Hate letter

Mar. 28 1973

Dear Dr. Garcia

I have just read the article about you in the Dallas Morning News. Much of what you are quoted as saying is no doubt true and worthy of such a good mexican patriot as you seem to be. Some of it smacks of simple political Propaganda which by the way would not go over so good where you came from but were millions live their complete lives in conditions little better than slavery. Since all people with a spanish surname seem to be "your" people I am wondering what you have done for them lately except to encourage them to come north illegaly.

I have many friends who are mexican citizens, live there and are proud to be mexicans. When they visit me they are astonished to find so much un happiness among people here that are so much better off than they are but who have the same heritage.

I also have many mexican-american friends living in Texas & other states and some few mexican nationals without papers living and prosperingnhere. None of these people call ~~themselves either mexicans or americans as the case may be~~ themselves chicanos but mexicans or americans as the case may be.

I understand of course that when you are trying to build a political party such as the G I Forum, slogans are necessary to rally the people to the cause.

When I first heard the word chicano I tried to find it in the dictionary (english and also spanish) but I could not. Yet at the same time I began to see bumper stickers saying "chicano" & " viva la raza" Since I was on my way to Mexico City through El Paso, I dropped by the democratic headquarters there. There were about eight mexican-americans on the staff at the time and I asked them what the word chicano meant.One said it meant a gangster from Chicago. Another said it meant anybody who had been bitten by a vivalaraza,; they all laughed and said: "You wont find any chicanos here in El Paso because we don't have any vivalarazas here now and we don't want any" I finally decided a chicano is a mexican-american with a chip on his shoulder of which there are many. Obviously you are one but you do not think of yourself as one and I am sure that you do not have a " viva la raza" bumper sticker on your long blue cadillac obtained no doubt by many years of exploiting those you call "your" people.

One of my closest friends calls me gringo which never bothers me. I asked him were the name originated. He said that during the Mexican War (1845) the U.S. soldiers invading Mexico wore green uniforms and the people were trying to tell them to go home in english. Therefore the word gringo(Green go) came into use. We laugh about things like this and it would not bother me if it was applied to me by anybody.

I also find that in middle management jobs negros are much easier to deal with than mexican-americans. I am convinced that the reason for this is that they (the negros) are trying to be 100% good americans, while the mexican-americans are trying to be just as much mexican and just as little american as possible to serve their purposes at any given time. The mexican-american school teachers understand this even if the politicians like don't.

Contrary to what you are quoted as saying, mexicans are not good organizers except in the area of organizing los de abajo. If you doubt this take a trip to Caleta Beach in Acapulco and take a look at the concrete shell of a proposed hotel 10 stories high that has been standing there for at least 10 years that I know of in the same condition.

You are the type of man that makes much of the fact that the balance of trade between the United States and Mexico is in favor of the United States. But the ignorant you are trying to exploit do not know the difference between the balance of trade and the balance of payments. The balance of payments is of course heavyly in favor of Mexico.

TEX MEX, the most admired mexican-american in the U.S.A. is an american 100% and I admire him for it. He wants no part of all this nonsense about chicano, viva-raza and the rest of the political bunk. I am not a golfer either. I can assure you that he is not one of "your" people.

What really makes me a better american than you is that I can say to hell wih Queen Elizabeth and the British Empire while you can't say the same thing about the Mexican Empire and its leaders regardless of the consequences and slander that continues to flow to your adopted country from south of the border.

I would like to close on a more cordial note and say that I think the phrase G.I.Forum is a good american name. On the other hand the slogans like "chicano" and " Viva La Raza " turn me off and are one of the most blantant kinds of racism.

yours Truly

William C Zaysler