

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

March 28, 1968

Mr. Vicente T. Ximenes
Chairman, Inter-Agency Committee on
Mexican American Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Mr. Ximenes:

Your letter in which you recommended certain Spanish surname Americans for possible employment with our agency is appreciated.

We had already started a rather comprehensive recruiting program to identify qualified Spanish surname Americans when your nominees were received. Mr. Eduardo Silva and Mr. Anthony Wehbe, two of your nominees, were both brought in for an interview. Mr. Wehbe, while possessing good qualifications, did not want to leave San Antonio, therefore, we did not employ him since all of our employees must work in the Regional Office here in Austin, Texas. We did advise Mr. Wehbe that if at a later date he was in a position to come to Austin he should so advise us and we will once again discuss employment with him.

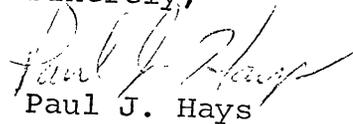
Mr. Silva was not selected at this time. We are however retaining his application for consideration for all future vacancies occurring for which he qualifies.

As a matter of information, out of the twenty-one positions we were recruiting to fill, six Spanish surname Americans have been employed, five positions have been filled by employment of Negroes and one by an American Indian. As you can see this represents 50 percent of the total number employed.

While six Spanish surname Americans employed might seem low it does not by any means represent the number that we interviewed or who established a contact with us to discuss employment. I am confident that our employment rate would have been higher had some of the applicants, such as Mr. Wehbe, been willing to relocate to Austin or if the positions we were recruiting for were at a higher grade and rate of pay. This is felt to be off-set by the fact that we now have been able to establish several good contacts with prominent leaders of the Mexican-American groups, also, have been successful in soliciting their help in identifying high quality candidates as a source for future employment needs. In addition we are now making inroads in the area of getting many of the people to establish their eligibility on the civil service registers so they can be eligible for employment.

Once again we appreciate your recommending applicants interested in seeking employment with us and by working together in this effort it can only pay dividends.

Sincerely,



Paul J. Hays
Personnel Officer