

U.S.

*Thought you
might like a
copy of this
note*

April 3, 1966

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr.
Chairman
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Mr. Roosevelt:

I am sure that what transpired at the Albuquerque sessions of the conference called by EEOC is known to you. I am deeply disappointed, but I must agree with the decision of the Mexican-American delegations. I attach a copy of their conclusions.

Mexican-Americans constitute the second largest "minority group" in the United States. I have repeatedly pointed to the neglect to which it has been treated -- in writings, in public addresses, in conferences with governmental agencies, etc., over some 43 years of professional life. To what effect? Your Commission seems to be concerned only with the Negro. As an officer of the old Julius Rosenwald Fund I became much involved in the "Negro problem," and we still are not doing enough to do justice to that problem. But, we have done nothing for some six million Americans of Mexican descent -- in education, in employment opportunity, or in any other major field of governmental concern. Just by way of illustration: the 1960 U. S. Census of Population shows that Spanish-surname persons, 17 years old or older in Texas, have 4.7 years of schooling. The Negro has 3.1!

The bitterness of my people is understandable, not only because of such statistical disparities but also for other reasons. We were here, as Indians, from time immemorial. As Europeans, we were here long before Jamestown and Plymouth Rock. And, remember, we did not ask the United States to come here! We were a subject people, just as were the Puerto Ricans and the Filipinos. Were we given the same consideration? I am glad and proud to be a U.S. American, but I am not ignorant of history, of justice.

Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr.

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April 5, 1966

Mr. Roosevelt, I'll make bold to suggest a reconsideration of the structure and policy of EBOC. Please be assured of my cooperation.

Sincerely,

George I. Sánchez
Professor of Latin American Education

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Enclosure