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January 6, 1971

President Richard M. Nixon  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

My Dear Mr. President:

During our private conversation in the East Room last June 18th, when you, Mrs. Nixon and I discussed the turmoil and skepticism of the nation's youth, you impressed upon me that you were exceedingly sensitive to their feelings and to the feelings of other groups whose confidence you so earnestly seek. Thus, I am sending you herewith a letter I received from a disillusioned and dispirited man who represents a minority group, Mexican-Americans.

The author of this disquieting letter, Dr. Hector P. Garcia, was on my staff during World War II. We served together overseas in the field for 39 months. I got to know him well. He was truly a remarkable medical officer. He is the most thoroughly dedicated person I know.

In every country in which we served, Dr. Garcia selflessly and voluntarily would work with the local, impoverished natives with the zeal of a missionary. As the U.S. press has reported on a number of occasions, over the past twenty years he has shown the same unbounded dedication: applying himself to the needs and rights of Mexican-Americans. In 1967 President Johnson named him U.S. Ambassador and Alternate Delegate to the United Nations.

I have always had tremendous respect for J. Edgar Hoover. I can't imagine him saying what Time Magazine has reported as being his words. Nevertheless, there is no question but some harm has been done and as a Nixon-ite I felt that this expressed disillusionment should be brought to your attention. How widespread the feeling Dr. Garcia expresses is among Mexican-Americans I don't know. If it is very widespread, it is harmful to you and to your Administration and I know that you would want to consider some way of reassuring these people that as their President you think of them as Americans and would not want to hurt them in any way.

Very respectfully,  
*Charles E. Rodgers,*  
Charles E. Rodgers, Jr.  
President

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