

Position of the Los Angeles County Central Committee  
Of La Raza Unida Party

on

the Disruptions by CASA-MAPA at  
La Raza Unida Party's Convention of July 1&2, 1972

The State Convention of L.R.U.P. was the culmination of over one year of work. The contact between various chapters and central committees from throughout the state, the planning sessions, preparations, financing, organizing and the registration of our 32,000 registered voters in the Partido (a feat unequaled in the history of the Chicano in the U.S.) was the result of hard work by many disciplined and dedicated people. The struggles and problems that had to be overcome are too many to be mentioned here. But it is a tribute to La Raza that so much has been accomplished and that a principled unity has been maintained throughout the party in California.

However, we must keep in mind that the efforts to undermine our party are not limited to the enemies of our people. Within the ranks of the movement there are (as there have always been), people who under the guise of slogans and phrases that sound revolutionary, have as their content opportunist and selfish motives, and who only seek to use the movement not as a means to further the liberation struggle of our people, but only to further their own self interests, even at the expense of the rest of La Raza. The disruptions caused by the leadership of CASA-MAPA at the Convention must be seen in this way.

The disruption by Al Hernandez, Gloria Chavez and Nacho Uribe took the following forms:

1. Gloria Chavez led an organized disruption from the floor of the Convention by yelling, cussing, and making personal attacks on members of the Convention. (For example, against the Brown Berets who were providing polite but stern security) She encouraged her friends from the SWP to help carry on the disruption.
2. Al Hernandez carried on in the same way, carrying out the mandate of another disruptor who yelled out, "The convention procedures be damned."
3. Nacho Uribe tried repeatedly to get control of the microphone and to stop the convention.
4. When all of these people were asked to respect the collective decisions and convention procedures of La Raza Unida Party, they rejected this, making a mockery of Benito Juarez's statement, "El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz."

The issue was more than just one resolution that CASA-MAPA objected to, and more than a question of "convention procedures". This convention was organized in the most open and democratic manner possible. Everyone is encouraged to join the Partido (32,000 people have now registered.). Everyone is encouraged to join active chapters of the party and to create new ones. Every chapter was invited to attend a caucus in Fresno on June 3, 1972. There, representatives from all over California in an open and democratic manner participated in, and drew up, the rules and procedures for the Convention. Press releases, flyers, posters and phone calls invited people from all over the state to participate. This was accomplished by hard work as the party is being organized by disciplined and dedicated people who realized that the only way to build La Raza Unida Party is through collective and democratic principles of discussion and co-operation.

With this in mind we called a meeting with CASA-MAPA prior to the Convention to discuss issues which we felt, that in the interest of unity, should not be allowed to become antagonistic between them and the L.R.U.P. L.A. County Central Committee. At that meeting CASA-MAPA agreed to principles and procedures of co-operation with the Central Committee. At that time we felt that a principled unity now existed between L.R.U.P. and CASA-MAPA.

The subsequent disruptions by CASA-MAPA were a breach of our principles of unity and an attack on the party. If the disruptions by them had been carried out effectively this would have been no less than a stab in the back of the Partido. These actions by CASA-MAPA were no accident. They were too well planned and organized for that. In addition CASA-MAPA is politically very close to other organizations which have traditionally affiliated with the Democratic Party, which also sought to take over the Convention and undermine it.

To this day, CASA-MAPA has offered no explanation, nor an apology to La Raza Unida Party. Yet, Bert Corona has seen fit to attack L.R.U.P. and in essence the liberation struggle of our people, through the official organ of another political party that has blatantly interfered in the internal affairs of L.R.U.P.. Bert Corona makes the statement, "...we have not worked as broadly, openly, and democratically as we should...". In the first place, what does he mean "we"? Bert Corona is doing absolutely nothing to build L.R.U.P., all he does is use the Partido's name as a forum for his own individual views and programs, and those of CASA-MAPA. He is doing this over the sweat and hard work of many honest people who are trying to build this Party, while at the same time not belonging to any chapter of L.R.U.P. He accuses the Party of not being broad, open, and democratic. We have already answered this slander and distortion of events very concretely on the first page of this paper. Apparently what he means is that this Party will not allow itself to be prostituted or used by any organization no matter how famous or well known its leader might be. In effect we will not be fooled by petty "Caudillos".

At this point in the historical struggle of our people for liberation, what is needed very urgently is the political organization that listens to, responds to, and articulates the aspirations of our people and struggles to bring about the political solutions to the problems facing La Raza. That organization is La Raza Unida Party; the party that today stands in the forefront in our peoples struggle for liberation. It has taken us 120 years to get here and we will not turn back, nor be turned back, undermined, nor stopped by provocateurs.

We therefore stand resolutely behind the following position:

1. In any problems that arise, where La Raza Unida Party is involved, we will do our utmost to resolve the problem on a principled basis. It is this strong desire for principled unity that has guided us in the past and will guide us in the past and will guide us in the future as well.
2. We will view any attack on La Raza Unida Party, whether it comes from agents or opportunists within the ranks of the movement, or directly from our oppressors as an attack on our peoples' struggle for liberation.
3. We will publicly expose any and all persons who as "leaders" betray the trust of our people and attack, undermine or try to destroy the Partido.

This then is our position on the disruptions of the Partido's Convention. We can expose opportunists but the people must decide the verdict in the end. We will continue the struggle and not stop to fight or entangle ourselves with disruptive and opportunist elements. The struggle calls for people who are determined, disciplined and dedicated, positive and not negative, who work rather than just sit and criticize.

The Los Angeles County Central Committee invites everyone to participate in bringing about the creation of La Raza Unida Party, and to help us attain our immediate goal of registering the 66,000 voters to put your party on the ballot.

Respectfully,

L.A. County Central Committee  
of La Raza Unida Party