

PARTIDO DE LA RAZA UNIDA DE NUEVO MEXICO

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NEWSLETTER III

September 25, 1978

As you can note from the dual address, your chairman has a dual residence. This is due to the fact that I am presently working on my PhD at the University of New Mexico and am commuting to Las Vegas. I am afraid this will curtail some of the trips I had planned to make to visit the counties, but I will make every effort to visit all of the counties before the year is out, and I will keep you informed through this newsletter of events going on in the Party throughout the state, but please try to keep me informed directly, so I don't have to go through a roundabout route to find out what is going on in your counties, porque de todos modos siempre me doy cuenta.

I am sorry that I have held off so long in calling the State Central Committee together, but the move to Albuquerque and other exigencies have prevented me from doing so, but through this newsletter, I now advise you that THE NEXT MEETING OF PARTIDO DE LA RAZA UNIDA DE NUEVO MEXICO STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WILL MEET AT 5:00 P.M AT THE CHICANO STUDIES CENTER ON 1815 ROMA, N.E. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1978, after the Bernalillo County organizational meeting which will take place at the same location at 2:00 p.m. AGENDA FOR THE STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING: According to an Manual. Items of interest. Report of the Texas Raza Unida Convention, report on the preparations for the trip to Mexico in the month of November for the Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores week of "Solidarity with the Chicano Movement," the state campaign, the Rio Arriba campaign, efforts to activate the Partido throughout the state and carry out a more effective campaign of activities and recruitment, report on the international work of the Partido, work of the national Partido.

Reports and Summaries:

A reminder. The Partido de la Raza Unida has been invited to send a delegation to Mexico during the period between November 15 and November 26 to a week of solidarity with the Chicano Movement arranged by the leadership of the Partido de la Raza Unida nationally and by the leadership of the Partido of the states of New Mexico and Texas. The host will be the Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores (PST) and not the Trotskyist Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores (PRT). We are arranging for three caravans to go into Mexico from Texas, through Nuevo Laredo, from New Mexico through Ciudad Juarez, and from California through Nogales. We will be met at each of these points by members of the PST for rallies and then will on to the intermediate points of San Luis Potosi and Guadalajara where another rally will be held for the Partido by the PST. We will all meet in Mexico City for a huge final rally to culminate the week. We must yet define the itinerary finally, but I wish everyone interested in going to contact me. Las Vegas is already getting together a delegation under youth coordinator for the county Luis Borunda. If you have any questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me as soon as possible, because we need to count of who is going and we need to start the fund raisers NOW.

International Work:

Jose Angel Gutierrez has been invited to take a delegation to the Middle East some time early next year, and plans are being discussed and worked out to get final decisions on the matter. We are to look at the Palestinians plight in order to get a clearer picture of their suffering caused by their being cast out of their homeland by the Israelis. As soon as more details become available, we will disseminate them.

Jose Angel is planning a trip to Europe to try to make arrangements for support from a number of European countries for the Chicano cause, especially in the matter of police brutality against the Chicano community and our youth.

Begin planning NOW to put together RAZA UNIDA candidates for the BECAS PARA AZTLAN, as we will have from 50-75 more scholarships for the coming year, and they will be announced around the month of November.

National Work.

Jose Angel Gutierrez has been initially contacted by the new leadership of CASA about the possibility of working together, and more extensive contacts and discussions are in the making. Read and recall the material in the New Mexico Partido's "Discussion Bulletin Number One."

The next national convention of the Partido de la Raza Unida is being planned for November of Next year in San Antonio to be sponsored by the local chapter of the Partido with the assistance of the state Partido and the Congreso de Aztlán. Final dates for the national convention will be set by the Congreso de Aztlan which will meet tentatively in December of this year.

We are actively trying to get in contact with all active chapters of the Partido in Arizona, Colorado and any other state to have them join the effort to pull the national Partido together. Please get any such information to me or to Jose Angel Gutierrez, Zavala County Judge, Crystal City, Texas.

The Texas Partido State Convention-Highlights:

Convention called to order. Eliseo Solis of the Lubbock Partido named Convention Chairman. Address by Maria Elena Martinez, State Chairperson. Discussion of assistance being sought from the government of Mexico to buy natural gas and to seal produce in Mex.. Addresses by State and local candidates: Luis Diaz de Leon, candidate for U.S. Senate, Mario Compean, candidate for Governor. Mario criticized Chicanos who were supporting anglo candidates for governor, including Ruben Sandoval, attorney who handled the Santos Rodriguez case and is involved in the Andres Ramirez case in Albuquerque (he endorsed the ex-Attorney General Hill for governor of Tx.). Maria Elena exhorted more participation of women in the Partido and urged the men to take an active role in bringing about participation. Jose Angel Gutierrez' address to the convention/ Angel will continue to act in the capacity of National Chairman of the Partido until the next election. There is a need to reappraise the situation of the Partido. There have been many people who have dropped out on the way, and we are now down to the "hard core" which can be used as a base to build up the Partido on the basis of work, commitment and dedication to the Partido. The Partido has been under constante attack since the trip to Cuba and is currently undergoing a period of strong harrassment because the Partido is effective and has been so. The Partido has started to develop its own foreign policy apart from the government. A group of Raza Unida Youth participated in the

