

MEXICAN AMERICAN JOINT CONFERENCE

June 1, 1968

Texas State Board of Public Welfare
302 West 15th
Austin, Texas

Gentlemen:

The press states that your Mr. Burton Hackney has made derogatory remarks about Mexican American mothers, and that ignorance, not poverty, accounts for most of the malnutrition in Texas. He is quoted as saying "if a Mexican (sic) woman had a bushel of money she would still feed those kids tortillas and beans."

If these reports are correct they reflect abysmal ignorance and irresponsibility. In the first place, ignorance is not inherited, and is not an ethnic trait. Secondly, what is wrong with tortillas and beans (even granted that his untrue statement were to be accepted)? Has he made a dietetic evaluation as to vitamin content, etc.? Others have, and no fault was found -- especially if the beans are "laced" with chile! But "Mexican" mothers are not unaware of what is good for children. They feed them more wholesomely than many non-Latin parents.

I join other responsible citizens in asking that this man be fired. Such stupidity and arrogance is not to be tolerated. We two-and-a-half million Texans of Mexican descent don't pay taxes to subsidize sinecures for the likes of Hackney, much less to subsidize their insults to us.

Sincerely yours,

George I. Sánchez, Chairman