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# A Monthly Message from the... President General



TO ALL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF  
LULAC COUNCILS:

At the Regional Convention in Houston, Texas, it developed that considerable confusion and misunderstanding existed among the Councils and members of Lulac as a result of a letter issued from this Office subsequent to the meeting of the Supreme Council held at San Antonio on December 5, 1948.

To eliminate any misunderstanding and clarify the issues involved, I ask that you disregard said letter dated Jan. 5, 1949, and consider the following information:

At the Supreme Council meeting the General Officers unanimously approved two propositions discussed under the heading of "Good and Welfare of the League." 1. A proposed trip to Washington, and (2) The assessment of fifty (50) cents per member, on a voluntary basis, to meet emergency problems confronting the League.

On the trip, the proposition was that Dr. George I. Sanchez, Gus C. Garcia, and your President General visit Washington to acquaint high Executive and Legislative Department officials of the need for emergency legislation on civil rights, segregation of our children, and conditions of farm and industrial laborers. The results obtained were reported to the Regional Convention. Very soon a similar report will be made to every Council. The expenses were borne by the President General and if it meets with your approval he will be reimbursed from the General Fund. We, therefore, request that you indicate your approval or disapproval of the foregoing proposition.

The second proposal concerned the assessment of fifty (50) cents per member, on a voluntary basis, for six months only. This "assessment" to be made by each Council that approved it in any way it saw fit, whether by fund-raising celebrations, a house-to-house canvass, or the way funds were obtained for the school segregation case.

The six-month trial period was based on the idea that by that time the fund would be raised by membership drives to the point where the Councils that provided this assistance would no longer have to do so. The President General found much enthusiasm in the State of California, but the opinion is that they need a professional Or-

ganizer. He will then proceed to other states to organize Councils until we have a national Lulac which will be on a par with the organization of any other minority in the United States. Your President General cannot guarantee the success of this plan. But he fervently hopes that with your backing it will succeed, and he believes it is well worth the gamble. Our problems have reached a national scale. We can no longer solve them piecemeal, hoping that matters will take care of themselves.

Another expense to be met is that of a full-time Secretary General. We cannot expect people of limited means to devote their energies to Lulac without compensation.

For two years we have had a Legal Adviser leave his practice and devote his time to Lulac without pay. We can no longer expect him to without any remuneration. Unfortunately, our talented people, intensely interested in our problems, are not among the independently wealthy who could afford to devote their lives to the cause as a hobby.

Other minority groups finance daily newspapers, full-time executives, lobbyists. If 96,000 Japanese-Americans can spend \$50,000.00 a year on salaries alone, surely 3,000,000 Latin Americans can do more than we have done up to now.

Our interests are being attacked from three quarters: (1) A proposal in Texas to abolish the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, which means the good accomplished in the segregation case would be lost; (2) A proposal to abolish the Good Neighbor Commission; (3) A lawsuit by Del Rio Independent School District for a clarification of the Delgado Anti-Segregation decision, an obvious attempt to weaken its state-wide effect.

In view of this, your President General respectfully requests that you consider these matters, vote on them without delay, and inform this Office of your decisions immediately. Please remember, time is the most important factor in this fight.

R. A. Cortez  
President General.



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# AND LULAC WAS BORN . . . .

It was the year 1929. The year of the Big Crash. Our Country had just passed through the greatest economic boom in its history. The political battle (?) cry of "A Chicken In Every Pail", was just about to fizzle out. The great "Recession" was getting ready to begin.

Not being clairvoyant and interested only in the solution of the many problems that confronted our Spanish speaking minority, our "founding fathers" had none of this in mind, when they journeyed to Corpus Christi, that eventful year of Our Lord, to chalk up, in the minds of many of the citizens of our native State of Texas, the birth of "just another 'Mexican' organization."

"The Order Sons of America", The Latin American League of the Valley", and "The Order Knights of America", after many years of "hanging separately" had at last decided to "hang together."

