

Slated For San Felipe

Vicente J. Ximenes, consul-
four, is to be introduced by Dr.
Fermín Calderon.

The welcome will be made
by Supt. J.B. Pena, and the
invocation by Eddie Barrera,
member of the senior class.

Miss Rosa Maria Flores, who
compiled an average of \$9.38
during her four high school
years, will deliver the salut-

Every prior to the introduction of Ximenes.
 Ximenes' talk is to be followed by the valedictory by Miss Aveneth De Leon who had the highest scholastic average of the class. Miss De Leon's four-year average was 91.17.
 Also on the program at the exercises will be the traditional key presentation to be made by Raul Villarreal, president of the graduating class, to junior class president, Eloy Padilla. President of the San Felipe Independent School District board of trustees, Daniel Rivas, will present the diplomas to the graduating seniors.
 Scholarships and other awards

organized 300 such clubs and made over 300 speaking engagements. Ximenes also founded the American G.I. Forum of New Mexico and was elected for two years as national chairman of the organization as well as being recipient of the American G.I. Forum National Leadership Award for two years.

While at the University of New Mexico, Ximenes was a member of Phi Delta Kappa, scholastic education honorary, fraternity and Phi Kappa Phi, scholastic honorary fraternity and highest scholastic award at the University.

In 1941, Ximenes was principal of a rural elementary school in Pecos, Texas, and in 1951 through '52 was a research economist and instructor at the University of New Mexico. Ximenes, author of a number of publications concerning the economy of the state of New Mexico, was appointed in 1961 as program economist of the U.S.-A.I.D. mission to Ecuador. He spent from 1961 through '63 in the South American country where he wrote the major portion of the strategy assistance of Ecuador and coordinated the entries program book content for 1966. Ximenes resigned as the acting program officer in September, 1963, to return to the states and assist in the presidential campaign for President Johnson. In September of that year he was appointed National Coordinator of VIYA Johnson Clubs. During a six-week period he or-

VICENTE XIMENES
Commencement Speaker

Ximenes Challenges

San Felipe Seniors

"The doors have been flung wide open and now the Mexican-American must make his greatest contribution and perhaps his greatest sacrifice," Vicente T. Ximenes told the 75 graduating seniors of San Felipe High School and the capacity crowd at San Felipe Memorial Stadium Tuesday night at the 34th graduating commencement exercises of the school.

Ximenes, a consultant from the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington, D.C. and a native Texan of Mexican-American extraction, delivered the main address after an introduction by Dr. Fermin Calderon, describing and outlining the potential of the graduating class in his chosen subject for the evening, "War on Poverty".

J.B. Pena, superintendent of the San Felipe Independent School District, gave the welcome and at the same time urged the parents of the graduates to aid their sons and daughters to continue their education to the highest level possible.

Daniel Rivas, president of the school's board of trustees, presented the diplomas to the seniors.

The traditional key presentation was made by president of the senior class Raul Villarreal to junior class president Eloy Padilla.

Presentation of scholarships and awards was made by high school principal, Simon Ramon.

Awarded the valedictorian's See XIMENES—Page 2

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Dr. Garcia:

Larry Ramirez is now with OEO. He will be in the Kansas City, Mo. office. He should be helpful there.

Vicente

award was Azeneth De Leon, and Rosa Maria Flores, the salutatorian award. Rolando Ramon received the high ranking senior boy award.

Alma Alicia Solis received the John F. Kennedy Memorial Scholarship given by the American G.I. Forum. The scholarship is for \$200, and was presented by Ricardo Hernandez, chairman of the Forum scholarship committee.

The invocation was given by Eddie Barrera and the benediction by Rebecca Hernandez.

The San Felipe Mustang Band, directed by Raul Machado, provided the music for the processional and recessional marches.

The class sang the senior farewell song worded by Supt. Pena with the theme taken from "Moon River".

Ximenes said that the war on poverty as it relates to the Mexican-American from Texas was probably best explained by President Johnson in his voting rights speech of a few weeks ago.

He said it was the first time a president of the United States had bared his innermost thoughts and said, "My first job after college was as a teacher in Cotulla, Texas, in a small Mexican-American school. My students were poor, and they often came to class without breakfast and hungry. And they knew even in their youth the pain of prejudice. They never seemed to know why people disliked them, but they knew it was so because I saw it in their eyes."

The President continued with "It never occurred to me in my fondest dreams that I might have the chance to help the sons and daughters of those students, and to help people like them all over this country. But now I do have that chance. And I'll let you in on a secret — I mean to use it."

Ximenes, a discharged major in the Air Force, said that war on poverty was exactly what it said.

"War on poverty is not a welfare program. It is a self-help program. The war on poverty is a program to help institutions and entire communities view and treat the Juan Garcias and the Senora Marias in a very different way — as a citizen, as an American," Ximenes continued.

The author of a number of economic publications on the state of New Mexico told the senior class that the main thing they would have to offer a community project would be their ideas and their talents.

"You will not offer material goods because the war on poverty is not a welfare program. You would not distribute money because there is none to distribute. But you would, because of your education and talent, help Juan Garcia to gain his dignity by improving his skills," he added as at times he brought out key points of his address in Spanish.

Ximenes said that from three years of experience and working in Ecuador, South America, that here was a great resource and a great chance for the

people of Mexican-American extraction to help in the war on poverty in such South American countries as well as other parts of the world.

"I am not saying that the people that are now helping — and when I say helping, I mean literally feeding people dying from starvation — are not doing a fine job. They are doing the best they can. I say that people who have faced and know this, could certainly do a great and fine contribution to the war on poverty.

Ximenes closed with a quote from the late President Kennedy saying that it seemed appropriate now that we have

actually begun his program. Quoted from a speech made by the late President was, "Now the trumpet summons us again, not as a call to bear arms though arms we need — not as a call to battle though embattled we are, but a call to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle, year in and year out rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation — a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself."

After the exercises the local American G.I. Forum honored Ximenes, the school board of trustees and others at a reception at the forum building.

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