



District of Columbia Board of Education
116 12th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20004

Frank Shaffer-Corona
At-Large

7 de febrero de 1980

Lic. Aristides Royo
Presidente de la Republica de Panamá
Presidencia Nacional
Ciudad de Panamá, Panamá

Sr. Presidente:

Permítame con lo presente intruducirle a la intervención chicana al asunto del crisis de Iran. Como Mexicanos y Latinos, nosotros los Chicanos hemos sido víctimas del mismo colonialismo yanqui que ha impuesto sus tentaculos de control sobre la bella tierra panameña. Como hijos de la revolución mexicana estamos concientes del punto de vista del pueblo de Iran. Ese punto de vista, incluyen do la de los estudiantes dentro de la embajada norteamericana, debe ser respetada.

Mis discusiones con los estudiantes y con los diplomaticos de Iran aquí en la capital del imperio indican la fuerte posibilidad de un fin a la pena de muerte en ese país. Si el Cha no sabia de la violencia y la tortura impuesta sobre su pueblo por su regimen, lo debe ir a conocer. Su castigo deberia ser un exilio permanente -- como intocable -- en su propio país.

Le pedimos consideración seria y respetuosa del pedido de extradición del gobierno de Iran. La libertad y la justicia son tradiciones latinoamericanas, cuya influencia en nuestra vida tiene que ser mas fuerte que los dolores (dolar es) de David Rockefeller. La victoria será nuestra si nos matenemos unidos en la lucha.

Respetuosamente

Frank Shaffer-Corona
Miembro Plenipotenciario
Junta de Educacion



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February 12, 1979

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

As one of the few minority political persons who is not disappointed with your performance with regard to solving the problems in our communities, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you for actually exceeding my expectations in that area. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend you for taking a daring step forward and beginning the 1980 Presidential Campaign in other than the traditional location. Mexico City sure beats the peanuts out of New Hampshire in many ways. Perhaps you and Senator Kennedy, who is awaited in Mexico with great anticipation by many people, could together persuade all of the other 1980 presidential candidates to kick off their campaigns in Mexico City as well. If all the Democrats, Republicans, Raza Unida, Conservatives, Liberals, and all the others send their candidates to Mexico as a prelude to the 1980 races, Mexico's economy might start booming just from the discussions that will ensue about all those dollars and all those petropesos.

I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. President, as you prepare to visit my other country, to discuss with you some matters of common concern, such as education, immigration, human rights, dollars and petropesos, and the D. C. Public Schools. It is almost a pity that you have refused for over a year to meet with the leadership of the Chicano Movement. We might have been able to prepare you for your visit to the land of love, peace, and a freedom-loving people whose roots on this continent go back many thousands of years. You might have learned that the "Hispanic" part of our roots is only a part of the mixture of Asian, African, European, and American Native that makes up the Mexican. It can be said that, even though the Indian and the Spanish parts of us are greater, all people in this world are our people. You might also have learned that the only difference between a Chicano and a Mexican is a border imposed on us in 1848 at the point of a gun. You might have noticed that, in spite of how we have collectively been culturally abused by the educational system of the U. S., large numbers of us are still aware that, in spite of being occupied by the government you head for the last 143 years, we realize that our roots, Northamericanized as they have become externally, internally are firmly planted in the land of Hidalgo, Juarez, Madero, and Zapata.

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DAVID A. SPLITT
GENERAL COUNSEL

February 12, 1979

If, instead of deciding to discredit us in a White House meeting almost a year ago, rather than meet with us as has President Lopez Portillo, you had chosen to learn about our problems as Chicanos facing barriers to opportunity in our own country, you would be better prepared for your trip. Instead of meeting with us, you have ordered efforts to discredit and destabilize us. These politically motivated efforts have resulted in the denial of economic development funds to the people of Zavala County, Texas, the planting of one of Mr. Brzezinski's agents as the Director of the Council of Hispanic Agency Directors in our local D. C. Latino community, the continued harassment of Raies Tijerina and José Angel Gutierrez, the government-sponsored attacks on the Raza Unida Party, a government-assisted campaign against bilingual/bicultural education--legislated in Title VII of the ESEA and guaranteed in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, a document violated by the U. S. since its signing.

