

Department of Justice
Washington

OCT 13 1969

Dr. Hector Garcia
1315 Bright Street
Corpus Christi, Texas

Dear Dr. Garcia:

The Attorney General has asked me to respond to your telegram relating to the hiring of a Mexican-American and the establishment of a separate civil rights section to handle complaints filed by Spanish surnamed people.

With respect to hiring, I would like to assure you our policy is one which accepts applications from everyone who would like to apply. At present we are in the process of reviewing the application of a Mexican-American and we hope to have him on board as soon as is feasible. Additionally, we welcome any referrals that you might have to offer us.

Further our policy is one that gives greatest attention to all cases and complaints brought before this Department by any and all sources. We believe this will enhance meaningful civil rights enforcement for all our citizens regardless of race, creed, color or national origin.

Thank you for communicating with the Attorney General.

Sincerely,



JERRIS LEONARD
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20350

IN REPLY REFER TO
17 October 1969

Dr. H. P. Garcia, M.D.
1315 Bright Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

Lieutenant (junior grade) Mal Carter, editor of DIRECTION Magazine, has been in touch with me regarding his conversation with you some weeks ago.

As I understand it, he requested that you write an article for his magazine based on the speech you made here. If you have the time, I think it would be beneficial for you to consider writing the article, for DIRECTION goes to all commanding officers and public affairs officers around the world.

In putting together such an article, you may want to stress the often unintentional biases against minority groups; the special difficulties faced by members of minority groups; the steps individuals can take to provide truly equal opportunity for minority group members; and the methods by which persons in an organization like the Navy can improve the lot of minority groups both within and without the organization, that is, through both internal and community relations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Mancias Jr.", is positioned above the typed name.

JOE MANCIAS JR.
Lieutenant, U. S. Navy

P. S. Three to six double-spaced pages would probably be appropriate.



The Urban Coalition

2100 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037
(202) 293-7625

Chairman John W. Gardner
Co-chairman Andrew Heiskell
A. Philip Randolph

December 3, 1969

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

Dear Dr. Garcia:

As you may know, we have a staff Mexican-American and Puerto Rican Committee which we have established at the Coalition. Its purpose is to recommend action steps to the executive staff regarding Coalition programs and interests of Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans. This committee consists of staff members from all divisions within the Coalition.

Since Senator Joe Bernal was arriving for the Steering Committee Meeting early and I invited him to meet with the staff committee on December 10 at 10 a.m., I thought if you are going to be here that morning you might wish to join Senator Bernal and the committee.

I think it would be a good opportunity for the committee to relate what they are trying to do and exchange ideas with you.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Peter Libassi
Executive Vice President



The Urban Coalition

2100 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037
(202) 293-7625

Chairman John W. Gardner
Co-chairmen Andrew Heiskell
A. Philip Randolph

*Posted
11-18-69*

November 13, 1969

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

Dear Dr. Garcia:

I want to urge that you make a special effort to attend the meeting of the Steering Committee on December 10. The agenda will include discussion of the very critical fiscal problems facing our cities and consideration of the role of the Urban Coalition in helping the cities cope with these problems.

I believe the meeting will be an interesting one. I believe also that it will be an important one.

The meeting will start at 3:30 p.m., on Wednesday, December 10 in Washington. We will have dinner and a brief evening session which should adjourn at approximately 9:30 p.m. I do hope that you will be able to be present. Further details will follow.

Sincerely,

Chairman



The Urban Coalition

2100 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037
(202) 293-7625

Chairman John W. Gardner
Co-chairmen Andrew Heiskell
A. Philip Randolph

November 28, 1969

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

Dear Dr. Garcia:

I am looking forward to seeing you at the December 10 Steering Committee Meeting. It will be held at the Statler-Hilton beginning at 4 p.m. Mayors Lindsay and Stokes have been asked to lead off our meeting with a presentation on the fiscal needs of the cities.

In addition, there will be some discussion and decisions on the issues we feel must be pursued in 1970. At the dinner Georgia State Senator Julian Bond will be the speaker. The day's activities are expected to conclude by 8:30 p.m.

If my office can assist you in any way, please feel free to call on us.

