



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Southern District of Texas*

12000 Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse Post Office Box 61129
515 Rusk Avenue Houston, Texas 77208
Houston, Texas 77002

October 19, 1984

Mr. James C. Harrington
ACLU of Texas
600 West 7th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Re: State/Federal Voter Fraud
Task Force

Dear Mr. Harrington:

The State/Federal Voter Fraud Task Force consists of those state and federal agencies in Texas which are charged with the responsibility of enforcing federal and state laws relating to voter fraud. The member agencies are the following: Texas Secretary of State, Texas Department of Public Safety (Texas Rangers), U. S. Attorneys for the state's four federal judicial districts, and the F.B.I. The Task Force does not have any individuals as members. Therefore, it is not possible to appoint any individuals to it. As you know, many of the staff members of the above organizations are either black or Hispanic.

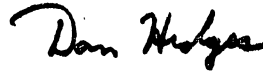
The purposes of the Task Force are to educate the member organizations as to the jurisdiction and limits on authority of each; to educate the public as to the seriousness of voter fraud and the intention of the state and federal agencies to investigate and prosecute it; and to coordinate the investigative and prosecutive efforts of the member agencies. The Task Force has no agents or employees of its own. Consequently, it is difficult for me to understand how you can have seen the Task Force, as such, intimidate voters in Hidalgo County. If you have seen employees of one of the state or federal agencies

violating the law, you certainly should report that to the appropriate authorities.

Since the Task Force is a purely voluntary effort by the member agencies, it has no operational or organizational procedures. Each agency acts in accordance with the laws, regulations, and guidelines which govern it.

I hope this has answered your questions.

Very truly yours,



DANIEL K. HEDGES
United States Attorney

cc: Mr. Ed Davis
Assistant Texas Secretary of State

Col. James Adams