It is ironic, Mr. President, that in less than two years you find yourself rushing down to buy gas and oil from the very same people that you have wanted to keep out of this country since your entry into office. Your pencilled in "Merits consideration" to a Charles Kirbo memorandum suggesting that a good jobs program for Chicanos would be to stand along the border to keep Mexicans out of the United States indicates an attitude inconsistent with your pronouncements on human rights. Your Immigration Plan, the INS-KKK joint operations along the border, the increase in police brutality against our people, the attacks against us by the Federal government in housing, education, health care, and economic development all serve to indicate an anti-Mexican, anti-Chicano policy that is consistent with the anti-Black, anti-Indian, anti-Latino, anti-female, anti-aged, anti-poor, and anti-youth activities of your and prior Administrations.

A N D Y E T Y O U W A N T T H A T O I L !

You want to spread a few dollars around Mexico today so that you won't be inundated with petropesos tomorrow. Is it perhaps your fear that many of those petropesos will pass through Chicano hands that motivates your actions with regard to us? Is it your fear that equality for us--meaning, as it will, a drastic improvement in the lifestyle of the migrant farmworker, as a beginning--will also mutually improve across the board the condition of Blacks, Indians, Asians, and Latinos in this society? Our communities have been starved too long of the dollars needed for education, housing, and social services. Do you fear we might be able to get some petropesos to help us out, too?

One word of caution. Before you and Chase Manhattan begin spending all those petropesos, it might be a good idea to provide Mexico with some "no-strings attached" technical assistance and dollars so that Pemex can verify the existence of all that oil. You wouldn't want to buy up all we've got only to discover that there wasn't quite as much as the CIA and the Washington Post said there was, would you? Both of them, by the way, have been wrong on quite a number of things lately.

February 12 1979

Since the long-term investment has to be in people, not in gas, oil, and weapons, you might, while in Mexico, commit some dollars to help provide improved educational opportunities in our barrios and ghettos from here to the Guatemalan border. You might even consider going beyond. It would be an improvement if the U. S. spent as much on education as it does on the military adventurism and police-state tactics that imposes its will on Latinos from the streets of New York to the fields of the Rio Grande Valley to the halls of government from Guatemala to Chile.

As a real gesture of friendship toward the Mexican people, you could announce the end of all U. S. intelligence operations in Mexico, with the proviso that the same amount of money would go to "no-strings" community-based economic development. After all, your spies do spend a lot of dollars all over Mexico.

Some of us appreciate your family's and your efforts in learning Spanish. Many of us would appreciate it more if all government workers providing service in our communities would do so. After all, if Mr. Castillo's INS agents can harass us in our own language, there is no reason why those portions of government designed to help us can't learn to communicate with us as well.

I know you will enjoy Mexico's hospitality and weather. While you are gone, you certainly must admire your fellow farmers braving the cold here to remind us that they can't pay their farmworkers a decent wage, let alone themselves, because of the government-supported greed of the big agri-business conglomerates who have invaded the family farm in this country with the same viciousness they have used throughout Mexico and the rest of Latin America.

But, as I mentioned earlier, if you would meet with and talk with us instead of acting against us, you would be aware of these things and more. We would certainly be able to meet with you after your Mexican trip as well. I hope the preceding ideas will be helpful as you visit the homeland of Mexicans and Chicanos. I feel confident that if you get to really know the Mexican people, you will, upon your return, repudate all your commitments to David Rockefeller and his Trilateralists and will begin attaching some meaning to all of those populist promises made in the last campaign. You would do this because you would learn that, in spite of Mexico's "distance from God and proximity to the U. S.", in spite of the U. S. corporate control of Mexico's economy, in spite of the multitude of U. S. intelligence operatives tacking their way around Mexico, in spite of the poverty, racism, disease, and ignorance promoted in our Chicano Latino communities, in spite of all these things and more, the spirit of Zapata is alive in all Mexicans. We all know that someday the land truly must belong to those who work it.

