

TEXAS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
201 N. St. Mary's St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78205  
(512) 225-4071

May 12, 1975

Dr. Hector Garcia  
Founder - American G.I. Forum  
1315 Bright Street  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

Back in October, 1974, I attempted to contact as many representatives of Mexican American statewide organizations as I possible could. The purpose of that effort was to see if we could overcome the problem of working at cross-purposes. The main cause of the problem, as many of us have agreed, is lack of communication. If we can sit down and talk, we can surely resolve differences.

It is with this in mind, that the Field Foundation has given us a small grant to come together to talk and exchange ideas. The grant, however, is not big enough to cover the usual expenses of travel and lodging, but we can cover the expense of meeting place and food. I'll be glad to give you all the details of the grant, but keep in mind that we may also try to enlarge on the concept by applying for other foundation grants so that we can henceforth cover all expenses for participants.

The primary purpose of this letter is to invite you to two meetings which I hope you can attend. On May 19th you're invited to a luncheon at Mario's Restaurant, 325 So. Pecos, San Antonio. This meeting will serve to organize for the larger Conference meeting to be held in San Antonio, June 16, 1975, from 9 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., at a place yet to be announced. Bishop Patrick Flcres will be with us on both days.

The enclosed letter to Leslie Dunbar will serve you as the basis for what we hope to be all about. What happens will depend on the interest at both meetings and those to be held later. Interstate Research Associates, a non-profit, 501 (C) (3) tax-exempt organization, is the grantee organization. The title, Texas Leadership Conference is temporary and does not represent a "new" organization. It's being used to put a handle on the meetings. I would also hope that the meetings will be held in-house, meaning no press and strictly for those invited only.

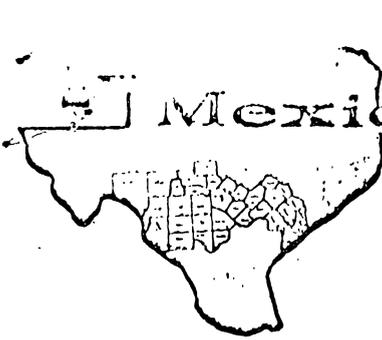
Write or call me if you're attending the May 19th meeting. I'll write you again on the June 16th meeting. Hasta entonces.

Sinceramente,



Joe J. Bernal

JJB/sp



# COMMISSION FOR Mexican-American Affairs

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN ANTONIO

October 31, 1974

Mr. Leslie Dunbar  
The Field Foundation  
100 East 85th Street  
New York, New York 10028

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Executive Director

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Dear Les:

As per our telephone conversation recently--I am leaving the Commission for Mexican-American Affairs and have announced it publicly.

As I've mentioned to you I would like to do something about getting our Mexican-American/Chicano leadership together. Too often we seem to be working at cross purposes--most probably because of a lack of communication. I would like for Field Foundation to consider funding an effort which would bring together persons representing diverse Mexican-American organizations that could sit around the table and talk. Regardless of our affiliation we would have one thing in common--our hopes, desires, and aspirations in seeing Mexican-Americans move ahead in all areas.

The idea excites me and I personally feel has much merit. The people I've discussed this matter with seem to show like interest. So far I've discussed the idea with Representative Carlos Truan and Representative R. L. "Bob" Vale, Texas Legislative Mexican-American Caucus Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. I've also talked to Chris Escamilla, Executive Director of the Mexican-American School Board Members Association, to Dr. Jose Cardenas, Executive Director of Inter-Cultural Development Research Association, a statewide organization doing research work with school finance, and to Willie Velasquez with the South West Voter Education Project and they all like the idea. Briefly the idea goes as such:

PURPOSE: To coordinate. The need and the climate exists for us to get together to talk and listen and maybe even plan together how each of our diverse groups can better serve the Mexican-Americans in Texas. This could result in a deep respect for one another's efforts in pursuing activities different from other organizations yet quite legitimate in bettering the socio-economic condition of the Mexican-American.

ORGANIZATIONS to be involved: (not in order of importance or preference)

1. IDRA - Dr. Jose Cardenas - School finance
2. Mexican-American School Board Association - Chris Escamilla - Education
3. TABE - Raul Munoz - Education (Bilingual)
4. TAMAE - Ruben Gallego - Education (Teacher)
5. Raza Unida Party - Jose Angel Gutierrez - Political
6. Texas Legislative Caucus - Carlos Truan - Political
7. Republican Mexican-American Caucus - Eddie Garza - Political
8. LULAC - Tony Bonilla - Civic and Educational
9. G. I. Forum - Dr. Hector Garcia - Civic and Educational
10. Labor Council for Latin American Advancement - Franklin Garcia - Labor
11. Catholics - Bishop Patrick Flores - Texas Catholic Conference
12. Presbyterian - Rodolfo Guerrero - Hispanic Ministries
13. Methodist - Mike Hernandez
14. Lutheran - Clement Saenz
15. Democratic State Party Mexican-American Caucus - Leonel Castillo - Political
16. Mexican-American Unity Council - Juan Patlan - Service
17. College Professors Association - to be organized
18. Others yet to be named

ACTIVITIES: Bring together at least two representatives of each group mentioned, once every two to three months.

