

SEPTEMBER 4, 1961

HONORABLE ARTHUR GOLDBERG
U. S. SECRETARY OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEAR MR. GOLDBERG:

FIRST I WISH TO THANK YOU AGAIN SINCERELY FOR ALL OF YOUR KIND ATTENTION THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN US. YOUR VISIT HERE WAS GREAT, A SOURCE OF ENJOYMENT, AND ALSO OF INSPIRATION TO US KNOWING FULLY WELL THAT THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION IS LOOKING UP FOR INTEREST AND CERTAINLY HELPING US WITH THE PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OF MEXICAN ORIGIN. IT IS INDEED WITH REGRET THAT WE HAVE TO ASK YOU TO PLEASE INVESTIGATE THE VIOLATION OF THE PUBLIC LAW 78, BECAUSE OF DISCRIMINATION IN THE FOLLOWING PLACES.

FIRST, THE SWIMMING POOL IN SLATON, TEXAS WHICH IS ABOUT 20 MILES EAST OF LUBBOCK. SECOND, THE DISCRIMINATION IN THE WRIMMING POOL IN KENNEDY, TEXAS WHICH IS ABOUT 50 MILES EAST OF SAN ANTONIO. BOTH OF THESE PLACES WILL NOT LET ANM CHILDREN OF MEXICAN ORIGIN GO SWIMMING IN THERE. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, YOU CAN CONTACT ME OR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE CAN BE CONTACTED IN KENNEDY, TEXAS AND SLATON, TEXAS. IN KENNEDY, TEXAS YOU CAN CONTACT MR. PAUL CANTU, Box 523, KENEDY, TEXAS, AND IN SLATON, TEXAS, FELIX FLORES, Box 653.

WE THEREFORE ARE ASKING FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PEOPLE OF MEXICAN ORIGIN AND CONSEQUENTLY WE ARE ASKING TO PLEASE REMOVE ALL THE BRACEROS FROM THESE TWO COUNTIES UNTIL THE SITUATION IS COMPLETELY CLEARIFIED AND OUR PEOPLE ARE PERMITTED TO SWIM.

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AS I HAVE MENTIONED TO YOU PREVIOUSLY, THERE HAS BEEN ACTION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ON THE REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION IN THESE CASES, SO YOU DO NOT HAVE TO WORRY.

WE ARE STILL VERY MUCH DISAPPOINTED IN YOUR REPORT OF THE IMPERIAL TEXAS DISCRIMINARY ACTION IN THE CAFE AND WE ARE DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE YOU SAID THAT IT WAS NOT A MUNICIPAL OR COMMUNITY ACTION.

WE DISAGREE WITH YOU BECAUSE AT LEAST 50% OF THE PEOPLE THERE ARE DISCRIMINATED SINCE ABOUT 50% OF THE PEOPLE THERE ARE PEOPLE OF MEXICAN ORIGIN. THEREFORE, THIS IS MORE THAN JUST AN INSULATED ACTION. FURTHERMORE, THE ANGLO AMERICANS, IF THEY WERE SINCERE IN THEIR EFFORTS AND PROVE THE CONDITIONS, WOULD ASK THIS MAN TO SERVE OUR PEOPLE. I HOPE THAT THIS MATTER WILL BE CLARIFIED VERY SOON BECAUSE WE ARE PLANNING IN TAKING SOME VERY IMPORTANT LATIN AMERICAN PEOPLE INTO THE RESTUARANT IN IMPERIAL, TEXAS AND WE HOPE THAT WE ARE NOT THROWN OUT.

THEREFORE, WE WOULD LIKE AGAIN FOR YOU TO SEND IN AN INVESTIGATOR THERE AND WE DISAGREE WITH THE REPORT AMENDED TO YOU. WE WOULD LIKE TO GET A COPY OF THE REPORT BECAUSE WE WOULD LIKE TO KEEP OURSELVES INFORMED AS TO WHO THIS INVESTIGATOR WAS WHO COMES OUT WITH SUCH A POOR EXCUSE IN SAYING THAT THIS IS NOT A DISCRIMATORY ACTION. CERTAINLY A PRIEST WHO HAPPENS NOT EVEN TO BE OF MEXICAN ORIGIN, BUT WHO HAPPENS TO HAVE BEEN BORN IN SPAIN, IS REFUSED SERVICE IN A CAFE. THE SITUATION HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH. AT THE SAME TIME, I DO NOT WANT YOU TO FEEL THAT WE ARE COMPLETELY DISAPPOINTED, WE ARE STILL HOPING THAT YOU WILL TAKE SOME ACTION IN THIS CASES. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THE REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION OF THE SWIMMING POOL IN SONORA, TEXAS REFUSED ADMISSION TO OUR PEOPLE. AS A RESULT FROM THE REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION REPORT, THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, THE PEOPLE THERE HAD TO OPEN THE POOL TO OUR CHILDREN. I HOPE THAT YOUR DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE TO DO AS MUCH FOR US. I REMAIN,

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

HECTOR P. GARCIA, M. D.

HPG/ms

CC: PRESIDENT KENNEDY
ROBERT F. KENNEDY
JAMES DE ANDA
PAUL CANTU