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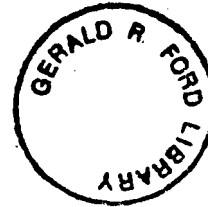
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GENERAL

HU2
FC23

October 30, 1975



Dear Al:

I want to take this opportunity to follow up on your recent letter to Presidential Assistant Donald Rumsfeld regarding the apparent decision of the Office of Civil Rights, Region VI, to postpone the investigation and processing of national origin complaints filed by Mexican Americans in that region.

At the request of Mr. Rumsfeld, I have forwarded the materials submitted with your letter to HEW Secretary Matthews for a clarification of this matter and for his department's assistance in responding to your inquiry.

Rest assured that we will contact you as soon as we have heard from HEW.

Yours sincerely,

Fernando E. C. De Baca
Special Assistant to the President

Mr. Al I. ^xPerez
Associate Counsel
^xMexican American Legal Defense
and Educational Fund
1028 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 1007
Washington, D. C. 20036

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FECDeB:mmd:10/30/75

BCC: The Hon. David Matthews, Sec. of HEW (with attachments)
also: Mr. Stuart Clarke, Regional Director HEW, Region VI
and Peter Holmes, Director, Office Civil Rights, HEW, Wa. DC
Wilma Martinez MALDEF and Manuel Fierro, EL CONGRESO

ED
C0100

October 24, 1975

FEB-11-1975 De Baca
FernandoFE109
FA3

Dear Mr. Morgan:

Thank you for your letter of October 23, 1975 20

I was extremely pleased to learn of the Commission's decision to award a contract to the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund for the period June 30, 1975 to September 1, 1976.

MALDEF has consistently served as one of the most effective spokesmen for the concerns of Spanish speaking citizens in this country and the trust and confidence accorded it through this contract is living testimony to the sensitivity of EEOC to those concerns.

I applaud the Commission's efforts on behalf of all disadvantaged Americans but particularly on behalf of those long-neglected citizens of Hispanic descent.

Please convey my deep appreciation to Chairman Perry for his leadership in responding to the needs of Spanish speaking Americans.

Yours sincerely,

Fernando E. C. De Baca
Special Assistant to the President

Mr. Edgar Morgan
Director
Office of Congressional Affairs
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
Washington, D. C. 20506

FECDDeB:mmd:10/24/75

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October 16, 1975



Dear Mr. Perez:

Thank you for your letter of October 10 concerning complaints filed by Mexican-Americans.

Your letter and the materials you attached have been referred to the appropriate members of the President's staff for consideration of your comments.

With my best regards,

Sincerely,

Donald Rumsfeld
Assistant to the President

Mr. Al I. Perez
Associate Counsel
Mexican American Legal Defense
and Educational Fund
Suite 1007
1028 Connecticut Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20036

cc: w/cc of incoming to Fernando DeBaca for action

DR:MLM:kar

July 24, 1975



Dear Congressman Roybal:

I apologize for the delay in responding, on behalf of Donald Ramsfeld, to your letter regarding the contract between the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). However, I communicated your concerns to the Commission and asked that it keep you apprised of developments regarding the contract.

You perhaps know, that the Commission has been funding MALDEF since 1972 to develop, encourage and train and to otherwise assist private attorneys in Title VII law and litigation. This program of private bar development is designed to assure that no person falls to protect his rights under Title VII for want of trained counsel to pursue them. This is particularly important with regard to many of our Spanish-surnamed population. The Commission considers this program to be an essential part of its broader efforts to fully implement Title VII according to the mandate of the Congress.

I am advised that staff of the Commission has been working with representatives of MALDEF to resolve some of the difficulties which MALDEF has been having in meeting its obligations under the contract. Turnover among project staff, for example, has been extremely high (as much as 300 per cent in some projects). The Los Angeles project has not had any staff and has not been operational since July of 1974, in spite of funds allocated in the contract for that purpose. Therefore, in January of 1975, the Commission decided to utilize the unspent funds in Los Angeles to continue the two other projects for as long a period as possible.

I am further advised that, beginning last Autumn, and substantially before the expiration date of its contract with MALDEF, the Commission encountered financial difficulties which required the imposition of severe budgetary restrictions on all of its activities. These restrictions affected the Commission's entire contractual program, which included its contract with MALDEF. No contract was thereafter extended beyond the end of the fiscal year.

