



Otero County American Club Inc.

P. O. BOX 962

ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO 88310

February 20, 1970

Hector P. Garcia, *Esq.*
1315 Bright at Morgan St.
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Friends and Brothers:

For about one year and a half, Alamogordo and Otero County in general has been a center of controversy, dissension and strife. As the poor and minorities, (approximately 1/3 of the area's population), has had an awakening. They have like in so many other parts of our country in recent times, made an effort to emerge from a state of compliancy and social dormancy into one of spirited activity through active involvement in local public affairs only to be rebuffed, insulted, humiliated and abused by the Anglo power structure, with complete disregard of Civil Rights and what the public might want, say or feel.

All this was crystallized in 1969 by a variety of factors, two of which being the most pronounced are, (1) the destruction of the poor and minority people's war on poverty program, the Otero County Community Action Agency; and (2) the Alamogordo Urban Renewal Project which threatens to adversely affect the disadvantaged people's residents and properties, without there being allowed any participation in the decision-making process.

This has brought about polarizaiton of the various racial and ethnic groups. Because of this there has been division of families, rifts between long time friends and separations of groups. The matter has progressively gotten worse, and on several occasions there have been threats of violence.

There is, however, one last chance for the disadvantaged people to acquire some position in the affairs of the Community. That being the March 3rd City election. All five positions on the City Commission are up for election. Realizing the importance of this, the Otero County American Club, of which I am a member, an organization of concerned people of Alamogordo and the County, is sponsoring four candidates in an all out effort to return City Hall to the people. This is of extreme importance because if we fail in this undertaking all the efforts, desires, ambitions and labors of many people will have been spent in vain, and the poor and minorities will have been forced back into the suppressed and oppressed condition of the past.

Therefore, we are calling on you and all the many friends of our organization where ever they may be, for whatever contribution can be made towards assisting the people's four candidates, composed of the minorities for the City Commission.

Awaiting your assisting support in this all important and worthy cause.

Ethel Ortega Olson
Member

AS LOYAL CITIZENS. OUR ORGANIZATION WILL STRIVE FOR EQUAL PRIVILEGES. ENDEAVOR TO MAINTAIN RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL FREEDOM TO INSURE THE RIGHTS OF EQUALITY IN SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, EDUCATIONAL AND POLITICAL OPPORTUNITIES. AND TO SECURE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING IN THE AMERICAN SOCIETY.