

Sept. 16, 1956

Mr. Gilbert A. Torrez
Chairman, GI Forum of Kansas
Box 936
Dodge City, Kansas

Dear Gilbert:

I received the signed charters together with the Kansas GI Program for 1956-1957. Let me take this opportunity to thank you for this fine program that you have worked out. I hope each State officer and chairman of local Forums gets a copy. You asked me to criticize it, and I would if I thought that any of the programs you have included were not in the best interests of the GI Forum. However, as I interpret them, all the programs follow the original purpose of the GI Forum as stated in the Constitution.

Now of course the proof of the pudding is in the pie. The Kansas American GI Forum in convention passed a resolution which favored fair employment practices. I would appreciate it very much if this resolution is carried out with reference to National Office memo #4 regarding discrimination in employment in the railroad industry. I believe every State organized has passed such a resolution, and now I am asking every State Forum to carry out their resolutions. Does Kansas have a State Fair Employment Commission? If it does, lay the problem in their laps and let them investigate the discriminatory practices. Perhaps, you have already done this, if so, let me know at your earliest convenience. I am sending you a few more copies of National memo #4. They can be distributed to the local Forums as well as persons that may want to help the Kansas GI Forum correct the situation. You can also use them to solicit donations to the GI Forum, after all the work of the GI Forum benefits all persons, not only Spanish speaking citizens and non-citizens.

I appreciate your fine work in behalf of the GI Forum and I know that the people of Kansas recognize your sacrifice, even though at times, it seems that no one understands the large amount of work it takes.

Sincerely yours,

Vicente T. Ximenes
National Chairman