

September 6, 1955

Dr. J.W. Edgar
Commissioner of Education
Austin, Texas

Dear Dr. Edgar:

The American GI Forum and Ladies Auxiliary of Driscoll, Texas request an investigation of the Driscoll, Texas Elementary School because of illegal Segregation of the Latin American School Children.

The President of the GI Forum, Robert Saldana, Sinclair Service Station, Driscoll, Texas and the President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Albeisa Hernandez, Sinclair Service Station, Driscoll, Texas; have requested meto give you the following report wherein Segregation is practiced:

1. Supt. Green segregates the Latin American Children for a period of four years.

They have a class wherein they start the first year children called the beginners year which is one whole year. This class is completely for the children of Mexican origin.

2. From the beginners class when they pass they pass to a low first class wherein they are detained one whole school year.

3. From the Low First class they are passed to the high first wherein they are held for a period for one year.

4. After three years of segregation they are passed to a second grade where they are still segregated for one whole year which is a total of four years.

Supt. Greeharbitrarily segregates some of the children, even though they can speak English. Specifically Mrs. Pat. Perez has a little girl named Lina who can speak English. Supt. Gordon Green refused her admission with the English Speaking Class in spite of her ability. Supt. Green does not give any examinations and segregates the children arbitrarily.

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with Mrs. Pat Perez stated that Supt. Green would not admit her child/the English Speaking class because "the other Mexican children would want to get in there too".

As result of this segregation many of our children are retarded and purposely held back so that when they do come into mixed classes they are so much older than their English Speaking classmates that a great number of them drop out.

I am certain that Supt. Green knows about the Delgado Case and I feel certain can eliminate this unwarranted situation.

I would like to point out that his idea of pre-primer or beginners classes for our children sometimes add up to three years before they are finished with the first grade.

I wish to thank you for your cooperation and kindness and we are sorry in having to bother your office knowing well that your department is rather rushed at this time of the year. However, we feel confident that an investigation will be undertaken as soon as possible, and we pledge complete cooperation with your Department.

Thank you,

Hector P. Garcia, M.D.
Chairman, American GI Forum of U.S.

CC: Robert Saldana, Pres. Driscoll American GI Forum
Albeisa Hernandez, Pres., Driscoll GI Forum Auxiliary
Ed Idar, Jr., Exec. Secretary of GI Forum
Attorney General Ben Sheppard