This luminous and historical decision was due to the work and efforts of men like Clement Ibar, Alonso S. Perales, J. T. Canales, M. C. Gonzalez, and others; the "sparkplugs" of the organizations mentioned, who could and did envision a brighter future, wider horizons, a greater scope of activities for one large, strong, organization rather than several weak ones. The wisdom of that move has long been conclusively proven, but never tried again.

And so one sultry, humid, and overly hot morning, in 1929, a large group, composed of segments of all three organizations, met in the sprawling, bawling port of Corpus Christi, Texas, to effect the merger of their groups into one compact, aggressive, working unit. And LULAC was born, and the late Ben Garza became its first President General.

It is to their credit, honor, and everlasting glory that they, then and there, forgot at least for that momentous occasion, all their petty jealousies and selfish animosities - and settled down to the job at hand.

First of all on their Agenda, was the burning question of the "Aims and Purposes".

What was, or had been, the aimless "aim" of the organizations involved?

They had ALL had the vague, ambiguous, and erratic "purpose" of striving to achieve the "betterment" of the American citizen of Mexican extraction. How to realize that far-off and nebulous ambition was the burning question.

But they had, staring them in the face, an apparently unsurmountable obstacle. In the minds of ninety-nine (99%) per cent of the Anglo-Americans, an American citizen of Mexican descent was "just another Mexican". In the minds of our own people anyone of them that claimed to be "an American", was "just another dark-faced Agrin-

gado" and a two-faced "traitor". That was the ickish proposition.

How to teach the average Anglo-American to recognize the American Mexican as "an American"; and at the same time, how to teach the American Mexican to realize and recognize the fact that he was an American, without arousing the natural resentment, hatred, and animosity created in him by his daily treatment by other Americans.

How to draw the line, between the American citizen of Mexican descent, and the alien of the same extraction, residing in the United States in such close proximity to his mother country, maintaining alive in his soul the traditions of his people, the only moral refuge he could find against the misunderstanding, the intolerance, and the discriminatory practices of his neighbors.

So, the first step was to find a title to the organization that would contain a word, or words, signifying the fusion of both elements, and the group emerged with the name "League of UNITED LATIN AMERICAN Citizens".

Here, they had found a way of beginning the long and arduous task of teaching all concerned that we were Americans, and at the same time sugar-coating the pill by adding the word "Latin" to the name, merely as a sop to both sides, until that happy day would arrive when they could claim the glorious classification "American" for their very own, just as any other full-fledged citizen of this country.

We will certainly never know for sure, who was really responsible for the first Article of what has come to be known as the "Aims and Purposes" of Lulac. But that first article contains the essence, the soul, the very heart and core of the organization. The rest are but the ways and means of achieving its goal.

Recognizing the fact that there is no such thing as a Mexican "race", its wording has been changed somewhat, but its essence still remains intact: "To develop within the members of our group, the best, purest, and most perfect type of true and loyal citizen of the United States of America".

We think that it is only right that we should here say that the word "group" no longer applies to "race" or "ethnic group", as it was used heretofore, because Anglo-Americans can now belong to Lulac.

We could, with justifiable pride, go on elaborating on our Aims and Purposes of Lulac, but we will not do so because you will find them on another page of this issue, and you can read and judge them for yourself.

Cont. on next page.

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## And Lucac Was Born

Cont from preceding page.

These are still the same that made Federal Judge Welsh, of California, exclaim, back in 1934, that they were the best aims of any organization that he had ever read about.

It was during this time that your present Executive Secretary General received his first official appointment from the late Mauro M. Machado, then President General, as State Organizer for the State of California, and that the first Council of Lucac was organized in Sacramento.

About that same time New Mexico and Arizona were organized by such staunch Lucacs as Filimon Martinez, Herman Baca, Anthony Fernandez, and others.