In April 1975, Commission staff and representatives of MALDEF met and established a plan for evaluating MALDEF's performance for the

last portion of the contract. MALDEF's request for renewal of the funding and its then-final report of activities were received at the Commission on June 12, 1975. The work of evaluation was moving right along until, very recently, MALDEF provided additional data to support its position. Therefore, until the latest information is analysed and included in the composite, the full Commission will not be able to act upon the request.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Parsons
Associate Director and Counsel
Domestic Council

The Honorable Edward R. Roybal
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

RDP:med

May 12, 1975



Dear Vilma:

I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Forum of National Hispanic Organizations scheduled for May 22-24, 1975, at the Plaza Inn in Kansas City, Missouri.

You have already received a packet of materials from Danny Archuleta provided as a courtesy of the co-sponsoring organizations, The American Association of Spanish-Speaking Certified Public Accountants (Gilbert R. Vasquez, President) and the National Council of La Raza (Raul Yzaguirre, Executive Director).

In addition to the various member organizations scheduled to participate in this meeting, I am pleased to confirm, on behalf of the Administration, the participation of various high ranking Hispanic appointees, including the Honorable Phillip Sanchez, Ambassador to Honduras, and the Honorable Bert Gallegos, Administrator of the Community Services Administration.

I look forward to seeing you in Kansas City on the 22nd.

Sincerely,

Fernando E. C. De Baca
Special Assistant to the President

Miss Vilma S. Martinez
President and General Counsel
Mexican-American Legal Defense
and Education Fund, Inc.
145 Ninth Street
San Francisco, California 94103

FDB:mlu

April 30, 1975



Dear Ed:

I appreciate hearing from you regarding the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Your April 22 letter concerning that issue has been brought to the attention of the appropriate people on the President's Domestic Council. I have asked that they look into the matter and respond directly to you.

Sincerely,

Donald Rumsfeld
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Edward R. Roybal
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

bcc: Max Friedersdorf

copy: DOMESTIC COUNCIL, Jim Conner, for appropriate action

DR:MD:rg

FC6-15

March 26, 1975



Dear Miss Martinez:

On behalf of President Ford, I acknowledge your recent letter concerning the make-up of the Domestic Council Committee on Illegal Aliens. I regret that the press of business has unduly delayed this response.

The President deeply appreciated your interest and courtesy in communicating with him on this important subject. As you may know, he has appointed Fernando De Baca, Special Assistant to the President for Hispanic Affairs, to serve on the Committee. Additionally, you may be assured that the Committee will continue to actively seek the views and comments of concerned Mexican-American and Spanish speaking citizens.

Thank you for writing the President.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Parsons
Associate Director and Counsel
Domestic Council

Miss Vilma S. Martinez
President and General Counsel
Mexican American Legal Defense
and Educational Fund
145 Ninth Street
San Francisco, California 94103

MEXICAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND

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1028 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, SUITE 1007 / WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 / (202) 659-5166

September 26, 1974

EXECUTIVE

FC6-11-1/De Baca, Fernando
FC392
Perez, Al I.

Mr. Fernando E. C. de Baca
Special Assistant to the President
for Hispanic Affairs
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Fernando:

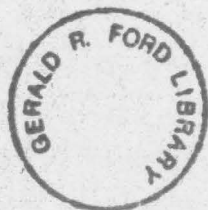
On behalf of MALDEF and Vilma S. Martinez, I would like to express me sincere thanks for your time and attention on Tuesday, September 24, 1974. If MALDEF can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

I am submitting the following list of highly qualified individuals, who are representatives of the Latino Community, for your consideration to serve on the Board of Directors for the Legal Services Corporation:

Mr. Mario Obledo, Esq.
Law School of Harvard University
Langdell West 134
Cambridge, Mass. 02138
Tel. No. (617) 495-3756

Mr. Richard A. Ibanez, Esq.
Attorney at Law
1557 Beverly Street
Los Angeles, California 90026
Tel No. (213) 629-1137

Mr. Cruz Reynoso, Esq.
Professor, University of New Mexico
School of Law
117 Stanford Avenue, N. E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106
Tel. No. (505) 277-4737



NATIONAL OFFICE
VILMA S. MARTINEZ
GENERAL COUNSEL
145 NINTH STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 94103
415-626-6196

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505-247-1079

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MEMORANDUM

~~Amel file~~

EXECUTIVE

16

HU 2

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

FOR: FERNANDO E. C. DE BACA
FROM: ROSE MARIE ROYBAL
SUBJECT: Reports from Hispanic Organizations
Submitted to the President, Oct 17
DATE: October 22, 1974



x American G I Forum

THE HISPANIC AMERICAN VETERAN
SOME MAJOR CONCERNS OF THE
AMERICAN G I FORUM OF THE U. S.

x Mexican American Legal
Defense and Educational
Fund, Inc.

