

July 8, 1968

Dr. Norman Hackerman, President
The University of Texas, Austin
Austin, Texas 78712

Dear Dr. Hackerman:

Your letter of July 1 was most heartening. I will give it wide circulation among the members of our Committee.

I recommend that your program include (which it probably does, already) not only Mexican American students who take the test and can't meet entrance test requirements, but especially those high school graduates who would not even aspire to a university education because of poverty -- but would be highly recommended by their teachers, principals, etc. I "experimented" with this years ago, with very gratifying results.

Some good ("Anglo") soul, and a poor Mexican American organization, placed a sum of money in my trust (less than \$20,000). I doled this out to several youngsters who would never have gone to college, and to New Mexico mountain village girls who were doomed to marry the "culls" after the best young men volunteered or were drafted for service in World War II. Some of them went to college, most of the girls received specialized vocational education and "graduated" to the airplane industry in California (and to marriages to men much better than village clods and rejects). I am very proud of the results.

This interest of mine is not a romantic one, though it is colored a bit by sentiment. I think I am a realistic student of social problems, among which politics is not the least of my concern. Today, Mexican Americans have a potential of one million votes in Texas. Without wise, educated leaders that potential could wreak havoc. There is a dangerous "screwball" already seeking the mantle of "savior" -- working in New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, and Washington, D. C. He is a Texan, by the way. Only well-educated, well-balanced Mexican Americans can counteract that kind of influence.

So I am pleased with the start being made by the University of Texas, the university that, in the 20's, pioneered concern for the education of people of Mexican descent. Count on me for any assistance that I can render.

Sincerely,

George I. Sánchez, Chairman

cc: Mexican American Joint Conference Committee