



Vol. 14 LAREDO, TEXAS, NOVEMBER, 1947 No. 5



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Greetings

I extend my very cordial greetings to the League of United Latin-American Citizens.

The matter of Anglo- and Latin-American relationships has always received my interest and attention.

It is of great importance to the well-being of our State and to the happiness of all of its people that our citizens of whatever extraction dwell together in peace and harmony, and with a full and sympathetic understanding of the problems, attitudes and ambitions of each other.

The State of Texas has now established a permanent Good Neighbor Commission. Its function is set out in the law, which says:

"It shall be the duty of the Commission to devise and put into effect methods by which inter-American understanding and goodwill may be promoted and inter-American relations advanced without resort to punitive measures or the application of civil or criminal sanctions."

With these high purposes in mind, with the cooperation of every State agency and department, and with tolerance and understanding by all, we should succeed in achieving the solidarity of the Americas, which is the hope for the peace of the world.

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— TO —
GEORGE J. GARZA
DIRECTOR OF PUBLICITY AND
EDITOR OF LULAC NEWS

1911 MATAMOROS ST. LAREDO, TEXAS

VOL. 14 NOVEMBER, 1947 NO. 5

★ ★ Editorial ★ ★

"A physical and/or social separation by means of separate housing, separate lunch periods, separate play periods, and other such ways whereby Spanish name children are arbitrarily set apart from other pupils." Such is the definition of segregation of Latin American children in schools of Texas as given in a summary of a study of educational opportunities for Spanish-name children made by Dr. Geo. I. Sanchez and Virgil Strickland of the University of Texas within a radius of a hundred miles of Austin. Further study of this summary reveals two outstanding and significant factors:

First, the complete lack of uniformity in segregation practice and second, the fact that segregation is carried out on an "arbitrary" basis determined solely by "local custom, tradition and prejudice."

Such then is the picture under which approximately 1,100,000 Latin Americans have labored for an education, and which has been depicted more than once as a result of observation, experience, results, and surveys. A seemingly absurd and fantastic picture in this country where hardly a day goes by without the words, "Freedom, Equality," being seen or heard. The reasons for the toleration of such conditions may be summed up in two points, an assumed resignation to an intolerable situation by the mistreated people, due to a fear of inability to fight for guaranteed rights and privileges, and a disinterested or guarded attitude on the part of those who are in a position to fight or assist in the fight. But as has been proved more than once through the pages of history, even the most

docile and apathetic of human beings sometimes throw off their docility and apathy and go after their rights and privileges with a determined and fearless tenacity. Such is the case of Latin Americans who have at last resigned themselves to go after all that is rightfully theirs in the field of education.

On November 17, attorneys for 20 Latin American children filed suit in U. S. District Court at Austin, Texas, charging "unjust, capricious, and arbitrary" segregation by four school districts, and asked for a temporary injunction and damages. State Superintendent of Schools L. A. Woods and the nine members of the State Board of Education, as well as the superintendents and trustees of the four school districts were named as defendants.

The brief charged that the defendants "have exceeded the authority vested in them by the constitution and laws of the state of Texas in carrying out the policy of segregating children of Latin American origin from other children, and asked the U. S. District Court for the Western District of Texas to "redress the deprivation of civil rights," described as deprivation of equal protection of the laws and of liberty and property without due process in violation of the 14th amendment. Furthermore the brief asked that the defendants be enjoined from assigning into segregated schools and classes children of Latin American descent under their control, and that they be restrained "in any manner" from participating in the "practice of segregation," including proration or payment of funds or instructional materials of the state to be used for maintaining separate schools and classes for Latin Americans.

A similar suit was filed and won in California by a similar group of mistreated people with a determined attitude, and because of this determination and the help of sympathizers, now enjoy the rights demanded. The people of Texas that have suffered in the same manner are now asserting themselves, and they need the backing of all people including the disinterested ones. This is the time for all to place their outraged feelings into one package and deliver it to these fearless fighters and their supporters in the form of moral and financial support. The worthier and greater the battle, the greater and more warranted the support of all people. Now is the time to help in the eradication of a condition that may lead to greater and more abundant opportunities. The ultimate degree of success or failure in this

(Continued on Page 20)

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FACTS AND OPINIONS ON SEGREGATION

"Segregation will end in Texas when relief is sought in the Federal courts," said Dr. George I. Sanchez, Professor of Latin American Education of the University of Texas, at a pop lecture delivered recently in the Texas union on the university campus.

The vicious practice is carried out in Texas and it is indefensible. It is not carried on in secret. Any one can go out and see a segregated school. . . . He said the issue is not, however, the inferiority or superiority of the wooden building or a brick school building, but it is an issue of fundamental civil rights. He said the proponents of segregation, calling it separation, say the practice is done for language difficulties, yet he knew of a child who did not know Spanish and yet was "assigned" to a segregated school.

