

Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

DEC 30 1974

Dr. Hector P. Garcia
Founder
American GI Forum
Corpus Christi, Texas

Dear Dr. Garcia:

This is in response to your telegram recommending that Mexican-Americans in Texas, California, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico be covered under any extension of the Voting Rights Act. I hope you will accept my apologies for the delay in this response.

The Civil Rights Division is presently conducting a thorough study of the many issues surrounding the possible extension of the Voting Rights Act. One of those issues is the extent to which the Act adequately protects the rights of Mexican-Americans and other citizens of Spanish speaking origin. It would be very helpful to us if you could share with us any statistical or anecdotal information you may have regarding voter discrimination against Mexican-Americans. In particular the available information concerning Mexican-American registration and voting statistics appears to be very meager. In addition it would be helpful if you could give us any suggestions you may have as to the nature of the coverage you believe is appropriate.

I appreciate your interest in this important issue and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



J. STANLEY POTTINGER
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division