

LAW OFFICES
MCDONALD, SPANN & SMITH

BEN F. McDONALD, JR.
BOB J. SPANN
DAVID L. SMITH

SUITE 900 WILSON BUILDING
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78401

P. O. BOX 1777
TELEPHONE (512) 882-8811

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Mr. Ed Harte, Publisher
Corpus Christi Caller Times
Corpus Christi, Texas

Dear Ed:

Several times I have tried to reach you lately by telephone but have been unsuccessful. Hence, please excuse resorting to penmanship but I wanted to congratulate you on several articles and newspaper items that I have seen recently.

First, I very much appreciated your article on Dr. Hector Garcia, M.D., wherein you reviewed Dr. Garcia's accomplishments and his illustrious and forthright endeavors for the large numbers of people who have looked to him as a spokesman. You frankly state places where you have disagreed with Dr. Garcia and places where you have agreed. My first encounter with Dr. Hector was when we both appeared before the City Council when I had first come to Corpus Christi wherein we both offered support for an increased public housing and increased benefits of housing to poor people. At that meeting, Dr. Garcia said that the poor housing conditions increased his business as a physician but decreased his status as a human being and he wanted better housing for the Mexican people and for all of the minority and impoverished people of our community.

Like you through the years I have occasionally taken issue with Dr. Garcia and disagreed but then that is all of our privileges as Americans and I think he has certainly worked for the betterment of large numbers of people who otherwise would have no advocate.

Secondly, as to your fine comments on Dr. McIver Furman and his political courage in establishing the Bay oil well drilling ordinance in the face and in the teeth of vested and funded interests, I am also most appreciative. From somewhat personal experience, I know the price of political courage, particularly in local issues. It would have been easier for Dr. Furman to go along with the tide and wash his hands of the whole thing and we might have our bay full of nothing but oil well structures. Whereas Dr. Furman saw that the ecology and the environment of the day with controlled drilling could coexist if the public's interest were taken into proper consideration. Too often the great silent public remains silent and so I therefore appreciated

your article on this particular phase of Dr. Furman's activities when he was Mayor. In the past, I have taken issue and disagreement with some of his policies and actions and some of those who have supported him but I found myself in agreement on many others, likewise our American tradition and our free privilege of self-expression.

As to the new "look" and format of the Corpus Christi Times, I am not so sure. Maybe the passage of time will help some. Many newspapers have too much emphasis on just plain news and wire service stories and maybe this could have been an earlier criticism of the Times. On the other hand, it seems like the new motif emphasizes feature writing and reporter opinion more than news. I do not think a newspaper should get overweighted with daily reporter comments or daily features but should be balanced between the two.

Anyway, good luck with the new and dressed up Times. You seem to have done pretty well without much of my advices during all of these years.

Sincerely yours,



BEN F. MC DONALD, JR.

BFM:nc

cc: Dr. Hector Garcia, M.D.

cc: Dr. McIver Furman, M.D.