

May 29, 1973

Mr. Tony Bonilla
-2590 Morgan Ave.
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Mr. Bonilla,

The Mexican American Unity Council is an organization founded and run by Mexican Americans whose individual and collective commitment and accomplishments for and on behalf of Mexican Americans everywhere cannot be questioned. The organization has established itself in the few years it has been in existence as an organization which produces for the Chicano community at all levels. For your information I am attaching a list of MAUC Board members and what they do as well as a listing of the Unity Council's accomplishments.

One of the positions that the leadership of MAUC has always insisted on is that its good name, accomplishments and numerous resources will not be used by anyone individual for his personal political gain regardless of who he may be. We feel that the work which MAUC is doing is of such magnitude that to let one individual abuse it for his personal gain is a slap in the face to the thousands of Chicano's under whose name and for whose benefit we (and other such organizations like LULAC) proclaim our work.

But in spite of our good work and in spite of the fair play for which LULAC is generally known the State LULAC Convention, Sunday, May 20, under your guidance and leadership passed a resolution condemning the Mexican American Unity Council and its Executive Director for acts about which neither you nor the majority of the delegates had any really valid first hand information. At best, the information that you were given was the extremely distorted opinion of some demented individuals who, in the best Benedict Arnold tradition, betrayed the MAUC while they were under MAUC's employ. Their ill conceived plot - as are most of their other

plans - having failed they were booted out of the organization as they deserved. Having been caught red handed in their efforts to undermine the organization, they have been exposed and now they are yelling foul and asking for justice proclaiming that after all they did it with the best interests of the organization in mind.

The resolution that was passed by LULAC with your consent to condemn MAUC is an action which does not speak well of its leadership. There are some interesting features of this entire farce which I would like to call to your attention.

1. Neither you nor the delegates had sufficient information on which to pass this resolution in an objective and fair manner.
2. The resolution attacked a Mexican American organization whose accomplishments in the areas of Economic and Business Development, Housing, Health, Training, and Education are not ambiguous but rather clear, tangible, concrete evidence of dedication and an ability to produce for our people.
3. Your resolution attacked brother LULAC'ers who have been members of LULAC for not one, two or three years, but ten or fifteen years and whose integrity and dedication to our people cannot be questioned. The people I speak of are both staff and board members of MAUC and this includes myself, a member of LULAC Council #403 in San Antonio, Texas.
4. Your actions violated my freedom of speech in that I was not allowed to speak to the delegates, but others of an opposing viewpoint were.
5. MAUC and I were indicted, tried and convicted without affording me an opportunity to a fair and public hearing without giving me a chance to defend myself.
6. When I talked to you outside the hall where the delegates were assembled, you told me that you admitted that this was a bad precedent in that LULAC should not be getting involved in the internal affairs of another Chicano organization, but that there was nothing you could do about it. That is leadership? It seems to me that it was not that you could not do anything about it, but rather that you would not do anything because that was the price that was extracted of you in exchange for something you wanted.

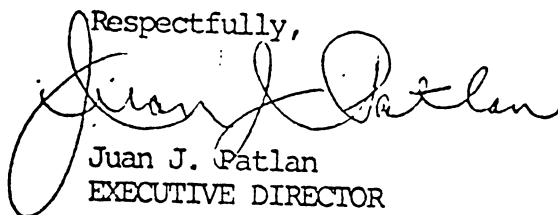
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7. The entire action which I have enumerated above leaves a serious question in my mind as to your fitness to lead LULAC in a fair and equitable manner as well as create a grave concern whether you have the civic courage to fairly and equitably represent the interests of Mexican Americans throughout Texas in your capacity of member of the Texas Constitutional Revision Commission. I hope you do not leave out of the constitution the right of every man or woman to be heard, to speak his peace when accused of something.

Although much damage has been done to the Mexican American Unity Council by the wide publicizing of the resolution my brother LULAC'ers took against it we are, in the interest of "hermandad" still willing to sit down with the responsible leadership of LULAC to ensure that the facts are impartially borne out.

Respectfully,



Juan J. Patlan
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

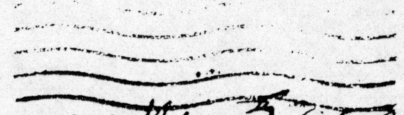
JJP/jg

cc:

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Judge Alfred Hernandez
Ed Pena
Gil Florence
Pete Villa
Ronnie Lopez
Henry Santiestevan
Raul Yzaguirre
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Southwest Council of La Raza Board Members
Texas Constitutional Revision Commission Members
City Council Members, City of Corpus Christi
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