Teodoro R. Estrada P. O. Box 6659 Los Angeles 22, Calif.

Clark Kerr, Ph.D., LL.D., President The University of California 714 University Hall Berkeley 4, California

Dear Doctor Kerr:

The January 22, 1964 edition of the Los Angeles Times carried an article announcing a Ford Foundation grant of \$450,000 to UCLA for a three-year study of the Mexican-American ethnic group. As a Mexican-American I can only express elation at the announcement because, certainly, such a study is not only well over-due, but moreso because for years the status quo of the Mexican-American has been surmised through conjecture and generalities. Even the federal government has long ignored this vital segment of our population, and the University of California, through the Ford Foundation, will truly set a precedent by intellectually studying and evaluating the Mexican-American as an integral and important part of this great country of ours. No matter how hard the truthful conclusions of this study might be, we, and I am sure I speak for all interested Mexican-Americans, shall anxiously await them.

I am writing you to recommend to you Doctor Hector P. Garcia of 3024 Morgan Avenue, Corpus Christi, Texas, a great American and scholar of the Mexican-American. Doctor Garcia, in 1948, returning from the United States Army with the rank of colonel, founded the American GI Forum of the U.S., a Mexican-American veterans' family organization, which fought for the dignity of Americans of Mexican origin. From its small beginning as a handful of civic-minded veterans in Texas, the American GI Forum has grown to have a chapter in every state and major city where Mexican-Americans reside, including Washington, D.C..

This non-profit, humanitarian organization has had praise for its endeavors from such distinguished persons as the late President Kennedy, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, President Lyndon Johnson, Governor Brown, and Senator Dennis Chavez (now deceased). However, the actions of this noble organization speak for themselves. Whether fighting school discrimination, trying to achieve greater civil rights, or urging its members to better themselves in everyway possible, the American GI Forum has been the only organization which has truly served and represented the American of Mexican origin, and continues to

arduously endeavor to bring recognition and dignity to ${\tt Mexican-Americans}$ everywhere.

The guiding light and spirit of this organization has been Doctor Hector P. Garcia, whose tireless and humanitarian efforts are the greatest tribute which can be paid him.

I sincerely hope that UCLA will make use of Doctor Garcia because his knowledge of and familiarity with the Mexican-American can certainly be of value in the conclusions drawn at the end of the three-year study.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of the foregoing.

Very truly yours,

Teodoro R. Estrada

- c.c. Professor George I. Sanchez The University of Texas
- c.c. His Excellency Bishop Robert Lucey, D.D., LL.D.
 Bishop of the Diocese of San Antonio, Texas
 Founder, Bishop's Committee for the Spanish-Speaking
- c.c. Mr. Joseph Alvarado American GI Forum News Bulletin
- c.c. Mr. William Gutierrez Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission
- c.c. Mr. Joseph Castillo Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission
- c.c. Professor Wigberto Jimenz Moreno, Director Departamento de Investigaciones Historicas Instituto Nacional de Antropologia e Historia Mexico, D.F.