Position Paper On Equal
Education Opportunity (The
Present Educational Systems
Have Not Adequately Served
The Needs Of Mexican American
Children)

x Mexican-American
Political Association

Petition To Secure Equal
Citizenship Opportunities
For Lawfully Admitted
Spanish-Speaking Aliens

x National Council of
La Raza

Issues of Hispanic American
Concern

x Representatives Of The
Cuban American Community

THE CUBAN PAPER

x The Latin American
Manufactures' Association

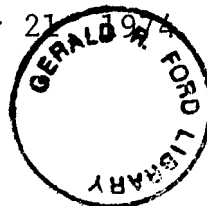
Presentation To The President
Of The United States At The
White House - October 17, 1974

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MEXICAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND

145 NINTH STREET / SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103 / (415) 626-6196

November 21, 1974



Honorable William B. Saxbe
Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Saxbe:

I am writing to request a meeting with you to discuss the implications and ramifications of the speech you made to the Cameron County and Hidalgo County Bar Associations on October 30, 1974. In that speech, you suggested deporting one million illegal aliens--mostly Mexicans--next year in an attempt to meet what you termed a "severe national crisis". You indicated that you have recommended to President Ford that he seriously consider an added enforcement effort which would give the Immigration and Naturalization Service an additional \$50,000,000 and 2,200 new employees.

You did this with little, if any, concern for the rights of the Mexican American citizens of this country. Apparently, your plan was conceived without any input from Mexican Americans, the group most likely to be affected by your proposed plan.

Either you are unaware of, or chose to ignore, two important lawsuits which this organization has felt compelled to file because of the practices of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. In Loya v. Immigration and Naturalization Service, we have sued the INS to require it to adhere to constitutional standards in their apprehension of illegal aliens. Specifically the suit challenges the methods utilized by the INS to determine if a person is an illegal alien. Apparently, the initial criterion used by INS agents in their field investigations is a person's skin color. I am sure you will agree with me that it is difficult to ascertain a person's alien status merely by a person's demeanor, skin color, type of clothes and mannerisms, which are the standards apparently being used by INS. Even the use of Spanish cannot be a valid criterion for sifting out illegal aliens in the southwestern part of the United States where Spanish is often the principal medium of communication. As statistics from the Bureau of the Census reveal, over 65% of Mexican American citizens grow up in homes where Spanish is the language that is spoken.

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PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL
145 NINTH STREET
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An additional suit we have had to file is Garcia v. Hoobler, to prevent local law enforcement officials from participating in the stopping, interrogation, and detention of illegal aliens. The suit seeks to enjoin local law enforcement agencies from assisting INS agents in the apprehension of illegal aliens. Local law enforcement officials have no authority to participate in an area which is entirely pre-empted by federal law. Apart from not having the authority, local law enforcement officials are not bound by any of the guidelines promulgated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service to regulate the activities of its agents. Thus, local officials are operating in an area without restraints imposed by federal guidelines. The inadequacy of local officials to participate in an area entirely pre-empted by federal law can be further illustrated by imagining all the confusion and problems caused by local officials seeking to enforce the Internal Revenue Code sua sponte.

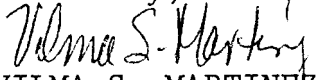
On Monday, November 11th, the Federal Register carried a notice from the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Department of Justice that program priorities were being re-aligned and that a number of Border Patrolmen and Immigration inspectors were being shifted from the northern to the southwestern border "to deter illegal entry and expand inspection capabilities". It was pointed out that the concentration of illegal aliens in the Southwest made this step necessary. One of the things I would like to discuss with you is whether this is the beginning of the implementation of your plan.

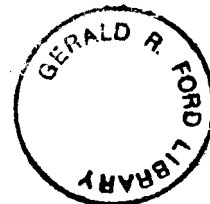
Further, I consider your plan premature in light of the internal problems of INS and also because Presidents Ford and Echeverria have recently met to discuss the problem of illegal aliens and have apparently concluded (from what one reads in the newspapers) that the problem is a serious one and worthy of careful study before any actions are taken. In that sense, I believe that your plan conflicts with the policies of the President of this country.