Throughout those years, even though many of the then General Officers were busily participating with others in the development of Lucac, the outstanding worker of them all, specially in organization work, was Mauro M. Machado, who had the self-imposed task of acting organizer general until his untimely passing in September of 1944.

The name of Mauro M. Machado will forever stand on the roster of Lucac Immortals. His very last words, before he slipped away into the great beyond, to his fellow-Lucacs around his death-bed, were: "You are doing a great job for Lucac. Keep it up". His last breath was a benediction for Lucac.

This organization, that has been fortunate in drawing to its ranks altruistic and unselfish men, also had another hero. A man whose name should live forever in the minds and in the hearts of all civic-minded and public-spirited citizens, interested in the common welfare of their communities.

This man gone and forgotten but to a few of us who still remember those that have given their all for Lucac, was Candelario Barrientes, of Hondo. Although a successful businessman, Candelario Barrientes was just a small-town grocer to his friends and neighbors, but he had the stuff that heroes are made out of. He had the courage, the stamina, the will, and the inclination to put his civic duties over and above his personal and selfish interests.

In a community where segregation and discrimination are still rampant and deep-rooted, as common as their daily breathing; he set out to improve the public school for the Spanish-speaking children.

It cost him many, many years of untiring effort. It cost him his business. He was (boycotted) and run out of business by the "white people" of Hondo. It cost him his very life. He passed away exactly one week after he had the satisfaction of attending the inauguration of the new school acquired by and through his work, efforts, and sacrifice.

After his death, his widow had to move to

San Antonio, destitute and alone, to put his children in an institution in order to go to work to support them and herself.

A concerted effort should be made by Lucac to have the school authorities of Hondo erect a memorial to his memory by naming that school after him.

The name of Candelario Barrientes will forever stand out as another of the Lucac Immortals.

We have mentioned the experiences of Candelario Barrientes, as a contrast with others who have felt the economic pressure - and have fallen by the wayside.

We also had in mind, calling our readers' attention to the fact that we have not always had a smooth road to travel. That the founding of Lucac has cost many of us a lot of toil, sweat, and tears. We feel sure that many of our newcomers, that we have welcomed with open arms, to share in the latest triumphs and successes of Lucac, have not yet realized the sacrifices that it cost to build.

We can only hope that they will accept the bitter with the sweet, as we had to do, and that the organization, with their efforts, will march on to greater glories in the future.

We could fill up this whole issue with the trials and tribulations as well as the successes of Lucac, but we do not think that it is as important, in celebrating its 20th Anniversary, as it is to rededicate ourselves to its work, and to resolve that henceforth there shall be no more dormant years, but that Lucac shall enjoy a lasting era of energetic and productive effort.



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# PAST PRESIDENTS GENERAL



Past President General  
PEN GARZA



Past President General  
JOSE I MALDONADO



Past President General  
ARNULFO ZAMORA

## Our Aims and Purposes. . .the Guiding Lights of many years

1. To develop within the members of our ethnic group the best, purest, and most perfect type of true and loyal citizens of the United States of America.
2. To eradicate from our body politic all intents and tendencies to establish discrimination among our fellow-citizens on account of race, religion, or social position as being contrary to the true spirit of Democracy, our Constitution and Laws.
3. To use all the legal means at our command to the end that all citizens in our country may enjoy equal rights, the equal protection of the laws of the land and equal opportunities and privileges.
4. The acquisition of the English language, which is the enjoyment of our rights and privileges, we declare it to be official language of this Organization, and we pledge ourselves to learn, and speak, and teach same to our Chil-official language of our country, being necessary for the dren.
5. To define with absolute and unmistakable clearness our unquestionable loyalty to the ideals, principles and citizenship of the United States of America.
6. We solemnly declare once and for all to maintain a sincere and respectful reverence for our racial origin of which we are proud.
7. By all lawful means at our command, we shall assist in the education and guidance of Latin-Americans and we shall protect and defend their lives and interests whenever necessary. We shall oppose any tendency to separate our children in the schools of this Country.
8. Each of us considers himself with equal responsibilities in our Organization, to which we voluntarily swear subordination and obedience.
9. We shall create a fund for mutual protection, for the defense of those of us who may be unjustly prose-