PROGRAM: Devote time for each organization to discuss its plan and offer suggestions how each can help out directly or indirectly.

BENEFITS DERIVED:

Internally - build a respect for one another

Externally - make our Mexican-American community better felt statewide by having coordinated some of our efforts.

LIMITATIONS: This effort would not create one more organization. This experiment should last at least one year. After that, the need to continue can be assessed.

AUSPICES: It could come under the broad aspect of mental health.

FUNDING SOURCES: Field Foundation, Ford, Hogg as well as groups represented.

SPONSORING AGENCY: Several to choose from. It should be non-profit, 501 (C) (3). Tax exempt.

Leslie Dunbar  
October 31, 1974  
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BUDGET: It would require a full-time salary, some travel expenses, sufficient expenditures to keep an office, and possibly a statewide WATS line.

In closing let me say I would appreciate having your response as soon as is convenient for I intend to move on this as rapidly as possible looking at a start off date of January 1975.

Sincerely,

Joe J. Bernal

JJB/gg

TEXAS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
201 N. St. Mary's St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78205  
(512) 225-4071

DATE: May 21, 1975

TO: Texas Leadership Conferees

FROM: Joe J. Bernal

RE: Minutes of May 19, 1975 meeting.

Conferees present: Joe J. Bernal, Dr. Jose Cardenas, Cruz Chavira, Bishop Patrick Flores, Eddie Garza, Mike Hernandez, Jesse Herrera, Humberto Quintanilla.

Conferees excused: Leonel Castillo, - wrote letter; Rodolfo Guerrero - wrote letter; Judge Jose Angel Gutierrez - phoned in; Louis Terrazas - personally excused; Willie Velasquez - called in.

The above-named conferees met from 12 noon to 1:15 P. M. at Mario's Restaurant to prepare for the meeting to be held in San Antonio, June 16 from 9:00 A. M. to 3:30 P. M. The group also agreed to meet again on June 2 at Mario's to assure a better meeting for the 16th. The following remarks highlighted the informal discussion about the concept of the Texas Leadership Conference.

- \* That the coalition (Conference) should remain loose and unstructured so that if at any time any one wants to remove himself or herself from the Conference they could do so--CARDENAS.
- \* One of the toughest problems we will face is separating personalities from issues--CHAVIRA.
- \* The coalition would tend to develop a mutual respect for one another and lessen the sting of the vendido syndrome which is commonly levelled at one another when there is a disagreement--BISHOP FLORES.

- \* We need a profound workshop wherein we can discuss the process by which we can discuss-fight-and discuss issues without damaging personal relations--HERNANDEZ.
- \* Other people will fight, get up and shake hands and forgive and forget (so they say), but the Mexicano--he'll run into the guy 30 years later in the Cantina and starts el pedo all over again--HERRERA.
- \* We need to have organizations of women represented at the conference. I find that they are by far the best and most committed workers--BISHOP FLORES.
- \* That we could use the Conference to crystalize on the most important issues affecting our people and proceed to inform the public through each conferee's organization.
- \* The following additions were suggested for the TLC:

Becky Barrera - Chicano Professor

Luz Escamilla - Business & Professional Mexican-American Women

Gus Garcia - San Antonio School Board Member

Leonel Garza - Mexican-American Bankers Association

Joe Gonzalez - Presbyterian

Rudy Sanchez - Baptist

Leonard Valverde - Chicano Professor

- \* Leonel Castillo, president of Tejanos Political Action Committee and Houston Comptroller wrote in some suggestions for the June 16th meeting suggesting:
  - A. Adding a bank president.
  - B. A MALDEF representative.
  - C. Robert Anguiano from the Bilingual/Bicultural Coalition on Mass Media.
  - D. A Federal government person, i.e., Manuel Sanchez, HUD, Dallas.
  - E. Have each conferee come to the June 16th meeting with a two page type-written statement to be presented before the meeting and that each statement be enlarged to 5 minutes as a presentation from each conferee.
  - F. Luncheon should be a continuation of the meeting.
  - G. Avoid speech making and concentrate instead on a dialogue and discussion.
  - H. Suggests an overall topic "El Desarrollo de la Comunidad" as the theme for the meeting.

In closing, may I suggest that each of you bring a statement as suggested by Leonel. So far everything has been constructive. The need for conferring and coalescing is obvious. Coming from every perspective, be it schools, school finance, politics, religion, business, civic, voter registration, community, etc., we should be able to coalesce our diverse perspectives into a community based on the greater good for the greater number of Chicanos/Mexican-Americans/Hispanos/Mexicanos.

For out-of-San Antonio conferees attending the June 16th meeting, the Conference will make a flat grant to each of \$25 to be used at the discretion of the user. If you have any one to add to the list, please send name and address and the statewide organization he or she represents and we will put the person on the list. The matter of representing a statewide organization is essential. The June 16th meeting will be held at Trinity University, Woodlawn Room (2nd floor), Coates University Center, 715 Stadium Drive.

If you would like to attend the second preparatory meeting at Mario's on June 2, you are certainly welcomed. We'll again pick up the lunch tab.

JJB:glr