Sincerely,

Peter Libassi
Executive Vice President

THE URBAN COALITION ACTION COUNCIL

2100 M Street, N.W. • Washington, D. C. 20037

(202) 293-7625

JOHN W. GARDNER
Chairman

ANDREW HEISKELL
A. PHILIP RANDOLPH
Co-chairmen

LOWELL R. BECK
Executive Director

December 24, 1969

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

Dear Dr. Garcia:

Several days ago the Senate voted 53 to 35 to allow foundation funds to be used for voter registration programs, thus overriding the Finance Committee's move to prohibit the use of tax-exempt funds for this purpose. We had asked your help on this important issue, and many of you responded.

Two weeks ago the federal anti-poverty program was threatened by a move in the House of Representatives to channel all federal anti-poverty funds and programs through state governors. This amendment would have had a serious impact on many urban programs. A delegation from our Policy Council called on Secretaries Finch and Shultz, OEO Director Rumsfeld, and several members of Congress to urge continuation of the present anti-poverty program.

In addition, telegrams signed by each Policy Council member attending last week's meeting were sent to President Nixon and each member of Congress. Local coalitions were urged to support the campaign to save OEO. Many local coalition officials contacted their Congressmen immediately.

These efforts capped the very effective work that many policy Council members and their representatives, together with other organizations, had been doing for several weeks. We are very pleased to report that on December 12 the House rejected the amendment which we opposed and voted to extend present OEO programs.

The last two weeks have shown us what can be done when many work together to accomplish a common result. We are grateful to those who took part in this effort.

Sincerely,


Chairman

HOUSE BARS SHIFT ON POVERTY PLAN

Liberals Block G.O.P. Move
to Give Rule to States

By MARJORIE HUNTER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 — Democratic liberals succeeded tonight in blocking a Republican move that would shift control of a key antipoverty program to the states. The vote was 231 to 163.

The action marked a stunning defeat for a powerful coalition of Republican and Southern Democrats seeking to give Governors control over the community action programs.

Earlier, Democratic leaders had sent up a loud cheer when they learned they had defeated the state-control plan by a non-recorded vote of 183 to 166.

Backers of the state-control plan then made a final try, failing this time on the 231-to-163 roll-call vote.

The bill—calling for a two-year, \$2.343-billion extension of the antipoverty program virtually unchanged—then passed the House by a vote of 276 to 117. The bill now goes to conference with the Senate, which passed a similar measure earlier this fall.

Throughout the day-long debate, Democratic liberals all but conceded that they did not have the votes to turn back the usually dominant coalition of Republicans and Southern Democrats.

Yet they scored a double victory, not only blocking the state-control plan, but also succeeding in retaining \$295-million added in committee to the Administration's proposed \$2.048-billion bill.

It was apparent that many Republicans, confident of victory, had decided their votes would not be needed and had left for home before the crucial vote.

For days, Democratic liberals had insisted that President Nixon alone held the key to the future of the antipoverty program. He had called for a simple two-year extension of the program, without changes.

However, with the House Republican leadership firmly committed to shifting control to the states, the President did not personally seek to line up Republican support for a simple two-year extension.

Instead, at his news conference on Monday, Mr. Nixon said he hoped that his antipoverty director, Donald Rumsfeld, could take some kind of "accommodation" with critics of the program.

Heeding the President's advice, sponsors of the state-control plan modified their earlier proposal by permitting the director of the Office of Economic Opportunity greater leeway in overriding vetoes of Governors over local community action programs.

They also provided the O.E.O. director with several methods of by-passing states that failed to adequately fund local programs.

Even with these modifications, Mr. Rumsfeld spoke out today against the Republican substitute proposal.

Exemptions Pile Up

In hour after hour of debate today, several moderate Republicans and Democratic liberals stripped the state-control plan even further.

The Head Start program of pre-school training for the poor was exempted from state control by voice vote.

The family planning program was also exempted by a vote of 75 to 26.

And the House voted, 96 to 41, to exempt from state control all community action programs on Indian reservations.

In the end, the proposed state-control plan was limited primarily to non-Indian community action programs and to Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA).