- cuted and for the education and culture of our people.
10. This organization is not a political club, but as citizens we shall participate in all local, State and National political contests. However, in doing so, we shall ever bear in mind the general welfare of our people, and we shall disregard and abjure once and for all any personal obligation which is not in harmony with these principles.
11. With our vote and influence we shall endeavor to place in public office men who show by their deeds, respect and consideration for our people.
12. We shall select as our leaders those among us who demonstrate, by their integrity and culture, that they are capable of guiding and directing us properly.
13. We shall maintain publicity means for the diffusion of these principles and for the expansion and consolidation of this Organization.
14. We shall pay our poll tax and urge all our fellow-citizens to do likewise, in order that we may enjoy our rights fully.
15. We shall diffuse our ideals by means of the press lectures and pamphlets.
16. We shall oppose any radical and violent demonstration which may tend to create conflicts and disturb the peace and tranquility of our Country.
17. We shall have mutual respect for our religious views and we shall never refer to them in our Institution.
18. We shall endeavor to secure equal representation for our people on juries and in the administration of Governmental affairs.
19. We shall denounce every act of peonage and mistreatment as well as the employment of our minor children of scholastic age.
20. We shall resist and attack energetically all machinations tending to prevent our social and political unification.

# PAST PRESIDENTS GENERAL



Past President General  
ALONSO S. PERALES



Past President General  
J. T. CANALES



Past President General  
JAMES TAFOLLA, JR.



RAYMOND LONGORIA  
Past President General



FILIMON MARTINEZ  
Past President General



## Lulac's 20th Anniversary observed by Council of San Antonio

Picture to the left, shows Honor  
Celebration of LULAC; to the right, a  
members of LULAC Council No. 2 and  
in the history of this organization as  
dent Manuel C. Gor

### Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today, the League of United Latin American Citizens, celebrates its 20th anniversary; 20 years ago it consisted of three councils, Corpus Christi, Brownsville and San Antonio. It grew rapidly because of the type of leadership it had. Hon. J. T. Canales, whose influence was and is tremendous in the valley, caused the creation of a large number of councils within a few months; Alonso Perales and your speaker, both San Antonians, worked diligently in the surrounding counties to the north, east and west of Bexar County; and Ben Garza, the first President of the League was the driving force that kept the interest and harmony of our group at high pitch. The necessity for a Lulac organization was so evident among the million Latins in Texas, that its growth was destined to rise to unprecedented proportions due to its aims and purposes and the fact that it had nothing to sell for cash and all its officers worked hard and long without a salary or expenses. The love for children born here, and the desire that they enjoy their American heritage guaranteed by the constitution—(1) a free public education, (2) the right to vote as one saw fit, that a democratic government could be assured, (3) the right to possess and enjoy a home, (4) the right to sit on juries and participate in the administration of Justice and (5) the right to enter a restaurant and drink a cup of coffee—were the impelling motives that caused this united fight for recognition in this native land of ours. Yes, all these rights, legal and christian, were being denied to the descendants of Texas pioneers and liberators 20 years ago. To the descendants of world war heroes of 1918; to some of the descendants of the signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence; to some of the descendants of the heroes at the battle of San Jacinto; to some of the descendants

of the Spanish American war, and even today we are still battling for those rights for the very heroes of the recent World War II, some congressional medal of honor holders and others who cannot purchase a piece of land to build a home or enter certain restaurants to eat or be given christian burial in their native land.

