

Is understand the "English First" proposal
will be on the Mar 8, Republican primary
ballot as a non-binding referendum. Please vote
NO Mar 8, and encourage others to do likewise.

UId-12/30/87

Verne Horsley
2104 Paradise St
Vernon TX 76384
Dec 27, 1987

Dear Dr Marcia,

I am promoting a resolution opposing the proposed "English Language Amendment" to the U.S. Constitution, for the 1988 Republican precinct and county conventions. I would greatly appreciate your support in this matter.

I believe a strong opposition to the "English First" movement is important in the Republican Party in Texas.

If you would be interested in helping promote such a resolution, please read the enclosed material. And perhaps you could also pass the information on to someone you know who might like to help.

Sincerely,
Verne Horsley

WHAT CAN I DO TO PROMOTE THE RESOLUTION
IN THE 1988 REPUBLICAN PLATFORM
OPPOSING THE ENGLISH FIRST AMENDMENT ?

1. Make sure you are registered to vote. You can register at any time except within thirty days before an election. In order to vote in the March 8, 1988, primary, you must be registered on or before midnight Sunday, February 7.
2. Vote in the Republican Primary Tuesday, March 8, 1988 (Super Tuesday). Then participate in the precinct convention that follows and support the resolution opposing the English First Amendment. This may include presenting the resolution. Any legally registered voter who has voted in the Republican primary election (as evidenced by the "Republican" stamp on their registration card) is entitled to take part in the Republican precinct convention. The precinct conventions will be after the polls close March 8.
3. Encourage your friends and acquaintances to register, vote in the primary and take part in the precinct convention.
4. Write letters to the editors, especially the editors of bilingual newspapers and other publications read by people who are likely to oppose the English First Amendment. This will be especially appropriate in January and February, just before the primary.
5. If the precinct where you live sends delegates to the county convention, volunteer to be a delegate. If you live in a county where everyone who attends the precinct convention may also go to the county convention, be sure to go to the county convention. In either case, you cannot participate in a county convention unless you have taken part in your precinct convention. The county conventions will be Saturday March 19.
6. Volunteer to be a delegate to the state convention in Houston, June 8-10, 1988. (It will probably not be necessary to attend all 3 days of the state convention. Many delegates are there only on Saturday. That is the most important day.) It is not necessary to attend the precinct or county convention to qualify as a delegate to the state convention, but it helps. Some counties are under-represented, or even not represented at all, simply because no one can be found who is willing and able to go to the convention.

ENGLISH FIRST PETITION

To the United States Senate and House of Representatives:

Whereas:

English is the common bond that holds all Americans together and any society divided by language can never be truly united

Whereas:

failure to learn English guarantees that a foreign language speaker will never become a full and productive member of American society

Whereas:

Hispanic and other groups are trying to give foreign languages the same status as English

Whereas:

bilingual ballots and education programs divide our nation and reinforce the idea that immigrant groups can avoid learning English

Therefore:

as a concerned American, I urge Congress to make English the official language of the United States by passing the English Language Amendment to the U S Constitution.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE ENGLISH FIRST AMENDMENT

Whereas:

Dedication to the principles of freedom, democracy and equality is the common bond that holds all Americans together, not government mandated conformity to an "official language"

Whereas:

American history is the history of a nation of immigrants, many with non-English speaking backgrounds, contributing to American society, before and during--as well as after--becoming proficient in the English language.

Whereas:

Certain groups are promoting a proposed constitutional amendment that would restrict the ability of state and local governments to promote the integration of those with non-English speaking backgrounds into the mainstream of American society,

Whereas:

bilingual ballots and education programs make a positive contribution to integrating new citizens into full participation in the American political system and teaching English to those with non-English speaking backgrounds, and reinforce the idea that we do not wish to exclude people with non-English backgrounds from American society.

Therefore:

As concerned Americans, we urge Congress to oppose the efforts of those who are promoting the proposed English Language Amendment to the US Constitution.

To the Editor:

I would like to say how much I enjoy reading your newspaper each month. I really appreciate both of the editorials on the proposed "English Language Amendment" in the February 1987 issue. I especially want to comment on your admonition to 'simply exercise your right to vote.'

There have been several changes in the Texas election code in recent years concerning registration and participation in primaries and conventions that voters need to know.

1. There are no longer "Registered Democrats" or "Registered Republicans"; now there are just registered voters. In November of odd numbered years the County Clerk sends a Voter Registration Certificate to each currently registered voter who has voted during the last two years. If you are a qualified voter and do not receive a certificate, you can register at the County Clerk's office. In addition, certain individuals — usually Democratic and Republican party workers—are authorized to register voters.

