

7039 E. Katchina Court
Tucson, Arizona 85715

August 14, 1967

Hector P. Garcia, M. D.
3024 Morgan
Corpus Christie, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

Under separate cover you will receive a copy of an essay on Legal and Social Implications of Special Class Placement. This concerns placing children with language and other handicaps unrelated to intelligence in classes for the mentally retarded. The school district used as an example is Tucson School District No. 1, which is the largest district in Arizona.

According to the 1960 census, 16% of our Pima County residents have Spanish surnames. Official reports on the number of children with Spanish surnames in classes for the retarded are not, to the best of my knowledge, available. Unofficially I am convinced that at least 50% of these children have Spanish surnames.

A special class teacher from a nearby county tells me her superintendent says he knows the children in her class are not mentally retarded but more money is received this way from the state.

Since the state has admittedly set up no genuine controls and so many of the school districts are profiting, this issue is not one the politicians probably want stirred up. The first person to whom I sent a copy of this paper was to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. She thanked me and hoped she would get time to read it. The next two copies went to the President of the District #1 School Board and to the Superintendent of Schools. There was never any acknowledgement from the school board president but Superintendent Robert Morrow wrote a comment to the board and a copy was sent me. Dr. Morrow suggested to the board that I was obviously ignorant, unprofessional and apparently unethical. Of course everyone should know District #1 is so superior that the whole country comes here to learn how to handle these matters. It is, naturally, unforgiveable to rock the boat.

Dr. Garcia
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Another highly respected schoolman in this state has written me agreeing with the sense of the paper and praising it highly.

Someday soon I hope this injustice, which actually involves the children of all poor and unsophisticated parents, will be remedied.

Mr. John L. Huerta, a very close friend, suggested that you would be interested in my commentary on education in Arizona.

Sincerely,

Ernest H. Tilford

Ernest H. Tilford
Executive Director

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