

Gentlemen: (Forgive the mimeographing. This letter is no less personal for that.)

I have talked with some of you about this matter. It is at the suggestion of some of you that I am calling a conference of all of you, to be held at the Driskill Hotel in Austin on January 7, at 10 A. M. I'll have a meeting room reserved in my name. We should be finished by 4 P. M.

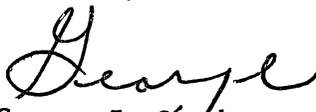
It has seemed to some of us that the time has come when we who have been in the front ranks of the fight on behalf of our people should get together to coordinate our efforts and, as a group, to call a spade a spade before our government officials. As I have been saying with frequency lately, talk is cheap -- let us get some action.

The education of children of Mexican descent in Texas is scandalous. The 1960 Census shows that Negroes, 17 years of age or older, have 8.1 years of schooling -- persons of Spanish surname have only 4.1. Look at the dropout rate. Look at the piling up that occurs in the primary grades. What is the state doing about it? Nothing. Our state education officials long ago abandoned any thought of attacking these evils. Let us call their hand.

It is proposed, now, to raise tuition rates in our colleges and universities. This would keep more of our youngsters out of institutions of higher learning, and the number we have now is pitifully small. Let us protest this to our representatives in the Legislature, to the Governor.

There are other crucial issues that we need to take action on. Can you come?

Cordially,

  
George I. Sánchez

Gus Gonzales  
B. Marroquin  
Albert Peña  
Bob Sánchez  
A. F. Kennard  
Alfred Hernández  
Dr. Hector García  
Roy Elizondo  
Chris Aldrete  
Ed Idar, Jr.  
Sergio Elizondo  
Robert Canino  
Ruben Ruíz  
Mario Obledo  
George Garza  
Michael Hernández