Of all the antipoverty programs enacted five years ago under a Democratic Administration, community action has drawn the most fire, particularly in urban areas where the newly organized poor have staged rent strikes and other demonstrations.

This year, the antipoverty agency has funded 969 community action programs serving about six million poor in some 2,000 counties, both urban and rural.

The community programs vary from place to place, offering such aid as health services, emergency food and medical services, aid to migrant workers, legal services and consumer counseling.

OEO Gets New Life in House Vote

By SHIRLEY ELDER

Star Staff Writer

In an upset that startled nearly everyone involved, the House has voted to give the Office of Economic Opportunity a two-year, \$2.3 billion lease on life.

It was a rebuff to House Republican leaders, a victory for former member, OEO Director Donald Rumsfeld, and a mixed blessing for President Nixon.

The key vote came yesterday on a motion to substitute a bill shifting most OEO programs to the states. It lost, 231 to 163.

The antipoverty measure then was approved, 276 to 117, and sent to a conference with the Senate.

"I am pleased and darn grateful," Rumsfeld said after the vote.

He said he would work for continued reform within OEO and said the bill's approval shouldn't be interpreted as full approval of what has gone on in this agency."

Although Nixon had asked Congress for a simple two-year, \$2-billion-a-year extension of OEO, his support in recent days was seen as less than enthusiastic. At his press conference last Monday the President said he backed Rumsfeld but urged him to seek an accommodation with House leaders.

There was no evidence that the White House took an active role in lobbying for the bill. Rumsfeld carried the fight in dozens of meetings with congressmen, frequently urging that he be given a chance to correct OEO problems on his own.

Vote for Substitute

On the House floor, the opposition was led by GOP Leader Gerald R. Ford of Michigan and William H. Ayres of Ohio, the top Republican on the Education and Labor Committee.

They joined forces with Southern Democrats behind a substitute bill drafted by Reps. Albert

H. Quie, R-Minn., and Edith Green, D-Ore., that would have sharply changed OEO's course.

Up to the moment when House members filed down the center aisle in an unofficial "teller" vote, friends and foes of OEO alike were predicting victory for the substitute.

Ayres, who acted as floor leader for the Quie-Green bill, said he knew they were losing when clusters of Republicans and conservative Democrats joined OEO supporters. The "teller" vote was 183 to 166.

Ayres called the vote a personal triumph for Rumsfeld and sent him a telegram: "The Rumsfeld Raiders rode again. Congratulations. Good luck on the mess you inherited but don't say you didn't ask for it."

Rep. Joe D. Waggonner, D-La., a leader of the Southern forces, said many congressmen from Border States broke away

from the substitute bill, even though critical of OEO, because they did not want to turn antipoverty programs over to Republican governors. He mentioned Arkansas, West Virginia, Oklahoma, Florida and Kentucky.

Ayres said he had assumed that nearly all Republicans, long committed to decentralization of federal programs, would vote for the substitute. In the end, 63 Republicans voted against it.

A breakdown on the key vote shows those 63 Republicans joining 168 Democrats against the substitute and 60 Democrats voting with 103 Republicans for it.

Both Reps. Jcel T. Broyhill, R-Va., and William Scott, R-Va., voted against extending the antipoverty program. Reps. Lawrence J. Hogan, R-Md., and Gilbert Gude, R-Md., voted for it on final passage, although Hogan voted for the earlier substitute.

Credit for the OEO victory also must go, Waggonner said, to OEO itself and its constituency in urban areas where opposition to the substitute was organized hurriedly over the last week.

Telegrams, letters and telephone calls from mayors all added up. "After the pressure was on, we never had a chance," he said.

Began A Week Ago

The pressure began more than a week ago when Quie and Mrs. Green unveiled their substitute bill. Debate was scheduled for the next day but Education and Labor Committee Chairman Carl D. Perkins, D-Ky., yanked the administration bill off the calendar to bargain for time.

As yesterday's long day of poverty talk began, OEO critics were optimistic and its defenders gloomy. Both Democratic whip Hale Boggs of Louisiana and Majority Leader Carl Albert of Oklahoma said they did not have the votes to win.

Perkins said strong Republican support was essential for victory. He urged at least 55 Republicans to "come forward and support your President." No one expected that anywhere near 63 would answer the call.