As if these matters were not enough--Mr. President--I must also share some matters with you in your capacity as a concerned parent of a child in our public schools. First, you are invited to participate in the events connected with Wilmington 10 Awareness Day in the D. C. Public Schools on March 21st of this year. That would be a perfect opportunity for you to announce a Patty Hearst-like order of executive clemency for Reverend Ben Chavis and the rest of the ten. Secondly,

The President of the United States
Page 4

February 12, 1979

if your inclination is to, instead of dialogue, retaliate against me for my human rights activities and for this letter, please be aware of two concerns:

1. The contents of this letter are my own, do not in their entirety reflect an official position of this Board of Education, and are protected by the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution.
2. Please do not direct any attacks, such as interference with grants, etc. against the D. C. Public School System. Hurting the children of this city for my expression of opinion, as a public official, on public issues would be just a bit much.

You as a matter of fact, could work with us to increase our Congressional appropriation back up to at least the minimum amount requested by the Board of Education and subsequently reduced by our own City Council. We would welcome your support. The children all over this city all need your help when it comes to providing for their education.

Please enjoy Mexico. Her hospitality is unsurpassed.

Sincerely,

Frank Shaffer/Corona
Member, At-Large
D. C. Board of Education

FSC:necg



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January 17, 1978

The Vice President of the
United States
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20025

Dear Mr. Vice President:

As Washington's only elected Latino "statewide" official, I want to take this opportunity, as you prepare to visit Mexico, to share some concerns with you about the major issue facing the Latino communities of this city and this Nation -- immigration.

First, let me point out that immigration is the major issue facing us. It is not housing, for we have always been dislocated into this country's worst housing. It is not education, for we have always been held to the lower rungs of that ladder. It is not health care, for ours has been this Nation's worst. (The life expectancy of a migrant farm worker is today only 49 years). It is not economic development, for this country's growth has always been at our expense. No, Mr. Vice President, the most important issue facing us is none of these. It cannot even be the right to equal opportunity because, first and foremost, the issue facing us is our basic right to be here in our own country.

To relegate Latinos to the status of "aliens" while welcoming white Rhodesians and South Africans fleeing majority rule as "immigrants" is inconsistent with the principles upon which this Nation was founded.

As you must be aware, the Carter Plan on Immigration is opposed by virtually every Chicano/Latino organization in this country for its proposed violations of human rights. Last month Energy Secretary Schlesinger met with Mexican officials and offered U. S. acceptance of the Mexican demand that the U. S. pay the world market price for Mexican natural gas in return for public support by the Lopez Portillo Administration of the Carter Immigration Plan. This type of negotiating tactic is nothing other than extortion and is repugnant to all sense of decency. It is indicative of the 200 year long exploitation of Mexico by this country. It is this history of exploitation

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GENERAL COUNSEL

that has created most of the causes of forced migration in the first place.

Mr. Vice President, I ask in the name of our mutual Latino constituents and in the memory of the recently fallen champion of human rights, Hubert H. Humphrey, that you publicly repudiate Mr. Schlesinger's attempt at blackmail upon your arrival in Mexico. I also hope that you fully enjoy, once having done so, the hospitality of my other country.

I am available to discuss this issue of immigration with you at your convenience.

Respectfully,

Frank Shaffer-Corona
At Large Member
Board of Education

FSC:mdb



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May 1, 1978

The Honorable Cyrus Vance
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C. 20025

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Our educational system, both private and public, has long taught us that the U. S. has "never started a war" and that the U. S. did not invade Mexico in the last century. I am hopeful, as you visit Mexico, that you begin to dispel these myths which have been perpetuated by our educational system. Remember that according to General Ulysses S. Grant, the goal of the "most unjust (war) ever waged by a stronger against a weaker nation" was "the occupation, separation, and annexation (of Texas), from the inception of the movement to its final consummation, a conspiracy to acquire territory out of which slave states might be formed."

Your visit to Mexico could be an historic occasion. Instead of being the bearer of further U. S. pressures with regard to the gas, the undocumented, and Mexican-Chicano relations, you could be the bearer of truth and justice unheard of in U. S.-Mexican relations. The U. S. has been in violation of the treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo since the ink was wet on that document. You could be in Mexico to discuss how the U. S. is finally going to take steps to right the wrongs committed against Mexicans and Chicanos during the past 142 years. You could be there to ask for Mexico's assistance in providing a decent bilingual/bicultural education to this country's 20 million Chicanos and Latinos in that this country is not willing to fully commit its own educational resources to that noble purpose.

