

May 27

Dear Hector:

I have before me your letter of May 25, and I am saddened by it. We have had a serious political disagreement -- that is all. I have made it abundantly clear to the Yarborough people that you, Dr. Hector García, had not "sold out," that you could not be "bought," that your dignity and integrity was above reproach. I have never, orally or in writing, deviated from my long-standing friendship and admiration for you. And I have stated, publicly, several times that this was so.

I did write you letters, in which I told you, as an old personal friend, that I thought your judgment in this matter was bad. As an old personal friend, you could have, and can, write me similar letters. In one of the letters I did use the term "hypocritical." That was an unwise choice of language, for I simply meant that you were not being consistent in the endorsement of Daniel. I gave none of those letters to the Press, the Observer or any other newspaper. I did keep in touch with Yarborough headquarters, and kept them informed as to the position that I was taking with my friends of the opposition. They seem to have passed on my oral review of my position to the Observer (and my oral review with headquarters# was by telephone). You find fault in the fact that my last personal letter to you was identical with that which I wrote to Ed. Of course it was, I also sent the same letter to Albert and to ~~###~~ Ezequiel -- for the circumstances were exactly the same; and I do not have the kind of private secretarial help that would permit me (or the time) to type or dictate a variety of letters all to the same purport.

I said that I would forget everything political prior to May 6. I mean that, but you insist in accusing me of wrecking PASSO. You know very well that PASSO was wrecked when, in a last-minute switch, and with the aid of trumped-up delegations, the convention was swung to Daniel -- a man who has never, absolutely never, lifted a finger to help our people. Why you changed in that direction, I do not know -- for you have never told me. I know that, in ~~your~~ your book, you had good and sufficient reason for doing so; and that that reason was not a dishonorable one.

I could have stayed at the convention, though I was really ill, and fought the switch. Some tell me that maybe I could have swung it in Yarborough's favor. I did not want to play the kind of politics that were underway. I was sick, I came home and stayed in bed several days. If you fellows had worked for the endorsement of Formby# or of Wilson, I could have understood. I cannot understand endorsing Daniel or LBJ's alter ego, John Connally. If walking out at San Antonio, and then working for Yarborough at my own expense, gives you trouble still, I am sorry. I could be severely critical of what took place at San Antonio, and could write letters full of re- crimination directed at you and at others. I could write blistering letters at fellows like Ezequiel, whose throats ~~was~~ cut by LBJ, but who now are endorsing LBJ's stooge. I have a long memory, too. But, Hector, somos de la misma familia -- and, while we may have a falling-out now and then, let us not forget the ultimate goal: the welfare of our people. Whoever was wrong at San Antonio, whoever used improper political tactics -- that is immaterial. What is important is that we can make mistakes and still work towards that which will be best for our people. It is ~~in~~ in this spirit that I wrote you my last letter, and it is in this spirit that I write you this one (of which there is no carbon).

Luisa and I leave soon for Peru. We leave with the kindest of thoughts for you, for Ed, and for all of our friends. Our best wishes to your family, Maybe a little time will reassure that you still have a devoted friend in,

