

Joint Conference
of
Mexican-Americans

To: ALL INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

From: George I. Sánchez; Chairman, Mexican American Joint Conference Committee

Subject: ACTION BY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED FOR EQUAL EMPLOYMENT ACT OF 1970

It is common knowledge that the Spanish Speaking people of the United States, and especially those in the Southwest, have not enjoyed equality of opportunity in many fields. Of particular detrimental significance are those practices which affect the economic welfare of the family most directly, employment and education.

Since Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 went into effect the Spanish Speaking people and other minorities have had an agency, the Equal Employment Commission, though with limited powers, through which they can seek relief from discrimination.

So today I wish to bring to your attention that there is a very important bill which needs immediate action in the House of Representatives which would further promote equal employment opportunities for all American workers, and which should be of particular interest to all Spanish Speaking workers.

The Senate on October 1, 1970, passed Senate Bill 2453, which extends the authority of the Equal Employment Commission. Particularly important are the "cease and desist" powers granted the Commission which will greatly aid its efforts to eliminate discrimination in employment and make equality of opportunity a reality in the land of opportunity.

The Senate has passed the bill but, in order for it to become law, the House of Representatives must also pass the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1970 (H.R. 17555). But since the House is very close to adjournment, it must act quickly in order that it may vote on the bill. It is simply a matter of letting our Representatives know that we want them to vote the bill into law.

What has caused me to write to you is that, unless sympathetic organizations and you as an individual and/or member of organizations will write and get others to write to congressmen, the bill may die. If that should happen, it will be a great loss for the minorities, but especially for the Spanish Speaking people.

It is time that the Spanish Speaking people make themselves heard, let their governmental representatives know that they exist, and express their opinions and desires. ¡Como dice el dicho el que no habla Dios no lo oye!

Therefore, we must speak out now, for the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1970, so that it is made into law.

After all, practically all of the Spanish-Speaking people are working people, and discrimination in employment directly affects the education, health, and in fact the general welfare of their children. This bill against discrimination works for our benefit, so write today to your congressman.

Sincerely,

George I. Sánchez