"Segregation is even carried out on school buses. Now, there is no pedagogical reason for this, is there?" He defined segregation as an arbitrary and capricious assignment of children to a special school separate from other white children. "Separation is a euphemism for segregation which says segregation is OK if call call it separation."

The "rightness" of segregating Spanish-speaking school children is not a matter for laymen to give "off-the-cuff" opinions, but it is a fit subject for trained men in this field of education. Only these men can come to accurate conclusions, he said. He further stated that school administrators "beat the bushes" to get all the Spanish name children on their September rolls to get the per capita allotment from the state, but do not make any special effort to see that these pupils attend school.

The first paper published by the Inter-American Education Committee and edited by Dr. George I. Sanchez, states, "School segregation is pedagogically unsound, socially dangerous, and unquestionably un-American."

The Mendez case of California can easily be cited as a legal land mark in Spanish segregation. A federal district court of California in 1946 granted an injunction restraining the public schools from further discriminatory practices. The complainants alleged violation of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. The case was appealed to the U. S. Circuit Court and the injunction motion was upheld.

According to Dr. Sanchez, the University of Texas has led the country in the research of school conditions in Texas. As early as 1930, Dr. H. T. Manuel, head of the university's Testing and Guidance Center, published a book entitled, "The Education of Mexican and Spanish-speaking Children in Texas." This book based on the findings of surveys made throughout the state clearly presents the differences of schools and education practices in the various communities based on discriminatory attitudes as a result of hate, origin, and economic stability of powered groups. It clearly presents the opinions of administrators, teachers, school board members, business men and other laymen with the majority favoring segregation based not on pedagogical facts, but on biased and prejudiced reasons.

Dr. Wilson Little who in 1944, also published a book based on the census of Texas schools, says, "Separate housing for Spanish-speaking children is a fixed practice in many school systems of Texas."

Attorney General Price Daniel ruled this summer that "based solely on language deficiencies or aptitudes, separate classes or schools may be maintained for pupils who, after examinations equally applied, come within such classification." Upon protestation by three Texas University campus groups that such a ruling left the way open still for segregation, Mr. Daniel clarified it by saying that his opinion "condemns segregation and makes legal segregation based on Latin-American origin impossible."

The Inter-American Education Committee, placing special emphasis on the problem of bilingualism, insists that allowing English and Spanish-speaking children to associate would be helpful in the learning of the language as well as the more fundamental phases of elementary education.

At a recent meeting of the YMCA in Austin, Chris Alderete, Chairman of the YMCA Race Relations Commission, pointed out that besides the actual segregation in inferior plants of education, there was a hostile attitude on the part of some high school faculties where Latin-Americans were allowed to attend schools. He said children were actually discouraged from taking full and active participation in all phases of the school program.

(Continued on Page 18)

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Is Separation Answer

To the Editor:

The Good Neighbor Commission of Texas in its meeting Wednesday approved the separation of Latin-American children through the fifth or sixth grade. The article in the Texan on Thursday said that the commission took this action in accordance with the opinion of educators who agree that such separation, based on language difficulties, is desirable. I wonder what sort of "educators" were consulted by the commission. I am quite sure they did not consult Dr. George I. Sanchez, who really knows the why and wherefores of the education of Latin-American children. And why didn't they? Because learned men like Dr. Sanchez have a way of upsetting the petty rationalizations of the demigods.

And that is exactly what this action of the Good Neighbor Commission represents—a rationalization. The members first had the preconceived idea that they would do nothing to change the status quo, and then they started looking around for something that would justify their "do-nothingness."

I object to the separation of Latin-American children on the basis of language deficiencies, or on any basis, for two main reasons:

(1) It is generally known that the best way to learn a language is to associate with the people who speak that language. To separate Spanish-speaking children from the English-speaking children is to defeat the supposed purpose of such separation.

(2) Whenever a child of any group is separated from children of another group, the differences which may exist between the two groups are reinforced in the child's mind. He becomes increasingly aware of the fact that he is not quite like the children of the other group; this encourages the child's withdrawal into his own group and discourages assimilation with the other. And, in view of the fact that schools for Latin-Americans are commonly inferior to those for Anglo-Americans, the Latin-American child very often develops an inferiority complex and a lack of self-confidence.

This deplorable situation might be prevented if the members of the Good Neighbor Commission would really try to be good neighbors.

CHARLES A. McBRIDE

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above letter was published in the Daily Texan, a University of Texas publication. This letter along with other articles and excerpts from articles taken from the Daily Texan are appearing in this issue of Lacle News with the permission of Jo White, editor of the Daily Texan, and through the courtesy of Charles G. Kidder who furnished us with the clippings.

