect the rights of the Mexican-American group.

Abuse of authority by Registrars—Some county registrars of voters have openly refused to appoint members of this organization to help register voters. The chapters in San Jose, Visalia, Tulare, Bakersfield, Brawley and Madera have had difficulty in this but succeeded in correcting the situation by persistent contact with officials concerned by mobilizing friends of CSO to bring pressure to bear on this discriminatory practice and by bringing about corrective legislation at the state level.

Neighborhood Improvement—The following chapters have been successful in obtaining in their neighborhoods one or more of such basic improvements as paved streets, side walks, sewers, traffic signals, playgrounds, storm drains, etc.; Los Angeles, San Jose, Hayward, Monterey County, Fresno, Delano, Bakersfield, Brawley, El Centro, Stockton, Corcoran and Hanford.

Farm Labor—The following chapters have been effective in their communities in fighting for the rights of the farm worker in areas of employment. Ventura county has received national attention because of its effective methods of bringing this problem before public officials. Stockton has also been in the fore-front of this struggle. Other chapters who have made consistent efforts in this area are: Bakersfield, Monterey County, San Benito County, Calexico, Brawley and El Centro.

Office Service—Twelve chapters have opened part time or full time offices to provide free social service to the barrios. This service is geared to serve in areas of social welfare, social security, immigration forms, Income Tax forms, delayed birth certificates and innumerable services not available in the community.

Youth Services and Scholarships—A number of chapters have been particularly effective in these services to youth by working with youngsters who are having difficulty integrating into community social life. These include San Jose, Fresno, South Monterey County, Oakland, Hayward, Stockton, San Bernardino, Bakersfield and Delano. Almost

PURPOSE

The Community Service Organization, existing and working within predominately Spanish-Speaking neighborhoods, is a grass roots, civic action organization, designed to integrate the Spanish-Speaking people into our overall community life.

CSO is neither a political movement nor a welfare agency. It is a self-help, civic action agency, endeavoring to improve living conditions; to promote inter-community harmony; to work for adequate educational and youth welfare programs; to protect group and individual interests; to protest, remedy and prevent violations of human and civil rights, and to provide a medium for social expression and "on the spot" leadership development.

This organization does not endorse candidates or political parties and is adamantly opposed to any form of totalitarianism whether it be Communism or Fascism.

HISTORY

Although CSO has existed for approximately fourteen years, questions arise as to its origin, sponsorship and organizational ties. These are questions the community has a right to ask, and the CSO an obligation to answer.

CSO was originally organized in Los Angeles in 1947. In 1953 it was incorporated under the laws of the state of California as a National organization. Since then, local chapters have been chartered from Calexico to Sacramento in California and in local areas in Arizona.

During the major portion of its existence, the CSO movement has received staff assistance and financial aid from the Industrial Areas Foundation of Chicago. This foundation has been widely and unanimously praised by the press of the nation for its achievements in community improvement projects. This includes editorials and detailed serialized articles in the New York Herald Tribune, the Washington Post and all of the Chicago newspapers and magazines from the Reader's Digest to McCalls. The membership of the Board of Trustees of the Industrial Areas

Foundation has included: the late Marshall Field of New York City; Herman Dunlap Smith of Chicago; G. Howland Shaw of Washington, D. C.; Cecil North and Gordon Clapp of New York City and many other prominent citizens.

The CSO program has been continually endorsed by the AF of L-CIO Labor organization. They have continuously supported the CSO program and have made generous financial contributions to the National program and to some local chapters.

The Bishops Committee and the American Friends Committee, a Quaker group, have endorsed the work of CSO and have provided staff assistance to some of the chapters in northern California.

The Work of CSO has been endorsed by Catholic, Jewish and Protestant church leaders and prominent people in business, professional, political and civic life.

CSO ACHIEVEMENTS

The following list of projects and/or accomplishments are necessarily selective. Space does not permit a complete listing of all the successful projects.

STATEWIDE PROJECTS

Voter Registration—The CSO door-to-door registration drive for 1960 succeeded in adding approximately 140,000 voters to the registration rolls of the state of California. These voters predominantly of Mexican descent, represent persons, for the most part, who had not previously exercised their American right to vote. This very important CSO project has attracted the attention of public bodies and officials on both a statewide and national basis. Needless to say aspirants to public office, as well as incumbents, are usually interested in this development.

Get out the vote—Each CSO chapter has emphasized the need for all registered voters to participate in all elections in their communities. All candidates or representatives of political parties are invited to attend a

membership meeting to present their views. Prior to each election each chapter conducts an intensive campaign to get all registered voters out to the polls.

Old Age Assistance for non-citizens—CSO spear headed an eight year fight in the state legislature to remove the citizenship requirement for assistance in this category. In 1961 Governor Brown signed this bill into law. This successful CSO project has helped ease a serious economic problem among the aged Mexican-American population.

Citizenship program—A basic CSO project has been the establishment of free service to help aliens legalize their U. S. residence. Of even greater importance, this organization has helped approximately 30,000 persons obtain their citizenship.

FEP—CSO has worked with NAACP, labor and other groups in their efforts for Fair employment legislation and continues to take a traditional position that more effective legislation is necessary to end employment discrimination for all minority groups.

Right to work legislation—This organization has joined labor in opposing the right-to-work legislation.

Public Law 78—CSO has taken a strong position against the indiscriminate importation of foreign farm labor into this country, and has joined other civic groups, and labor in opposing the retention or extension of this program in its present form. The Bracero program has brought about wide-scale unemployment and has depressed the wage level in agriculture, and has intensified the social-economic conditions of local farm workers.

CHAPTERS

The following program or projects of CSO have been achieved in specific chapter areas.

Law enforcement—In the early 50's the Los Angeles chapter was instrumental in bringing a number of police officers to court regarding brutality in the city jails. In the infamous "Bloody Xmas" case five of these were sent to jail for from one to ten years. Since then the chapters

November 12, 1952

Honorable Edmund G. Brown
Attorney General of the State
of California
Capitol Building
Sacramento, California

Dear Mr. Brown:

SMALL 5
I am writing on behalf of the Community Service Organization, a non-partisan, non-political organization which represents the interests of the Spanish Speaking people in San Jose. Our Organization, for the first time in the County's history succeeded in obtaining the services of six Spanish-speaking Deputy registrars and then through the efforts of the Organization's "Get Out the Vote Drive", were responsible for the registration of some 6,000 voters of Mexican extraction. *many of these, were voting for the first time.*

On election day, November 4, 1952 there occurred ~~several~~ ~~incidents~~ at the polling places, where a large number of the registered voters were to cast their ballots, several incidents of what we feel were deliberate ~~attempts~~ efforts to discourage many of these citizens from exercising their right to vote. Many of these ~~people~~ people were compelled to submit to a so-called "literacy test" before they could ~~vote~~ *cast their ballot*. We feel this was unjust since these citizens of Mexican extraction were the only registrants required to take this requirement at the polls. Publicity regarding this questioning at the polls appeared on the newstands long before the polls had closed, *which also* tended to discourage many of the registrants from voting.

We hope that your Department will consider these happenings of the utmost importance since the incidents mentioned constitutes a deliberate attempt to discourage one ethnic group from voting. For further information regarding this unfortunate occurrence please contact me through the Organization's mailing address and I will gladly furnish the names of those people who witnessed instances of *how* projecting registrants *were subjected* to the so-called "literacy tests," as well as pertinent information which will help to investigate these charges in order to eliminate any such ~~future~~ *incidents* in the future.

Very truly yours,

Caps → Community Service Organization

Caesar Chavez
1st Vice-President and
Chairman, "Get out the vote" Committee

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