

October 1, 1975

Honorable John Young
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Sir:

I want to express my appreciation for the careful and courteous consideration shown Mr. Carroll Keach of Robstown, editor and publisher of The Robstown Record, upon his telephone request to your staff, concerning your possible presence and assistance for a contemplated testimonial banquet honoring County Commissioner Solomon P. Ortiz, Precinct 3, Nueces County.

My dear congressman, you no doubt are familiar with the inroads being made in the main stream of the political arena by the Raza Unida Party here in South Texas. As a result of these salient efforts, Raza Unida Party and its alien philosophy are now entrenched in Robstown. Their state party chairman, Guadalupe Youngblood, is headquartered and resides in Robstown. This young man is an activist and has dedicated himself, a hundred percent, to further their party's objectives.

In the last Robstown City elections, by a very close margin, Raza Unida Party was able to obtain several seats in the city council, school board, and utilities board. The political pendulum in Robstown, at present, is such that if one more Raza Unida individual is elected into any of the above mentioned governmental bodies - it will swing the decision making to their side, thus creating another Crystal City. Therefore, as a result of this political situation, Robstown is presently in a state of political chaos.

Many responsible and productive democratic citizens of all ethnic groups in this area, including Corpus Christi, are presently very concerned over this upheaval concerning the grass-root level of political representation of the immediate area.

A number of Raza Unida leaders visited Cuba this past summer without governmental clearance. Since their return, they have been busy in this area extolling the virtues of the socialistic and communistic concepts they learned while in Cuba. They constantly prey on the young people and the illiterate citizens of our communities. They have openly been voicing, through the news media, a desire to implement some of these socialistic concepts in South Texas.

They have been preaching hate and discontent to young and old alike towards our present system of government in the United States. Moreover, they are breeding a dangerous attitude of hate towards the "gringo" and the "vendido" Mexican-American who are trying to work harmoniously in bringing about a more peaceful and productive life for the future generation of young citizens of all ethnic groups in this area.

At present, Raza Unida is preparing to run an individual against Solomon Ortiz in the upcoming elections next year. I, personally, consider Solomon as one of the finest public servants in our area and a tremendous credit to our community. We stand resolute to help Mr. Ortiz.

Raza Unida has mysteriously operated with considerable amount of money in their past campaigns, and we project that money will be the least of their problems in launching a campaign against Solomon.

The Raza Unida plans are to grab a foothold of a county wide office, such as the one now held by Solomon, in order to infiltrate the surrounding area communities of South Texas. Precinct 3, which Commissioner Ortiz serves, encompasses all of Robstown and mostly all of the Mexican-American section in Corpus Christi. As you can imagine, this would be a prize position from which Raza Unida could sink their sharp claws into the Nueces County Court House in Corpus Christi.

These developments have certainly been of paramount concern in our daily lives. We are determined that we must inject fresh adrenalin in the veins of our democratic party in this area, in order to overcome the political threat of Raza Unida.

A group of responsible citizens and active members of the Democratic Party from Robstown and Corpus Christi have focused upon the problem and are trying to find solutions to cope with the situation. We are presently contemplating on honoring Solomon Ortiz in a testimonial banquet which would serve two important functions:

First, it would help raise much needed funds to defray Solomon's campaign expenses.

Second, it would serve as a show of strength and fusion for our area Democratic Party.

We need desperately to coalesce our forces into solid organizational entity; the psychological boost our party would derive from such a gathering, in my opinion, would be priceless; not to mention the demoralization effect on our opposing forces. Hopefully, this show of strength and organization would serve to win back many Mexican-American voters who have alienated themselves from our Democratic Party. I am not implying that the Democratic Party has been neglectful to the Mexican-American on purpose in this area, however, any organization which becomes over confident and apathetic, taking a segment of voters for granted, has a tendency to lose their lunch to the more aggressive and hungrier opponent which sleeps with one eye open.

We plan to have this event sometime in the latter part of November or early part of December. The owner of the Yellow Rose Convention Center in Corpus Christi, Mr. Hector Botello, has very graciously offered his new, beautiful and spacious center (gratis); food and entertainment will be provided for the constituents.

Many area political and business leaders have indicated their willingness to cooperate in this venture. However, at this juncture, because of the seriousness of the circumstances which are confronting us in this area with Raza Unida, I will be very candid in informing you that if we ever needed your help and cooperation - it is now. I am respectfully requesting your presence and assistance in hopefully enlisting the presence of the rest of the democratic delegation from South Texas, such as the Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez who was with us in a similar occasion four years ago; the Honorable Abe Kazen of Laredo; the Honorable Kika de la Garza of the Valley; and the Honorable Senator Lloyd Bentsen.

The Democratic "Amigos for Progress" Committee would forever be so grateful for your kind attention on this matter.

We are willing to set a date for this event at your convenience and also that of your colleagues from the South Texas delegation to accommodate for your busy schedule in Washington.

We will anxiously wait for a reply from your office.

Respectfully yours,



Hector T. Morales
Co-Chairman
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HTM:ra

Enclosures:

C.C. - Hon. Lloyd Bentsen
Hon. Henry B. Gonzalez
Hon. Abe Kazen
Hon. E. (Kika) de la Garza
Hon. Jerry Apodaca
Hon. Raul Castro
Attorney Cecil E. Burney
Attorney Bill Whittle
Dr. Hector P. Garcia
Mr. Carroll Keach