



SOUTHERN COMMUNITY GAS CO.
SOUTHERN COAST CORPORATION

SHERIDAN C. LEWIS, PRESIDENT

June 4, 1968

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

U. S. Senator Ralph W. Yarborough
460 Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

The big show involving marches, demonstrations and riots was deliberated just before the election between Lt. Governor Preston Smith at the bedside of Ben Barnes in the hospital, and the riot legislation was discussed and proposed to be introduced in the legislation which is now in progress. This caused the defeat which was a loss for the State of Texas, and the people therein are the losers, save and except the lobbyists and professional interests being the supporters of Lt. Governor Smith.

The clipping enclosed of the Corpus Christi Caller-Times shows that we were able to combat the tide and came out ahead in the election for Ronald Bridges -- Frances Tarlton Farenthold and Carlos Truan -- the latter being a very able Latin American young man. Don gained about 10,000 votes over Preston Smith in the run-off, which Don told me over the telephone this morning was by far the greatest, irrespective of the stack of voting in any town or city throughout Texas.

Drs. Hector Garcia, Cleo Garcia, J. A. Garcia, headed by Dr. Hector Garcia, was the powerhouse in getting out votes for Don and the other candidates. William and Tony Bonilla, as well as family, supported Preston Smith; and, as a matter of fact, William Bonilla was one of the co-chairman or campaign chairman of Smith's campaign in this area.

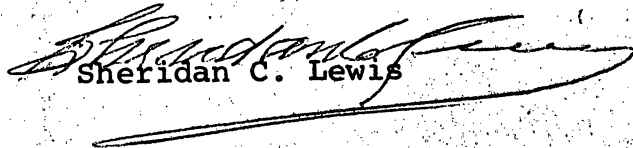
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From checking the strict Latin American precincts, I doubt if Preston Smith received more than 1400 or 1500 Latin American votes, notwithstanding the terrific amount of money spent by Lt. Governor Smith and his backers. The newspaper advertisements throughout the primary and run-off in June, I estimate a minimum of \$30,000 in that field alone. Page after page costing \$800 to \$900 each was run and yet he lost in Corpus Christi by almost 10,000 votes.

Sincerely, your friend,


Sheridan C. Lewis

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