



AMERICAN G I FORUM OF THE U.S.

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January 8, 1971

Dr. Julian Samora
Department of Sociology
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana

Dear Dr. Samora:

I want to thank you for the copy of the letter that you sent to Mr. Ezequiel Duran our national executive secretary dated January 5, 1971.

Of course, it is rather hard to understand how it could be possible that a man of the professional experience and expert ability could make such a reference to a "local" of the American G I Forum in California, when he should have known that since 1954, we have been a national group. Since that time, we were the first group of Mexican Americans that had a national ladies auxiliary and a national junior G I Forum (now called youth group).

So, I do agree with Mr. Duran that the article as written was damaging to the American G I Forum. I think that Mr. Duran showed the right feeling in defending the greatest organization of Mexican Americans in the history of this Nation. I would have been terribly disappointed in him if he had not.

The statement that "we should not quarrel with each other" meets my approval. We should respect each and every organization that is trying hard to improve the suffering and exploitation of our people. We should sing praises of individuals like Commissioner Vicente Ximenes, Gus Garcia, James De Anda and others who have done so much.

The American G I Forum is proud of its 22 years record of achievement. Today, we have accepted the challenge of other organizations and individuals in serving our people. However, I must point out that whatever "The American G I Forum" did, we did by ourselves, our leadership, our money, and our direction backed alone by our poor Mexican Americans.

Those new organizations and individuals are today also doing "something"; however, we must point out that they are doing it with foundation money, grants, or government assistance. So as you say, the new organizations should recognize what we did 20 years ago and continue to do today.

Dr. Julian Samora

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We feel that in the "rush" to build up new organizations financed by government, foundations, etc., these organizations have tried to tear down the American G I Forum and denied us our "true place!" in our long struggle against oppression.

Thank you.


Dr. Hector P. Garcia

HPG/lv

cc: Commissioner Vicente Ximenes
Ezequiel Duran