

J. Vegh
Nov. 30, 1982

3331 Jamaica Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78418

Doctor Hector Garcia:

Sir:

My family and I heard of you long before moving here in 1977.

We had high regard for you and your cause before reading your statements in the 'CALLER'.

Sir, names such as MEXICANOS, Mexican-American, Anglo & Coconuts are as objectionable as NIGGER. The only name suited for all of us is AMERICAN.

I feel a kinship to my friends and co-workers here in South Texas. I, like many of them, am Bi-lingual. I did not know one word of English the day I reported to first grade (in 1931)... I too had to listen to the humiliatin names like HUNKY, Hungarian-AMERICAN, bohunk etc...

It hurt then and it still hurts.

I've written several letters to the 'CALLER' editors and publisher objecting to their uncalled for use of such divisive names, but, although they have printed many of my letters on other subjects, not one of these letters were printed. I've objected to Eleanor Mortenson's column. Reading her column you would never know that 60% of our friends and neighbors have Spanish surnames. All this in a newspaper published by a man who claims to be your friend and admirer. STRANGE, isn't it ??

We have met many fine folks whom we admire.

Ed Mireles, John Lozano, Richard Sanchez, Bob Barron to name a few. You would have us believe there is a significant difference between us ? NO WAY !

Like us, they work to provide for their families and needs. They are good at what they do and I consider them successful.

My daughter-in-law, Linda-- of Latin heritage-- has been a God send to our family. She is a loving wife and mother at home and a professor at the University in Colorado.....COCONUTS ?

Would you call our fine neighbors, co-workers and my daughter-in-law COCONUTS ?

Their progress in the AMERICAN mainstream should be admired by all---- especially by you Doctor.....

That is if you truly stand for equality for all human beings .

It must be a terrible burden carrying that hateful chip on your shoulders.

Of course we understand what is meant by the term COCONUT., but we try not to let such bigotted terms bother us. This family accepts our fellow citizens and neighbors for what they are--- not for their skin pigment, the language(s) they speak or the type of food they choose to eat. There are good and bad everywhere-- and Corpus Christi is no exception. When you use words such as those printed in the 'Caller'., folks like us have no choice but to consider you a DANGEROUS element in America Today.

Your fight for electing council members by district has some merit. I've always thought that four should be elected by district and three at-large.

In an area where 60% of the folks are of Spanish surnames the council should be 100% Spanish surnamed citizens. If we can get all these folks registered and then into voting booths on election day, then the last name of a person, the color of his skin or his heritage would not matter. Isn't that the real problem here ?

It has been very difficult for me to write this letter to you. One does not loose his admiration for a fellow human being and his cause over one incident. But, to tell the truth, the damage you have done by your unfortunate selection of words and names, may never be forgotten. I may always have the feeling you resent me and my family because we are something we had no choice in. What--in GOD's name, did we ever do to you ?

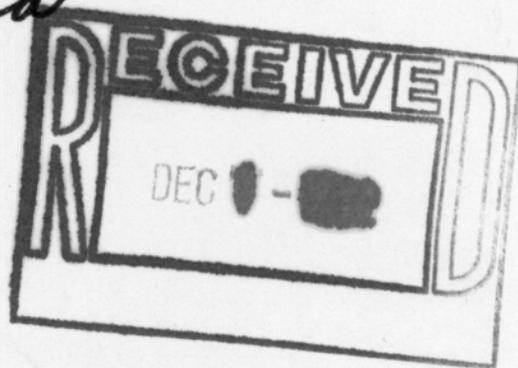
Joseph V'egh
Joseph V'egh

P.S. Do you suppose folks down in Mexico just might consider you to be a "CoCoNUT" for living up here ??

3331 JAMAICA
C. C., TX 78418



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