

August 17, 1972

Dr. Hector P. Garcia, Founder
American G.I. Forum of the U.S.
Corpus Christi, Texas

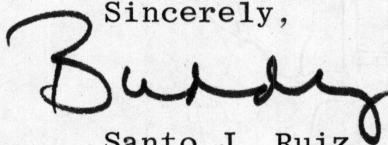
Dear Dr. Hector,

As promised, I want to give you an idea of some of the activities that have resulted from our telephone conversation a few days ago regarding the incident in Corpus Christi between you and the local school board.

I have been in contact with Tony Gallegos, our national chairman; Rudy Ramos, our local chairman of the Forum; Pete Villa, national LULAC; Ed Pena, national vice-chairman of LULAC, and with Paul Montemayor, temporary chairman of RASSA, and have explained to each of them the situation as it now exists there in Corpus Christi. The telegrams that have already been sent are included in this letter. Villa and Pena promised to send a telegram on behalf of the LULAC organization, and it should have been received by Marland by the time this message gets to you.

I have also communicated with U.S. Assistant Attorney General's office on Civil Rights, a David Norman, and have requested a meeting for next tuesday with representatives from the Forum, LULAC's and RASSA. I have not had confirmation from his office for the meeting, but I fully expect that he will meet with us. Our committee should coordinate our activites with you, and we will be in touch by telephone with you before next tuesday. Also, I have related your situation to the Chicano groups in Austin, Texas, and fully expect them to react in support of you.

Sincerely,



Santo J. Ruiz

A Citizens' Lobby by and for the Spanish-Speaking Community

to: S.P. MARLAND
U.S. COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
400 INDEPENDANCE AVENUE S.W.

WE WISH TO EXPRESS TO YOU OUR GRAVEST CONCERN TOWARDS THE POTENTIALLY INFLAMMATORY SITUATION THAT NOW EXISTS IN CORPUS, CHRISTI, TEXAS BETWEEN THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD AND THE SPANISH SURNAMED COMMUNITY. ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1972, AT THE REQUEST OF THE SCHOOL BOARD, DR. HECTOR P. GARCIA, FOUNDER OF THE AMERICAN G.I. FORUM OF THE U.S., AND A NATIONALLY RESPECTED LEADER AND SPOKESMAN FOR THE SPANISH SURNAMED COMMUNITY, WAS ARRESTED AND JAILED BECAUSE OF HIS FIRM CONVICTION THAT EVERY CHILD, INCLUDING THOSE WITH SPANISH SURNAMES, IS ENTITLED TO A QUALITY AND EQUAL EDUCATION. WE BELIEVE IT ENCUMBENT NOW THAT YOU ACT TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF THE SPANISH SURNAMED COMMUNITY AND DR. HECTOR P. GARCIA.

(signed) Rudy Ramos, Chairman
American G.I. Forum
Washington, D.C. Chapter



2001 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. • Suite 260 • Washington, D.C. 20007

TO: S.P. MARLAND
U.S. COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
400 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE RAZA ASSOCIATION OF SPANISH SURNAMED AMERICANS (RASSA) IS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS SCHOOL BOARD AND THE SPANISH-SURNAMED COMMUNITY. DR. HECTOR P. GARCIA, FOUNDER OF THE AMERICAN G.I. FORUM AND A NATIONALLY KNOWN AND RESPECTED LEADER OF THE SPANISH-SPEAKING WAS ARRESTED ON AUGUST 14, 1972 WHILE PEACEFULLY ATTEMPTING TO ADDRESS THE SCHOOL BOARD ON THE NEED OF A QUALITY AND EQUAL EDUCATION FOR THE SPANISH SURNAMED COMMUNITY. THIS IS A POTENTIALLY INFLAMMATORY SITUATION AND ASK YOU TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF THE SPANISH SURNAMED COMMUNITY AND DR. GARCIA.

PAUL MONTEMAYOR
CHAIRMAN
RASSA
2001 WISCONSIN AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.