PHONE JUSTICE 5-1071 MISSION, TEXAS

LEO'S GROCERY

LEO J. LEO, Prop.

GROCERYMAN AND NOTARY PUBLIC
BOX 1
LA JOYA, TEXAS
2-27-62

Dr. Hector P.Garica, M.D. 3024 Morgan Corpus Christi, Texas

Dear Doctor:

I am glad that you wrote me for it gives me an opportunity to answer you and to get a great many things off my chest, in regards to the State Convention and extraordinary role you played in it.

Before I proceed let me say Doctor, that Renato Cuellar, to my knowledge has not said anything bad about you, either at the convention or since. If anyone should be blamed for being critical of you, let that person be me, for I have been critical of you Doctor. I want to say here Doctor, that I have always been (although not a member) an admirer of the G.I. Forum. I have always been an ardent admirer of you and your"boys" and have always to the defense of the G. I. Forum or you and all the members of your organization. Bob Sanchez and Ed. Idar, if the latter chooses to tell the truth, will that the G. I. Forum has had no more loyal and staunch friend than I. That is notwithstanding the fact that many political friends of mine continously keep telling me that I have been hurt and continue to get hurt for my association with Bob and his membership in the G.I. Forum. Of course this made me fight all the harder for Ed. and Bob and the G.I. Forum. You see Doctor, I stand for the same things that the Forum stands for too, and with just as much vigor and conviction. Nothing has swayed me away; nothing will. I have always been of strong convictions, and have been so regarded by all who know me. I have been and am noted, and I pride myself, in being extremely loyal to my friends. That shall always be a marked characteristic of my nature.

Doctor, YOU DID WRONG IN USING THE TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF INFLUENCE THAT YOU HAVE OVER YOUR ORGANIZATION AND FRIENDS, to turn the convention for aman that has never our friend, but who now came offering us "chambas" for the only reason that he needs our support. You see Doctor, he has lost the support of the political bosses of South Texas, (They are going for Connally) and the only way that he can make up for that loss is to get us on his side. He has done it Doctor, thanks to you. Dont for yourself Doctor, he will not be our friend for long; he is not our type, he has never been.

It is traggic Doctor, when we who have great influence with our people, and who have for ever been preaching, "que no se vendan por un pedazo de tortilla, bartoca, o por un miserable chamba", new we must report to them that we have sold out for "una miserable chamba". Maybe you can Doctor, I cannot and keep the respect of my people. But more so if I expect to have a CLEAR CONCIENCE.

There was never any doubt in my mind as to what course we should take in the Governor's race. There was only ONE MAN that was our man in that race. he may

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well be an underdog in the race, if you choose to let popularity, or a chance to win, influence you decission. Don Yarborough was our man Doctor, not because of his name, but because of what he stood for. Let there be no mistake about that. He speke our language, he knows our problems and was defenitly committed to do something about them. He depended on us to win. Underdog, certainly he was- we all are, and we will continue to be unless we fight together and with other groups who have common problems, and produce a winner. We are not to accomplish this by going with a winner simply because he is going to win, and sell out to him-just like we did to Price Daniels. Yes we did produce a winner with Ralph Yarborough-(you may have lost hope in him because of the Salinas situation-Salinas Doctor had never been identified with our movement-I certainly still believe in Ralph and will always will; he has to much inherent good in him for me to discard him) Yes we produced a winner with Henry Gonzalez, who in loosing always gained, until he is now a man of international reknown, and for whom we can be justly proud. I never hesitated to vote for him because he was going to loose-I will never be accused of that. To me principal comes first. Yes, Ed. -dar makes a lot of fuss about what labor did and what DOT did. I am not to be caught doing the same thing. Let me say that when Labor chose between Henry and Maverick they had a hard decission since both men stood basically for the same things. Of course Henry announced first, but aside from that you could not go wrong voting for either unless you put it on a racial basis.

Doctor you were wrong, and whether you realize it or not you have suffered personally for it. Yes you took an unyielding position for expidiancy instead of for principal. Your image Doctor has been blemished before a great many of us who were your andent admirers. You have done it yourself. YOU DID NOT have to use your great influence and prestige over a group that all admired you, some like myself, almost to the point of adulation-no you did not have to make your stand be forced upon us. Was it worth it Doctor? You say it was for "my people", but in talking about my people Boctor I take second place to no one. I now have a very strong feeling, since you repeatedly kept telling everyone what you have done for "my people" that you lack in modesty Doctor. True dedicated man like Booker T. Washington and Mahatma Gandi did not go extolling what they had done for there people Doctor. They just did all they could for their people and let history take care of them. History has rightfully and justly done so, and it will do so in your case if you do not destroy yourself in the eyes of the people by such behaviour. Ferhaps I am discourtiouse totell you this Doctor, but if no one has done so before, then I want to do it and so be blamed. Yes you got up on the convention and unduly used the great influence you had over all of us to what you personally felt was right. I am rebellious by nature, and having always fought political bosses, I took you on Doctor. I KNEW those of us who were against you, could not defeat you, but I felt we must take a strong stand against you and the tactics you were wsing. There is no indication whatsoever that you will not do the same thing again-with the same forces add or take a few. IS THIS DEMOCRACY? IS THIS FAIR? IS THIS JUST? IS THIS WHAT WE HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR? IS THIS WHAT PASSO IS FOR? NO, NOT AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, DOCOOR.

Doctor, I did say that I had lost my admiration for you, but I should have said that you forced me to loose my admiration for you. I never can dislike you Doctor, you have done so much, at such great personall risks, for —not for your people—but for all of us. You are truly a dedicated man, but Doctor when you use all the good

and all the sacrifices you have made for our people as a means of getting PASSO to endorse Price Daniels—you and no one else has come out the worse looser—You have imposed on the great love and respect that all of us present have for you to get your personal? wishes across. You have not had any true consideration for our feelings. I saw many who were going along and went along with you, not because they felt you were right, BUT THEY COUND NOT BEAR TO HURT YOU.

I have written you frankly and sincerely and without any wish or desire to further any gap that may have resulted from our State Convention. I still like you, I still recognize all you have done for our people, BUT d do not and will NEVER approve your taking a position contrary to the natural choice of our people, and use your great influence against the wishes of the majority. Doctor, will you truly answer one question. Which way would the convention have gone, had you not been there? Or had you not used your influence?

Forgive me Doctor, but I am glad that you afforded an opportunity to write you. I was so hurt, and still am, when I saw the Convention VEER OFF its natural course, by your unexpedted position.

Labor, Negrogroups, Coalitions, Eiberals all have taken the natural course for such groups to take---you Doctor have placed us with stange bed fellows. Yes Doctor you did wrong.

The opinions I have here stated Doctor, I mean my basci beliefs, that are so deep in me, that one would have to destroy me to get them out of me.

Forgive me Doctor, once again, for all I have said about you, but I assure that I still like you. I hope you understand my position after having wead this.

Your friend

Leo J. Teo