

Dr. Larcia:

Confidential.

Ximenes

THE WHITE HOUSE

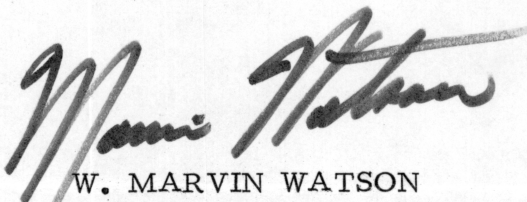
WASHINGTON

July 7, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR
VICENTE XIMENES:

I have your recommendation of Attorney James de Anda who is interested in the position of Federal Attorney for the Southern District of Texas. I am passing this along to the Justice Department for their consideration and recommendation.

I will expect to receive the list which you say is being prepared.


W. MARVIN WATSON

Honorable Vicente Ximenes
Commissioner
Equal Employment Opportunity
Commission
Washington, D. C. 20506

James de Anda

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January 2, 1968

Mr. Ramsey Clark
Attorney General of the United States
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Clark:

During my conference with you the latter part of December, you requested a copy of the pleadings in the Odem School Case, styled Diego Chapa, a minor, et al vs. Odem Independent School District (C. A. No. 66-C-92). I forward herewith copies of the following instruments:

1. Complainants' Original Complaint
2. Defendants' Original Answer
3. Complainants' Motion for Summary Judgment
4. Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment
5. Complainants' Memorandum Brief
6. Order of the Court dated July 28, 1967

You will note that the order entered in the case is not a final order. The complainants are challenging the legality of the placement and testing procedures adopted by the district after this lawsuit was filed. To summarize, the complainants contend that segregation of Mexican-American children within the school building, based upon their limited ability to speak and understand English is illegal because 1.) Separating these children from English speaking children retards their ability to speak English rather than enhance it, and 2.) The district has failed to give any special remedial instructions to correct the so-called defects once the children are segregated. The end result of the system is that it accomplishes nothing other than segregation of Mexican-American children from Anglo children.

Mr. Ramsey Clark

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January 2, 1968

Copies of the depositions of the school superintendent and the school principals involved are being forwarded to you under separate cover. The court has indicated that this matter will be set for final hearing in March.

I enjoyed our meeting very much and I am grateful to you for the time you gave me, Dr. Garcia and Commissioner Ximenes. Although I recognize the problems involved, I feel that the active participation of your office in these cases will bring about an early solution to the segregation problem in South Texas.

A review of the statistical information pertaining to the Odem Schools and the failure of the Odem system is a fair and typical example of the type of education our state is giving Mexican-American children. Help us.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES DE ANDA

JDA:st
Encls.

cc: Dr. Hector P. Garcia

Commissioner Vicente Ximenes