

MEXICAN AMERICAN JOINT CONFERENCE

June 1, 1968

Senator Ralph Yarborough
460 Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Yarborough:

The practice of segregating children of migratory workers (all Mexican American) in the public schools of McAllen and other border communities continues -- and, I hear, is to be expanded. This is not only indefensible pedagogically, but it is a violation of constitutional rights. The 1965 Hobson v. Hansen case in the Circuit Court in Washington, D.C., is only the most recent case supporting this conclusion. There are other federal court precedents, as you know.

Federal funds are being used to underwrite these operations! It is a tragic anomaly that I (and all Mexican Americans) pay taxes to be put in pedagogical concentration camps. I request that you call this matter again to the attention of the Department of Justice and to the Department of HEW. Their prior superficial investigation and directives (if any) has not changed the situation nor discouraged its expansion.

I ask, again, suppose these children were Negroes instead of "migrants"?

Sincerely,

George I. Sánchez, Chairman
and
Professor of Latin American Education
The University of Texas