You could, in the name of human rights, publicly repudiate the Carter Plan on Immigration. You could tell the Mexican people the truth about how the U. S. continues to invade Mexico - no longer with soldiers - but with surveillance satellites, intelligence agents, chemicals, AWACs, the KKK, transponders, and other sorts of James Bondish gadgetry and capers. You could tell the truth about the U. S. dominance of the Mexican economy and your plans to end this stranglehold of economic imperialism which impairs the progress of Mexico.

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You could tell the truth about how the reaction of the Carter White House to Chicano demands for equality has been replete with the cloak of "executive privilege" to deny economic development, the creation of an "enemies list" to prevent meaningful political dialogue, and the isolation of the President by his advisors to prevent his hearing the discontented voice of the American people - all the ingredients of the new "Chicanogate."

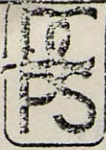
You could announce that the U. S. government is finally going to take real steps to end the condition of slavery in this country that is the forced lifestyle of this Nation's migrant farmworkers, most of whom are of Mexican descent. You could announce the end of CIA - FBI - INS harassment of Mexicans and Chicanos. You could announce the U. S. purchase of Mexican natural gas - at the current world market price - not at less in the name of "friendship." You could, in the example of Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas, declare a war on poverty and ignorance and disease in all the Americas. To do this you would have to repudiate your seventeen puppet dictators and you would have to begin at home, where 20 million Chicanos and Latinos and over 30 million Blacks are the most visible victims of U. S. colonialism. You could even learn that the residents of the Distrito Federal have voting representation in the Mexican Congress, in contrast to the District of Columbia.

You could do all these things and more and yours could be a truly historic visit to the city first settled by the immigrants from Aztlán. But you will not and it will not be so because you cannot. You cannot because you are as much a victim of your history as we are. You must be aware of that fact and you must be aware that, with proper education, the people will right the wrongs of that history, and they will do so in the spirit of peace and brotherhood, using as their most basic tool something obviously lacking at the highest levels of the U. S. government - democracy.

Should the State Department or any other segment of the Carter Administration be willing to allocate resources to a project designed to remove the myths and introduce the truth into the educational process with regard to the subjects cited above, I stand ready to discuss the possibilities of such a project in the District of Columbia.

Viva la causa,

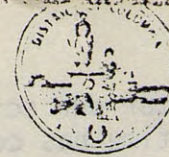
Frank Shaffer-Corona
Member At-Large
Board of Education



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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y

June 27, 1978

The Honorable Griffin Bell
The Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. Bell:

I have been asked to speak out, on television programs and in workshops, on the subject of violence in our schools as if it were a new phenomenon. I feel certain that the violence in our schools is merely indicative of the violence in our society. Ours has been the most violent society in all of human history, Mr. Attorney General, and the blame clearly lies in the lap of the U. S. Government, particularly the Department of Justice. Throughout our history, violence has been the primary ingredient of nurture and sustenance for the racism that permeates virtually every institution and every person in this country.

The government sponsored genocide of Western Hemisphere natives that reduced their numbers from 12 million when the British arrived to 1 million today; the shameful treatment of Blacks, first in slavery, then in "emancipated" poverty; the conquest and continuing occupation of the northern half of Mexico's sovereign territory by the U. S.; the forced sterilization by the U. S. of over one-third of the women of child-bearing age in the colonized nation of Puerto Rico are but the most memorable and significant monuments to our government's principal system of control and domination - violence. The atrocities committed by American police and military organizations over the past two centuries cause aberrations such as the Third Reich to seem amateurish in comparison.

We worship at the altar of violence in this country - in our literature, on television and radio, in the movies. Our government sponsors violence - in the Middle East, in Asia, in Africa, in Chile, Haiti, and Peru, in New York, Chicago, and Houston. All of the resources of our government seem to be gearing up for acts of violence in Africa. Granted that it must be hard to get rid of old habits such as the burning desire to go out and kill Black people; granted that the past six U. S. Presidents have gone livid with paranoid rage at the mention of Fidel Castro's name (I might add here that his only "offense" has been the creation of the only country in this hemisphere that is free of U. S. domination); granted that those in governance seem to think that only a full-scale

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GENERAL COUNSEL

war can bolster our economy. But in spite of all these basic considerations, I think the time has come to change all this. To paraphrase Judge José Angel Gutierrez, don't you think it's time to try out the American system of government? It might work.

