

Reply to:
Chicago G.I. Forum
192 N. Clark St.
Chicago, Illinois

December 6, 1957

Mr. Vicente Ximenes
National Chairman
American G.I. Forum
621 Gabaldon Rd., N.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dear Vicente:

This will acknowledge and thank you for your letter of November 15, 1957, wherein you informed us that you received my check for \$15.00 to cover the cost of 10 G.I. Forum pins. I also wish to acknowledge receipt of the pins which did arrive in time for our meeting of the 15th of November.

As you can see from the enclosed carbon copy of a letter to Hector, I have had the Asian flu and, therefore, have not been able to attend to my correspondence. I have completely recovered now, I am happy to say, and I am endeavoring to catch up.

We shall certainly be happy to receive the tape recordings of the National Convention and will play them for our members as soon as they arrive.

Thanks for sending us the clipping from the Albuquerque Journal, with the item on our honoring Rick Casares of the Chicago Bears.

You will be happy to know, Vicente, that this news item was carried by all of the three major wire services and sent throughout all of the United States, Latin America and the Armed Forces. In addition, United Press telephoto service sent a picture of Rick Casares wearing our G.I. Forum cap and pin. Thus far I have been able to receive clippings only from the Albuquerque Journal, the Miami Herald, the Arizona Republic of Phoenix, the Philadelphia Inquirer -- a clipping of which I am attaching -- and, of course, all of the local metropolitan newspapers of Chicago.

So that you can see, Vicente, many of the Eastern states that heretofore had never heard of the American G. I. Forum are now aware of it because of the press coverage that we got on Rick Casares.

In this connection I should like to request a favor of you and ask you to inquire of all of our other members of the Forum to check their back copies of their local newspapers and to see if mention was made of this news item. The dates under which they should look are November the 14th and 15th in the sports section of the paper. This is one way of knowing which of these newspapers are our friends.

As you obviously know, the newspapers are not obliged to print all of the items coming in through the various news wire services. But when the item in question is newsworthy as this one was, and a good number of their readers or subscribers are of Spanish speaking descent, then it is almost taken for granted that such type of news item as this release on Casares and the G.I. Forum, would for certainty be printed.

Now, when a newspaper such as the Los Angeles Times, who would fall under the above category, does not see fit to print a release of this type one can only conclude that they are not sympathetic toward us; or at least that they are negligent when it comes to the treatment of those news items that pertain or that have special appeal to the Spanish speaking population of that city. This is particularly true inasmuch as Los Angeles has close to a half million Mexican-American population, and conceivably a good number of those must be subscribers of that paper.

In view of this, Vicente, I would respectfully request of you, as National Chairman of the American G.I. Forum, that you draft a polite but fairly strong protest with the managing editor of the Los Angeles Times, calling this matter to his attention and requesting from him an explanation of why this attitude prevails. I am doing likewise, as chairman of the American G.I. Forum of Chicago, being as this is the place where the story originated from. It would also be a good idea if you could get in touch with Medardo Rangel, who is from Los Angeles, and have him voice a strong protest concerning this matter. It will be only in this way that we will ever get the attention and the coverage that we so rightfully deserve in the press. And unless we agitate and stand up for our rights, we will not be given the consideration that we should in any future undertakings.

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I would also like to suggest to you, Vicente, and to all of our other officers, that you should send in your releases or call in the United Press, Associated Press and International News Services, and inform them of what is taking place, especially when it is of national interest. You should point out to them that we are a national veterans organization and that as such, your many members in all of the other parts of the country would like to know where we stand with respect to any particular issue of any news conference which you may call.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Alvarado
Chairman

JA:jwm

P.S. I also wish to acknowledge your letter of November 9, 1957 which came together with seven membership cards and also the one for Jesse Garcia. Thanks.