

July 8, 1961

Mr. Jerry R. Holleman  
U. S. Department of Labor  
Office of the Assistant Secretary  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Holleman:

Thank you very much for your letter dated July 5, 1961, which was the first official report that we have received from the Department of Labor concerning the investigation that we requested involving the Imperial Cafe owned by C. L. "China" McDurmon, at Imperial, Texas.

I am very surprised in the letter that you sent me because really, you do not explain anything. In the main paragraph, you mention the fact that this is a "Personal Discriminatory Act" rather than a community act of discrimination. This is fallacious thinking in not calling it a community affair when it involves all the residents and visitors of Mexican origin that live or come to visit Imperial, Texas, since all will be refused service there. Therefore, it stops being an individual act and from our view point, it is an act affecting 100% of the Latin Americans of Mexican origin in that area.

Your third paragraph again is more confusing than ever because you say that the Pecos County Officials have pledged that there will be no discriminating acts against Mexicans in that locality. You state that you have accepted this pledge because Imperial, Texas, is not an incorporated city. This still fails to answer the following questions that we have asked you in our previous letter:

- (1) Did the Department of Labor found this a discriminating act or not?
- (2) What was Mr. McDurmon's attitude?
- (3) Will the Department of Labor hold Braceros from Pecos County or not?
- (4) Did the Pecos County Officials that you contacted promised to take immediate action to put an end to this act of discrimination in Imperial, Texas?

MR. HOLLEM N

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We must have an answer to these questions in order for us to take further action, if necessary. Please help us out.

The delegates at our Texas State Convention from Imperial, Texas, as late as July 4, 1961, told me that the cafe was still discriminating all of our people in that community.

On the part of the Anglo Residents of that community, the fact that they condone this act of discrimination, is very repulsive. They could have put an end to this community action a long time ago if they so desired.

I hope that you, Labor People, will stick to your guns and realize that we are depending on you to at least a straight forward report on your findings.

Will you please send me the names and addresses of the County Officials that you know have pledged to put an end to this discrimination? Please also advise me if DeCos County is now presently in Mexico's Black List-or has ever been?

Hoping to hear from you very soon, I remain

Respectfully yours,

Hector P. Garcia, MD

HPG:ag

CC: Sec. of Labor, Mr. Arthur Goldberg  
Manuel Nunez, Ft. Stockton, Texas  
Imperial GI Forum Officers  
National GI Forum Officers  
State GI Forum Officers