

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Ed Idar, Jr.

December 6, 1960

Family Background:

Ed Idar, Jr. was born on December 28, 1920 in Laredo, Webb County, Texas, and is now on the verge of 40 years of age. He is the son of Eduardo Idar and Irene Guerra de Idar. His father was born in Laredo also where he was a printer and publisher for many years prior to his death in March, 1947. His grandfather, Nicasio Idar, was born in Punto Isabel (now Port Isabel, Texas) and later moved to Laredo where he married and reared a large family. At one time the said Nicasio Idar was a Deputy United States Marshall and later was Justice of the Peace in Webb County for approximately fourteen years. C.N. Idar, one of Idar's uncles, was active as an organizer for the American Federation of Labor for many years prior to his death in the early 1930's. Another uncle, Federico Idar, was a railroad man in Mexico and in 1936 was elected to the Mexican Senate to represent the State of Nuevo Leon. He died in 1939. Idar's father and uncle, C.N. Idar, were among the founders of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

Ed Idar, Jr. married Miss Joan Stringer of Cadishead (near Manchester), Lancashire, England on September 25, 1943. His wife came to the United States in December, 1943 and is now a naturalized American citizen. They are the parents of two children: Rebecca Ann Idar, born in Austin, Texas on July 14, 1949, now 11 years old; and Edward Stanley Idar, born in Austin, Texas on April 30, 1955, now 5 years old. The entire family are members of the Catholic Church.

Educational Background:

Ed Idar, Jr. graduated from Martin High School in Laredo, Texas in May, 1938 and thereafter had one year of business college, also at Laredo. In September, 1946 he entered the University of

Texas at Austin, and in August, 1949 he received a Bachelor of Journalism degree, with honors, from the University. During this period he was made a member of the Phi Eta Sigma, a freshman honorary society, and of Sigma Delta Chi, an honorary journalism fraternity. Idar reentered the University in September, 1953 to work toward a law degree which he obtained in June, 1956. In his Law School work he graduated with an overall grade average of 78.

During both periods at the University of Texas, Idar worked part-time, as hereinafter set out, and had the aid of the so-called G. I. Bill the first time and a scholarship from the John Hay Whitney Foundation the second time.

Employment Background:

- 1940 --Employed as secretary to W. J. Lemoine, principal of Martin High School, Laredo, Texas.
- Feb., 1941
to
April, 1944 --Employed at Duncan Field (now part of Kelly Field) in San Antonio, Texas until September, 1942 when he went to England with a group of civilian employees to work at an Eight Air Force installation, Burtonwood Air Base, near Warrington, Lancashire, England. His civil service rating during this employment ranged from Under-Clerk Typist, CAF-1, to Senior Clerk, CAF-5. He had obtained permanent status in the U.S. Civil Service but resigned the same on his return from military service in 1946.
- April, 1944
to
June, 1946 --Inducted into Army of the United States as a Private and discharged honorably as a Technical Sergeant. Served one year in the continental United States and one year in China with about six weeks in India. In China he was assigned to Headquarters, Services of Supply, at Kunming and later to China Theater Headquarters at Shanghai. He holds the Army Commendation Ribbon, Bronze Star Medal, and several service ribbons.

July

and

August, 1946

--Worked temporarily as clerk with the Railway Express Agency in Laredo, Texas, resigning to enter the University of Texas.

Oct., 1946

to

Aug., 1947

-- Part-time employment while at University as secretary to Vann M. Kennedy who at that time was the Secretary to the Texas State Democratic Executive Committee and who now is the owner of Radio Station KSLX in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Sept., 1947

to

Aug., 1949

--Part-time employment while at University with Joe K. Hornaday, owner of Hornaday's Publicity, now located at Perry-brooks Building, Austin, Texas.

Sept., 1949

to

August, 1950

--Full-time employment with Hornaday upon graduation from the University.

Sept., 1950

to

June, 1956

--Full-time employment as assistant to Dr. George I. Sanchez, Professor at the University of Texas, who was the Executive Director of the American Council of Spanish Speaking People until that organization dissolved about 1954 or 1955. During this time in 1950 and 1951 was also State Chairman of the American GI Forum of Texas and from 1952 to 1956 was Executive Secretary for the organization.

July, 1956

to

Dec., 1956

--Partner in law firm of Roel, Sanchez and Idar
in the McAllen office of said firm.