Group Cites Cases Of Race Discrimination

NOTE: Article reproduced from the Daily Texan as given out by the AP.

A special committee appointed by President Truman today cited cases of discrimination against Mexicans and Puerto Ricans as examples of segregation of minorities from the American way of life.

Mr. Truman's Committee on Civil Rights, headed by President Charles E. Wilson of General Electric Company, singled out discrimination against Mexicans in Texas and other southwestern states and against Puerto Ricans in New York City.

The committee recommended the elimination of existing segregation, based on race, color, creed, or national origin, through legislation by Congress or the state legislatures.

The report, made public by the White House, declared:

"We need to guarantee the same rights to every person regardless of who he is, where he lives, or what his racial, religious or national origins are."

And it said, "The time is now" for remedial measures, for three reasons: moral, economic and international.

President Truman hailed the report with a statement saying he hopes the committee has given the country "as broad a document" as the Declaration of Independence . . . "an American charter of human freedom in our time."

Reference was made in the committee report to testimony offered by witnesses that Mexican workers are ejected in many places in Texas because of a policy of "we never hire Mexicans."

Racial segregation, the committee noted, in many cases the cause for the low living and health standards of minorities.

"In Texas," the report states, "seven Latin-Americans died of tuberculosis for every Anglo-American. Infant deaths furnish another example of this pattern."

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHARGED WITH SEGREGATION



In an open letter to Governor Beauford Jester dated October 1, the inter-organizational committee of the American Veterans Committee and the Alba and Laredo Clubs of the University of Texas asked the Governor to submit the problem of segregation of Latin-American children in the public schools of Texas to the Good Neighbor Commission.

The letter stated: "one of the most important and most fundamental problems in Texas, and one reflecting the most flagrant kind of discrimination, is the segregation of Latin American children in the public schools contrary to the laws of the state as interpreted in Opinion No. V-128, which Attorney General Price Daniel's office issued on April 8."

The letter quoted the opinion in part and its subsequent clarification which the Attorney General made in an open meeting in the Geology Auditorium on August 18. The opinion stated that "no part of such classification or segregation may be based solely upon Latin-American or Mexican descent."

The letter charged that many school systems are illegally segregating Spanish-name children, and emphasized that "we are prepared to substantiate the charge." It named Bastrop, Beeville, Cotulla, Elgin, and Sinton as several of the communities where children are segregated in varying degrees between the first and eight grades.

"If this were a matter that involved only one or two communities, the remedies could properly be sought at the local level. Since the practices are widespread, involving enormous sums of money, and affect thousands of people, it would seem that this is a matter of sufficient importance to warrant intervention by the duly constituted state authorities.

We believe that you will want to remedy this previous situation immediately. At the very least, this problem should be given serious consideration at the coming meeting of the Good Neighbor Commission."

Almost without exception the segregated schools are inferior in every respect to other schools in the community, the letter continued. It stated that the above named communities were not cited as "horrible examples" but that many such horrible examples exist.

"It is important to note that since the schools are operating contrary to law, in term of the Attorney General's opinion, they are expending local and state funds illegally. That should be a matter of gravest concern to the proper state and local authorities, and we call the matter to your attention because we are sure that you will want to take the proper steps to correct such violations," the letter stated.

In reply to the above letter, Governor Beauford Jester said, "I have caused copies of your letter to be made and brought to the attention of the State Department of Education, the Good Neighbor Commission, and the Gilmer-Aiken Committee which is studying the Public school system of Texas."

At the last report received Dr. L. A. Woods, State Superintendent of Schools, stated that he had received no communication from the Governor, but added, "We are working hard to eliminate segregation especially down to the third grade. My recommendation is that any child who has not mastered the English language receive instruction in separate classes, but I can't see why any child who has no language difficulties should be segregated."

Dr. Woods cited several instances which have been solved by intervention of the Department of Education. He said that such progress has been made and that many schools which had been reluctant to admit Latin Americans were now doing so.

"The League of United Latin American Citizens usually informs me of cases of segregation, and I would gladly accept any information the University groups could give me. We deal with such matters as soon as they are brought to our attention," said Dr. Woods.

8 OF 10 SCHOOLS SURVEYED HAVE LATIN AMERICAN SEGREGATION

By CHARLES KIDDER and RAY GREENE

Closely following the report of President Truman's Civil Rights Committee which singled out segregation and discrimination against Mexicans in Texas, a study of the educational opportunities for Spanish-name children within a radius of 100 miles of Austin reveals that segregation does exist.

