

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

MARTIN DIES, JR.
CHAIRMAN
ROY R. BARRERA
VICE-CHAIRMAN

Governor's Committee on Human Relations
Preston Smith, Governor
Austin, Texas 78711
May 1, 1970

JAMES R. RAY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ADA ANDERSON
SECRETARY

Dr. Hector Garcia 1315 Bright Street Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

I read with interest the news account of your remarks in the San Antonio Express yesterday. I must say that I am at a complete loss to understand your statements and question as to why no Texas Governor has appointed a human relations commission.

Of course, it might be that you failed to notice the statewide news coverage which the Governor's Committee on Human Relations received when it met for the first time last October and again when it met in Austin in February and issued interim reports. This Committee was created by the Texas Legislature at the request of Governor Smith.

Membership on the Committee comes from all walks of life and the fifty members represent Negroes, Mexican-Americans, and Anglos. Among the Mexican-American members of the Committee are Roy Barrera, former Secretary of State, Miss Elma Rose Gonzalez from Rio Grande City, D. V. Guerra of McAllen, Reverend Antonio Gonzalez from Houston, C. H. Hinojosa, also of Houston, and Mrs. Alfred Vazquez and Joe Neaves, Jr., of San Antonio. These and others on the Committee are doing a good job and I believe we will see some worthwhile recommendations and results from this group.

You, I am sure, will recall receiving a copy of Dr. G. R. Solis' letter addressed to the Governor a couple of months ago concerning the Governor's Committee on Human Relations. Your local news media has carried reports of our meetings and the fact that Mrs. H. C. Botsford of Corpus Christi is a member of the Committee. We have also sought to cooperate and work closely with your local human relations commission.

I believe you will have to agree that your misleading statements are not only an injustice to Governor Smith and the Texas Legislature, but also to the efforts of the Governor's Committee on Human Relations and especially those Mexican-American members who are seeking to serve the people of Texas. At the meeting in February all who requested time were given the opportunity to appear before the Committee. Over 70 witnesses testified before the various subcommittees, and probably half of them were Mexican-Americans.

Jon Ford, Chief of the San Antonio Express Austin Bureau, has written some excellent articles regarding the work of the Governor's Committee on Human Relations. I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to Alice Murray who wrote the article containing your statements.

We are faced with many difficult and serious problems. There are no quick and easy answers, but if everyone would work together with an attitude of good will rather than a disruptive attitude, we can make some worthwhile accomplishments.

You may be sure that I, and members of the Governor's Committee on Human Relations, shall continue our best efforts to be of service to all the citizens of our great state.

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James K. Kay

Executive Director

JRR:mg

Department of Justice Washington 20530

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Dr. Hector P. Garcia 1315 Bright Street Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

The Attorney General has asked me to respond to your telegram of January 30, 1970, which was belatedly received in this Division because there was no reference therein to any case by name. I assume that you are referring to Judge Taylor's order in the case of Annie Bell Jay, et al. v. United States Department of Agriculture, et al., N.D. Texas, Civil No. 3-2885-C. Since that case was brought against the United States Department of Agriculture and certain of its officials, among others, the Department of Justice was authorized by law to represent the federal defendants and did so.

The case is still under active litigation and therefore it would be inappropriate for me to comment on it. However, I am sure you are aware that the government has filed an appeal urging that the district court's decision threatens seriously the proper operation of federal food assistance programs.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS Assistant Attorney General



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Governor's Committee on Human Relations

Preston Smith, Governor Austin, Texas 78711 March 19, 1970 JAMES R. RAY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ADA ANDERSON

SECRETARY

INTERIM REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARTIN DIES, JR.

ROY R. BARRERA

VICE - CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN

Secretary of State Martin Dies, Jr., Chairman of the Governor's Committee on Human Relations, called the committee for its first real working meeting last month. Following a brief session in the Senate Chamber, the committee divided into subcommittees for the purpose of receiving testimony.