PST Youth Festival in Mexico City. PST will become the major opposition party to the PRI with the possibility of taking power in the future and for legislative power in the near future. The Partido (and the Chicano) need to look to the South for our development and solidarity and work, not toward the White House. Nov. 3, 1977 all major Chicano leadership rejected the Carter Plan at San Antonio and the White House got the message and tried to bludge the effect. December 1977 a meeting of the leadership of Chicano National organizations was held including Partido, Lulac, G.I. Forum, Ser, etc. were present with Bert Corona and Cesar Chavez absent, to form a coalition to deal with the Mexican government and as a united Chicano front, so as not to "trip over each other." The group met with President Lopez Portillo of Mexico and an accord was reached not to make any decisions affecting the Chicano in any agreement with the United States without the Coalition representatives being a party to the negotiations. Chicanos need to develop our own foreign relations policy rather than have it dictated to us by whites. The Chicano working in concert with our Latin American brothers and sisters can control what is rightfully ours. Partido should support the Palestinian Movement. Documents show that the INS and other agencies have been monitoring the Chicano Movement and the Partido in particular illegally. Delegates selected to the Congreso de Aztlan: Lorenzo Cano, Monica Zamora and Eddy Corralles. I will send out copies of the Texas resolutions as soon as I receive them.

Nuevo México.

The state Partido will hold its state Central Committee meeting on the date designated on the front page.

The State Chairman has met with the elections committee of the state legislature and a bill was ordered to be drafted giving the "minor parties" convention privilege, which means that these parties will have the right to select their candidates at their convention and certify them with the Secretary of State without having to gather petitions. Now, we need to pressure the members of the elections committee to report the bill favorably out of committee and on to the house floor. The decision on the bill will be made between November 15 and 17, and we must have people there to testify in favor of the bill. In the meantime, we must pressure our local reps. and state senators to push for the committee to report the bill out favorably. I will look at the bill as soon as it is drafted, and I have the assistance of Rep. Sam Vigil of San Miguel County and I have his verbal support for the bill if it is to our liking. If we can push this through, we have clear sailing to get our candidates on the ballot in the Presidential election of 1980 and on from there.

The new rules now require that a political party have 100 members to be a registered political party in the state of New Mexico; it is not retroactive, and we are in good shape as far as this is concerned.

The state campaign is still being carried on and I have been campaigning as much as possible with the limited resources we have. We need for all candidates and county organizations to do as much as possible since we will not be on the ballot; we must be written in, and I have developed a pamphlet with the names of the candidates and instructions for voting write in, and I will try to get 100 copies to each county as soon as possible.

Rio Arriba County is going full speed and has held a number of rallies and has developed a strong level of support to the point that there is a very real possibility of winning some offices in the

county. Antonio, "Ike", DeVargas has been doing a superhuman job of organizing and the spirit shown by the Partido in the county and the work it is producing is phenomenal. Moises Morales has won an out of court settlement against Emilio Naranjo for \$10,000 and Naranjo and some his ex-deputies are now under indictment for perjury. The Partido has 6-8 candidates for a number of offices, including multicounty offices and is making inroads into formerly Naranjo strongholds. Lets all profit from the example of Rio Arriba, if we need any convincing que SI SE PUEDE, we have the clear example in Rio Arriba. Vamonos Raza, arriba y adelante. We can control this state by the year 2,000 if we get on the stick. Its only 20 years away and the bloodsuckers are already coming and bleeding us dry as we have discussed in the Manual. The people are looking for alternatives, and right now its us or the Republicans. They might choose the Republicans for a little while, pero ahorita se desengañan y solo quedamos nosotros, but we've got to want it and work for it, or nos van a dar en la madre while we try to get organized under a divided and confused leadership.

I will make sure that this gets to all the counties in bulk, and its up to you to distribute it from there. You will get at least 100 for each county, so please try to duplicate it and pass it on to members and non members whom you feel have potential for being workers for the Partido.

Please get you county meetings going and spread the word and the work. We realize that you are not machines, that is why you need to attract more workers to the Partido and hold regular meetings at which you discuss the local, state and national issues. I will try to make this newsletter every two weeks, but it WILL come out at least monthly, so you will have plenty to discuss. I will try to put out editions both in Spanish and English, but when I cannot it will at least come out in English (como esta).

I am presently trying to develop a staff to help me with the typing and distribution of the newsletter, and I'm sure we will work it out so I don't have to do it alone. Please send contributions to my Albuquerque address, and I will send you a receipt and will acknowledge the contributions in the newsletter. Please try to set up a dollar a month for each member (or registered Partido voter if you can) for the county and one dollar for the state and we will try to work up to the amount budgeted for in the Manual. Raza Unida members and prospective members so we can set up a newspaper and pay for telephone bills and necessary travel, porque ya me vacio la bolaa y no queda mas que el agujero por donde se sale el dinero.

We have printed the Partido's Discussion Bulletin Number One: The Chicano Movement, the Southwest, and the Role of the National and State Partido de la Raza Unida in the Southwest, an Economic, Historic, Social and Political Profile from 1890 to the early 2000 (Qué largo el titulo, no?) If you don't have a copy, write to me and I'll send you one, or if your a County Chairperson, a stack I plan to put out about five more this year: The State of the Partido de la Raza Unida in New Mexico; Tasks of the Partido for the next 30 years; Raza Unida for Youth; A Manual for Raza Unida Organizers; and an Informal history of the Partido de la Raza Unida in Mexico. If you wish to write on topics for the Discussion bulletin just type them up double space and send them to me and I'll make sure it gets out to the membership. Hasta aqui nomás por ahora.

Juan José Peña
Juan José Peña, State Chairman.