This study was made by Dr. I. Green Sanchez, professor of Latin-American education at the University, and Virgil Strickland, doctoral candidate working with Dr. Sanchez. Eight of the ten Texas schools surveyed were segregated schools, and the summary of this study points out two significant facts.

First, the complete lack of uniformity in segregation practice, and second, the fact that segregation is carried out on an "arbitrary" basis determined solely by "local custom, tradition and prejudice."

The Civil Rights Committee which was named last December by the President and headed by Charles E. Wilson, president of General Electric Company, recommended the elimination of existing segregation, based on race, color, creed, or national origin through legislation by the Congress or state legislatures.

"The time is now," the Committee emphatically reported. And the President hailed the report as "an American charter of human freedom in our time."

The ten schools selected for the Sanchez-Strickland survey were chosen so that no school system represented an unusually bad educational situation for either Anglo or Spanish-name children, the summary said.

In defining segregation, the summary states, "a physical and or social separation by means of separate housing, separate lunch periods, separate play periods, and other such ways whereby Spanish-name children are arbitrarily set apart from other pupils."

"The determining principle is that physical separation is based on prejudice," the summary states.

The justifications most frequently given for segregation by school authorities are irregular attendance, public opinion, local prejudice, and that it makes possible more individual attention.

"Language handicap is the official reason found in some school board minutes," the summary states.

However, the Sanchez summary points out that where segregation is practiced, "it is based on the Spanish name of the pupils, and it is extended beyond academic activities . . . this extension, like the selection of grades for segregation, is obviously arbitrary and capricious."

No pattern of uniformity in segregation practices was found by Dr. Sanchez. One segregated through the third grade, one through the fourth, two through the fifth, two through the sixth and one each through the seventh and eighth grades, the summary states.

"Furthermore, the names of Spanish-name students appear in separate section of the teachers' class rollbooks . . . Anglo students are given preference in all student matters such as assembly programs, student offices, band membership, and other student activities," the Sanchez-Strickland summary reveals.

Poor attendance as a reason was objected to by Dr. Sanchez. "In many instances Spanish-name children have a daily average attendance as high as that of the other pupils.

Another reason given for segregation was that the children would be able to have greater individual attention and help, but the summary shows that "in no way do practices correspond to the reasons given."

The practices carried out under segregation, instead of being designed for furthering the education of Spanish-name children, were discriminatory and prejudicial to their educational growth and development," the summary points out.

It further states that "practices disclosed were in no way conducive to Americanization, better language development or school attendance, or better health and social habits.

(Continued on Page 20)



TO ALL COUNCILS IN LULAC:

During the four months which have elapsed since my taking over the Presidency General I have expected action from all quarters where our members live. Thus far, there have been only very few signs of life in the Lulac world. Your Supreme Council held a meeting at Laredo on July 30th. At that meeting various individuals were appointed to do certain jobs; the various councils were informed through Lulac News to send in their actions on the various resolutions and amendments passed at the National Convention. To date not a single council has answered and not a single committee has reported on its progress. Let's abandon the easy life of the summer vacation and let's get to work. Let us follow the example of Texas City! The mightiest of destructive explosions hit that city a short while back as all of us should remember. Very recently a wide awake group of men gathered together and they have applied for the first charter for a new council during my term. Must it take a comparable explosion to awaken the rest of the councils?

At the end of the first quarter the Treasurer General sent out notices to all the active councils. At the time of this writing less than half have answered his call. Among those missing are the larger and most active councils. I urge all councils to answer immediately in order that his books may balance.

The end of the year is drawing near. Elections will be held in most of the councils. Start looking around now for the officer material. Elect the ones who will make your councils better and larger. Forget personal influences and get behind your new officers for a greater and more active Lulac. When your elections are over send us the lists of names of those active officers you have chosen. The Secretary General and the Treasurer General can make good use of those lists. Don't hold the information to yourselves. Let us see them.

(Continued on Page 18)

DID YOU KNOW THAT-----

By GEORGE J. GARZA
Director of Publicity

The United States is the only nation in the world, Russia included, which consecrates revolutions by acknowledging in so formal a charter as the Declaration of Independence that,—“when a long train of abuses and usurptions, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them (the people) under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.”

* * *

Not only does the Declaration advocates revolutions but that three of the most democratic figures of American history advocated it as well, namely, Thomas Paine, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln?

* * *

The word “Gringo” whose origin is attributed to the Mexican War, was defined in a Spanish dictionary as early as 1787, and again in Spanish-French dictionary printed in Paris in 1845? Furthermore, the word is defined to mean gibberish or unintelligible?

* * *

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The oldest hospital in America still functions and that it was founded in Mexico City by Hernando Cortez in the early 16th century?

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Education is a continuous part of life?

