



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON

December 7, 1978

Ms. Vilma S. Martinez
President and General Counsel
Mexican American Legal Defense
and Educational Fund
28 Geary Street
San Francisco, California 94108

Dear Vilma:

I am writing to apologize to you and all the participants of the July 20, 1978 meeting with the Vice President. When Nelson Diaz left there was some confusion with forwarding the mail to my office. Your letter of October 2, 1978 was, therefore, misplaced. I do now have it. I am the staff person responsible for Hispanic issues for the Vice President and it is my responsibility to respond to you. I deeply apologize. I want to assure you that my failure to respond in written form, in no way reflects the Vice President's view of the importance of the Hispanic community.

As you know, he is greatly concerned with the issues facing the Hispanic community and indeed has met with other Hispanic groups in California and Texas since the July 20th meeting.

I will immediately, within the next week, prepare a written response to your letter and distribute it to all the meeting participants.

I will additionally work with the President's staff in preparation of their written memorandum. Thank you for your patience, and again please accept my personal apologies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marilyn G. Haft".

Marilyn G. Haft
Deputy Counsel to the
Vice President

cc: Luis Alvarez - Puerto Rican Coalition
Jorge Batista - Puerto Rican Legal Defense Fund
Manuel Bustelo - Puerto Rican Forum
Hector Garcia - National G. I. Forum
Andres Hernandez - National Cuban Coalition
Baltasar Luna - IMAGE
Eduardo Pena - LULAC
Michael Nunez - South Bronx Economic Development PRD
Carmen Perez - National Association for Bilingual Education
Dr. Marta Sotomayor - National Council of La Raza
Ricardo Zazueta - SER
Maria Beron - Cuban American Coalition