Letter To The Editor

2. You choose which party you will work during the current election year by voting in a party primary. The first party primary in 1988, is set for Tuesday March 8. (In the past, Texas primaries have been on the first Saturday in May, but that has been a presidential primary as well as a state and local candidates on the ballots. The primary run-offs will be Tuesday May 12.

The first time you vote in a primary during an election year, the primary officials will stamp "Republican" or "Democrat", as the case may be, on your Voter Registration Certificate. Once you have voted in a primary, you may NOT take part in a primary or convention of any other party during that election year.

The old "party loyalty oath" that had been declared unconstitutional several times, has finally been removed from the ballots. Primary voters are no longer required to sign a meaningless document saying they will vote for that party's primary winners without even knowing who the winners will be.

3. The next step in the process is the precinct convention. Everyone who votes in the first primary is eligible to take part in the precinct convention of the same party, usually held the same day as the primary, after the poll closes. Usually only a small percentage of those who vote in the primaries are interested enough to attend the precinct convention.

4. The county convention, held a week or so after the precinct conventions, also passes resolutions and selects delegates to the state conventions. In 1988, the state conventions will be June 8-10. The Republican Convention will be in Houston.

5. The 1988 general election will be November 2. As always, all voters—whether they took part in the Republican primaries, Democratic primaries or no primaries at all—are free to vote for which ever candidates they choose, either a straight ticket or split ticket.

I first learned about the "English First" idea at the 1984 Republican State Convention where I was a delegate. During the general assembly of delegates on Saturday afternoon, the platform committee was called back into session to reconsider a resolution that had previously been rejected.

Several delegates, including myself, went to the meeting room just for the opportunity to observe a committee in session, having no idea what what would be discussed. It was the "English First" resolution.

First, several committee members spoke. Then a Hispanic teacher from the Rio Grande Valley, who was a member of President Reagan's Civil Rights Commission, informed the committee that President Reagan was following the proceeding with interest and that it was very important to him that the Texas Convention support the bilingual education program he backs.

The committee chairman allowed several spectators to speak, although he was not required to do so. A black delegate from Gonzales made a particularly stirring speech against the resolution. It was obvious from the audience reactions that most of the delegates who came to watch were against the resolution. The committee voted it down again.

"English First" proponents considered introducing the resolution on the convention floor, but several other delegates—including the Wilbarger County delegation—persuaded them not to.

The "English First" resolution was brought up again at the 1986 Republican Convention, this time as a proposed constitutional amendment. The resolution was again rejected by the platform committee, but was brought up on the convention floor for a vote of the delegates. I had the opportunity to join the majority of the delegates from across the state in voting the resolution down.

It was evident that the English First proponents had done a lot of work

between 1984 and 1986 and I have no doubt they will have done a lot more by 1988. These people are very working, very well organized, and very skillfull at political maneuvering.

It is very important that concerned citizens who oppose the "English First Amendment" get involved

in the political process. I would be very interested in hearing from anyone

who would like to promote a resolution opposing the proposed constitutional amendment. We cannot just sit around year after year, let the "English First" people do all the work, let their claims and arguments go unchallenged, then expect them not to make any progress.

"English First" proponents felt they pretty well have a free ride in promoting their resolution within the Republican Party in Texas because they are convinced that Hispanics will not participate in Republican politics to oppose them.

Would anyone like to show them they are wrong?

Verne Horsley
2104 Paradise Street
Vernon, Texas 76384

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 31, 1987

Dear Friend:

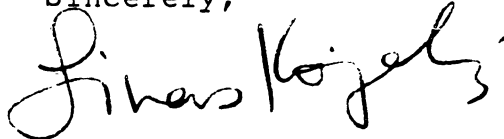
You are cordially invited to a White House briefing on U.S. policy in Central America. The briefing will feature a special presentation by the Departments of State and Defense on the most recent information obtained from the reporting of Major Roger Miranda, former Chief of the Secretariat of the Nicaraguan Ministry of Defense and member of the Sandinista Assembly (Central Committee). The program will take place on Monday, January 11 from Noon until 1:30 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building.

If you are able to attend, please call (202) 456-6411 by 5 p.m. on January 8 to confirm your participation. Please give your full name (as it appears on your driver's license or current passport), social security number, and date of birth.

Please arrive at 11:15 a.m. on January 11 at the Pennsylvania Avenue entrance of OEOB. Remember to bring your photo identification (driver's license or current passport).

I look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Linas Kojelis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a stylized "K".

Linas Kojelis
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison