



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Governor's Committee on Human Relations

Preston Smith, Governor

Austin, Texas 78711

May 1, 1970

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Dr. Hector Garcia
1315 Bright Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

I read with interest the news account of your remarks in the San Antonio Express yesterday. I must say that I am at a complete loss to understand your statements and question as to why no Texas Governor has appointed a human relations commission.

Of course, it might be that you failed to notice the statewide news coverage which the Governor's Committee on Human Relations received when it met for the first time last October and again when it met in Austin in February and issued interim reports. This Committee was created by the Texas Legislature at the request of Governor Smith.

Membership on the Committee comes from all walks of life and the fifty members represent Negroes, Mexican-Americans, and Anglos. Among the Mexican-American members of the Committee are Roy Barrera, former Secretary of State, Miss Elma Rose Gonzalez from Rio Grande City, D. V. Guerra of McAllen, Reverend Antonio Gonzalez from Houston, C. H. Hinojosa, also of Houston, and Mrs. Alfred Vazquez and Joe Neaves, Jr., of San Antonio. These and others on the Committee are doing a good job and I believe we will see some worthwhile recommendations and results from this group.

You, I am sure, will recall receiving a copy of Dr. G. R. Solis' letter addressed to the Governor a couple of months ago concerning the Governor's Committee on Human Relations. Your local news media has carried reports of our meetings and the fact that Mrs. H. C. Botsford of Corpus Christi is a member of the Committee. We have also sought to cooperate and work closely with your local human relations commission.

Dr. Hector Garcia

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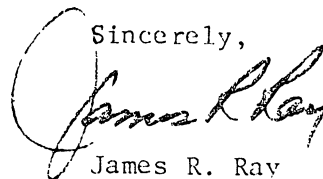
I believe you will have to agree that your misleading statements are not only an injustice to Governor Smith and the Texas Legislature, but also to the efforts of the Governor's Committee on Human Relations and especially those Mexican-American members who are seeking to serve the people of Texas. At the meeting in February all who requested time were given the opportunity to appear before the Committee. Over 70 witnesses testified before the various subcommittees, and probably half of them were Mexican-Americans.

Jon Ford, Chief of the San Antonio Express Austin Bureau, has written some excellent articles regarding the work of the Governor's Committee on Human Relations. I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to Alice Murray who wrote the article containing your statements.

We are faced with many difficult and serious problems. There are no quick and easy answers, but if everyone would work together with an attitude of good will rather than a disruptive attitude, we can make some worthwhile accomplishments.

You may be sure that I, and members of the Governor's Committee on Human Relations, shall continue our best efforts to be of service to all the citizens of our great state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James R. Ray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "R".

James R. Ray
Executive Director

JRR:mg