



AMERICAN G I FORUM OF THE U.S.

JUNE 10, 1974

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE TO THE AMERICAN G.I. FORUM OF THE U.S.
ON OUR 26TH. ANNIVERSARY

HECTOR P. GARCIA, M.D.
FOUNDER
1315 BRIGHT STREET
CORPUS CHRSTI, TEXAS
78405
AC 512 • TULIP 3-3982

MY MESSAGE ON OUR 26TH. ANNIVERSARY IS ONE OF RECOMMENDING TO OURSELVES A REASSESSMENT OF OUR PRESENT SITUATION, AND I HOPE A SOLUTION FOR OUR PRESENT PROBLEMS.

I AM HAPPY WITH OUR MEMBERSHIP AND OUR ACTIVITIES. I AM HAPPY WITH OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE "WICS", THE "SER", AND THE VETERANS OUTREACH PROGRAM OF THE AMERICAN G.I. FORUM.

I AM VERY HAPPY WITH OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE JUNIOR R.O.T.C. PROGRAM. ALL OF THE NATIONAL OFFICERS AND THE STATE OFFICERS, IN MY OPINION, ARE DOING AN OUTSTANDING JOB AND PERFORMANCE.

MY WORRY IS TWOFOLD:

FIRST: INCREASED INDEBTEDNESS DUE TO "GALA" AND "IMPRESSIVE CONVENTIONS" ON A NATIONAL LEVEL, WHICH HAS LEFT THE VARIOUS STATE AND NATIONAL TREASURIES IN SERIOUS DEBT. THIS IS PARTIALLY DUE TO THE EXCESSIVE NUMBER OF LUNCHEONS THAT WE HAVE TO ACCOMMODATE OUR AUXILIARIES AND OUR YOUTH. THIS HAS BEEN TO THE HIRING OF ENTERTAINMENT AT PROHIBITIVE PRICES. THIS HAS ALSO BEEN DUE TO THE NUMBER OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES THAT ARE SERVED AT OUR EXPENSE.

I AM NOT AGAINST THESE THINGS PER SE, BUT I AM AGAINST THESE THINGS WHEN THEY CAUSE US TO HAVE EMBARRASMENTS AND DEBTS THAT ARE RUINING OUR FISCAL REPUTATION.

SECONDLY: I AM GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE ATTENDANCE OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO THE STATE AND NATIONAL CONVENTIONS BECAUSE OF THE INCREASE AMOUNT OF "REGISTRATION FEES", WHICH SOMETIMES COME CLOSE TO BEING \$30.00 PER PERSON.

THIS WILL KEEP MANY OF OUR MEMBERSHIP AND SPECIALLY YOUTH FROM ATTENDING THE CONVENTIONS. WE MUST CUT DOWN ON UNNECESSARY EXPENSES AND GO INTO A PERIOD OF "AUSTERITY". I WOULD RATHER SEE A \$12.00 OR \$15.00 REGISTRATION FEE EVEN IF WE HAVE TO CUT OUT THE "FRILLS", THE LUNCHEONS, AND THE BEVERAGES.

WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SURVIVE ON 2 DAYS WITH THE MAIN BANQUET, THE QUEEN'S CORONATION, AND NO MORE. WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE STRENGTH OF THE AMERICAN G.I. FORUM, FOR THESE 26 YEARS, HAS BEEN THE POOR MEXICAN-AMERICAN FAMILY. WE DO NOT REALIZE, BUT IN THE LAST 6 YEARS WE HAVE CHANGED OUR THINKING, WHICH IS THAT OF A "HIGH ECONOMICAL CLASS" WHICH WE ARE NOT.



AMERICAN G I FORUM OF THE U.S.

HECTOR P. GARCIA, M.D.
FOUNDER
1315 BRIGHT STREET
CORPUS CHRSTI, TEXAS
78405
AC 512 • TULIP 3-3982

PAGE 2 MESSAGE JUNE 10, 1974

WE ARE A MEXICAN-AMERICAN FAMILY VETERANS ORGANIZATION,
WE ARE A PATRIOTIC VETERANS GROUP,
WE ARE A CIVIL RIGHTS GROUP, THE OLDEST MEXICAN-AMERICAN GROUP,
WE ARE AN EDUCATION, CHARITABLE, CIVIC GROUP,
WE ARE TO OUR PEOPLE EVERYTHING THEY WANT US TO BE.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO BE OUR PEOPLES' HOPE AND INSPIRATION. WE
MUST GIVE THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION TO MAINTAIN
THEIR DIGNITY, CULTIVATE THEIR CULTURE AND FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS
UNTIL WE ACHIEVE FIRST CLASS CITIZENSHIP.

WE MUST NOT COMPROMISE, WE MUST NOT DESPAIR. WE MUST CONTINUE
AND WE WILL PERSEVERE. BUT, PLEASE, REMEMBER THAT TO DO SO, WE
MUST MAINTAIN OUR MEMBERSHIP.

THEREFORE, WITH ALL OF THE LOVE THAT I HAVE FOR YOU, AND WITH
ALL OF THE DESIRE TO CONTINUE TO BE WHAT WE ARE, I AM ASKING YOU
TO IMMEDIATELY START YOUR PROGRAM OF "AUSTERITY."

THE NEXT STATE CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN G.I. FORUM OF TEXAS
WILL BE IN CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS. WE HOPE TO KEEP THE REGISTRATION
FEE AT \$10.00. THE LOCAL GROUPS PROMISED TO START WORKING NOW. WE
MUST. CAN YOU TRY TO DO LIKEWISE!!!

GRACIAS FOR HABERME TRAIIDO TANTA GLORIA Y TANTA INSPIRACION EN
UNA VIDA TAN LLENA DE FELICIDAD Y SATISFACCION.

QUE DIOS LOS BENDIGA.

Hector P Garcia M.D.

HECTOR P. GARCIA, M. D.
FUNDADOR
AMERICAN G.I. FORUM OF U.S.