The tone of the debate reflected the prevailing attitudes. OEO backers offered little resistance to the substitute. A few relatively minor amendments were adopted. There were frequent shouts of "vote, vote" to keep the action moving.

The substitute would have given governors a veto over VISTA and community action programs and would have permitted states to establish separate agencies to operate the anti-poverty program.

Head Start Funds

The bill that passed leaves OEO as it is and authorizes \$295 million extra for Head Start, job training and health services.

The bill now goes to conference with a similar Senate version passed Oct. 14 that authorizes \$4.8 billion over two years.

Joining in the end-of-session rush, the Senate Appropriations Committee went ahead yesterday and put nearly \$2 billion into an appropriation bill for OEO even though final action on the authorization cannot come until some time next week.

House Extends Antipoverty Law

By Richard L. Lyons
Washington Post Staff Writer

The House voted to extend the war on poverty through mid-1971 last night after rejecting—in a spectacular upset—a proposal to give the states control over most anti-poverty programs.

The state-control plan, supported by most Republicans and Southern Democrats, was defeated 231 to 163 on a roll call vote.

The House went on to pass the bill extending the life of the Office of Economic Opportunity by a vote of 276 to 117. The bill now goes to a House-Senate conference where the major difference is a Senate amendment giving governors a veto over legal services for the poor.

Rejection of the state-control plan was a shock to both supporters and opponents. Its approval had been conceded in advance by almost everyone, especially after its sponsors offered last-minute concessions.

President Nixon had asked for a simple extension of the present program. But when the bill was taken up yesterday after six months of maneuvering, his principal support came from liberal Democrats who distrust the ability or will of the states to operate meaningful antipoverty programs.

Donald Rumsfeld, director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, which runs the program, strongly opposed the state-control plan. At his news conference Monday night, the President expressed support for Rumsfeld, but also expressed hope that an "accommodation" could be reached. This made it seem even more likely that some version of state control would pass the House.

Several reasons were offered for defeat of the state-control plan. One was that the week's delay Democrats won when the substitute was introduced last week allowed time for a mail and personal lobbying campaign.

A number of conservative Democrats from states with Republican governors voted against turning the program over to them. Some Republican votes probably went to Rumsfeld, their former colleague, as a personal matter.

And several members who had voted against a strong voting rights bill Thursday switched to oppose state control, perhaps not wishing to cast what could be regarded as votes against the poor on consecutive days.

On the key vote, 168 Democrats and 63 Republicans voted against state control,

while 103 Republicans and 60 Democrats voted for it.

OEO deals directly with communities, with a minimum of state supervision. The substitute proposal would have permitted governors to take control of most of the controversial programs that come under the umbrella of community action on the local level.

It was chiefly a desire to get tighter control over the local programs, which the poor themselves help run, that motivated the campaign for state control.

Supporters of state control insisted that they were not trying to dismantle OEO, but rather were trying to give authority to state officials who have a better grasp of problems in their states.

But when Rep. William H. Ayres (R-Ohio), a leading cosponsor of the state-control plan, was asked by reporters if it wouldn't take away most of OEO's authority, he said:

"We are only taking away his (Rumsfeld's) canoe. He's still got his paddle."

In an effort to attract votes of moderate Republicans supporting Rumsfeld, a former member of the House, the state-control forces offered yesterday to make concessions that would give him some power to act if states did not operate effective programs.

But Rep. Carl Perkins (D-Ky.), chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee and floor manager of the administration's extension bill, called the revised substitute "as destructive" as the original state-control plan.

Speaker John W. McCormack (D-Mass.) urged defeat of the substitute, saying the issue was one of "money values versus human values."

OEO Backers Fought Alone

By Eve Edstrom

Washington Post Staff Writer

Of all the strategy meetings that took place during the week that the Office of Economic Opportunity won the battle for its life in the House, one unpublicized session is fast becoming the talk of the town.

It was set up by the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and took place on Capitol Hill. As 11th-hour assignments to gain Congressional support for OEO were about to be made, an extraordinary precautionary move was taken.

The representative from OEO was asked to leave the room.