All who requested time to be heard by the committee were given the opportunity to meet with the subcommittee or subcommittees of their choice. In addition to the many requests received by the committee, several citizens and officials were requested to testify before the various subcommittees by members of the committee or its Executive Director, Jim Ray.

The subcommittees worked well into the evening hours in order that all witnesses could be heard. Over 70 persons from throughout the State appeared before the committee.

The Human Relations Committee is charged with making legislative recommendations to the Governor and members of the Legislature by November 1, 1970. In view of the great volume of information presented to the subcommittees, all were of the opinion that no final recommendations should be presented at this time. However, on the second day of the meeting, the following observations were made to the full committee by the subcommittee chairmen.

EDUCATION: Rabbi Hyman Schachtel, Chairman. Many areas in the field of education were considered by the committee and the members expressed a desire to give more in-depth study to the problems before making final recommendations. Among the tentative recommendations slated for further consideration were:

- 1. expansion of free lunch program
- 2. school board elections included in General Election
- 3. teachers should be provided more training to make them more sympathetic to the situation of minority groups
- 4. abolish rules prohibiting speaking of Spanish in schools and expand bilingual programs
- 5. increase support for developing colleges

6. increase emphasis on vocational and technical education and thus enable all citizens to confront life with dignity and have a capacity to earn a living.

EMPLOYMENT: Carl Waldman, Chairman. People must be properly educated, whether it be in the arts and sciences or in a vocational field in order to have fair or proper employment. Much interest was expressed in the presentation by representatives from the Texas State Technical Institute regarding vocational and technical training. Members of this subcommittee are meeting again in Austin March 23-24 and will attend the Governor's Conference on Technical-Vocational Education in Texas.

The subcommittee commended the 61st Legislature for its legislative programs and Governor Smith for providing the leadership to streamline our educational system to accomplish the vital function of preparing every citizen to earn a wage and find a responsible and useful place in his community. It called upon all to help strengthen our basic concept of the dignity of work and right of every person for his own destiny.

In addition to the problem of education for employment, the sub-committee also heard from witnesses and expressed concern about such areas as employment with dignity, utilizing facilities and resources which are available to the underemployed or unemployed but not used to the fullest extent, and many others. It is expected that much more attention will be given to actual job discrimination by all segments — industry and labor — prior to making final recommendations. It was the feeling of the committee that all persons must have a chance to earn a living.

STATE EMPLOYMENT: T. E. Mitchell, Chairman. Most state agencies leave much to be desired with respect to employment of minorities and employment policies must improve. The subcommittee did express appreciation that Governor Smith is leading the way in giving minorities an equal opportunity by taking positive action to encourage the full utilization of the skills of state employees and to open employment opportunities to disadvantaged Texans regardless of racial background or sex.

The Governor was called upon by the subcommittee to appoint a Spanish-surnamed American as an assistant and noted that members of minorities should be named to policy-making boards and commissions.

(NOTE: Among the appointments to the Governor's staff since the committee meeting have been a Public Service Careers Specialist to work in the area of state employment and a Mexican-American who, in addition to other duties, will be responsible for housing programs.)

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE-LAW ENFORCEMENT: John Allen Chalk, Chairman. Testimony pointed to the need for better trained, more sensitive police officers. Some "believable" method must be devised for hearing and acting on citizen complaints against police. Strong, precinct-level community relations departments need to be organized.

An all-out study of our criminal justice system should be considered and measures explored to restore minority confidence in the administration of justice. All citizens must be assured COMPETENT, independent LEGAL HELP AT TIME OF ARREST. Abuses of civil rights or personal rights must be exposed and corrected wherever they are found.

All law enforcement agencies must mount <u>effective programs</u> and every effort be exerted to recruit minority officers.

HOUSING: Glenn Barber, Chairman. Under consideration is a recommendation to the Governor and Legislature that a state agency or department should be established to deal solely with the problems of housing. At the present time statewide information or statistics on housing in Texas is virtually non-existent. It is estimated, however, that as much as 50% of the housing units in our state are inadequate or substandard.

