

American GI Forum

304 NORTH MONROE
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

VICENTE T. XIMENES
Chairman

ROBERTO ESPARZA
Vice-Chairman

ANTONIO TORRES
Secretary

JOSEPH ARAGON
Treasurer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RAY BACA

MANUEL CHAVEZ

BALTAZAR MARTINEZ

Feb. 12, 1952

Hector P. Garcia, M.D.
3024 Morgan Ave
Corpus Christi, Texas

Dear Hector,

Sorry that I had not answered sooner, but at present I seem to be a little short of time. First, let me thank you very much for the money order that you sent. No need to tell you that it can be used to good advantage, and that it will be used in the manner which will be the GI Forum the most good. I can assure you that the GI Forum in Albuquerque is doing quite well. Do not worry about it. If things go well, we may make the GI Forum of Albuquerque one of the strongest organizations in town.

My only regret is that I have not been able to get out to the surrounding communities to get others started. We have people looking into the towns of Alamogordo and Santa Fe for possibilities. We want persons who will have enough faith in our organization that they will be willing to put some time in it.

We sold the three caps that you sent at our last meeting. I announced that it was a gift from you and the Forum sends you their heartfelt thanks. Enclosed is a check for \$20.00 for which you can send me the number of caps that that will buy. Send assorted sizes. There are enough members that signed up for caps that are willing to buy them. We sold them for \$3.50 as you suggested.

I have been away from Floresville since 1942, and therefore I do not know who lives there anymore. The only person that I can think of at the moment is Cassy Garza. He teaches at what as far as I am concerned is a segregated school. The name of the school is Lodi school. I believe the person who controls the school is still Benito Jimenez (a relative who is supposed to be respectable, but for all intents and purposes a "coyote"). He sells out the vote of the Mexicanos in return for a post as the county commissioner of ~~Wilcox~~ precinct 1. However election time is just around the corner and you may be able to get him to help Cassy Garza to begin a GI Forum in Floresville. I may be home sometime in June, so if by then nothing has been done I will try to set up a meeting for you.

We've engaged in a tough fight with the Home Builders Association with reference to low cost housing. They have sent one of their best "hatchet men" to put a stop to our project. The committee on housing composed of Florentino Garza, Roberto Reyes, and Eugene Hill (Mejicano) and myself met with him about a week ago. He invited us to see if we would consider dropping the project. He even implied that the Home Builders might help us out financially with the GI Forum. We told the SOB to go to hell. There are certain principles that we do not compromise. What I am telling you now is just between you and I since we promised not to discuss the meeting or to publicize it. When he found out that we were not for sale, he threatened to call us names, I suppose he meant socialism etc. We told him to go right ahead, but only at his own risk because we believe that a court suit can be brought against him if he does.

Knowing that he might be stupid enough to do just that, I immediately contacted Monsignor Bradley in Santa Fe. The Archbishop was to be in Albuquerque on the following Sunday to dedicate a refuge for destitute persons. I asked him to say something on housing in Albuquerque. The result was that three fourths of his talk was on housing and he made specific reference to the Housing Act of 1949. Furthermore, Monsignor Garcia is 100% behind us. In fact, in the very near future we are going to hold a public meeting at the Sacred Heart Gym to hear the pros and cons of housing. This was at the request of Monsignor Garcia.

The enclosed clippings give you an idea of our activities. The one on GI Forum replies hit the front page of the Journal. The Chamber of Commerce came out against low cost housing without hearing our side of the issue. Pressure was applied on the Chamber of Commerce for their decision. The letter that Tino Garza wrote which is enclosed is representative of what was done. The result was that they have invited Professor Cline who is on our side as well as being chairman of the State Housing Board, to speak at their next meeting.

Wish me luck and you might even do a little praying, for if we pull this deal, the GI Forum of Albuquerque will be something to be reckoned with in Albuquerque.

In the meantime, rest assured that we will try to expand the GI Forum in New Mexico.

Tu Amigo,

