

11 DEC 68

Dear Sir

I have been aware of your work in the field of Mexican-American problems. You have been a champion for this cause for a long time & I'm glad to see you as a member of the Civil Rights Committee. I believe your concern for the welfare and future of the Mexican American is a sincere concern.

Like yourself I too am concerned with this problem and wish to express my own views even though they may be of File 13 value only. I believe that a cross section of opinions from Mexican Americans can serve some useful purpose. There are many areas on this subject that need improvement and I won't attempt to touch on all of them. My main concern is basic principles such as the methods that are to be used to obtain ^{the} ~~what~~ improvement for us. Is the method one that will help only the poor or only the ignorant. Is it one that meets only the immediate needs or one that will produce permanent results.

I'm in favor of helping the poor, the ignorant and the oppressed, but I'm also interested in finding the causes that ^{place} ~~produce~~ these people in such a situation.

I'm a proud Mexican American and I want to decrease the number of Mexican Americans on welfare

funds. Giving them money so that they can spend it foolishly is not my idea of a good program. Lot of these people don't know how to administer their money & their condition won't improve until they are better educated. Financial aid (cash) should be only a temporary measure. I'm willing to help these people, but I don't want to support them.

I believe a broad Mexican American oriented educational program would yield bigger dividends because a better educated Mexican American would not be an easy victim for loan sharks; ~~he~~^{or} ~~wouldn't~~^{over} extend his credit; a better educated Mexican American would be able to identify a good buy, spend less money on non essentials and maintain a more balanced budget. I'm aware that there would be exceptions but generally this would be true. A better educated Mexican American would be more aware of his Civil Rights, better equipped to claim them and obtain more respect from his fellow citizens and in addition contribute more to his own cause.

Referring back to the educational program. I had in mind education of the adult population as well as children. Included in this educational program would be the means to implement it. I'm talking about such means as 1st class schools in sufficient quantity in the

Mexican American areas. Lunch & clothing assistance so that no child has to stay away from school because his parents are unable to adequately supply these items. Furnish transportation if needed. Set up a school supply discount center for the needy. If necessary supply the paper free. Another aid to the Mex-Am and any other poor group would be an increased dependent allowance.

Of course all this is only possible if the controlling Anglo population provides the funds. Personally I don't see my suggestion as an expense but rather as an investment in the future of our city, state & country.

Another aid would be increased retraining programs for adults. This to be followed by investigation of employment practices of private & municipal agencies.

Some persons have suggested bilingual classes, but I certainly don't agree. What we need is ~~to~~ a better understanding of English and the sooner we obtain it the better off we will be. Spanish classes would only prolong the time in which we could become affluent in English.

I am 47 years old and have observed a lot including discrimination in many types and forms. From private concerns to public officials and newspapers. Talking about newspapers you will notice that when a well to do Northside boy gets in trouble his name is omitted, but if the

guilty party is a Mexican American they print his name and address. If a Mexican American is arrested even for a minor cause they push & throw him into the car or paddy wagon but not so if he is Northside Anglo individual.

I believe all Mexican Americans are entitled to all the privileges and benefits that are given to the Anglo races. Funny thing, around here, if you are Greek, French, German, Italian, English, Swedish or Polish you are considered "Anglo" but if you're ~~Latin~~ of Mexican or Spanish descent than you're Mexican American. Oh, well, I guess when you can't identify yourself you just say you're Anglo.

Good luck and keep up the good work.

Sincerely
Louis Havalor

P.D. I forgot to say that although I don't believe in bilingual classes I do believe bilingual teachers would improve school conditions specially in the elementary grades.