

RALPH YARBOROUGH, TEX., CHAIRMAN

JENNINGS RANDOLPH, W. VA.
HARRISON A. WILLIAMS, JR., N.J.
CLAIBORNE PELL, R.I.
EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASS.
GAYLORD NELSON, WIS.
WALTER F. MONDALE, MINN.
THOMAS F. EAGLETON, MO.
ALAN CRANSTON, CALIF.
HAROLD E. HUGHES, IOWA

JACOB K. JAVITS, N.Y.
WINSTON L. PROUTY, VT.
PETER H. DOMINICK, COLO.
GEORGE MURPHY, CALIF.
RICHARD S. SCHWEIKER, PA.
HENRY BELLMON, OKLA.
WILLIAM B. SAXBE, OHIO

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

ROBERT O. HARRIS, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOHN S. FORSYTHE, GENERAL COUNSEL

October 1, 1969

Mr. Henry Munoz, Jr.
Director of Equal Opportunity
Texas AFL-CIO
308 West 11th Street
Box MM, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Henry:

President Brown has forwarded me a copy of your report to him of September 22, on the JACS report and the PASO Convention at Edinburg.

Henry, the accusations being made against me in Texas by the Republicans, to the effect that I do not employ Chicanos on my staff, is a base falsehood. The first week I was in office in 1957, I employed as my personal secretary (the highest paid, most trusted secretarial position in this office), Miss Sandra Padilla of San Antonio who stayed with me some five or six years, before going to Eastern Airlines, where she now holds a very high position. I have had Chicano secretaries in this office ever since, sometimes as many as two; I have a new one now, one reporting in, and I am searching for another one.

I am Chairman of the Treasury Executive Office, and Post Office Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. The Chief Counsel for that Subcommittee is Joe Gonzales, a Chicano who does not speak English so clearly as you. He is an expert, high-paid staff officer. But he has been here for years and worked up until he attained that place. He was originally appointed by Senator Carl Hayden of Arizona (no longer in the Senate)) but even though originally appointed from Arizona, he has El Paso connections. This job requires staff with expertise and I cannot try to bring about his discharge in order to find someone who was reared in the heart of Texas, simply because the staff just isn't treated that way here.

My Administrative Assistant, Gene Godley, of Dallas, started as an Assistant Counsel with the Veterans Subcommittee, some six years ago, at a salary lower than that which a good many of the secretaries in the office received at that time.

Mr. Henry Munoz, Jr.
Page Two

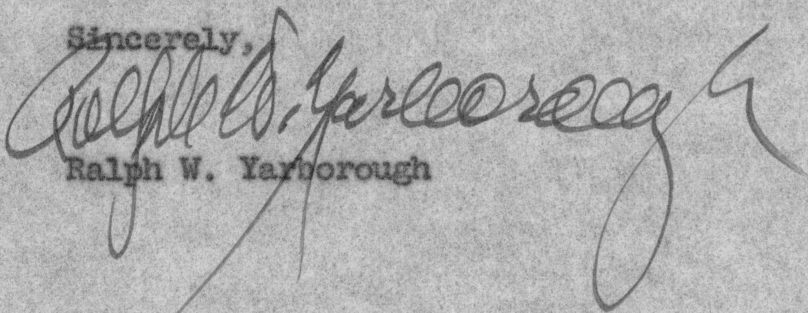
He worked his way up through the ranks, job by job, improving himself over the years. Anyone who appoints a top staff officer at a top salary without previous Washington experience, is throwing his money away.

Furthermore, Johnny Alaniz of San Antonio was my Statewide Representative in Texas for several years, on my payroll here. He resigned to run for County Commissioner and after he lost, then supported a republican in the general election. Of course, I cannot appoint people on my personal staff who are outssupporting republicans; it would tear up our party unity and just isn't done. I am looking for a Chicano man of competence to serve on my staff, for a salary that I can afford to pay.

I offered a full blown staff job here to John Hernandez from San Antonio a few months ago. He had worked here for the National Labor Relations Board as an attorney and had the experience, the know-how, and the knowledge to be of value on my staff and so I offered him a job. He turned it down, as he preferred to practice law in San Antonio, stating that he could build up a practice and do better there. I cite this to show you that I am on the lookout for a competent, qualified Chicano man from Texas to serve on my staff. But I do not intend to let the Republicans stampede me into getting an unqualified man or someone who could not do the staff work here in Washington.

My primary job is to pass laws of benefit to the people of Texas and the nation. No other senator in the history of the Senate from any state anywhere in this Union has introduced and procured the passage of as many laws beneficial to Chicanos as I have, and neither has any Congressman done so. I cite the Bi-Lingual Education Bill as one alone, the Cold War GI Bill as another, many other education bills, and even some bills still pending, copies of which I enclose.

Sincerely,


Ralph W. Yarborough

RWY/gt

cc: Hon. Albert Pena
County Commissioner
Bexar County Courthouse
San Antonio, Texas