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Thomas Edison first used the electric fence idea when with some tinfoil and fine copper wire connected to a large battery in the telegraph office in which he worked he electrocuted cockroaches that swarmed the eating table of his fellow workers.

* * *

Nature offers many hints to observant weather prophets such as, bees who after returning

to the beehive fail to come out and thus indicate the coming of rain? Also that high flying swallows bode fair weather and low flying swallows indicate rain? And the lowly cat washing behind his ears telegraphs approaching rains.

* * *

Cows usually point their south end into the wind while grazing? And that flyers looking for a landing place and trying to locate wind direction accept this fact as a fairly accurate one?

* * *

Savings represents much more than mere money? They are proof that the saver is worth something. Any fool can waste; any fool can muddle—but it takes something more of a man to save, and the more he saves, the more of man he makes of himself?

* * *

The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself, and therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man?

* * *

Those who stay on the level, rise higher in the end?

* * *

An appropriate definition for a pink elephant is: a beast of bourbon?

* * *

A dumb girl is a dope? A dope is a drug? That doctors give drugs to relieve pain, therefore a dumb girl is just what the doctor ordered?

* * *

Twenty-two American welfare agencies organized the Co-operative for American Remittances to Europe, Inc., to replace UNRRA, and that its initials spell CARE, very appropriately telling Europe that Americans do care what happen to hungry people?

COMMISSION SANCTIONS SEGREGATION OF LATIN AMERICANS



The segregation of Latin American children in Texas schools on the basis of origin was disapproved by the Good Neighbor Commission at a recent meeting, but the commission agreed with educators who contend that separation based on language difficulties is desirable through the the fifth or sixth grades.

R. E. Smith, re-elected chairman of the commission, said that the commission had considered the letter of Hector Perez Martinez, Mexican Secretary of Interior, which listed several charges of discrimination against Mexican Nationals.

Mr. Smith said that the commission had not found cases of actual segregation as alleged recently; he said it was separation for language difficulties which existed in the lower grades. He further stated in regard to discrimination that such problems can best be solved on the local level. The problems vary, he declared, and each community would know the best way to deal with them. To some extent the same holds true in regards to schools, he said.

Mr. Smith said at this meeting that the commission had not as yet received the letter of the three University of Texas clubs which Governor Jester was to refer to the commission.

At this particular meeting of the commission, a resolution was adopted which said, "The recommendation of this commission is that as soon as facilities and teachers do become available further consideration be given to making the teaching of Spanish in the elementary schools compulsory." The resolution states that an exchange of teachers would greatly aid in supplying the necessary teachers for Latin American countries and Texas.

The teaching of Spanish was recommended by Governor Jester who addressed the commission, and State Superintendent of Schools, L. A. Woods. Dr. Woods said in a letter that at the present time facilities and teachers were not available to carry out a compulsory program.

The resolution approved by the commission regarding the teaching of Spanish in elementary schools is a worthy one within itself but has a tendency to imply in the minds of the average person the idea that the worthy commission is deftly trying to evade the question of segregation of Latin American children in schools. Such a resolution can easily be misinterpreted to mean that the commission is trying to ease its emphatic stand for segregation of Latin American children in schools on whatever grounds with its recommendation for the teaching of Spanish in elementary schools, hoping thereby to flatter the segregated children and their families.

It is indeed funny that this commission which has stated that local communities can easily cope with their school segregation problems and problems of discrimination should recommend that such communities be compelled to institute a foreign language in their school curriculum. Funnier still is the idea of this commission sanctioning the compulsory instituting of a foreign language in the schools without reservations while agreeing to reservations in the teaching of the official language of this country to Americans.

If and when the above resolution is adopted in effect by the state, and Spanish is made a compulsory subject in the elementary schools of the state, the eyes of the people will be focused on whether or not provisions will be made to maintain separate classes and buildings for the Anglo American children who will definitely have a language handicap.

FACTS AND OPINIONS—

(Continued from Page 7)

Quoting a passage which he attributed to Dr. H. T. Manuel, Alderete said,"

"Any administrative or curricular practice which isolates or tends to isolate the Latin American children solely on the basis of such descent, through physical separation or inadequate educational offerings, are deemed pedagogically unsound, contrary to state and national policy, and inimical to the best interests of both of these groups of children."

Further quoting Dr. Manuel, Alderete stated that Latin-American children "wish to be participants in the drama of life rather than mere spectators. They want reasonable security, education, and recitation as full-fledged members of the group. They want opportunity, not special privilege. They want full democracy and democracy wants them."

In the discussion that followed, Rev. Ed Brown, director of the YMCA, said, "discrimination is unchristian."

