



SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

1866 Southern Lane • Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097

Telephone (404) 329-6500 WATS 800/248-7701

April 21, 1989

Mr. Manuel Garcia, Jr.
3226 Lariat Lane
Corpus Christi, TX 78415

RE: Mr. Garcia's letter received April 17, 1989

Dear Mr. Garcia:

This is to acknowledge your letter of April 17, 1989 regarding Platt Career School in Corpus Christi, Texas.

I am forwarding your letter to Dr. Kenneth W. Tidwell, Executive Director of the Commission on Occupational Education, for a response. I am sure you will hear from Dr. Tidwell at his earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "B. E. Childers".

B. E. Childers
Executive Director

BEC/amb

cc: Dr. Kenneth W. Tidwell

ADDRESSES

1. ✓ SECRETARY OF EDUCATION (LAURO CAVAZOS)
400 MARYLAND AVE. South west
WASHINGTON, DC 20202
2. ✓ SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF ^{colleges} ~~colleges~~ & SCHOOLS (Exec. DIR. DR. B. E. CHALDE)
1866 SOUTHERN
DECATUR, GEORGIA 30033
3. ✓ TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY (COMMISSIONER WILLIAM KIRBY)
1701 N. CONGRESS AVE.
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701
4. ✓ ATTORNEY GENERAL (JIM MATTOX)
SUPREME COURT BUILDING
P.O. BOX 12548
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2548
5. STATE REPRESENTATIVE (EDDIE CAVAZOS)
P.O. BOX 7547 C/o Sandra Zuniga
C.C. ~~AUSTIN~~ TEXAS 78415 (PHONE 853-4953)
P.O. BOX 2910
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78769

Copies retained 11-12-89
to all people on list

Hon. Lauro Cavazos
Secretary of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Mr. Cavazos:

I am forwarding this letter for your personal attention, to enlighten you on a matter which regards misappropriated educational guidance, in hope that it may be resolved in a professional and expeditious manner.

Mr. Cavazos, first of all let me personally congratulate you on your most recent appointment as Secretary of Education. Now to the matter at hand, I attended a career school by the name of Platt Career School in Corpus Christi, Texas, to further enhance my education in hopes to get the skills and training that are required for today's job markets! To my dismay, this career school in question, after advertising Financial Aid resources and Job Placement Assistance for all enrolled students, and accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, did not fulfill those pledges.

Specifically, on July of 1986, I enrolled in said school (Platt Career School) and I did receive some financial aid assistance as promised while I agreed to repay the student loan after a 6-month grace period and after completion of my Word Processing Course. However, I graduated on January, 1987 with high marks during my 600 clock-hour training and was due to start a repayment plan of \$50.00 a month starting in September, 1987. Before I graduated in January, 1987, I was hired by said school (Platt Career School) not through any of their efforts, but through my very own perseverance and determination, as a Telemarketing Representative (part time).

As I was informed, my outstanding performance reflected an increase of enrollments for the school, so therefore, after graduation in January, 1987, they hired me on a full-time basis as an Admissions Representative and Teacher's Aid on a part-time status in Computers. I was employed for a short period of time, approximately 6-months and was terminated on August, 1987. During my employment, I surpassed all of the weekly quotas as were established by the employer by exceeding the following percentages of 150%, 190%, 210% 260% (on a weekly basis) during my time employed by said school. In other words, an exceptional performance was being demonstrated on my part.

Sometime in March, 1987, the school introduced a new course called "Air Condition, Refrigeration, Heating and Electrical Control Course". I performed a special service to the school by producing a television commercial since I had previous experience in Media (television and radio) for over 8 years in the community, performing services to the community and various civic organizations.

In August, 1987, I was terminated by said employer (Platt Career School); however, to my surprise, the television commercial is still being aired as of today, which I strongly feel is unethical, unfair and illegal, on the part of the school in question because my name is registered as an assumed name with the Nueces County Courthouse for a period of 10 years.

Because of my active community participation, many students, as of today, see me here and there and ask me about the TV commercial and ask if I am still employed with the school; and I respond "No, I am not". They say "Well, we just saw you on TV advertising said school!"