Much progress has been made since that epoch making event, 20 years ago. Many were the struggles against our Anglo brethren in remote places who selfishly foresaw the gigantic social, economic, political and cultural power of these patriotic citizens who had done so much to free Texas from oppression in all the wars of its colorful history; so much to develop its highways, railroads, buildings and who had picked 90% of Texas cotton; and who lent such valiant music and song to the inhabitants of this State; had given so much culture and art, religion and assistance in harvesting of our nation's food; who Yes, progress has been slow, but progress along all these lines has been made.

The steady, unrelenting fight of Lulac for the education of our children is a matter that has merited State, National and International attention.

First, Lulac succeeded in keeping out of our school books certain so-called historical facts which tend to inflame and prejudice the younger generation of Americans towards the Mexican people generally; a fair, impartial, truer version is now incorporated in our school texts, and that was one great stride that Lulac tonight can boast as outstanding; (2) The Federal Court decision enjoining the segregation of our children from the Anglo-saxon in the public schools as being violative of our constitutional rights, is another outstanding achievement that tonight we are happy to celebrate, and last, but not least, a member of our Race who single handed and over a period of





# h Anniversary y Council No. 2 n Antonio

Honor Table at 20th Anniversary  
the right, another view of the many  
l No. 2 and their guests who gloried  
nization as extolled by Past Presi-  
uel C. Gonzalez.



many years, reached the conclusion that the cure for our ills, economic, social, intellectual and otherwise, is basically the acquisition of a proper education, began a relentless fight for better and ample school facilities in the extremely crowded sections of our City, and was later joined by many sympathetic groups and organizations, finally succeeding to a marked degree, and so that is the reason why Lulac is happy tonight to honor such a man publicly—the Hon. Eleuterio Escobar, our guest of Honor.

Continuing, I must mention names of other great leaders in Lulacdom. Dr. Geo. I. Sanchez, Prof. of Latin American Education, University of Texas, a noted Past President General of the League; Alonso Perales, one of the founders and a real crusader in the cause of recognition of legal rights for our 3 million Latins in Southwest United States; Mauro M. Machado, a lowly employee in a local store, became a gigantic figure in Lulac work; he is now gone to meet his Maker, but his memory and outstanding fraternal work is much alive today; Arnulfo Zamora of Laredo, broke the Lulac precedent and served two terms as President General, due to service beyond the call of duty at a time when Lulac enthusiasm was at low ebb. The work now being done by Raoul Cortez, recently returned from Washington where he conferred with the President of the United States, U. S. Senators and cabinet members in the cause for which Lulac stands, is the climax of our efforts to achieve a goal that can be described as christian in spirit, and patriotic in substance, to the end that our nation may be looked upon by the countries of the world, as truly, democratic, fair and just to all men.

Tonight we can proudly lift our eyes to Ben Garza and silently say to him, as we gather together on this solemn occasion: There is still a

greater cause for real joy: Your noble aspirations are actually coming into existence. The unfortunate causes which brought about the organization of the League, that now extends through Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona and California, are fast disappearing—both the States and the Federal Government are taking an active hand in the matter, and the instances of racial discrimination, due to internal maladjustments, are being rapidly eliminated. This was your fondest wish—rest calmly, Ben Garza, the League is fulfilling its mission.

In closing, will you permit me to quote from the speech of Abraham Lincoln, delivered on a platform in front of Independence Hall, holding a flag in his hand, on February 22, 1861:

"I have often pondered over the dangers which were incurred by the men who assembled here and framed and adopted the Declaration of Independence. I have often inquired of myself what great principles or idea it was that kept this confederacy so long together. It was that which gave promise that in due time the weight would be lifted from the shoulders of all men and that all should have an equal chance. Now, my friends, can this country be saved upon that basis. If it can, I shall consider myself one of the happiest men in the world if I can help to save it...."

Feeling sure of our ground, that Lulac principles are sound, that our aims are noble and lofty and that our duty and love of our country is of the highest, may I not also quote from another passage in the life of Lincoln, who to us is an inspiration and a guide:

"Let us have faith that right makes might and in that faith to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."

