



AMERICAN GI FORUM OF THE U.S.

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Honorable Richard M. Nixon
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I want to thank you for your great interest in the hungry and poor. I believe that your efforts in the feeding of the hungry and the poor are sincere but I believe at the same time that you have not been given the proper information concerning the Food Stamp Programs in the United States. I have noticed in continuous press releases wherein it is mentioned that only approximately three hundred counties in the United States do not have a Food Stamp Program or a Commodity Program and that ninety three of those are in Texas. Please see enclosed copy of article San Antonio Express dated December 5, 1969 page 9A.

I would like to respectfully point out to you that this is misleading and could cause you some embarrassment because somebody is not telling you the exact truth and figures.

For instance, in Texas there are total 254 counties and out of them only ten counties in Texas have a Food Stamp Program; therefore, there are 244 counties which are not covered at all by the Food Stamp Program. Out of those ten counties, seven of them are in west Texas which include the counties of Hudspeth, Pecos, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio, Brewster, and Terrell. The total combined population of Mexican Americans in these seven counties are only 13000, and out of those I doubt that more than 2000 are actually on the Food Stamp Program. The only other counties in Texas that are in the Food Stamp Program are El Paso, Bexar, Harris counties. If Texas alone has 244 counties without Food Stamp Programs then it follows that there are at least 300 more counties in the United States that do not have a Food Stamp Program. The poor people who do not have any money can not get free food stamps in Texas. So when you made the announcement through Dr. Mayer that you would extend the Food Stamp Program and that you had increased the amount of free food stamps for those

who could buy them, this actually did not affect many people in Texas.

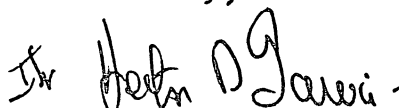
I am also sorry to tell you that in a discussion with Mr. Ling, who is with the Department of Agriculture, he did not seem too interested really in pushing your new announcement of the Food Stamp Program. So, Mr. President, what I am trying to tell you is this, I would recommend that you call whomever is responsible to you in Food Stamp Programs and ask them to be completely honest with you as to the number of counties in Texas and in the Nation that do not have Food Stamp Programs. How many Mexican Americans in the Southwest are going to benefit by your increased Food Stamp Programs? I believe that a conference between Dr. Mayer, Mr. Ling, Mr. Harding and yourself is necessary and urgent. Otherwise, the actual figures are going to be embarrassing to you and the Department of Agriculture and Dr. Mayer and there is no need why you, Mr. President, should be embarrassed.

I will be glad to discuss this matter with either of the gentlemen privately, but it is important that this be done soon.

I have marked this letter personal because this is a serious matter and this is your "responsibility" as you said at the White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health. Therefore, I hope that you will be kind to send me an answer as to what will be done. I had the pleasure of discussing this matter with Mr. Leonard Garment, one of your advisors, personally and I asked him that he bring this to your attention at once.

I wish to thank you for your interest in the poor and the hungry once again and I know that your intentions are sincere and good, but somebody, Mr. President has failed you in presenting the true aspects and figures of the American poor and hungry and specifically the hungry Mexican American.

Yours truly,


Dr. Hector P. Garcia