"We couldn't take any chances," one civil rights legislative technician said. "We just couldn't be sure OEO was walking down the same side of the street with us."

Despite statements by OEO Director Donald Rumsfeld that the Nixon administration stood behind its bill to keep OEO intact, there were numerous reasons why OEO's chief supporters distrusted the administration.

At a news conference Dec. 8, President Nixon had expressed hope that an "accommodation" could be reached on the OEO legislation.

To many OEO supporters, this meant that some version of a substitute bill giving control of most OEO programs to the states would be acceptable to the administration.

Efforts by the Nation's mayors and Urban Coalition Action Council members to get Mr. Nixon to make a strong statement against the substitute bill failed.

And labor and civil rights legislative technicians were frustrated by OEO's failure to even come up with a head count of Republicans who could be relied on to vote against the substitute.

"The only thing that makes sense is to share information," the AFL-CIO's Kenneth Young said. "But we got next to nothing from OEO."

"This is just the opposite of what happened in the last few days when we worked closely with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare against the

Whitten amendment to curtail Federal school desegregation powers."

The Urban Coalition Action Council's Lowell R. Beck found it highly unusual that there was no overall administration strategy to guide those who were fighting for OEO.

'Not the Main Cog'

"I've been around here for 10 years and you usually work to supplement and support administration efforts," he said. "You're not the main cog in developing strategy to pass administration legislation."

But those working for OEO's survival found they not only were the "main cog" in mapping out strategy but that some of their efforts were being scuttled by OEO representatives.

While the coalition of OEO supporters was working to kill the state-control substitute, OEO was consulting with House members on amendments to make the substitute more palatable.

"We were violently opposed to perfecting the substitute and history proved

us right," civil rights leader Joseph L. Rauh Jr. said. "The administration was ready to settle for much less."

Therefore, the OEO representatives was asked to leave the Leadership Conference meeting on Dec. 10, because supporters of OEO felt it unwise to share their strategy with the agency.

'In The Dark'

"They let us work in the dark," one civic leader said. "I get sick every time I read how the administration pulled off a great legislative coup."

"A lot of blood, sweat and tears went into this battle, but it would have been as easy as pie if we had received White House support."

No one discounts the fact that Rumsfeld was highly successful in preventing some of his former colleagues in the House from handing most of the poverty programs over to the states when the crucial vote came on Dec. 12.

But numerous other factors were involved. Not to be underestimated is the fact that 38 members who had voted to scrap a strong voting rights law the previous night switched to oppose state control of the poverty programs.

"They just didn't want to fire two bullets in a row at the poor," one observed said. "It's entirely possible that we could have won the voting rights fight and lost the poverty one if the legislation had been taken up in reverse."

Of equal importance was the intensive lobbying effort that the Nation's mayors conducted against taking poverty programs away from local officials.

Their effort was similar to that mounted by the American Bar Association when it was responsible for knocking out a Senate-passed amendment to give governors control of legal programs for the poor.

And in all the hubbub over the poverty bill, scant attention was paid to the role that the governors did not play.

With few exceptions, the governors did not embrace the idea of being saddled with OEO. As one reportedly said:

"Hell, who wants to have the Statehouse blamed for OEO's problems. It's much easier to blast Washington."

Department of Justice
Washington

OCT 13 1969

Dr. Hector Garcia
1315 Bright Street
Corpus Christi, Texas

Dear Dr. Garcia:

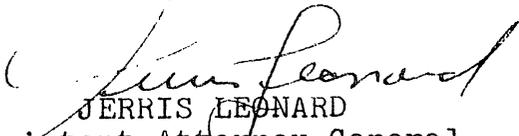
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With respect to hiring, I would like to assure you our policy is one which accepts applications from everyone who would like to apply. At present we are in the process of reviewing the application of a Mexican-American and we hope to have him on board as soon as is feasible. Additionally, we welcome any referrals that you might have to offer us.

Further our policy is one that gives greatest attention to all cases and complaints brought before this Department by any and all sources. We believe this will enhance meaningful civil rights enforcement for all our citizens regardless of race, creed, color or national origin.

Thank you for communicating with the Attorney General.

Sincerely,


JERRIS LEONARD
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division