Suffice it to say that I am gravely concerned and am hereby requesting an immediate meeting with yourself to discuss these matters and the questions that are raised. I will be in Washington on Thursday, December 12th and Friday, December 13th. If it is possible I would like to meet with you on one of those days.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,


VILMA S. MARTINEZ
President and General Counsel



cc: Honorable Gerald Ford,
President of the United States

cc (continued): Mr. Fernando E.C. de Baca
Special Assistant to the President
for Hispanic Affairs

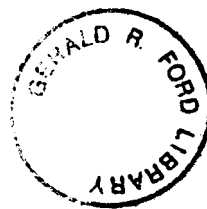
Honorable Joseph M. Montoya,
United States Senator

Honorable E. de la Garza,
House of Representatives

Honorable Henry G. Gonzalez,
House of Representatives

Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr.,
House of Representatives

Honorable Edward R. Roybal,
House of Representatives



De Baca, Fernando/P^A

October 9, 1974

Dear Al:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter expressing your best wishes on my appointment as Special Assistant to the President.

Your support and encouragement will no doubt go far in helping me to meet the challenges of this new position. Please rest assured that much of my energy will be directed toward establishing and maintaining bilateral communications between our government and Spanish origin people throughout the nation.

This Administration is committed to serving the needs of all Americans, but in particular we are concerned about bringing all resources to bear on the special and unique problems afflicting Hispanic Americans. I refer, of course, to problems of inadequate housing, job training, health care, economic development, bilingual education, and a host of others.

To that end, we will be calling upon you in the days ahead to join us in effectively addressing the problems of Spanish speaking Americans. In turn, I sincerely hope you will look to this office for leadership and support when it is needed.

With kind regards, I remain,

Muy atentamente,



Fernando E. C. De Baca
Special Assistant to the President

Mr. Al I. ^APerez
~~Mexican American Legal Defense~~
~~and Educational Fund~~
Suite 801
1730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.
Washington, D.C. 20036

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MEXICAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND

De la casa ACTION 154
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EXECUTIVE

HU2
PR 7-1
ARMSTRONG, ANNE

August 29, 1974

FG 6-11-11

9/10/1974

AUG 31 1974



OBE
Mex w/ Pres. Ford
10/17

Mrs. Anne Armstrong
Counselor to the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Armstrong:

I am the Washington, D.C. representative for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), a non-profit Texas corporation that litigates civil rights issues of substantive importance to the Mexican American community. The President and General Counsel of MALDEF is Ms. Vilma S. *x*Martinez, an attorney from San Antonio, Texas. Ms. Martinez was educated at Columbia Law School and was with a Wall Street law firm before joining MALDEF.

Vilma will be in Washington, D.C. on ~~September 23-24~~ and would very much like to meet with you to discuss subjects of mutual interest, particularly as they relate to the Mexican American community. MALDEF is the single most important litigation center in our community, having won major law-suits involving broad constitutional issues. Your time and interest will be greatly appreciated.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation and assistance, I remain

Sincerely,

Al I. Perez
Al I. Perez
Associate Counsel

AIP:rm

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MEXICAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND

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EXECUTIVE

August 27, 1974

HU2
FG6-11-1 / De Baca,
Fernando

Mr. Fernando E.C. deBaca
Special Assistant to the President
for Hispanic Affairs
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C.



OPB
Met & discussed
subject in office

Dear Fernando:

Once again let me congratulate you on your appointment.

I am writing to you on behalf of Vilma S. ^xMartinez,
President and General Counsel of MALDEF. She will be in
the city on September 23rd and would very much like to meet
you. As you might know, MALDEF is doing some outstanding
litigation concerning civil liberties for Mexican Americans;
it is the only litigation center specifically concerned with
the urban Chicano. Enclosed is our litigation docket to
give you an idea of MALDEF's work.

Please call me if this meeting can be arranged. Until
then, I thank you for your kind consideration and interest.

Sincerely,

Al I. Perez
Al I. ^xPerez
Associate Counsel

AIP:rm

Enc.

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MEXICAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND

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EXECUTIVE

August 27, 1974

HU2
FCG-11-1 / De Baca,
Fernando

Mr. Fernando E.C. deBaca
Special Assistant to the President
for Hispanic Affairs
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C.



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Sincerely,

Al I. ^xPerez
Associate Counsel

AIP:rm

Enc.

NATIONAL OFFICE
VILMA S. MARTINEZ
GENERAL COUNSEL
145 NINTH STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 94103
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GENERAL

F66-111/DeBaca/Fernando E.C.

FC 999-1

H22

3

October 9, 1974

Dear Al:

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With kind regards, I remain,

Muy atentamente,



Fernando E. C. De Baca
Special Assistant to the President

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Mexican American Legal Defense
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