

MEMO FROM THE DESK OF

R. P. (Bob) Sanchez

ATTORNEY AT LAW

2/10/69

Hector,

Al Pena and I
saw to it that your
situation was posted on the
agenda at our last Board
meeting in Phoenix. Keep
up the good work. Regards
to my Compadre Moudado!

Bob
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Southwest Council of La Raza

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SOUTHWEST COUNCIL OF LA RAZA PROTESTS ACTIONS OF
U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS AND
TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Phoenix, Arizona -- The Southwest Council of La Raza, a non-profit corporation of Mexican Americans, in a telegram to President Richard M. Nixon, has protested the exclusion of Mexican Americans as Commissioners of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, the Council's Executive Director, Herman Gallegos, announced today.

The telegram questioned President Nixon's decision not to confirm the appointment of Dr. Hector P. Garcia as a member of the Commission. "This recent decision of The President, and the Commission's limited number of Mexican American staff members, again raises a serious question as to whether or not the Commission will ever be relevant to the Mexican American community," stated Gallegos.

Dr. Garcia is the first and only Mexican American ever to be appointed to the Commission. Refusal to confirm his appointment leaves the Commission without a representative of the Mexican American community, which is the largest minority in the Southwestern United States.

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The Council's Board of Directors, at a meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, February 1-2, also unanimously passed a resolution protesting anti-Mexican American activities on the part of the Texas Council of Churches. The resolution specifically protested "the unjustified dismissal of the Rev. Edgar Krueger from the Staff of the Valley Team Ministry, Texas Council of Churches; the withdrawal of the law suit by the Texas Council of Churches against the Texas Rangers; and current efforts by the Texas Council of Churches to withdraw sponsorship of the Hidalgo County VISTA Minority Mobilization Project."

At this same meeting, the Board of Directors reelected the following officers of the Council: Chairman Maclovio Barraza, a staff representative for the United Steel Workers of America, Tucson, Arizona; Vice-Chairman Alberto Pena, Bexar County Commissioner, San Antonio, Texas; Secretary-Treasurer Mario Vazquez, California State Chairman of the American GI Forum; San Jose, California.

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Full text of telegram and resolution is attached.

2/6/69

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1-6-69
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