

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 25, 1964

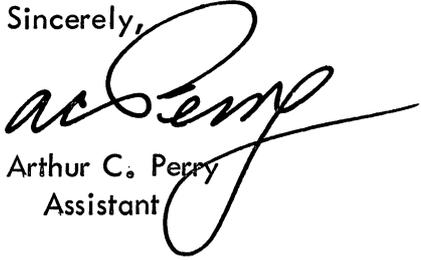
Dear Dr. Garcia:

The President has asked me to thank you for your telegram in which you report that the members of the American GI Forum are behind the proposed poverty program.

Your message is being brought to the attention of the responsible officials here in order that they may also know of your pledge.

The President sends his best wishes to you and his appreciation of your friendship and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ac Perry', written over the typed name and title.

Arthur C. Perry  
Assistant

Dr. Hector P. Garcia  
American GI Forum  
Corpus Christi, Texas

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 4, 1964

Dr. Hector P. Garcia  
American GI Forum  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Dear Dr. Garcia:

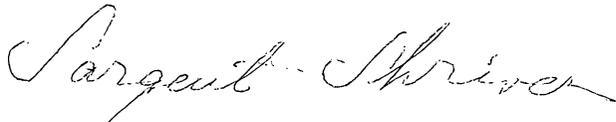
I have received your letter and I want you to know how much I appreciate it. As you know, until the Congress acts, we do not have funds or staff, and therefore I cannot give you the kind of reply that your letter deserves.

The office to coordinate and strengthen antipoverty efforts at Federal, State, and local levels and initiate new programs does not actually exist yet. We are just in the process of planning these programs and activities which the President has proposed in legislation now before Congress.

The interest in the proposed Office of Economic Opportunity is reflected in thousands of letters. This great outpouring not only reflects the need for a renewed attack on poverty, but the best and most generous impulses of people to give their ideas, time and services to help out. At this time, you will understand why I cannot respond other than in this way to the many excellent suggestions that are coming in, to requests for information, to the fine letters of support.

Meanwhile, I hope that you will accept my sincere thanks and my assurance of our interest.

Sincerely,



Sargent Shriver  
Special Assistant to the President