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texas association for bilingual education

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**TO: TABE Executive Board
Chapter Presidents**
FROM: Richard B. Zamora *R. Zamora*
RE: Governor's Task Force on Bilingual Education
DATE: April 15, 1981

Enclosed find testimony prepared by the TABE Executive Board that was presented to the Task Force on Monday, April 13, 1981 at 9:00 a. m. in Austin, Tx. Members of the Executive Board and Legislative Committee members present as resource people were: Dr. Ricardo Perez, Mrs. Virginia Lopez, Mr. Ramon Billescas, Jr., Dr. Joe J. Bernal, Dr. Gloria Zamora and Mr. Albert Cortez. Our opposition on the Task Force Dr. Willis Tate, Dr. Linus D. Wright, Mr. Cipriano F. Guerrero, Jr., Mr. David Escobar, Ms. Kay Bell, Mr. Joe Kelly Butler, Senator W. E. Snelson, Representative Hamp Atkinson and Mr. Charles Wright were not at all receptive to our testimony nor to our answers to their questions.

There was much deliberation and heated arguments as to what the recommendations to the Governor would be. The motion by Dr. Linus Wright for a K-6 bilingual education and 7-12 ESL program was countered by 6-7 substitute motions by our side (Senator Carlos Truan, Representative Matt Garcia, Mr. Tony Bonilla, Ms. Genevieve Gonzalez, Ms. Dominga Coronado, and Ms. Lydia Lenares). All of our substitute motions were defeated.

Since it was in the best interest for the Task Force to have a consensus recommendation to the Governor in view of Civil Action 5281, the two opposing sides decided at 9:30 p. m. to adjourn with the idea of perhaps coming up with a compromise the next day.

Therefore, our side decided on two plans to present the next day: 1. K-6 bilingual education; 7-12 ESL with local option for bilingual education 7-12 with full funding. 2. K-6 bilingual education; 7-8 optional bilingual education with state funding; or 7-12 ESL. Plan two being the bottom line that our side would accept. If all failed, it was felt that we would have to rely on Judge William Wayne Justice mandating an appropriate program.

- Memo, Page 2 - 4-15-81 -

The information that I received from Senator Truan's office yesterday afternoon was that our compromise plan two was finally accepted. Plan two being K-6 (or elementary); 7-8 optional bilingual education; or 7-12 ESL.

I found Monday, April 13, 1981 to be very rewarding for me. I learned a lot from seeing Senator Carlos Truan, Representative Matt Garcia, Mr. Tony Bonilla, Ms. Genevieve Gonzalez, Ms. Dominga Coronado and Ms. Lydia Lenares represent us in a very outstanding fashion. Not only are these persons very knowledgeable, but also very aggressive and quick in their thinking so as not to be "out gunned" by the opposition as many times the opposition tried to "pull the wool over their eyes". Our representatives on the Task Force used a lot of finesse and skill in acting and reacting in presenting their views so as to properly represent our limited English proficiency students in the State of Texas. We are all to commend the outstanding efforts of our representatives on the Task Force.

xc Senator Carlos Truan
 Representative Matt Garcia
 Mr. Tony Bonilla
 Ms. Genevieve Gonzalez
 Ms. Dominga Coronado
 Ms. Lydia Lenares