Address delivered by:  
M. C. González, Past Pres. Gen'l.





# PAST PRESIDENTS GENERAL



Past President General  
GEORGE I. SANCHEZ



M. C. GONZALEZ  
Past President General



Past President General  
ANTONIO M. FERNANDEZ



BEN OZUNA  
Past President General



MAURO M. MACHADO  
Past President General





## Two Important Letters

Mr. Raoul Cortes, President General  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
601 Calcasieu Building  
San Antonio, Texas

Dear President General:

This morning's mail brought your memorandum on your recent activities. It is highly commendable. Every member of Lulac should be proud of this activity and should back it up. A little over a year ago, I tried a similar campaign to strengthen our organization, but because it originated in New Mexico and not in Texas, the Lulac Councils in Texas disregarded my proposition. You may recall and I have a copy of my report to the delegates, that at Austin I made several suggestions for the betterment of the organization. One of my suggestions was the hiring of a paid organizer, or several organizers, another suggestion was the increase in dues.

At the time of the Convention, I pointed out that we were trying to run an organization in 1948 with finances planned in 1929. In my humble opinion, it is not only necessary but urgent that every member who calls himself a Lulac should pay the assessment, even if it is voluntary.

With best personal regards and with all success in your proposed plans, I am,

Fraternally yours,  
José Maldonado, M. D.



My fellow-officers of the Supreme Council:

On a motion made and enthusiastically and unanimously approved and adopted, San Antonio Council No. 2, at a regular meeting, held Friday, February 4th., respectfully recommends that the following be named Honorary Life Members of the League of United Latin American Citizens:

Hon. William Prescott Allen  
Dr. Hershel T. Manuel  
Hon. Robert E. Smith  
Hon. Thomas Southerland  
Hon. Robert Eckhardt  
Dr. Robert L. Southerland  
Dr. Lyle Saunders  
His Ex. Archbishop, Robert E. Lucey  
and  
Mr. Eleuterio Escobar

Feeling sure that you are already sufficiently acquainted with the work and activities of these gentlemen, and as the work of Lulac requires that they be either approved or rejected, immediately; we respectfully request that you vote on them at once, and that you kindly advice this Home Office of your vote by return mail if possible.

Awaiting your prompt reply, we remain,

Fraternally yours,  
For the President General

Jacob I. Rodriguez,  
Exec. Secy. General.

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View of overflow crowd at Lulac's 20th Anniversary Banquet in San Antonio, Texas.



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OUR HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS  
to LULAC on its  
20th ANNIVERSARY



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# Los Lulacs Celebraron su 20vo Aniversario Homenaje al Sr. Eleuterio Escobar

Anteayer martes en la noche, la Asociación de LOS LULACS celebró con un gran banquete al que concurren más de cien personas entre damas y caballeros, en el Salón Pan-Americano del Restaurant Casa Blanca el 20 Aniversario de su fundación y dedicó tal celebración al señor Eleuterio Escobar, Presidente de la Liga Pro-Defensa Escolar, como homenaje a la labor viril y tenaz que ha desarrollado en defensa de la niñez del Lado Occidental de esta ciudad, pidiendo insistentemente mejoras materiales y educativas para los niños de dicho sector ciudadano a fin de que se pongan en igualdad de condiciones escolares a las que disfrutan los demás distritos educativos de la ciudad. La Campaña del señor Escobar llevada a cabo durante el año próximo pasado, culminó con la obtención del Consejo Escolar de la construcción de varios planteles y otras obras que importan más de millón y medio de dólares y este triunfo de la Liga Pro-Defensa Escolar, que se considera extraordinario, lo tuvo en cuenta la organización LULACS para rendirle al señor Escobar el homenaje de que venimos hablando, aunándolo a la celebración del aniversario de su fundación.

