

American GI Forum # 1  
Veterans Family Organization  
621 Gabaldon Road, N.W.  
Albuquerque, N. M. 87104

July 2, 1981

Office (505) 243-7551

Com. Vicente T. Ximenes  
Chairman

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Vice-Chairperson

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Youth Forum

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Celia Tellez  
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Re 505 265 2183

Dr. Hector P. Garcia  
Founder  
American GI Forum  
1315 Bright Street  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Hector:

The Department of Energy moved to defederalize the guards services at Los Alamos National Laboratory. The GI Forum opposed the decision and for the last four or five months we have been trying to keep DOE from defederalizing the guards. The main reason for our position is that all of the guards are veterans and 106 of the total 146 are Chicano or Hispanic who have served for many years.

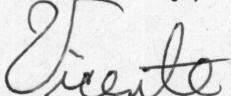
We went before the DOE appeals board and they ruled against us. It was tough to take the defeat, but we are determined to support the veterans and more specifically the Chicanos. We have, therefore, decided to go to the courts and try to stop the DOE action. Secondly, we have gone to the Congress to stop the action by way of legislation.

It's on this matter that we need your help. The Congress unanimously passed the amendment which is shown in the attached letter of Congressman Lujan. It is now up to the Senate to accept the amendment. The Senators from New Mexico (Domenici and Schmidt) are supposed to be helping us. However, unless other Senators back the amendment I doubt that we can win the vote.

Our request to you is that you contact Senators Bentsen and Tower and ask that they support the amendment to keep the federal guards rather than to contract for the security services.

The American GI Forum is the only organization that stood the test and we need to show strength in the northern part of New Mexico and let people know that if we have to go it alone that we can still win.

Sincerely,



Vicente T. Ximenes  
Chairman

American GI Forum # 1

Veterans Family Organization

621 Gabaldon Road, N.W.

Albuquerque, N. M. 87104

July 13, 1981

Office (505) 243-7551

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Dr. Hector P. Garcia  
Founder  
American GI Forum  
1315 Bright Street  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Hector:

This is a follow up of my second letter in which we ask for your help on an amendment to the DOE appropriations which would in affect stop the defederalization of the guards services at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

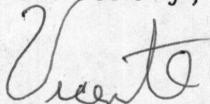
As I indicated in my letter, we thought that Senator's Domenici and Schmidt would help us, but the latest development is they probably won't. Senator Schmidt has already told the press that he will probably not carry the amendment in the Senate and Domenici has said nothing. However, at the DOE appeals board I had expected Senator Domenici's representative to make a statement on our behalf. I assume they would since they had supported us before the Armed Services Congressional Committee.

It now seems the Reagan administration has put the arm on the two Senators and they will probably not do anything about the amendment. I suspect that the Republican Senators will also march if neither Schmidt or Domenici move on the matter.

That leaves some Democratic Senators who are willing to buck the administration to make an issue of the amendment.

Please let me know if there is anything that can be done to help.

Sincerely,



Vicente T. Ximenes  
Chairman

VTX/rip

P.S. Domenici just announced that he would not support the House amendment.  
Vicente

American GI Forum # 1

Veterans Family Organization  
621 Gabaldon Road, N.W.  
Albuquerque, N. M. 87104

COPY

July 15, 1981

Office (505) 243-7551

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Celia Tellez  
Secretary

Ms. Judith Sanders  
MALDEF  
517 Petroleum Commerce Bldg.  
201 North Saint Mary's Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Dear Ms. Sanders:

Pete gave me a copy of the letter you wrote to him in regard to the Los Alamos case. I am disappointed that MALDEF could not assist us in fighting off the decision to defederalize the guards at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. The American GI Forum has been a consistent supporter of MALDEF and while we understand that you cannot respond to requests that are outside your criteria this one was well within the specifications.

I indicated by phone to Attorney Huerta that the Los Alamos case involved Civil Rights and Title 7 issue. Civil Rights and Title 7 was not the only issue, but it was one of four main issues that were decided by the appeals board of the DOE.

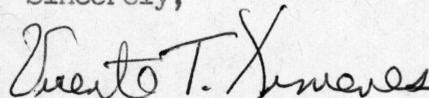
The DOE appeals board named the ground rules for the hearing which was held in Los Alamos on June 19, 1981. The main issues to be determined were as follows:

1. Security
2. Cost effectiveness
3. Veterans preference
4. Equal employment

I appeared before the appeals board and addressed the issue of veterans and equal employment not in legal terms, but merely as a broken promise by the government to carry out this commitment to veterans and minorities. When an agency terminates 106 Chicanos and Hispanics out of a total force of 146 by an agency that has an affirmative action program then this involves Title 7.

We are not through with this issue. I am told that guards will go to the courts to seek relief, therefore, as indicated in your letter there is a role for MALDEF in this case and the request should be reconsidered.

Sincerely,



Vicente T. Ximenes  
Chairman

rip

American GI Forum # 1  
Veterans Family Organization  
621 Gabaldon Road, N.W.  
Albuquerque, N. M. 87104

July 27, 1981

Office (505) 243-7551

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Dr. Hector P. Garcia  
Founder  
American GI Forum  
1315 Bright Street  
Corpus Christi, Tx 78405

Dear Hector:

I sent wires to Senators Tower and Bentsen on matters of the amendment to stop the contracting for security services in the Los Alamos National Laboratory. As you know, it will be difficult since our own two Senators are opposed to the amendment and, therefore, other Senators may be unwilling to carry it through. Nevertheless, we have to try some of our other friends for help in this matter.

Please let me know if you get a response from either of the two Senators. I also wrote to Senator Kennedy, but have not received a reply.

Enclosed is story on one of the war heros written up by Raul Morin in the book, AMONG THE VALLIANT. Last week and prior to the publication of this article, I spoke to Tomas Martinez and he mentioned that you had given him the book and, therefore, became interested in writing up some articles on Chicano war heros. I am disappointed that Tomas Martinez did not mention the GI Forum since it was you and the organization that made the book possible. It is difficult to understand why a comprehensive story such as the one written here did not include the part played by the American GI Forum. By the way, if you still have books left please mail me a copy and I will send check to cover the cost. I don't know what happened to the books we had here at the office.

I hope you recover completely and that it will be possible to see you at the National Convention.

Attached also is press release on the Santa Fe GI Forum action to picket Senators Schmitt and Domenici. Note also the acholarship announcement.

Sincerely,

Vicente T. Ximenes  
Chairman

VTX/rip

Attachments

*p. 8. I just received a call from Sen. Bentsen's office. He is going to look into the Los Alamos guard amendment.  
Vicente*