

Office of National Chairman

News Release

State Chairman Vicente B. Jasso in a most impressive ceremony installed the new officers of GI Forum #1 and Ladies Auxiliary and Forum #2. Nearly 100 members and their guests witnessed the installation, held at the new \$40,000 GI Forum building constructed by the members. The young GI Forum has been in existence only 5 years in Albuquerque.

Mrs. Isabelle Tellez presided over the meeting in her capacity as chairman of the Ladies Auxiliary until the time for adjournment when she handed over the gavel to the new chairman of the Ladies Auxiliary, Mrs. Tony Nunez.

Out of town guests included Mr. James Baca from Espanola and past State Chairman, Eugene Hill, past State vic-chairman and Mrs. Hill; Mr. Marcos Sanchez, local chairman of the new Forum in Santa Fe and Mrs. Sanchez; Mrs. Roberto Esparza, from Bernalillo.

For its main speaker the GI Forum chose one of the charter members of the GI Forum of Albuquerque #1, Mr. Roberto Esparza, principal of the Bernalillo ~~high~~ high school. Mr. Esparza is a graduate of the University of New Mexico. In his talk, Mr. Esparza said: "The work of the GI Forum and the educator is the same. We promulgate the American way of life and we teach the importance of the individual. The individuals rights must be respected.

"The problems in New Mexico in the field of education involve expanded enrollment, but with facilities that sometime cannot keep up with the enrollment. In addition we have the differences in individual abilities, for example there are the below average, the average and the above average student. This situation presents a challenge to the teacher who must be extremely resourceful in order to meet the different demands of the individual students.

"Then there is the bi-lingual problem. There is a conflict between the teacher who urges English and the student who knows how to express himself only in Spanish. WE ARE MISSING THE BOAT IN NOT STRESSING BOTH LANGUAGES IN THE LOWER GRADES AS WELL AS THE HIGHER GRADES.

"In the case of the Indian student the problem is further increased by the tri-lingual ability of the student. We have few Indian teachers in the schools. The rich heritage of the Indian must be developed.

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"The drop out rate is still another problem that must be solved. I estimate that 20 per cent of our youngsters drop out before completing high school.

"Lack of adequate funds for some of our schools presents a challenge to the small town elementary and high schools. At present 7 out of 32 counties are not capable of supporting an adequate educational system in New Mexico. It is possible that these schools cannot provide equal school facilities as other counties - A BETTER EQUALIZATION OF EDUCATIONAL FINANCES IS A MUST."

The meeting was adjourned by Mrs. Tony Nunez and a social hour including dancing followed.

Vicente T. Ximenes
Reporter

Editor: Enclosed are the names of the new officers.