



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

DEC 1 1970

Dr. Hector P. Garcia, Chairman
American G. I. Forum of the U.S.
1315 Bright Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

We have received your three wires and two letters concerning civil rights compliance problems in school districts with substantial numbers of Mexican-American students. This office is aware of the nature of the problems you refer to and appreciates your keeping us informed of possible violations of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In regard to your inquiries as to specific districts, the following districts have been reviewed and will be reviewed again in the near future (the purpose of the second review will be to gather information on developments since the initial review and to prepare for enforcement action, unless recent developments have made such action unnecessary):

Shallowater ISD, Texas
Wilson ISD, Texas
Carlsbad ISD, New Mexico
Las Cruces ISD, New Mexico
Hobbs ISD, New Mexico
Clovis ISD, New Mexico

Pecos ISD, Texas and Wharton ISD, Texas have been notified that compliance action will be initiated if certain practices which discriminate against Mexican-Americans are not corrected.

The reviews of El Paso ISD, Texas and Beeville ISD, Texas have been completed and the results are being analyzed in the Dallas Regional Office. The report of the Uvalde ISD, Texas review is now being analyzed in our Washington Office for possible enforcement action.

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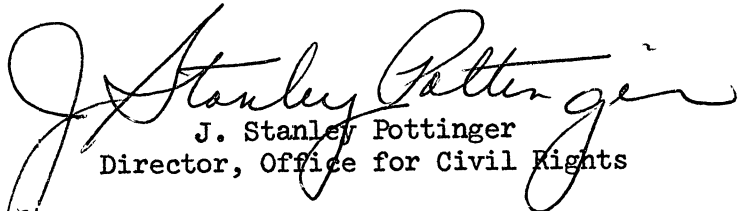
No plans for further action in Crystal City ISD, Texas have been made at this time to allow local Mexican-American officials, who have recently gained control of the school board and city government, to work out the district's problems.

Taft ISD, Texas and Mathis ISD, Texas are not scheduled for reviews at this time. However, the information which you submitted on these districts will be considered in scheduling future reviews.

It is true that few Mexican-Americans are employed in our Washington Office. We have three Mexican-Americans on our Washington professional staff: Mr. Don Morales, Mr. Frank Cancino, and Mr. Emile Cardiel. However, Mr. Vela's statement that no Mexican-Americans are employed in policy-making positions in our regional offices was not correct. For example, the staff of the Dallas, Texas Regional Office includes six Mexican-Americans. Of these, one, Mr. Roberto Gonzales is Deputy Regional Director, and two, Mr. Juan Ibarra and Mr. Juan Aragon, are State Coordinators. We do recognize the need for more Mexican-Americans on our staff, especially in the Washington Office, and would welcome any references of Mexican-American applicants to our office. Mr. Pedro Esquivel is no longer with this office, but we would be happy to send another representative to confer with you on such references.

Thank you for your information. We hope that this letter has answered your questions.

Sincerely yours,



J. Stanley Pottinger
Director, Office for Civil Rights

cc: Regional Civil Rights Director
Chief State School Officer



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Dr. Hector P. Garcia
1315 Bright Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

I appreciate your kind invitation to address the American GI Forum National Convention in Flint, Michigan, and I look forward to meeting with members of the convention. The July 31 date is preferable. I would hope to be able to talk to the delegates about how this department is implementing its recent policy statement on educational discrimination against national origin minority group pupils.

This will also be a good opportunity to meet you for the first time and I look forward to that.

Sincerely yours,

J. Stanley Pottinger
J. Stanley Pottinger
Director, Office for Civil Rights