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Veterans Family Organization

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CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

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JULY 18, 1961

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HONORABLE ARTHUR GOLDBERG
SECRETARY OF LABOR
UNITED STATES DEPT. OF LABOR BLDG.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR MR. GOLDBERG:

THE AMERICAN GI FORUM OF THE STATE OF TEXAS AND THE AMERICAN GI FORUM OF THE UNITED STATES, A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN VETERANS OF MEXICAN ORIGIN WISH TO CONGRATULATE THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR FOR THE STAND THEY HAVE TAKEN IN THE COMMUTERS PROBLEMS ALONG THE BORDER.

IT IS CERTAINLY HIGH TIME THAT OUR AMERICAN PEOPLE OF MEXICAN ORIGIN AND AMERICAN LABORERS **BE** GIVEN PREFERENCE OVER FOREIGN WORKERS. YOU CAN TAKE IT FROM ME PERSONALLY THAT THE WHOLE BORDER FROM THE MOUTH OF THE RIO GRANDE TO CALIFORNIA, IS ONE OF THE GREATEST DEPRESSED AREAS IN THE WHOLE U.S.A. THIS IS ONE OF THE AREAS IN WHICH OUR AMERICAN PEOPLE OF MEXICAN ORIGIN DO NOT MAKE A DESCENT LIVING. IT IS A SOURCE OF MIGRATORY MOVEMENT IN THE NATIONA BECAUSE OF THE DEPRESSED WAGES BROUGHT ON BY THE COMMUTERS.

I DEFINITELY BELIEVE THAT IF A PERSON WANTS TO APPLY FOR PERMANENT VISA, HE SHOULD LIVE IN THIS COUNTRY AND ALSO HAVE THE OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING A RESIDENT AS WELL AS ITS PRIVILEGE. THE AMERICAN GI FORUM HAS GONE ON RECORD IN RECOMMENDING MILITARY SERVICE AND DRAFT REGISTRATION FOR THE MALE.

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HONORABLE ARTHUR GOLDBERG -2-

JULY 19, 1961

WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A GREAT ADMIRER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND YOU HAVE WONDERFUL AND GOOD PEOPLE THERE LIKE MR. JERRY HOLLEMAN. I CERTAINLY HOPE THAT THIS EXPLOITATION OF HUMAN BEINGS WILL BE STOPPED. THIS CERTAINLY CAN BE BROUGHT TO A HALT BY MAKING THE STATE OF TEXAS AND ALL BORDER STATES PAY AT LEAST 75¢ AN HOUR. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, SOME OF OUR WORKERS ALONG THIS AREA EVEN AS FAR NORTH AS CORPUS CHRISTI, EARN AS LITTLE AS 25¢ AN HOUR. THIS CERTAINLY IS NOT GOOD FOR AMERICAN LABOR AND THEREFORE, I AM BEGGING YOU TO CONTINUE WORKING ON THE COMMUTERS PROBLEM.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OF MEXICAN ORIGIN IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN LONG ENOUGH EXPLOITED BY EVERYONE. I BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL BE A RIGHT STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION IN HOLDING YOUR POSITION AND IN GIVING THIS GREAT GROUP OF LOYAL AMERICANS OF MEXICAN ORIGIN A DESCENT STANDARD OF LIVING.

WE HAVE ENOUGH WORKERS IN THESE BORDER AREAS WHO WANT TO MAKE A DESCENT ENOUGH LIVING TO PAY TAXES, TO EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN, TO FEED THEIR CHILDREN AND HAVE A DESCENT STANDARD OF LIVING. THEREFORE, I AM BEGGING YOU, AGAIN, TO KEEP WORKING ON THE PROBLEM AND RECEIVE FROM THE AMERICAN GI FORUM OF THE NATION WITH GROUPS IN TWENTY-FOUR STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, OUR COMPLETE SUPPORT.

YOURS VERY TRULY,

HECTOR P. GARCIA, M.D.

HPG/EB

CC: PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY
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