

2201 Scenic Drive
Austin 3, Texas
April 24, 1962

Dr. Hector P. García
3024 Morgan Avenue
Corpus Christi, Texas

My very dear friend:

I received your circular letter of March 30, reiterating your endorsement of Price Daniel for Governor -- and I am saddened by it. How many mexicanos has Governor Daniel appointed to "permanent" positions as a consequence of the rigged PASSO convention in San Antonio? If I read you correctly, you say "two" (the two accountants). You also say that all qualified persons of Mexican descent will now get equal treatment when they apply for state positions! Is this a confession that they have not had equal treatment heretofore, as you and I damned well know? And who was responsible? Whom are you trying to kid, Hector?

So the good Governor has given a few chambas to some of our friends while the campaign is under way. Remember how Ed Idar accused Ronnie Dugger of saying in The Texas Observer that we "Latins" proposed to sell out for a "mess of pottage"? I applauded Ed's letter. But isn't Ed's present job as a field man for Price Daniel a mess of pottage? Aren't the crumbs given to the "regional organizers" that you mention a mess of pottage? In fact, aren't your own two "coordinators," furnished by candidate Daniel, a mess of pottage? "Pottage" is not a well-understood word these days, but "mess" is a- and, if I ever witnessed a mess, this is it. What is Price going to do about tuberculosis among our people. About infantile diarrhea? About migrant labor? About the educational neglect of our children? What does he propose as to minimum wages, integration, and so on? Or, have you forgotten that, as Attorney General, he ruled that Spanish-speaking children could be segregated through the third grade in the public schools of Texas; and that I had to lead the fight to end the segregation of our children, over Price Daniel's opposition?

I can take political disagreement and not have my feelings hurt. What I cannot take is political hypocrisy. Please forgive me if I hurt your feelings, but you are exemplifying political hypocrisy as you go all out for a Governor and a political record that contradicts everything that you and I have worked for in behalf of our people.

Yes, Hector, I am saddened by your actions. I have said publicly that I do not question your motives, not your integrity. I have publicly said, however, that I question your judgment in this matter. I am afraid that your actions in this political situation are going to set us back many years. Neither you nor I may live to see the day when the mexicanos get a square deal in Texas. If we do not, it is going to be in large part because of the mistaken political tactic of going along with the traditional winners (Shivers, Daniel, Stevenson, Johnson). Have you forgotten that you fought these very people because of their neglect of the mexicano? How can you say "Viva Kennedy" and "Viva Price Daniel" in the same breath!

Dear Hector, if Price Daniel wins with your help, underline and put an accent mark on your spelling of Pasó. I am sorry to have to be frank, and even blunt, with you in public. I have had high hopes that PASSO would stick with principle, win-lose-draw --for, in any event, by staying with principle we would have expressed our protest. And, Hector, I protest the treatment of my people by the governments of Texas over the 22 years that I have worked here. If you want to play along with those policies, may God bless and forgive you. As for me, I'll take a chance with new blood, with a new breed of political leaders -- leaders who will be a credit to our great President, John F. Kennedy, whom we supported even when the odds were heavy against him. Don Yarborough is in this class, and that is why I am for him for Governor; and, as you shall see, that is why Texans of Mexican descent are going to give Don an overwhelming majority of their votes.

Most cordially,

George I. Sánchez