

Federal Official Links Jobs, Riots

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AUSTIN — Vincente T. Ximenes, commissioner of the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Saturday linked riots with failure of private industry to provide jobs for minority groups.

Ximenes, addressing the Political Association of Spanish-speaking Organizations state convention, noted that in riot-torn Newark, N.J., and industry with 18,000 employees hired only 600 Negroes. He said Negroes make up 55 per cent of the city's population.

"Private industry must come through with the bulk of employment for minority groups," said the commissioner who is also chairman of the New Inter-agency Committee on Mexican American Affairs.

He said the war on poverty program cannot provide all the answers to joblessness. Ximenes was applauded when he endorsed bilingual education for all U.S. children.

The commissioner, a native of Floresville and a brother of San Antonio physician Edward Ximenes, called on all Mexican-Americans to cooperate with the

committee and commission he represents.

He urged PASO and other groups to back legislation to give the commission legal authority to issue "cease and desist orders" where apparently valid complaints are received.

He also called for support of the Office of Economic Opportunity programs which he said employ more Mexican-Americans than any governmental agency.

"Within the next five years," said Ximenes, "there will be five million new jobs for the citizens of the United States in which discrimination will be prohibited."

The commission, he said, provides technical assistance and grants as well as "processing complaints."

The new Committee on Mexican-American Affairs will hold a nationwide convention, probably in Albuquerque, N.M., in October or November to explore job opportunities, Ximenes told reporters.

He said he will meet with top personnel of major federal agencies to formulate a program of recruiting Mexican-Americans into the federal government. Task forces from federal Labor, Health, Education and Welfare, OEO, Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development departments will soon begin exploring details of the program, Ximenes said.

Heads of the agencies will attend the convention in Albuquerque.