

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS,
Nov. 16, 1944.

His Excellency
Franklin Delano Roosevelt,
President of the United States of America,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Excellency:

Under date of March 31, 1944, we addressed Your Excellency asking for an audience in order that we might present evidence of discrimination against persons of Mexican descent and of Hispanic extraction generally, including members of the armed forces of our country, in Texas, California, Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and other States of the Union. Your Excellency saw fit to refer our communication to the Department of Justice, and said Department replied that they were ready to receive the evidence and to receive us in person in the event that we desired to confer with them.

In due course we presented the evidence to the Department of Justice and said Department has just informed us that in the Civil Rights Cases, 109 U. S. 3, the Supreme Court declared that the Federal Government had no power to legislate concerning discrimination on grounds of race or national origin by private individuals or private businesses, and that for that reason it would not be possible for Congress to pass an act forbidding the humiliation of persons of Mexican descent and of Hispanic extraction generally in the United States, and that for the same reason it is not possible for the Department of Justice to take any action in the matter.

To-day we take pleasure in sending to Your Excellency a list of more than one hundred cities and towns where discrimination is practiced against Mexicans, including American soldiers of Mexican descent. In said list Your Excellency will also find the names and addresses of the establishments, and in some cases the names of the proprietors also. This situation is typical of the situation existing in the other States of the Union we have mentioned.

The situation is becoming worse every day and is causing deep and just indignation not only among the three million inhabitants of Mexican descent in the United States, but also among the peoples of Hispanic America. We are all of the opinion that this is a matter that vitally affects the relations between our country and the rest

of the American Republics, and that, consequently, the Federal Governments must act immediately and settle the matter once for all times. In so far as we American citizens of Mexican descent are concerned, our honest opinion is that our Federal Government can find the solution to this problem if it resolves to do so, and for this reason we respectfully request that Your Excellency be good enough to invite the attention of the National Congress to this matter at the earliest possible date, stressing the fact that it is very urgent that our Federal Government remedy this shameful situation immediately, first, in order to unite the peoples of the Americas, inasmuch as such a union will never be possible until it is shown to the Hispanic American peoples, with deeds, that in the United States of America Mexicans and Hispanic Americans generally are considered and treated as the EQUALS of the Anglo-Saxon, and, secondly, in fairness to the three million inhabitants of Mexican descent of our country, including over a quarter of a million soldiers of Mexican extraction who right at this very moment are defending our Nation in all the battle fronts. #

We will greatly appreciate receiving a prompt reply from Your Excellency regarding this most important matter.

COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED AMERICAN CITIZENS
OF MEXICAN DESCENT.

LEAGUE OF LOYAL AMERICANS.

(ALONSO S. PERALES)

DIRECTOR GENERAL.

ENCLOSURES:

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