Robert C. Eckhardt, attorney of Austin and former counselor of the Good Neighbor Commission said that the problem could best be solved by attacking it at the local level. He called for a law that would enable the Attorney General to fight school districts which practice segregation. He further stated that with people who favor low wages, poor educational facilities, and a limitation of rights and privileges on school boards, segregation will continue.

Sometime ago, Attorney General Price Daniel at an open meeting of the Laredo and Alba Clubs and the American Veterans Committee of the University of Texas, emphatically stated that his opinion previously rendered on the segregation of Latin-American children in schools condemns segregation, that his opinion makes legal segregation impossible, and that his was the first instance in which an attorney general of Texas has come out and stated that separated classes and schools cannot be maintained solely on the basis of Latin-American origin. In answer to three questions propounded him by Bro. Gus Garcia of San Antonio, Mr. Daniel said that Bro. Garcia was correct in assuming that the opinion embodied the following principles:

1. Pedagogical reasons must not be used as a pretext to practice segregation of children in subject matters other than those in which scientific tests, equally applied to all students regardless of racial ancestry, have proved that special instruction is necessary.

2. Separation for instructional purposes in those aforesaid subject matters does not justify inferiority in general educational facilities nor in the quality of teachers, but, if anything, calls for superior facilities and instructors.

3. The grouping of children for special instructional purposes should be based solely on the results of said test, without reference to racial origin or social background.

TO ALL COUNCILS IN LULAC—

(Continued from Page 15)

Texas has already produced a new council. I would like to hear from California, Colorado and Arizona. New Mexico has one or two in the process of formation. If we do not hurry, Texas is going to have a second new council soon. The Regional Organizer for Texas is really organizing. Let's all of us start organizing and contribute to the Organizer's fund. Mr. Arnulfo Zamora Laredo, Texas, is ready to receive all contributions.

As your President General I would like to see at least a new council a month formed until our next convention. That is not asking too much! Are you going to do it, or are you going to disappoint me?

DR. JOSE MALDONADO
President General

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ECKHARDT CONDEMNS LATIN DISCRIMINATION; FULL CIVIL RIGHTS ASKED FOR LATINS

By CHARLES KIDDER



Hurling a challenge to the Good Neighbor Commission and asking that full civil rights be accorded to Latin Americans, Robert C. Eckhardt, local attorney and former consultant general for the Commission, spoke on several aspects of President Truman's Civil Rights Committee's report and the relations between Anglo and Latin Americans in Texas at the YMCA auditorium Monday.

Mr. Eckhardt condemned segregation and discrimination against Latin Americans particularly in the field of elementary education, enjoying of public facilities, and by some law enforcement officers as a deprivation of civil rights.

"I don't know how far Texas will go in following the recommendations of the committee report, but it has one agency—the good Neighbor Commission—pertaining to one minority . . . and although it has not developed or given any intention of developing into a civil rights group, it is the machinery. If it can not cope with the problems presented them, then let's set up a machinery that can," he said.

In the July meeting of the Commission, he said he presented a report which emphasized deprivation of civil rights. This report had been asked by President Truman's committee. The Commission failing to act on it, he said he sent it to Washington.

"We already know what the problem in Texas is in regards to education. We know that approximately half of the Latin American children are not in regular attendance in Texas schools. We know that this is due to community prejudice resulting in economic discrimination and poor school facilities," Mr. Eckhardt said.

Children are sent to poorly-equipped segregated schools on theory that they have language deficiencies, he said. He cited an incident which

happened while he visited a Latin American family. A little girl conversed with him in English and asking her if and where she had learned Spanish, she replied, "in school." He said the girl was attending a segregated school.

"Let's assume that these children don't speak English. Do you think that a separate school, playground, or lunch room is conducive to learning English or preparing these children for a normal American environment?" he asked.

A community stood to gain money if unequal facilities are offered as long as the state furnished school funds on the per capita basis; some of these funds which should contribute to the education of Latin American children are diverted to educate Anglo children, he said.

"This matter rests not only on community preference; it is the community's responsibility to give equal educational opportunities. And not only equal facilities, but to provide schools where they can learn to be Americans without any pre-fixes," he said.

He asked for a reevaluation of our Bill of Rights and said, "our system of government is on trial, our actions must fit the law of the land, our practices must fit the philosophy as expressed in the Bill of Rights."

He said that the Good Neighbor Commission had done good work since its beginning in 1943 and that it was not his intention to criticize its personnel, but that it seemed unreasonable not to find at least one Latin American on it today.

Mr. Eckhardt cited several instances of police brutality and discrimination against Latin Americans.

Ann Combs, co-chairman of the "Y" public affairs commission which sponsored the meeting, presided.

