



EMBASSY
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

April 2, 1966

Dr. Hector P. Garcia, M.D.
3024 Morgan
Corpus Christi, Texas

Dear Hector:

I sincerely appreciate your keeping me informed as to new developments and your untiring work for the betterment and benefit of our Mexican-American citizens. I have always admired and have felt extremely grateful for the time, effort and energies that you contribute to this fine cause, and I only hope that your fine work will some day be fully and very appropriately recognized.

I do not know whether you have heard or read in the newspapers about President Johnson's Press Conference on March 31st. One of the reporters asked him the following question: "Mr. President, have you heard anything to the effect that Mexican Americans feel they should have more attention?"

President Johnson replied as follows: "Yes, I have heard that all my life. I agree with them. I think they should have more attention. I am going to give them all the attention that I can. I haven't given them enough. I want to give them more. I think that they are entitled to more than consideration in government employment than they have received. I think they have been discriminated against in housing, in education, in Jobs. I don't think we can be very proud of our record in that field. I want to see it improved. I feel a very high regard and great respect for their people and a deep affection for them. I want to do everything I can to improve their lot. I think some of their complaints and their protests have been well founded, and have pointed up some things that we needed to hear. I hope that the appropriate people, including the President, can take prompt action on it."

Question: Mr. President, do you think they might be included on the coming conference on equal opportunity"?

President's reply: I have not explored that. I don't know the thinking behind it. But they can be included. My door is open to them always. I am very anxious to exchange views with them. If they are ready for a conference, I will be ready for one."

Hector, I thought that, ^{w02} a pretty fine and straight forward answer on the part of the President. Also, I thought about you and I wondered if this was the result of your efforts, and whether or not you have already met with him to discuss the matter. Again, Hector my most sincere gratitude to you for the fine work you are doing and may the Good Lord continue to Bless you and guide you.

Your friend,

Raymond Telles
U.S. Embassy
San Jose, Costa Rica