

V. G. ROED
ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW
BOX 953 - PHONE 3-4212
LAREDO, TEXAS

February 1, 1962

Mr. Carlos McCormick, Esq.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Carlos:

Reference is made to my telephone conversation with you on Tuesday, January 30th in connection with the UPI release concerning my appointment. Immediately after I finished talking to you I mailed you 'Air Mail, Special Delivery' the page on which the release appeared in the local paper. I am sure that by now you have it in your hands. I asked you to please call me the same day I spoke to you and you said you would after you had some answers after speaking to O'Donnell at the White House. I have not as yet heard from you, but I am sure it is for good reason.

On Tuesday evening the AP put out a release in connection with an announcement by Cong. Henry B. Gonzalez where he said he had recommended me to a Diplomatic post. In order to make this short, I am herewith enclosing an exact copy of the release. The local radio station called me for a comment on the release and I told them I had no comment. After the papers and radio pressed me for a comment I wrote out a "No Comment" comment, a copy of which you will find herein enclosed.

I waited hoping you would call during all day Wednesday. Finally, not hearing from you, I called you at 5 P. M. our time and there was no answer at your office. I did not call you any sooner or more often because of the expense involved. I also realized that if there was something of real importance you would call me or Dr. Garcia. I was almost obligated to call Cong. Gonzalez at Washington with regard to the release attributed to him. In essence he told me that he had talked to an AP man, possibly Tex Easley, but that his declaration was not as I read it to him from the wires. After these unfortunate happenings I decided to talk to Dr. Garcia to relay to him the confused state of affairs, and I called him - "Collect". He was very nice to accept the charges.

When I talked to you Tuesday I asked you if you would please contact Secy. Udall or Asst. Secy. John A. Carver at Interior to see whether they had furnished the information for the UPI release and to ascertain, if you could, what the status of the situation was. I realize that we have abused you as our official "chaplain" up there with our problems, but the fact remains that you have been our faithful contact up there. I know that you will do the best you can. I am sure you realize I will always appreciate your help. If you can, please look into this matter and call me at your earliest possible opportunity.

Enclosed please find a letter which I had written to you on Jan. 24 which I had not mailed.

Give my regards to your wife, your children and Ralph. Best wishes to you.

Very truly yours,

V. G. Roed
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ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW
BOX 953 - PHONE 3-4212
LAREDO, TEXAS

January 24, 1962

Mr. Carlos McCormick, Esq.
Special Assistant to the
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Inter-American Affairs
U. S. Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Carlos:

I want to thank you for all your efforts on my behalf, especially in the last two weeks, and I want you to forgive me for bothering you so much, so often.

I do not want you to feel bad about the bad news you had to give me over the telephone yesterday with regard to the refusal by the people in the White House to announce my appointment. I know that you feel bad enough as it is. One thing is clear, and that is that somebody went back on their promise to you. When you called me on January 8, 1962 about the announcement of the appointment, I had no doubt but that you had been given personal assurance by some responsible party that the announcement would be made. The numerous communications between us from January 8th until yesterday let further credence to our feeling that the announcement would be made. I had personally told no one about the proposed announcement, but my wife and I had made certain preparations, including the sale of our house. I had already read everything that was available concerning Panama to better prepare ourselves to perform the task, and to be as good an ambassador for the U. S. as I could, aside from our official duties.

At Sunday's meeting in Corpus, after speaking to you on the telephone, Dr. Garcia told the group meeting of the proposed announcement, and he seemed to be very proud of it, as did the rest of the people there. Being a realist-pessimist, I fortunately admonished the group by telling them, "let's not kill the calf before it is born, let's wait for the actual announcement". I also asked them to keep what Dr. Garcia had said about the announcement in confidence.

Of course, I can only speculate about the motives or reasons for the failure to make the announcement as you had been promised. But I will say that their action in not keeping their word to you was unfair and embarrassing to you, without considering our personal feelings and disappointment. The excuses which they gave you are poor excuses at best, for they should have thought about them when they gave you the green light to make the announcement when you thought best.

I know not what else may be forthcoming in connection with this matter, but I want to assure you that I am sincerely grateful to you and appreciate everything you have done. Please give my warm regards to your wife, children and Ralph. Best wishes to you.

Very truly yours,

V. G. Roel