MORNING

By ALICE GUTIERREZ

*The stars are now dim,
Long since has slipped the moon,
O'er the slipping earth's rim,
The day is coming soon.*

*Already the shadows fade
As the first ray of light,
Searches the prairies, hills and glades,
In furtive errant flight.*

*The day is coming slow;
Gray and pink confused,
Across the sky in cloudy revivents flow,
Until they glow softly defused.*

*Birds have just awakened and greet
The sun with full throated song,
While dawn's sprinkled blossoms open to meet,
The warmth for which they have waited so long.*

*Parevell dark and quiet night
Time of dreary shadows past,
Hail glorious morning light
Victor from beginning to last.*

NOTE: The above poem by Miss Alice Gutierrez of McKeesport, Pa., was submitted by Marcus Zertuche of San Antonio, Texas.

EDITORIALS

(Continued from Page 5)

case will be determined by the strength and perseverance behind it, and this in turn will be determined by the help given by all interested persons. Will ultimate victory bring joy to your heart as a result of the knowledge that you did your part in the fight, or, should the case be lost, will your conscience carry the stigma of defeat because you failed to do your part?

Within the success or failure of this case lies the road that will lead to future progressive steps for the general welfare of Latin Americans, or to a period of retrogression as yet unparalleled. It is up to Latin Americans through the media of their reaction to this appeal for help to select the road they wish to traverse. Opportunity knocks every time but does not tarry unless someone opens the door.

8 OF 10 SCHOOLS SURVEYED—

(Continued from Page 14)

Racial segregation, the President's Civil Rights Committee noted, is in many cases the cause for the low living and health standards of minorities.

"In Texas," the Committee said, "seven Latin-Americans died of tuberculosis for every Anglo-American. Infant deaths furnish another example of this pattern."

"It was emphatically pointed out," the Sanchez summary quote the Inter-American Education Paper, "that school segregation is pedagogically unsound, socially dangerous, and unquestionably un-American."

Recent federal court decisions are emphatic in condemning, in California, the segregation of Spanish-name children under conditions similar to those in Texas.

Quoting Price Daniel, Attorney General of Texas, the summary says that no segregation may be based solely upon Latin-American or Mexican descent.

"It seems clear, then, that the segregation of Spanish-name children . . . is contrary to the laws of Texas . . . a denial of rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States is suggested by the decisions of federal courts in the Mendez case.

"In addition, the practices and conditions revealed by this survey constitute irrefutable, objective evidence that the segregation of Spanish-name children in the selected school systems is prejudicially discriminatory, and that the good faith of the "pedagogical reasons offered for that segregation is questionable," the summary concludes.

The schools were surveyed as to segregation practices, teaching and administrative staffs, buildings and other physical facilities, sanitation, welfare practices, and inter-school joint participation.

Around The Lulac Shield

ALL TEXAS LULAC COUNCILS

Well, it is done. The segregationist suit has been filed in a U. S. Federal District Court, and the money that each one of the councils pledged at the state convention a short while back is greatly needed. It is a Lulac fight even though Lulac is not the plaintiff as such in the suit, and it is to our duty to help see it through. So rush the money through, and do not spare the horses.

TO ALL COUNCILS OF THE LEAGUE

Seems that the little matter of council dues to the Treasurer General for the first two quarters of the Lulac fiscal year beginning July, 1947, has been overlooked by some of the councils. For your information check the following list:

Albuquerque Council Nos. 34 and 17
Austin Council No. 85
Clifton Council No. 131
Corpus Christi Council (Ladies) No. 26
El Paso Council (Ladies) No. 99
Flagstaff Council No. 145
Fort Stockton Council No. 62
Laredo Council No. 12
Los Angeles Council No. 125
Robstown Council No. 99
San Diego Council No. 97
Santa Ana Council No. 147
San Antonio Council No. 2
Trinidad Council No. 113
Taft Council No. 81

SAN ANTONIO COUNCIL NO. 2

Council No. 2 is certainly in the limelight as far as civic matters go. Leading the parade is the endorsement of the \$6,000,000 Sewer Bond Issue for San Antonio. Fully realizing the need for this matter Council No. 2 will actively campaign for the passing of the issue.

Closely following their recent contribution of \$300.00 to the segregation fund of which Dr. Sanchez is custodian, this council has contributed \$500.00 to the Lulac Special Educational Fund which brings up the total from this council to \$800.00.

Among other activities have been participation in the Armistice Day Parade, playing host to the visiting Mexico Boxing team on a tour of the city, the bringing about of the elimination of the term "Mexican" from City Health files, and the dispatching of a telegram to President Truman urging his support in wiping out segregation and discrimination.

