

American GI Forum # 1

Veterans Family Organization
621 Gabaldon Road, N.W.
Albuquerque, N. M. 87104

September 20, 1978

Office 243-7551

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Irma Martinez
Parliamentarian

Charlie Romero
Chaplain

Faye Martinez
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Dr. Hector P. Garcia
Founder
American GI Forum
1315 Bright Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Hector:

I have your latest bulletin in regard to the status of the organization. I certainly agree that the organization is in deep trouble and no one seems to be interested in organizing new groups. The total membership is incredibly low for having been in existence for 30 years.

For too many years we have had leaders who are interested in becoming officers in order to use the organization. I find it difficult to understand why people would not see the need to work for the organization first and then if time allows to cooperate with others. In recent years it seems that many officers spend their time with others and then if they have some time left over they will attend our meetings.

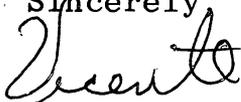
I read the resolution adopted at the National Convention on the Coors' Boycott. I cannot understand how the GI Forum would allow itself to be used by a union. The resolution in fact places the organization in such a position that we cannot make any moves until the strike is settled. No organization with any pride would allow such a resolution to be adopted. Our own delegates from New Mexico did not do anything to prevent the resolution from being adopted. I frankly am ready to ignore the resolution and insist on negotiations with Coor's management by the officers of the GI Forum.

The situation in New Mexico is worse than ever on the matter of membership and active groups. There are about three or four groups that cannot even meet the minimum eight member requirement. Of the 299 members that you mentioned in your bulletin - 210 are in Albuquerque Forum #1. However, the bad part is that the other groups are not active with the possible exceptions of three or four, and yet with this kind of situation Pete Jimenez joins the other groups in a press conference in which they proposed a coalition of GI Forum, Image, and LuLac. I have no problems with cooperating with any group and have always done so, but to

join a coalition from a position of weakness is going to cause us even more problems. I have spoken to Louis Tellez and, of course, he is appalled at the proposal by Pete to be part of the coalition. I have stayed away from State and National Forum activities because we need to improve our own situation here in Albuquerque. We still need to work to solidify our position in the affairs of the city and within another year we will probably become a force to be reckoned with in the city of Albuquerque. I have purposely steered away from any coalition except one or two in which we were heavily involved from years past. As you know, the GI Forum was the main organization that filed suit to deny a license to KGGM-TV station. The case is on appeal before the FCC Commission. There is a good chance that we will win the suit. We are told that United Church of Christ who is funding the appeal for the GI Forum and the National Indian Youth Council is ready to take the case to the Supreme Court if necessary. The coalition group is known as Ceetruth. The LuLac group turned against the case and went with KGGM, Tijerina went against the case and testified for KGGM and Image was not in it. That left us with GI Forum and Natural Indian Youth Council who pursued the case. We stuck it out because as you can see when the other groups were offered something they folded. Secondly, that project was one that was started by my son Steve and while I was not active, now I am determined to fill in his place and win the case. Steve was the originator and the driving force that brought about the suit and the only meaningful case in which FCC was willing to have a hearing to deny a license to a TV station. At the moment it appears that the present ownership of KGGM may in fact want to sell, but that is only speculation on my part.

Q Please be assured that I will work to improve the local condition of the Forum, but unfortunately at this time I cannot help you with the State and National scene. I will, however, do everything to assist Louis Tellez to turn this organization around and begin to improve it internally. I hope you are in good health and that you will again provide the much needed leadership for the GI Forum.

Sincerely,



Vicente T. Ximenes
Chairman

2

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