El programa que se desarrolló fué espléndido, tanto por los oradores que hicieron uso de la palabra, como por los destacados artistas que tomaron parte en él, dirigidos por el prestigioso Prof. Gilberto Fierros. Figuró como Maestro de Ceremonias el señor José Castañuela, actual Presidente del Concilio No. 2, habiendo sido organizadores de este programa los señores P. Villazón, Lic. Alberto U. Treviño, Juan A. Esquivel, León Elizondo, E. G. Luna y Frank Jasso. El Presidente General de los Lulacs es el señor Raúl A. Cortez que presidió la fiesta y fué el último en hablar encomiando la labor de los numerosos socios fundadores y de los que la integran actualmente haciendo resaltar la obra llevada a cabo por el Presidente de LA LIGA PRO-DEFENSA ESCOLAR que tanto se ha preocupado y se preocupa por el problema escolar que afecta profundamente a la niñez del lado occidental de la ciudad.

En seguida publicamos el discurso que pronunció el señor Escobar:

"Señoras y Señores:

Palabras no pueden expresar mi aprecio y gratitud por este homenaje, honor que pertenece a ustedes y a todas aquellas personas que han co-

operado en este gran movimiento por el cual todavía estamos luchando.

La constitución de los Estados Unidos de América provee para todos los niños iguales facilidades educativas y ¿por qué es que para conseguir escuelas para ellos tengamos que pelear a costa de grandes sacrificios? Ojalá que nuestra nueva generación tome ventajas de estos sacrificios y le pido a Dios que nunca permitan ellos segregarse por sí solos porque esta segregación causaría la mayor vergüenza y confusión para nosotros. Yo creo sinceramente que el día que todas esas organizaciones dejen de segregarse nombrándose "mexicanas", "Latinas" o "pan-americanas" ese día estaremos unidos y seremos respetados como americanos y así no seremos la "pelota de pie" de los periódicos... Hace seis meses que el Reverendo Vazquez y su servidor tuvimos una junta especial con el señor Rogers, Presidente del Consejo Escolar y el señor Portwood Superintendente del mismo Consejo. En esa junta les pedimos que construyeran otra muy necesaria escuela elemental El señor Rogers contestó diciendo: "Sr. Escobar, demuéstreme usted con números que necesitan otra escuela y yo veré que se construya." Yo sinceramente creo que el señor Rogers cumplirá su promesa y todos agradecemos las mejoras que el Consejo Escolar ha hecho, por lo que sinceramente le damos las gracias. Desde entonces la Liga Pro-Defensa Escolar ha hecho un padrón y ese padrón enseña que por lo menos dos escuelas elementales y otra secundaria se necesitan con urgencia a menos que el Consejo Escolar tome medidas inmediatas para solucionar estas emergencias, millares de esa niñez seguirán aglomerados en trampas incendiarias y no tendrán más que medio día de clases. En corroboración de lo que digo no puedo menos que, en apoyo de nuestra lucha leerles una pequeña parte del editorial que publicó el Diario más antiguo de San Antonio y dice así: "Si el lado occidental hubiera disfrutado de las mismas facilidades que han tenido otros sectores de la ciudad, hoy San Antonio no tuviera 50,000 analfabetas. Esta cifra es un descrédito para una comunidad que se precia de progresista. Aún más, la falta de escuelas y patios de recreo adecuados incuestionablemente contribuye a que acreciente la delincuencia juvenil en el lado occidental. ¿Preferirían los judaños pagar por

Cont. on next page



Continued from preceding page  
 mantener en las cárceles y en las escuelas reformatorias del Estado a los jóvenes delincuentes en vez de pagar ahora para su debida educación? Además existe también la vital cuestión de proteger a los niños contra los incendios. El señor Escobar no cree que sea justo que haya en el lado occidental 58 salones de clase construidos con débiles maderas (constituyendo trampas de incendio) en tanto en el resto de la ciudad solo hay 18 salones de esta índole. Los ciudadanos que tengan corazón humanitario convendrán en que el Sr. Escobar ha puesto el dedo en la llaga."

