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TEXAS

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
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JOINT COMMITTEE ON
DEFENSE PRODUCTION

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510
July 24, 1975

Dr. Hector P. Garcia
1315 Wright Street
Corpus Christi, Texas

Dear Doctor Garcia:

The Senate will shortly be considering legislation to expand the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and I appreciate having the benefit of your thinking on this issue.

The House has already passed a bill, H.R. 6219, to extend the VRA through 1985. That bill also places a permanent nationwide ban on the use of literacy tests and extends coverage to areas with a language minority population of 5% or greater. Language minorities are defined in the bill as "Asian American, American Indian, Alaskan Native and Spanish heritage". It is this latter provision--the language minorities title--which will for the first time bring the State of Texas under coverage of the VRA.

Here in the Senate, it is anticipated that the Judiciary Committee will report a bill shortly, and that Senate Floor debate will take place around mid-July. I expect there will be a number of amendments offered at that time (the House considered 23 amendments to its bill) before we reach final passage of the bill.

I firmly believe that no one should be denied the right to vote on the basis of race, color, or national origin, and I have stated my intention to support extension of the VRA. It is difficult for me to say how I will vote on specific provisions or amendments until I see what those provisions are, and what effect they will have on the total Act, but I shall certainly give this issue my undivided attention when it does come to the Senate Floor.

Sincerely yours,



John Tower

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