

JUNE 21, 1961

AMBASSADOR JOHN HAY WHITNEY
WHITNEY COMMUNICATIONS CORPS.
110 W. 51ST. STREET
NEW YORK 20, NEW YORK

DEAR AMBASSADOR WHITNEY:

I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALL OF THE NICE ATTENTION, KINDNESS, AND GUIDANCE THAT YOU GAVE ME DURING OUR ASSIGNMENT TO THE WEST INDIES. I ALSO WANT TO THANK YOUR VERY CHARMING WIFE, MRS. WHITNEY FOR HER VERY SWEET AND ATTENTIVE KINDNESS TO ME. IT SEEMS THAT IT WAS SUCH A LONG TIME AGO. NOW I LOOK BACK WITH A FEELING OF NOSTALGIA AND WARMTH!

NATURALLY, YOU DESERVE A GREAT AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT AND THE SUCCESS OF THIS ENTERPRISE AND ALSO FOR THE FACT THAT THE WEST INDIES LEADERS WERE SO KIND AND NICE TO US.

I FEEL VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU AND YOU AND YOUR WIFE BECAUSE WITHOUT YOUR HELP AND GUIDANCE I WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY LOST. FRANKLY, THAT WAS A LITTLE BIT OUT OF MY FIELD, BUT BEING A VETERAN WHO HAD FOUGHT IN WORLD WAR II AND BEING AN AMERICAN OF MEXICAN ORIGIN, WHO HAD TO FIGHT ALL MY LIFE FOR MYSELF AND FOR MY PEOPLE, I HAD TO ACCEPT ANY CHALLENGE, BIG OR SMALL. I AM POINTING THIS TO YOU BECAUSE I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE GREAT UNDERSTANDING FOR HUMANITY AND LOVE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE.

THE AMERICAN GI FORUM IS GRATEFUL TO YOU AND THE JOHN HAY WHITNEY FOUNDATION FOR THE MANY FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN TO ALL MINORITY GROUPS. SPECIFICALLY, THE AMERICAN OF MEXICAN ORIGIN, WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROCEED WITH THEIR HIGHER EDUCATION IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR YOU.

WE HAVE THANKED MR. CHARLES JONES AND ALSO PREVIOUS SECRETARIES AND DIRECTORS OF YOUR OPPORTUNITY FELLOWSHIPS. WE HAVE ALWAYS EXPRESSED TO THEM OUR SINCERE THANKS AND GRATITUDE IN BEHALF OF OUR PEOPLE. I DO NOT WANT YOU TO THINK THAT THIS IS THE FIRST LETTER THAT WE HAVE EVER WRITTEN CONCERNING OUR THANKS TO THE JOHN HAY WHITNEY FOUNDATION.

NATURALLY, I CAME BACK TO MY WORK HERE. MY WORK CONSISTS OF COMPLETE DEDICATION TO THE WELFARE AND PROGRESS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OF MEXICAN ORIGIN. THIS IS A BIG TASK SINCE THE AMERICAN GI FORUM WHICH I FOUNDED, HAS GROUPS IN 24 STATES AND IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, IS A FULL LOAD. OF COURSE, AS YOU KNOW, BESIDES THAT, I AM A FULL TIME PHYSICIAN-SURGEON WORKING DAY AND NIGHT TRYING TO KEEP UP MY PRACTICE.

I WAS GREATLY INTERESTED IN YOUR SITUATION INVOLVING YOUR TELEVISION STATION IN HOUSTON, TEXAS AND I WAS HOPING THAT SOME DAY YOU WOULD COME BY OVER HERE. I WILL BE GLAD AND HONORED IN HAVING YOU VISIT US HERE IN CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS. THE FLIGHTS ARE GOOD, ABOUT ONE HOURS TIME. IN CASE YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO VISIT HERE, I WILL FEEL HUMBLE, GRATEFUL, AND HONORED IF YOU WOULD PERMIT ME TO VISIT YOU IN HOUSTON, TEXAS. MY REGARDS TO YOU CHARMING WIFE AND PLEASE CONVEY TO HER MY WARMEST AND SINCEREST THANKS AND TELL HER THAT I FIND HER A VERY CHARMING, BEAUTIFUL, AND SWEET PERSON. I, WHO HAVE ALWAYS DEALT AND WORKED WITH SMALL PEOPLE, FOUND BOTH OF YOU VERY HUMANE, VERY CHARMING, AND VERY DOWN TO EARTH. IT HAS GIVEN ME A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE OTHER PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY AND IT HAS GIVEN ME A LITTLE MORE FAITH IN THE REST OF OUR COUNTRY. I DO HOPE THAT I WILL HAVE THE PLEASURE AND HONOR IN HEARING FROM YOU. I DID NOT HAVE YOUR ADDRESS, BUT I WAS VERY HAPPY TO FINALLY GET IT FROM OUR GOOD FRIEND, CHARLES F. JONES.

I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF YOU WOULD CONSIDER ADDRESSING SOME OF THE CONVENTIONS THAT WE HAVE THROUGHOUT THE NATION. THE AMERICAN GI FORUM HAVE YEARLY CONVENTIONS AND MEETINGS. NATURALLY, OF COURSE, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOU HERE IN TEXAS, BUT IF NOT, WE HOPE TO HAVE YOU IN CHICAGO, OHIO, OR CALIFORNIA. THE SUBJECT MATTER WILL BE LEFT UP TO YOU. I KNOW YOUR POLITICAL POSITION AND I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE POSITION OF MAYOR FOR THE STATE OF NEW YORK AND EVEN GOVERNOR FOR THAT STATE. I AM A DEMOCRAT, BUT I THINK THAT THE GREATEST NEED THAT WE CAN HAVE IN THE STATE IS A TWO-PARTY SYSTEM. THIS INVITATION IS MADE TO YOU WITH ALL SINCERITY AND RESPECT. YOU WILL FIND THAT OUR GROUPS WOULD GIVE YOU COMPLETE ATTENTION AND WILL TREAT YOU WITH COURTESY, RESPECT, AND DIGNITY THAT YOU DESERVE. PLEASE LET ME KNOW ABOUT THIS INVITATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. YOU CAN DISCUSS ANYTHING THAT YOU WANT. HOPING TO HEAR FROM YOU VERY SOON, I REMAIN

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

HECTOR P. GARCIA, M. D.

HPG:AG