

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305-2067

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

September 27, 1984

Hector P. Garcia, M.D.
1315 Bright Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

I am presently working on research toward completion of a Ph.D. in U.S. History here at Stanford. My dissertation concerns the political history of Mexican Americans in the Southwest in the period 1920-1977, with particular emphasis on the role Mexican immigration has played historically in Mexican American political development in Texas, Arizona, and California. I am particularly interested in analyzing historical attitudes among Mexican Americans toward Mexican immigrants to the United States; Mexican Americans' responses to immigration and immigration policy over time; and how formal Mexican American political and social organizations perceived and acted upon the evolving immigration issue. At this point in my research, it is my feeling that Mexican Americans' attitudes toward Mexico and Mexican immigrants were closely tied to their own perceptions of themselves as citizens of this country, and that this self-conception had much to do with the ways in which they participated in American politics. Pursuing this line of thought, I hope to be able to say something significant about what Mexican Americans historically have thought it means to be American citizens.

The American G.I. Forum's position on the immigration issue obviously has had an important impact in the Latino community over the years, and for this reason and others, the G.I. Forum is prominent among the organizations I hope to study. (I have already conducted extensive research of the organizational records of the Community Service Organization (CSO), MAPA, CASA, MALDEF, and others, and have also conducted oral history interviews with many former and current members of these organizations).

I am writing you in hope that I might be able to arrange a meeting with you in Corpus Christi. I plan to be in Austin the first part of November researching the LULAC collection at UT. I'd very much like the opportunity to interview you as part of the oral history segment of my dissertation; and I was hoping also that you might share historical Forum records pertinent to my study. I believe such an interview, augmented by historical manuscripts, would cast considerable new light on a heretofore under-explored area of American political and social history.

If an interview is amenable to you, would you be so kind as to write me in care of the history department here? Depending on your response, I can provide more detail as to the nature and scope of my study, and arrange to meet you in Corpus Christi at your convenience. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanking you in advance, I am,

Sincerely,

David Gutierrez

David Gutierrez
Doctoral Candidate