

Nick V. Fernandez, P.E.
801 South Tanchua
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401
March 15, 1978

Dr. Hector Garcia
American G.I. Forum of Texas
1315 Bright
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia

In regards to your request for recommendations concerning the problem of unemployment during the meeting last night at your office I would like to offer the following observations.

- (1) The problem of unemployment
 - (a) begins initially at home in the case of the economically underprivileged person who is now a parent with limited resources, both monetary and philosophical, to pass on to his children; and (b) then continues through the public school career of the young person who because of absence of encouragement caused by his economic deprivation, shows little interest in his school studies. This person then may be ignored by the school counselor and written off as a casualty of the educational system.

These conditions, I would like to add, occur primarily among minorities who have not had the opportunity to improve their standard of life.

Action which may be helpful in reducing the problem of unemployment includes

- (1) educational programs for adults designed to instill confidence and pride in themselves and their heritage;
- (2) improved counseling facilities for all school children.

And

- (3) the realization that people have to have a skill or craft that is in current demand and that therefore, a person may have to be trained and retrained several different times during his life in order to remain actively employed.

My congratulations to your efforts in improving our standards of living and all you have done for our community.

Sincerely


Nick V. Fernandez, P.E.