One area of grave concern to the committee members is the intolerably high interest rates. High interest rates have forced costs beyond the reach of a large number of our citizens and have tended to dry up sources of money for the housing industry.

Included among other recommendations to the subcommittee were calls for more public housing, possibly at the state level, and a statewide building code. The subcommittee has made the testimony and other information available to the Texas Research League and has accepted the Governor's challenge to assist in exploring means to meet the housing needs in Texas and assure all Texans adequate and decent housing.

The Committee will be called to meet again by early summer. It is anticipated firm recommendations to the Governor and members of the Legislature will be forthcoming at that time.

In the meantime, the Committee, along with the Executive Director and staff, continues to serve as a liaison between the Covernor and minority groups throughout the State. Although not equipped to handle individual problems, the Executive Director, under the direction of Secretary Dies and the Governor, has sought to be helpful when called upon. He has been helpful in establishing communications in local disputes. Various groups have been visited throughout the State in an effort to create interest in the work of the committee and to gather information for use by the committee.

(Of possible interest, it might be noted that at the request of the Houston Teachers Association and through the efforts of the Governor's Committee on Human Relations, Governor Preston Smith signed a proclamation declaring December 10-17, 1969, to be Human Rights Week in Texas. This was the first time a Governor of Texas has made such a proclamation.)

The Committee and its staff continues to seek to be of all possible assistance in the efforts to find solutions to the problems confronting the citizens of Texas. The problems are many and although we all realize that it is far easier to establish goals than to accomplish them, we must not allow this to deter our efforts.



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Dr. Hector García

1315 Bright Street

Corpus Christi, Texas

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JAN ANTONIO EXPRESS 4-30-70

Thursday, April 30, 1970

Predjudiced Texan' Rapped

By ALICE MURRAY never qualified . . . never neigh-tor for the commission.

With those bitter words, Dr.

to be present for the official re-nor's office, law enforcement of Tower?" he asked. lease of the Civil Rights Com-ficials (particularly Texas Ran- He asked why no Texas gover-in the South in the 1950's and omic status.

ported here Monday, contains ference:

"We are never peers . . . Howard Glickstein, staff direc-ested in the problems of the sign.

former member of the U.S. Civil said, "We have brought to the found in non-compliance with world you are sincere?"

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"Serious charges of prejudice on the part of law enforcement officials and discrimination in the asked, maintaining that even the state's population. He called ever, that the area where Meximum and the five-state region we stuadministration of justice" to the U.S. Department of Justice's for the director of the Selective can Americans are most denied died," he said.

wards Mexican-Americans, said Civil Rights Division isn't inter-Sorvice System in Texas to re-lis west of San Antonio to Del

tor for the commission.

With the release of the new He contended there are 50 are wrong. How do you think on Congress and the President

Hector Garcia of Corpus Christi, commission study, Dr. Garcia Texas school districts already you can convince the rest of the to give the U.S. attorney general Rights Commission, denounced here Wednesday "the prejudiced Texan who has never been the Texan who has never been the Mexican-American's friend."

The found in non-compliance with world you are sincere?"

Glickstein compared the commission's findings on law endothing about in Texas for the past 100 years."

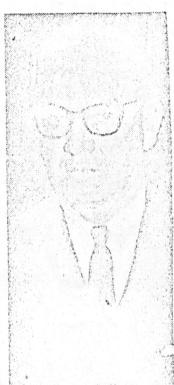
Department of Health, Education of instite where Mexican-American's friend."

The found in non-compliance with world you are sincere?"

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Department of Health, Education of instite where Mexican-American's friend." Garcia flew into San Antonio Lambasting the Texas gover-moved. Are they protecting Sen. Americans are involved to the juries because of race, color, resituation protested by Negroes ligion, national origin or econ-

Glickstein said the commis-The 135-page study, first re-lasked newsmen at a press con-work for Mexican-Americans, Rights Commission did not language had been a factor in



DR. HECTOR GARCIA . . . hits prejudice

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