

WARREN G. MAGNUSON, WASH., CHAIRMAN

JOHN O. PASTORE, R.I.
VANCE HARTKE, IND.
PHILIP A. HART, MICH.
HOWARD W. CANNON, NEV.
RUSSELL B. LONG, LA.
FRANK E. MOSS, UTAH
ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, S.C.
DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII
JOSEPH D. TYDINGS, MD.
WILLIAM B. SPONG, JR., VA.

NORRIS COTTON, N.H.
HUGH SCOTT, PA.
WINSTON L. PROUTY, VT.
JAMES B. PEARSON, KANS.
ROBERT P. GRIFFIN, MICH.
HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., TENN.
CHARLES E. GOODELL, N.Y.
MARLOW W. COOK, KY.

FREDERICK J. LORDAN, STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 10, 1970

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

Dear Dr. Garcia:

I so much regret not being able to attend the 22nd Annual National Convention of the American G I Forum. The delegates all, I am certain, can take great pride in the Forum for its militant determination to eradicate discrimination in the treatment of American veterans of Mexican ancestry. They can be equally proud of the dedicated efforts in providing an unique service to Spanish-speaking ex-servicement. In this field you have done yourselves proud as spokesman, mediator and watchdog over the rights of your constituents.

The American G I Forum, like our other great veterans organizations, provides a vital communications link between the veterans and government agencies, which might not otherwise be drawn into veteran activities.

As the ranking Democratic member of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Veterans Benefits, I would have enjoyed the opportunity to be with you; however, in this election season it is essential that my time be devoted rather exclusively to Washington Senate business and my commitments in Indiana. I know you will agree that we must do all within our power to maintain a people-responsive majority in the Senate to safeguard the hard fought for provisions for veterans benefits against those who would silently ignore the obligation of America to her defenders.

Please express my warmest good wishes to all of your members. I hope I shall have a continued opportunity to serve their needs in the coming years.

Sincerely yours,


Vance Hartke
United States Senator