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MR. JOHN W. MACY, JR.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEAR MR. MACY:

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE LETTER IN BEHALF OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON IN REFERENCE TO THE APPOINTMENT OF GILBERT HERRERA FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE JOBS CORP OF THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY. NEEDLESS TO SAY THIS WAS A GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT FOR ALL OF US BUT IN DUE HONESTY IT WAS EXPECTED. WASHINGTON AND THE DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT CONTINUE TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST MEXICAN-AMERICANS WHO APPLY FOR POSITIONS. THIS IS REFLECTED IN MANY DIVISIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT INCLUDING THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THERE ARE ALWAYS HIGH POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR EVERYONE ELSE AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL MINORITY GROUPS EXCEPT MEXICAN-AMERICANS.

EVERYDAY IT BECOMES MORE EVIDENT THAT OUR SERVICES ARE ONLY WANTED AND USED IN THE BATTLEFIELDS. WHEN WE APPLY FOR POSITIONS LIKE THESE WE ARE EITHER TOO OLD OR TOO YOUNG. WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH EXPERIENCE OR WHEN WE APPLY WE ARE TOO LATE OR TOO EARLY OR THE VACANCY WAS ALREADY FILLED OR IT NEVER REALLY EXISTED.

A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT WHO MAY JUGGLE AROUND THE PEOPLE IN THE LATIN-AMERICAN DIVISION BUT CAN NEVER COME UP WITH THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN OCCUPYING A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE IN LATIN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS. WHEN MANN WAS REMOVED FROM MEXICO AS AN AMBASSADOR WE HAD PEOPLE LIKE AMBASSADOR RAYMOND TELLEZ WHOM I FELT COULD HAVE OCCUPIED THIS POSITION AND DONE A GOOD JOB. WHEN VAUGHN WAS REMOVED FROM LATIN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS AND GIVEN ONE OF SHRIVER'S JOBS THE AMBASSADOR OF BRAZIL WAS BROUGHT OVER TO TAKE VAUGHN'S POSITION IN LATIN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS. OF COURSE WE HAVE PEOPLE LIKE VICENTE XIMENES WHO IS WITH THE AID IN PANAMA WHO COULD HAVE FILLED VAUGHN'S VACANCY EASILY.

WE MEXICAN-AMERICANS GET THE FEELING THAT WE ARE BEING EXCLUDED FROM THESE IMPORTANT JOBS. THIS IS EASILY SEEN WHEN THE TOP JOBS GO TO ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE EXCEPT OUR ETHNIC GROUP. THERE IS A GENERAL WIDE SPREAD FEELING AMONGST MEXICAN-AMERICAN THAT THE ONLY WAY FOR US TO ACHIEVE POSITIONS OF IMPORTANCE AND TO GET SOLUTIONS TO OUR PROBLEM IS BY PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS.

As the days by I am beginning to feel that this may be necessary. We are tired of sending recommendations and forms 57 to Washington, without getting results. Evidently, our approach to matters have not been very fruitful; therefore, the Administration could do good to realized their short comings and open a door of opportunity to us before we make a blanket complaint of discrimination by the Administration against the Mexican-American.

As you can see, Mr. Macy, my faith in the Administration is also beginning to shake. Please convey this message to President Johnson as an urgent message hoping that we can reach an understanding and agreement as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

HECTOR P. GARCIA, M.D.
Founder American G I Forum

cc: Gilbert Herrera
G I Forum National Officers