Texas House of Representatives

Mexican American Legislative Caucus

P.O. Box 2910 • Austin, Texas 78769

July 14, 1987

Dr. Hector P. Garcia, M.D.
American G.I. Forum
1315 Bright Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

It was certainly a pleasure to see you on Monday in Austin during your press conference. I enjoyed visiting with you and your other colleagues in Speaker Pro Tem Hugo Berlanga's office. You did an outstanding job during the press conference. You are to be commended.

Enclosed please find copies of some newspaper clippings that covered the press conference. Also enclosed please find four copies of The Daily Texan, the UT/Austin campus newspaper where I am enrolled as a fulltime Ph.D. student also. I thought The Texan did an outstanding job in covering the press conference. Please note pages 4 (editorial) and 6 of The Texan.

Keep in touch. If there is anything else I can do to assist please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jesse R. Bernal

Jesse R. Bernal
Education Legislative Aide

JRB

Enclosures

Austin American Statesman, July 14, 1987

AP

Charges of racism

Dr. Hector Garcia, founder of American G.I. Forum, a Hispanic veterans group, calls efforts to make English the state's official language 'racism.' The Corpus Christi resident was in Austin Monday.

DISGUSTED: Dr. Hector Garcia sees neo-Nazi philosophy behind English language drive.

S.A. Light

Language bid compared to Hitler

"ENG ON N" 7/14/87

AUSTIN (UPI) — The drive to make English the official language of Texas is comparable to Adolf Hitler's takeover of Germany in the 1930s, according to a founder of a Hispanic veterans organization.

"This is a neo-Nazi philosophy brought into Texas from outside the state," Dr. Hector P. Garcia of Corpus Christi, an official of the American G.I. Forum, said Monday.

Garcia, chairman of the group's National Archives and Historical Foundation, also told a news conference the movement — often called English First — is aimed at eliminating bilingual ballots and bilingual education and advertisements in Spanish.

"What is behind this neo-Nazi philosophy?" he said. "First, it wants to create bad feelings, bad relationships, bad understanding between two groups of people of different ethnic cultures. . . . It's raw racism and it will succeed in that — dividing us from our brothers."

Asked if he thought a comparison of the English First group to neo-Nazism was too strong, Garcia, 73, a World War II veteran, said:

"Well, that's what I thought when I heard Adolf Hitler start speaking during those years," he said. "It was hard for me to believe this philosophy was sold to the great majority of Germans.

"We are not against learning the language, speaking and writing it. It's a useless thing (English First). I still worry in the end we're going to wind up hating each other."

A proposed constitutional amendment that would have designated English as the state's official language died in a Texas House committee during the regular legislative session.

Eleven other states already have designated English as their official language, according to Virginia-based English First.