



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
Governor's Committee on Human Relations

Preston Smith, Governor
Austin, Texas 78711
May 14, 1970

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Mr. Benjamin J. Canales
Hispanic-American Institute
100 East 27 Street
Austin, Texas 78705

Dear Ben:

I want to thank you for your response regarding my letter to Dr. Garcia. Ben, I did not make reference to the subject matter of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission's report in my letter to Dr. Garcia as I was not questioning his statements regarding the report. His misleading statements concerning the formation of a human relations committee and his charge of inaction on the part of the Governor in appointing a human relations committee were what I took exception to.

I agree with you that we in Texas do not, and must not, take a back seat to any one. Over two thousand minority leaders throughout the state have been contacted advising them of the work of our committee and the areas of interest. These leaders, and members of the working press here in the Capitol and elsewhere, know our committee is working to assure civil and human rights for all Texans.

At the time I wrote the letter to Dr. Garcia, I had not seen a copy of the report released at the San Antonio news conference by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. I had seen the earlier report which they made, but the latest report I have yet to receive. Any comment by me would have been premature. I am sure that no one will agree 100% with all the report, but all can agree that much remains to be done and I am pleased that our state, through our committee, is taking positive steps to "clean our own house."

Mr. Benjamin J. Canales

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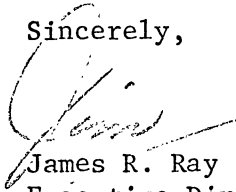
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As I have pointed out to some who have contacted me, it is easy to point out the problems, but to come forth with workable and acceptable solutions is our difficult task. We can make recommendations all day, but if we cannot get acceptance from the Legislature, it is of no avail. I do not try to second-guess members of our committee, but I do believe the membership will come forth with both acceptable and sound workable recommendations.

As I said to Dr. Garcia, the desired goals can be reached if we will all work together in a spirit of good will. I firmly believe that the future will be as bright as we are willing to make it, and I want to assure you that I shall continue my best efforts toward a brighter tomorrow.

Warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,



James R. Ray
Executive Director

JRR:jhb