



League of United Latin American Citizens

OFFICE OF TEXAS STATE DIRECTOR

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October 5, 1977

~~Professor Richard H. Kramer
University of Texas
Austin, Texas 78401~~

RE: Understanding Texas Politics

Dear Dr. Kramer:

I wish to echo the sentiments of Dr. Hector Garcia, founder of the American G I Forum in connection with the erroneous statements expressed in your publication, Understanding Texas Politics.

The League of United Latin American Citizens was chartered in Corpus Christi, Texas on February 17, 1929. As such, LULAC is the oldest Hispanic organization in the nation.

However, Article 3 of the Constitution, By-laws and Protocols, entitled "Aims and Purposes," sets out explicitly that the founders proposed to "maintain the League free of all involvement in partisan politics as an organization; however, we shall oppose any infringement upon the constitutional, political rights of an individual to vote and/or be voted upon at local, state and national level." Certainly, very basic research into the philosophy of the League founders

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would have revealed quite readily that LULAC does not engage in partisan politics.

On the other hand, LULAC is not a "middle class oriented, moderate and not very effective" organization. That is, unless you believe that the granting of over \$100,000.00 in scholarships last year is not effective. As a matter of fact, our LULAC National Education Service Centers accounted for 15% of the admissions of Mexican American students in colleges and universities last year. Locally, LULAC Councils award thousands of dollars in financial assistance to students of impoverished backgrounds. In addition, LULAC cosponsors along with the American G I Forum, Jobs for Progress, Inc. (SER), a federally funded manpower program for the underemployed and unemployed.

At the same time, the LULAC organization in Texas has taken definite stands on the following issues during the past few months:

1. President Carter's plan dealing with the undocumented worker.
2. Civil rights violations of Mexican Americans, i.e., Joe Campos Torres; Juan Veloz Zuniga, Ricardo Morales and Santos Rodriguez.
3. Lobbied for legislation dealing with nursing homes in Texas.
4. Lobbied for the nomination of a Mexican American for the Federal Judgeship in the Federal Western District of Texas.
5. Has taken a firm position on the Bakke case, pending before the United States Supreme Court, which could jeopardize special admission programs in universities throughout the land.

There are numerous other matters being viewed and screened weekly by the Executive Board of our State and National organization. I, therefore, believe seriously that your book, if reprinted, needs to be changed to reflect accurately the true workings of the American G I Forum and the League of United Latin American Citizens.

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I am a graduate of the University of Texas and am appalled that an allegedly scholarly work should contain inaccuracies, distortions and misconceptions about the two leading Mexican American groups in the United States of America, both sharing the unique feature of having been founded in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruben Bonilla, Jr.
LULAC State Director

RB/tg

cc: Dr. Hector Garcia, Founder
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