Jan., 1957

to

Feb., 1958

--Self-employed as practicing attorney in Laredo,
Texas.

Mar., 1958

to

July, 1958

--Associate in practice of law with Magnus F.
Smith in McAllen, Texas. Mr. Smith will be-
come Judge of the 93rd Judicial District Court
of Hidalgo County on January 1, 1961.

Aug., 1958

to

Present

--Partner in law firm of Sanchez and Idar, 223
South 17th Street, McAllen, Texas. Also,
starting in November, 1958 to the present, Idar
has again been the Executive Secretary for the
American GI Forum of Texas.

Professional Background:

Idar obtained his law degree from the University of Texas in June, 1956. Prior thereto he had taken and passed the Texas bar exams and had been admitted to the Bar by the Supreme Court of Texas on April 23, 1956. He was admitted to the Bar of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas at Laredo on March 15, 1957. He was also admitted to practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Immigration and Naturalization Service on August 13, 1956.

Idar is a member of the Texas State Bar Association and of the Hidalgo County Bar Association.

Idar's experience as an attorney has been mostly in general practice including workmen's compensation and personal injury litigation, administration and probate, real estate transactions, criminal law and some appellate work including preparation of briefs and oral arguments.

General Experience:

With respect to office administration and routine, Idar has had extensive experience since prior to his entry into the legal profession all of his experience was along clerical lines. When employed by the American Council of Spanish Speaking People and in his position as State Chairman and Executive Secretary of the American GI Forum of Texas, he was in charge of the central headquarters office of both organizations and in that connection had as his responsibility administrative duties in connection therewith. In addition he did extensive travel in Texas, New Mexico, Colorado and California for the purpose of visiting with various groups to discuss the program of the two organizations but principally that of the GI Forum. Because of his activity with the GI Forum, he is well-known among the Spanish-speaking population in Texas and elsewhere. Furthermore, he is intimately familiar with the problems of that population group. An example of his interest and knowledge is his work as part of the field team which gathered the data and information for the report known as "What Price Wetbacks," a copy of which is attached to this biographical sketch.

Although Idar holds a journalism degree from the University of Texas, he never did acquire experience in newspaper work but did have considerable experience in publicity and public relations while working for Joe R. Hornaday in Austin. His duties there included editing and writing for various house organs; re-writes for trade journals and publications such as the Cotton Trade Journal and the Produce News; writing copy for local and state candidates for public office; and preparation of radio spots.

In the field of politics, Idar has been active since 1950 on the local, county and state level and with the bulk of his work being among the Spanish-speaking population. His political philosophy is generally liberal as exemplified by liberal Northern and Eastern Democratic Party leadership in contrast to the Southern Democratic Party Conservative

leadership. Idar was a supporter of Senator Ralph Yarborough of Texas in all of his campaigns, beginning in 1952. In 1952 he was a member of the so-called 'Maverick Delegation' to the Democratic National Convention at Chicago which contested the seating of the Shivers-led delegation. His political activity has included precinct and county organizational work among Spanish-speaking voters; writing and editing of news copy for newspaper and radio publicity; stump, radio, and television talks in Spanish and English; voter registration drives and travel throughout Texas, particularly the South Texas and Mexican border areas. He was the organizer of the Viva Kennedy Club of Hidalgo County, Texas on August 23, 1960 and helped organize branches at Alamo, San Juan, Donna, McAllen and Edinburg. Idar has acquired extensive knowledge of the political situation and leadership among the Spanish-speaking population in Texas as a result of his political activity and his association with the GI Forum.

In respect to civic work over and beyond that done through the GI Forum, Idar was a member of the citizen group that re-wrote the Charter for the City of Austin in or about 1953 and is a member of the Committee of Seventy-Five set up by the University of Texas in 1957 although he was not able to contribute substantially to the work of this group. He was also a member of a citizen advisory committee set up by the Board of Trustees of the McAllen Independent School District in the spring of 1960 and as a member thereof wrote the minority report of that committee the recommendations of which have now been adopted by the School Board. A copy of this minority report is attached herewith for further reference.

with respect to particular skills, Idar is highly proficient in writing, reading and speaking of the Spanish language in addition to English. He also is proficient in the use of the typewriter (80 words per minute) and Gregg shorthand (120 words per minute). He also has some knowledge of bookkeeping and accounting but has never done much work in those fields.