August 17, 1952

Dr. Hector P. Garcia Chairman, Board of Directors American GI Forum of Texas 3024 Morgan Ave. Corpus Christi, Texas

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Dear Hector,

Received your communication with reference to your trip to West Texas, New Mexico, etc. Mr. Hill was at my house yesterday and we talked about your forthdoming trip to New Mexico. We decided that the best thing to do is to arrange a definite date for you to be in Alamogordo. The date to be arranged between you and Mr. Hill. Mr. Hill can then forward the information to us in Albuquerque and we can proceed to make plans accordingly. Mr. Hill tells me that they would like to hold some kind of dinner or banquet. We agreed that we would try to get as many people from other New Mexico towns to attend the banquet at Alamogordo. The Albuquerque Forum I am sure will be there in force if everything goes well. If we can get the representation from other New Mexico towns, we intend to go ahead and form a state organization right there in Alamogordo. We can come to a definite decision after we get together with you in Alamogordo. In case of a mixup, Mr. Hill's phone number is 581-J. The group in Alamogordo is quite anxious to meet you and talk to you.

We have asked Hill to try and get your first meeting in Alamogordo on a weekend. That means that if you visit West Texas first, you should hit Alamogordo on or about the 29, 30, or 31st. The other dates will have to be arranged when we see you in Alamogordo. I am sorry I cannot give you a definite schedule, but you know how hard it is to get answers from the contacts in the towns we wish to organize.

We have uncovered some information on what happened to 250 farm laborers that went to California to work for some fruit growers company. The New Mexico Employment Security Agency was used as the intermediary. \$10-12 per day were advertised, good housing and living conditions, and 6 months to a year of work guaranteed. Instead the workers were paid 5 dollars for the first week and fed rice with rat turds in it three times a day. The workers are back and I have already interviewed five of them and gotten written statements of the whole damned mess. If we cannot get satisfaction in the form of full compensation for what constitutes a broken contract through the Employment Secunity Agency lawyers, we intend to hire a lawyer. It seems to me that a good lawyer can sue the fruit growers and recover damages for every single worker involved. Since you will be on your way to California you may be able to put pressure over there on the Employment agency on violations of contracts by employers. Tell you more about it when I see you.

Be careful on the road. See you in Alamogordo.