

The Texas House of Representatives



W.O. "Bill" Harrison, Jr.

9 Gaslight Square
Corpus Christi, Texas 78404
512-887-1035

Committees:
Appropriations
Business and Commerce
Chairman - Budget
and Oversight

December 5, 1984

Dr. Hector P. Garcia
1315 Bright
Corpus Christi, TX 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

As you know, I was not successful in my bid for re-election to a third term in the Texas House of Representatives. We lost in spite of a vigorous campaign aided by literally hundreds of volunteers and the broad-based support of so many fine people. I appreciate your support and that of the many friends who were so kind and helpful during the campaign.

The effect of President Reagan's coattails were plainly evident in the general election. The President received nearly 75% of the vote in District 36, and even though more than 25% of those voting for Mr. Reagan voted for me, there were just too many voting a straight Republican ticket to allow me to overcome the coattail effect. However, I am gratified to have received more votes than any other Democrat on the ballot in District 36; in fact, I received more votes this election than in any of my previous state representative races.

Many of my friends have asked why I remain in a political party that seems to be controlled by liberal interests, apparently turning its back on the largest bloc of American voters - the middle class. I am proud to have been raised in the Democratic tradition. In my mind, the Democratic Party has always been the party of the people, the party of opportunity, the party for the future. I will continue working within my party to move it back to the center of the political spectrum, and return its former broad-based appeal.

As I discussed in a Capitol news conference after the election, it is imperative that the Democratic Party appeal to the things that we, as Americans, have in common and not pander to the specific interests of minority groups - be they ethnic or life-style. I will not abandon my party for political expediency. I can make a difference within the party, and believe you will see the party as a whole returning to the mainstream of political philosophy.

In closing I want to thank you for your support, help and kindness. It truly has been an honor to know and work with you as your state representative; I am thankful for that opportunity. I will leave office in January with no bitterness or sense of loss, but rather with feelings of gratitude and goodwill. I am proud of the campaign we waged; we gave it a good fight. Now it is time to begin new endeavors.

One more thing: it is my heartfelt hope that you will join me in supporting our new representative, Mr. Roberts, as he seeks to represent the diverse interests of District 36.

The move from public to private life does not diminish my wish to assist you whenever possible; please call on me if ever I may be of help.

Thanks again for your friendship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill", written in dark ink.

W.O. "Bill" Harrison, Jr.

cfid