On the domestic scene, Mr. Attorney General, you are the high priest of violence. As this Nation's "chief cop" you control the FBI, which has committed and promoted acts of violence throughout this country and in Mexico. Your Department has been instrumental in turning our country's police departments into para-military organizations and intelligence units that would be the envy of the SS, SA, and Gestapo. The most un-American group of thugs under your command is, of course, the INS. Instead of dealing in a proper fashion with immigration and naturalization, the INS has become a "Department of Deportation" whose primary mission seems to be the removal of people of color from the U. S. Immigration is a social, historical, cultural, and economic problem - it is not a police problem. To make war on innocent victims such as Mrs. Contreras and her 8-month unborn child takes the depravity of that agency to a new low. I would like to know what the Department of Justice intends to do about this case and similar ones. To threaten the violations of civil and human rights of U. S. citizens and non-citizens alike, as your agents have done in Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore is repugnant. I would like to know what the Department of Justice plans to do to prevent the INS threats from being carried out. To carry to the U. S. Senate the myth and notion that Mexicans are foolish enough to gladly register for the "salvation" promised by the Jimmy Carter Plan on Immigration is to display that you are merely guilty of syndrome transference.

To continue to promote official and unofficial violence in the name of "Justice" is to make a mockery of all that is truly good and just in our society. If your Department had done its job properly 10 years ago, Martin Luther King, Jr. would probably have become its head rather than its head victim.

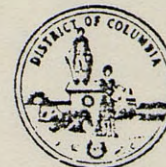
I call on you to change this mad rush toward more violence. I call on you to repudiate the tactics of the past that have led to distrust, divisions, racism, and controlled chaos. I call on you to become the prophet of truth and justice rather than continue in your present role. I call on you to do all this and more at your level so that I can then do my part at my level to remove violence from our schools and from the minds and hearts of our young people.

Sincerely,

Fran A. She-Pey-Corona
Member At-Large
Board of Education



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November 20, 1978

Mr. Joseph Califano
Office of the Secretary
Health Education & Welfare
Washington, D. C. 20201

Dear Secretary Califano:

I want to take this opportunity to share with you some major educational concerns confronting Hispanoafrikan people in this country. These concerns are particularly fresh in my mind as a combined result of my attendance at the recent national conference of the Council of Great City Schools and my attendance in August at the XI World Festival of Youth and Students in Havana, Cuba.

It is a sad commentary on our way of life that 24 years after Brown vs. Board of Education the major problem in our schools is still racism and desegregation. It is criminal that the ratio of military spending to money for education in our federal budget is 10:1. It is frightening that the media are training our young people from the earliest ages in violence, sexism, racism, and alienation with often greater effectiveness than is accomplished in our classrooms.

The lack of resources allocated to truly effective bilingual/bicultural education in this country is magnified by the growing attacks on the only Constitutional guaranteed form of education in this country. The actions of the intelligence services against the family of Reies Lopez Tijerina are merely the leading example of a condition which makes many of our young people afraid to go to school. I might add that Reies Tijerina, the father of the modern phase of the Chicano Movement is mentioned as a hero in Mexican Textbooks. The "back-to-basics" concept is closing the threshold to creative learning in the arts, languages, and many other disciplines.

We ask you to join us in our efforts to improve the conditions I have de-

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GENERAL COUNSEL



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- 2 -

scribed. We will gladly follow you, as the leading Latino (after all, Italians are the original Latino) in the Carter Cabinet, in a movement to add to the U.S. Constitution an amendment which would guarantee to all persons in this country the right to a free and public total quality education.

Sincerely,

Frank Shaffar Corona

Mr. Joseph Califano
Office of the Secretary
Health Education & Welfare
Washington, D.C. 20201

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It is a sad commentary on our way of life that 25 years after Brown vs. Board of Education the major problem in our schools is still racism and desegregation. It is criminal that the nation's military spending to money for education in our federal budget is 10:1. It is frightening that the media are training our young people from the earliest ages in violence, sexism, racism, and alienation with often greater effectiveness than is accomplished in our classrooms.

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We ask you to join us in our efforts to improve the conditions I have de-



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