At the time of my termination with said school in question, I encountered the loss of my \$375.00 a month apartment; a new 1987 Ford Thunderbird valued at more than \$18,000.00; all my furniture valued at \$4,000.00, causing me an extra move in with my parents for support, resulting me bad credit rating status on top of all that. To my surprise, the school has sold my student loan to the Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation of Madison, Wisconsin for immediate collection. (reference enclosed Letter)

Mr. Cavazos, this is my personal opinion to this matter. The U. S. Government wants every one possible to continue and further their education to dissuade as much unemployment and illiteracy as possible to strengthen the government of U.S.A. How can any minority who strongly and sincerely takes advantages of said schools, as I did, to better himself or herself through any career school or business college

of this sort, if they in turn fail to fulfill their obligations in helping students seek suitable employment after graduation in their specialized skills and training that they offer by imposing such punitive matters on the students as such even when the student is still unemployed through no fault of the students?

As a result of the school's inability to help seek suitable employment for the students as they advertise places a burden on the student to look at fault. The principal matter is "How can such an institution demand full payment, offset of Federal Income Tax Refund, which they did already and possible litigation procedures against students such as myself who are earnestly seeking the training and job skills for today's job markets, to be able to compete for the jobs and be able to repay the said student loans?"

The student loan concept is a great help to students such as me who want to excel their potentials, enhance their skills and training for a richer life, but it will fail if the Career Schools and Business Colleges do not live up to their end of the advertisements, and only seek personal gains and not seek the needs of the students by helping seek suitable employment after completion of courses taken, I have made several attempts to contact the Job Placement Office at Platt Career School and they respond by saying "No, there is nothing available for us to send you out on a possible job assignment."

Mr. Cavazos, if you look into their job placement percentages you will see that they are far below par, as opposed to the students placed in suitable jobs that the school trains the students in. I feel that the student loan that I have attained has been paid in full with all the extra professional activities that I have performed for the school, in the form of enrollments, public relations, TV commercials (which is still aired) and out in the field soliciting.

Mr. Cavazos, your full cooperation is deemed necessary in this matter of great importance as soon as possible. I am forwarding a letter (copy) to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, in Decatur, Georgia, the Texas Education Agency in Austin, Texas, the owners of Platt Career Schools (main office), to the State Representative, the Attorney General, and possibly a copy and request of a full-scale investigation of such matters at hand to the well known "60 Minutes Television Program" just to prove the point that I myself and others like are experiencing with such false advertisements from this type of schools.

Mr. Cavazos, I was seeking professional advice to this important matter, so I spoke with an Attorney William Bonilla and I was explaining the situation to him in detail, but as soon as I mentioned the name of the school, he promptly stopped me and said that he could not discuss this matter with me because his company had some people working with the said school in question.

He could and would not discuss this matter any further! Mr. Cavazos, by this time, I was outraged because I could not get any advise so then I went and spoke with the State Education public official, namely, Mrs. Mary Helen Berlanga (Bonilla) and she refused to speak to me after I mentioned the name of the school also! This, Mr. Cavazos, is very unethical in my views. These are public officials appointed by us to represent us in such matters, and I believe this is totally unexcusable. So, Mr. Cavazos, I turn to you and ask for your help. Mind you this is not my last resort, I am submitting a copy of this letter to the Attorney General to look further into this matter. I know the Statute of Limitations is two years and I have until August of this year (1989) to file a complaint or a law suit and I plan to pursue such recourses to the fullest!

The Education system would be excellent if all the schools would fulfill their obligation in helping students seek suitable employment and not discredit the students' abilities, skills, moral and credit and potentials by performing such unethical acts as payment in full, offset of Federal Income Tax Refunds, and possible litigation procedures against the students through all their false advertisements, as said above.

Thanking you in advance and hoping to have a response and a possible resolution from you at the earliest convenience to this serious matter, I remain. You may contact me by phone at my residence (#512-851-9339)

after 4:00 p.m. from Monday through Friday, if I can assist in answering any questions to help make this concern clearer. Thank you.

Sincerely and Respectfully,



MANUEL GARCIA, JR.
3226 Lariat Lane
XCorpus Christi, Texas 78415