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AMERICAN GI FORUM OF NEW MEXICO
VETERANS FAMILY ORGANIZATION
621 GABALDON ROAD, N.W.
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87104

NEW MEXICO FORUMEER Phone 242-2921

#4 January 1984

Dear Dr. Garcia.
Hope things are well with you. We are moving the N.M. GI Forum.
Vicente

Enjoyed the visit with you.
Say Hello to Rosita

GOVERNOR TONEY ANAYA MEETS WITH GI FORUM, LULAC, AND IMAGE

Governor spoke to GI Forum, Lulac and Image officers and members at a meeting held at the GI Forum of Albuquerque.

Governor Anaya explained the education proposal which carries a one cent sales tax price. There is a need, said Governor Anaya, for better education in New Mexico. The Governor asked for Forum support. The GI Forum officers and members met after the meeting with the Governor and endorse his education package with the stipulation that we want him to help with the improvement of the Hispanic education status to include bi-lingual bi-cultural education, a program to encourage parent participation, and teachers and principals that are sensitive to the needs of the Chicano and Hispanic student who makes up almost 50 per cent of the school population.

Contact your representatives in the legislature and urge the adoption of the Governor's education proposal.

FORUM BOARD MEETING IN CARRIZOZO - FOUR WINDS RESTAURANT JAN. 28 - SATURDAY - 1:00 P.M. SUPPORT THE NEW FORUMS

AT LARGE ELECTIONS CHALLENGED BY GI FORUM

Chicanos cannot get elected in counties such as Curry, Roosevelt, Eddy, Lea, Chavez, and Otero, because the at large election system discriminates against minorities. State Chairman Pete Jimenez addressed the U. S. Civil Rights Advisory Committee in Las Cruces and pointed out the discriminatory election system.

Governor Toney Anaya in the meeting held at the GI Forum promised to introduce legislation to do away with at large elections. Forums in the counties with at large election systems should get behind the Governor's legislation which will make it possible to elect Chicanos to councils, boards, and commissions.

LEGAL DEFENSE FUND, INC. ESTABLISHED

The American GI Forum legal defense fund was established at a special board meeting held in Albuquerque.

The GI Forum has legal batties that need to be supported. When is the last time you contributed to our cause? Ayuden con plata - palabras no pagan los costos de abogado y de cortes.

Contribute by sending your check to: Atty. Alfonso Sanchez, American GI Forum Legal Defense Fund, 1181 St. Michaels Dr., Santa Fe, N.M. 87501.

EDITORIAL

When was the last time officers or committee chairmen testified before a board, commission, or council to press for the GI Forum goals, projects, or resolutions?

Resolutions are meaningless unless the officers and members actively pursue them. We must be honest in adopting resolutions or positions. Too many times the Forum adopts resolutions at the request of persons who have only a personal interest. These persons merely want to add the GI Forum name to their list of organizations that favor their particular pet project.

We must adopt projects and resolutions that are part of the GI Forum philosophy of civil rights, education, equal opportunity, economic development, etc. and clearly demonstrated that we can and are willing to pursue them to a successful conclusion.

Let's move the GI Forum front and center. Get with it or be left behind. Cut out the chismes and move to positive programs that help our people.

GI Forum representatives meet with Congressman Richardson on Los Alamos discriminatory practices

State Vice Chairman Joe Ortiz and Vicente T. Ximenes met with Congressman Bill Richardson to ask for his support on GI Forum allegations of discrimination at the Los Alamos Laboratory. Joe Ortiz pressed the Dept. of Labor representatives at the meeting for action on cases that are over four years old and were proven to be discriminatory by their own investigation. Congressman Richardson was appalled at the delays and promised to meet with top officials of the dept. of Labor and with the Los Alamos director (ET phone Dr. Kerr).

Maria Wolff won a suit against Los Alamos for back pay in the amount of $45,429. In awarding the damages the judge said "LANL employees would not have retaliated against Wolff in such a discriminatroy manner but for the fact she is Hispanic." (ET phone Dr. Kerr) The laboratory was ordered to pay attorney fees and court costs.

(over)

DID YOU KNOW:

That the State Convention will be on June 1, 2, and 3 at the Santa Fe Hilton. Dr. Hector Garcia, Founder, has been invited as main speaker and U. S. Treasurer Ms. Ortega as luncheon speaker. Make plans to attend.

That Forum education director Rosemarie Rodriguez presented the Governor Anaya with the GI Forum education program and also represented the G I Forum before the Goals Committee of Albuquerque and recommended Spanish language instruction from K thru 12th grade.

That Congressman Richardson made it possible for the GI Forum to present it's legislative proposals before the House Veterans Affairs Committee of which the Congressman is a member.

That State Chairman Pete Jimenez is on Congressman's Bill Richardson Committee to select candidates for the military academies.

That Javier and Berta Jasso visited the GI Forum and showed off their 7 month old Javier chico.

That Mexican-Americans oppose busing because anytime they put a Chicano on a bus it's not to take him to school.

That the three judge panel of Mechem, Burciaga, and the chief judge have not issued their dedision on the suit against gerrymandering in the counties of Curry, Lea, Chaves, Otero, and others. GI Forum members provided testimony in opposition to gerrymandered districts by the State legislature.

That Vicente Ximenes spent the anniversary of President Kennedy's death with Dr. Hector Garcia. The Corpus Christi papers headlined the Dr's close friendship with the fallen President. Ximenes also visited with National Chaplain Father Jurashek at his parish at Cestohowa, Texas.

That Eleanor Vigil, Chairwoman of the Albuquerque Forum and the women's Forum made 100 dozen tamales for Christmas and raised more than $400 for their fund. The women's Forum fashion was also a great success.

That Zeke Duran and the local Forum collected most of the nearly 2000 lbs for the Congressman Richardson's great chili send-off. Syndicated columnist Jack Anderson praised Congressman Richardson for the highly successful project to send New Mexican chili products to the Marines in Lebanon.

That the State GI Forum office does not get news items from Forums in Clovis, Las Cruces, Las Vegas, Espanola, and Carlsbad. We know you are active. Tell your story. Take a few minutes to send in clippings or jot down your activities. Send them in. Other Forums want to hear about you. Don't keep it all to yourself. Your news items may help another Forum.

That Charlie Rodriguez and Bill Romero were appointed to chair committees on issues and education of the Albuquerque Forum.

That Edmundo Delgado from Las Vegas Forum and Mr. Maestas also from Las Vegas attended the meeting with Governor Anaya. Ron Espinoza of the Espanola Forum and Pat Gavin of the Las Cruces attended the meeting with Governor Anaya. Henry Munoz traveled all the way from Carlsbad to meet with the Governor.