SAN MARCOS COUNCIL No. 148

This council is another civic-minded unit that is rapidly making itself an integral part of

OPEN LETTER

November 17, 1947

Dear Brother:

During our Regional Convention held in San Antonio, Texas, September 20th. and 21st., 1947, four resolutions were passed unanimously by all your delegates. I am enclosing herewith, a copy of Resolution No. 1 for the second time, trusting that your Council will take immediate action and send all the contributions as soon as possible to Dr. George I. Sanchez, Trustee, University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

It is imperative and important that you act now. We must get these funds in to Dr. Sanchez immediately, because situations are becoming worse throughout the State, with reference to school segregations, school conditions, and discrimination to our people.

Today, Monday, November 17th, Bro. Gus Garcia, a well known attorney together with four others, including one from California, are filing a test case in the Federal Court at Austin, therefore, you can readily see, money is badly needed. The battle is on, we must win it. Many experts from various universities throughout the union must be brought to Austin. Witnesses from different sections of the State also must be brought to Austin, and it takes money to go through this battle and come out with the greatest victory in the history.

San Antonio Council No. 2 has contributed to date, \$800.00. I have only received one more contribution, from Council No. 56, Raymondville, Texas, for \$100.00, which we welcome, and sincerely thank our brothers in Raymondville.

Please, do not put this thing over for tomorrow, act now! Send your contributions immediately, we must go forward and get this thing over once and for all, remember, it is for the betterment of our entire community, and not only this, but we must show the world what Lulac is and stands for.

I shall anxiously be waiting for your immediate support, and I know you will not fail me. Thanks,

Fraternally yours,
R. A. CORTEZ, Regional
Governor for Texas, LULAC

the community through its help by means of financial contributions to worthy endeavors. Its latest activity was the giving away of a washer to the lucky donor to their civic fund. According to the latest word from V. P. Joe Rodriguez, the council under its new set of officers is well on its way to an increase in membership.

OPEN LETTER

Austin, Texas

November 3, 1947

Editor

Lulac News

Laredo, Texas

Dear Brother Lulacs:

It seems like the fickle finger of fate gave the widely anticipated bull-fight being sponsored by the Austin Council No. 85 an abrupt and pocket-felt ending. The law was so constructed so as to permit no subterfuge for having bull-fights, but nevertheless the Austin Council No. 85's determination to sponsor the biggest and best National Convention in Lulac history has completely disregarded this regrettable incident and is now working on new and better plans for raising funds for our national convention.

I would like to congratulate the writer of an editorial in a recent issue of Lulac News with regards to dormant councils and apathetic Lulacs. The reasons for these inconsistencies and negative approach to civic problems is quite obvious. It seems to me that this ultra-conservatism is due to—shall we say political obligations, but then I am merely postulating. The palpable fact; however, is that some members do sacrifice working along the aims and principles of Lulac for fear of hurting their own status quo. Let's get out of the gutter boys, we've plenty of work to do. One of the best ways by which we could promote a fraternal feeling among our members is to encourage correspondence between councils.

The councils in California are so much unaware of what is happening in Texas councils as we in Texas are of them. I for one, would like to hear from Brother Johnny Gonzalez in Los Angeles and Brother Tarango in Santa Anna. In a recent edition of Coronet's Magazine, I read a quotation from one of Abe Lincoln's speeches I like to pass it on to you, just in case you missed it.

"The strongest bond of human sympathy outside of the family relation, should be one uniting all working people, of all nations and tongues and kindreds. Nor should this lead us to a war

Austin's Chatter

Brother Roy Velasquez wants it to be known that he didn't lose his precious jewel, he just had it repaired.

Brother Frank Pinedo is one of the four Latin Americans at Texas University's Law School. We wish you God's speed, Frank.

The Austin Jr. Lulacs are doing magnificently well. Their latest dance was a huge success and Blas Moya informs us that basketball uniforms have been ordered and that they intend to enter the City League competition.

Hats off to Henry Moreno for the best record of accomplishment and unselfish devotion in Lulac Council No. 85.

Mack Martinez, our district organizer and spark plug of Council No. 85 informs us that Taylor, Texas, will soon be organized. Good work, Mack.

Brother Big Boy Olvera is our bouncer and very capable too. You'll meet him at the convention.

Some members of Austin council wish to apologize to the telephone company in Santa Fe, New Mexico, for so many calls. They seemed to like the weather in them there hills.

upon property, or the owner's of property. Property is the fruit of labor; property is desirable; is a positive good in the world. That some should be rich shows that others may become rich and hence, is just encouragement to industry and enterprise. Let not him who is houseless pull down the house of another, but let him labor diligently and build one for himself, thus, by example, assuring that his own shall be safe from violence when built ABE LINCOLN."

Remember our purpose for organizing, and do not forsake the aims and principles of Lulac.

PETE TIJERINA

District Governor

Lulac Council No. 85

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