Este pequeño párrafo del editorial citado, basta por sí solo para confirmar que las vidas de nuestros hijos están en constante peligro y que miles de nuestros niños han sido privados de recibir una educación adecuada sin que ninguna suma de dinero sea suficiente para corregir el enorme perjuicio que se les ha hecho.

Nuestros problemas sociales, económicos y políticos tienen una solución y esa solución es la educación de nuestros hijos. Con esto quiero decir que ellos tengan iguales privilegios educativos y solo por medio de eso podremos eliminar la ignorancia y el crimen. Por medio de la educación podremos combatir a esos elementos que han venido castigando a nuestros hijos privándolos de facilidades sanitarias, parques de recreo y de albercas. Las estadísticas revelan que en un solo sector en la parte occidental hay más de quince mil niños sin contar con una sola alberca. Esto es una desgracia para la ciudad de San Antonio. En esta lucha acaudillada por la Liga Pro-Defensa Escolar para mejoramiento de escuelas, hemos tenido la ayuda moral de un gran número de agrupaciones cívicas y sociales; hemos tenido la cooperación de más de doscientas iglesias de diferentes credos; hemos tenido la colaboración de un gran número de Radio-difusoras, los periódicos no solamente tuvieron la entereza de publicar en sus columnas los hechos, sino que algunos abiertamente defendieron los derechos constitucionales de esa niñez abandonada e indefensa. Esto demuestra que es un gran privilegio ser ciudadanos de este país. Tomemos ventaja de este gran privilegio y trabajemos unidos por el mejoramiento de nuestro país.

Para no cansarlos más, solamente deseo añadir a mi plática unas cuantas palabras para hacer mención de una organización que merece justicia y reconocimiento. Primeramente me permito felicitar en nombre de la Liga Pro-Defensa Escolar y enviar un cariñoso saludo a todos los miembros de la conocida organización LULAC en su 20 aniversario. Esta institución ha venido tra-

bajando por el mejoramiento educativo de nuestros hermanos soportaban el más dura colectividad y en su intensa lucha ha tenido que atravesar por épocas de verdadera prueba ro castigo por el desenfrenado abuso y la injusticia lanzándose en su defensa contra vientos, soles fríos y lluvias. Estos hombres cruzaron hasta los desiertos del Oeste para llevar a nuestros hermanos adolecidos el mensaje que calmara sus sufrimientos y el paño que secara sus lágrimas. Esta organización, con trabajos, sacrificios y afanes ha hecho posible que un buen número de nuestra juventud se encuentre en los colegios y universidades, con la esperanza que esa juventud mañana nos traiga nuevos horizontes.

A los veinte años un grupo de hombres jóvenes incluyendo el que ha sido un gran factor, su Presidente General el Sr. Raúl Cortez llevaron su causa hasta los Tribunales Federales para demandar los sagrados derechos de igualdad y justicia. Triunfo que desafió las férreas cadenas que por más de medio siglo venían oprimiendo a nuestra niñez.

Nota tomada de "La Prensa."

**March  
 Designated  
 As  
 "Youth  
 Month"**



March designated as "Youth Month" upon the recommendation of Bro. Bob Cruz, Boy's Work Director of the League our president general Raul A. Cortez suggested and received the approval of the various Councils represented at the Regional Convention at Houston, on January 29 and 30th, to designate March as the "Month of Youth."

It is the intention of Bro. Cruz to make this an event of national importance and to that end has written President Truman and other high government leaders for their suggestions and requesting that they give the matter consideration.

Of the various local, the Boys Work Director, request that they proceed to name and organize their committees for this work. It is also requested that a definite program be prepared for the March observance, copy of which is to be mailed to Bro. Bob by March 20th.





CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY



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