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Mr. Albert Pena, Jr. County Courthouse San Antonio, Texas

Dear Albert:

We had our local PASSO meeting in Edinburg last sight, and this time Leo J. Leo and Dr. Casso were laying for me. The upshot of the meet was that a motion by Dr. Casso was approved. The motion was to the effect that our local group go along with the actions of the Convention with respect to the Lieukspant Covernor, Attorney General, and Congressman-at-large but that with respect to the Covernor's Race our local group would make no endorsement.

As Chairman Leo broke practically every rule of parliamentary procedure. He did not permit me to present our case for Governor Daniel. He put Dr. Casso on first to give an "objective" report as to the Convention, but Casso would up actually making a campaign speech against Governor Daniel. No time limit was set for Casso. Thereafter Leo asked me to speak in rebuttal, and I started to do so but when I started pointing out certain facts which were opening up the eyes of the people, he broke in and stated that I was taking too much time and that I should complete my remarks. The crowd was sympathetic, but he prevailed and got me off.

Thereafter he never would give me an opportunity to bring out other matters and to state our position on a number of statements that he and the Doctor made which were outright falsehoods. Finally, they had evidently contacted George Sanchez because just about the time they figured that they were ready for a vote, they brought in Dr. Sanchez for a short talk. Dr. Sanchez stated at least two falsehoods, and I had letters from him at hand that I could have used to point out but again Mr. Lee would not allow me the privilege of asking Dr. Sanchez a couple of questions in this regard.

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There were other undercurrents also. The meeting was stacked by people who are working locally for County Judge Richardson, for County Commissioner Joe Evans, and for Raul Longoria in his race against Jim Bates for the State Senate. I know this because two days ago Magus Smith, one of our District Judges and a person who has always supported Governor Daniel in the past, approached me on behalf of persons whom he did not disclose with the idea of a trade whereby these people would support our endorsement of Governor Daniel at the local meeting if we would in turn agree to endorse Richardson when we hold our meeting for the purpose of local endorsements. I told Magus that I though he was making a mistake in getting the Governor's Race and our endorsement of Governor Daniel mixed up as part of a trade with respect to local races, particularly since many people in our group are already working for Jim Bates and since the proposition did not include an endorsement for Bates. I told him that I would be willing to consider a trade whereby we would agree to endorse both Richardson and Bates, but that I would not agree to trading out on the basis they proposed. I told Magus that I felt he was making a very serious mistake and that he was doing a great disservice to the Governor by even coming up with the idea.

It was evident last night by the people present that the proposition hurt the Governor.

Dr. Casso himself broke his word which he had given to me last week that he was going to abide by the decision of the Convention on the Governor's Race.

Leo and Renato Cuellar from Weslaco have spent the past few days going all over the County talking to people and spreading all kinds of venom about the proceedings at the Convention and in particular about the GI Forum and Dr. Hector P. Garcia. Last night Leo who probably came close to having a heart attack due to his emotional state called Hector a downright dictator and used other language with respect to him and to the GI Forum which is unforgivable and which constitutes a final breach as far as I am concerned. Among other lies that have been spread and which were implied by questions that Renato Cuellar asked last night was the fact that the person to whom the Governor referred at the committee meeting when he stated that he had already approached one of our members for a position on his staff was myself. We all know that this is false because the person involved was Willie Bonilla to begin with and because, as you know, there has not even been agreement yet that I am to get involved.

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Under the circumstances, I cannot go along with our giving any further consideration to either Leo or to Dr. Casso for important committee assignments in the organization. They will remain active in the group locally and will go along with the other three endorsements, but in the light of their attitude last night and the public statements that they made, I certainly do not believe that Leo should be given any consideration or should be consulted on matters of patronage and Dr. Casso should be dropped from the Constitution Committee. Hoping and trusting in their good faith I had a conference with both of them last Sunday after our meeting in Laredo Saturday, and I filled them in on the tentative agreements that we had made. As it turned out, this was a mistake because apparently they had already closed their minds to any possible compromise whereby we could give them due recognition and make them part of the team.

With respect to Renato Cuellar, he had contacted the Reavley people immediately after the Convention to offer his services as the PASSO man on Reavley's staff, according to a telephone conversation that I had with Bob Armstrong yesterday. Earlier Judge Benavides had called me from Laredo to indicate that Renato had called him about the matter and told him that I was blocking him. I assured Armstrong that although Cuellar has never been outside of this County and although we had thought of Roel in this connection who is far better known and is far more acquainted throughout the State, that I personally would have no objection to Cuellar provided that they made him understand that he was not to take sides on any other race. I asked Mr. Armstrong to call both you and Cuellar about the matter and to be sure and call Gellar before the meeting last night. Today, however, I have wired Armstrong as well as you and Judge Benavides to indicate that I am withdrawing my support of Cuellar in this respect. During this campaign the people working on the campaign staff of the candidates will necessarily have to contact many people throughout the State, including GI Forum people. Those of us in the Forum are broadminded enough to work with others, but we cannot afford to have an individual who is so full of venom against our organization as Cuellar has indicated that he is go about all over the State. If Cuellar is named I for one will not cooperate with him in any way or furnish him any names of people within my organization that he should contact.

I regret the developments down here, but this should be an indication of the problem that is going to face us in selling Governor Daniel. He must absolutely come out with two or three accomplishments of some significance that will get

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some good newspaper and other news media coverage as soon as possible. The situation in this County is not hopeless and can be improved tremendously with a little help from the Governor. I have had a number of calls this morning from people who did not appreciate what Leo did last night. We can take this County with help from the Governor and with the expenditure of some money.

Incidentally, Dr. Sanchez left last night before the meeting broke up and came by where I was sitting briefly to shake hands and to tell me that he was supposed to be enroute to Port Arthur to meet with a GI Forum group there. Probably what he meant was that there was some similar meeting in Port Arthur either last night or today at which they are going to use him for the same purpose. This is a factor that we must take into consideration this campaign. Apparently the Yarborough people are going to try to get as much mileage out of him as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Ed Idar, Jr.

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CC: Dr. Hector P. Garcia Judge R. M. Benavides