



INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON MEXICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

1800 G Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C. 20506 / 202-382-3691

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

June 20, 1968

Dear Dr. Colmen:

As you can see from the enclosed clippings, there is great discontent in the Mexican American community with the administration of the welfare program in the State of Texas.

The community has been thoroughly alienated by the recent statements of the Welfare Commissioner that if there is any malnutrition among Mexican American children, it stems from the ignorance of their mothers -- not poverty. As a result, Ambassador Garcia has called for Commissioner Hackney's dismissal.

The Commissioner's incredible statement is, unfortunately, not an isolated phenomenon. We would like the appropriate people at the Department to look into the staffing pattern of the State Department of Public Welfare because our information suggests that there must be discrimination in the hiring and promotional practices of the Department.

We have enclosed a list of the ranking 114 officials of the State Department; on this list we find only one name which may be Spanish, that of Ray Barron, a staff services assistant.

Given the million or more Texans of Mexican descent, it can be no coincidence that Mexican Americans are so under-represented on this list.

Please let us know what can be done about this situation.

Sincerely,

Vicente T. Ximenes
Chairman

Dr. Joseph G. Colmen
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Education
U. S. Department of Health,
Education and Welfare
Washington, D. C. 20201

Enclosures



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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 1968

Dear Mr. Perez:

Thank you for your July 4 letter to me informing me of the excellent news that the San Antonio Independent School District has chosen to participate in the National School Lunch Program. This is indeed good news and certainly the children of the school district owe you a great deal of gratitude for the part which you have played to make this possible.

I will be happy to offer you the assistance of this office in locating a position. Would you please complete the enclosed Standard Form 57, keeping one for your records and returning the other to me? Once we have received this information from you, we will be able to judge how to proceed.

Sincerely yours,

Vicente T. Ximenes
Chairman

Mr. Jesus Perez
Chairman
Central American GI Forum
of Bexar County
111 Goodwin Avenue
San Antonio, Texas 78204

Enclosures



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1800 G Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C. 20506 / 202-382-3691

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

August 3, 1968

Dear Hector:

The establishment of a National School Lunch Program in the San Antonio Independent School District is a wonderful benefit for the needy children of that school system and a matter for congratulation for the persistent efforts of the Chairman of the Central American GI Forum of Bexar County, Mr. Jesus Perez.

The Forum is to be commended for its recognition of an issue which effects the lives of so many Mexican American youngsters and for taking the initiative in contacting appropriate officials on the local and state level.

I know that Mr. Perez had previous contact with Mr. John Hicks, of the Texas Education Agency Food Service Division, and I feel sure that it was due at least in part to his effort that Mr. Hicks was brought to San Antonio to resolve the doubts of the school board members.

Enclosed is a copy of the letter which I sent to Mr. Perez. My congratulations again.

Sincerely,

Vicente T. Ximenes
Chairman

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

Enclosure