





**I n t r o d u c t i o n**

**A n d I n f o r m a t i o n**

**M a n u e l T o E I**

**P A R T I D O L A R A Z A U N I D A**

**D e**

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## INTRODUCTION

In reading the title of this document, you may wonder why you need a manual in order to be a member of the Partido de La Raza Unida de California. The manual was designed with the hope that questions that arise can be answered. Some may view el Partido as a political party that struggles for the rights of Chicanos as a part of the Chicano Movement. If you happen to be a member of another ethnic group, you may feel that the Partido is just for Chicanos and that it does not relate to you. However, if you are an individual looking for a political party that works all year round for social justice, then you owe it to yourself to study the program of El Partido de La Raza Unida. We hope that as a result of this study you will ally yourself with the struggle for a truly just society.

The Partido feels that the needs of every human being, such as decent employment, decent wages, adequate housing, health care, education, human justice, good equitable food production and distribution are realizable in present day society. We feel that production and the means of distribution should be set and utilized on the basis of human need, rather than on a profit or politically expedient basis. Presently, one-half of the world goes hungry, including many in the U.S. This is an intolerable situation when the tools to eradicate hunger, illiteracy and other problems of humanity are available.

The Partido feels that the present economic system and the accompanying political system of the "Western World" are the major obstacles to resolving the most basic human needs. The system not only permits, but promotes the hoarding of money and resources desperately needed to abolish human misery in the U.S. and the world. Presently, resources and money are allocated on the basis of what is profitable rather than on what is necessary or logical, which is an absurd situation for supposedly intelligent and civilized human beings. It is outrageous to have human beings crowded into massive cities simply because industries are located there. It is more logical to have an adequate mass transit system than to have such a production of automobiles which will in turn create serious environmental problems resulting in stringent regulations. There is a need to plan cities in a manner that will result in sufficient jobs, human services, housing and schools at the highest level, and to insure that the food supply is adequate or more than adequate.



The Partido believes that there is a need in North America and that the needs of Third World people must be met. These needs include language maintenance, political, social, economical and educational representation. At present, attempts to meet the needs of Third World people are "spotty". At best, these attempts encounter strong and unreasonable resistance from right-wing conservative groups, even from so-called "reasonable thinking" people. They need to realize that cultural and linguistic maintenance by Third World people is not a threat, but an asset which should be supported.

The Partido was founded to defend the rights of one of the Third World people, the Chicano. The Partido continues to develop its membership, as any organization must do if it is to be a viable force for social justice. The Partido fully realizes that the human needs of all people, physical and spiritual, must be met if the needs of the Chicano are to be met. This is a progressive process which will eventually lead to a common unification of all people. There is assurance that the views, aspirations and traditions particular to different ethnic groups will be respected and retained when they are not damaging to the whole. For example, those groups that operate on principles such as "Manifest Destiny" and "Superior Race" hurt not only themselves but every one else.

This is the reason for the Partido's concern with the day-to-day struggles of La Raza in such matters as legal problems, welfare rights, immigration problems, police brutality, supporting bilingual/bicultural education and working against administrative, political and bureaucratic injustices at the local, county, state and federal levels of government. In short, el Partido works in every way possible to try to alleviate the oppressive conditions under which la Raza finds itself.

El Partido also realizes that the conditions which we seek cannot and will not be realized under the present system, and that problems of human suffering and misery must be alleviated in every way possible until a system is established which will comply with the needs of human beings in a just manner. At the present, it is difficult to define a system which will meet the sum total of human need, but the Partido suggests that a system based on the equitable division of resources among the members of society, where all members are involved in deciding the priorities and are guaranteed their democratic rights (freedom of speech, assembly, petition, religion, etc.) is possible.



El Partido feels that such a system should have these democratic rights without an existing right to exploit and become wealthy at the expense of the workers. The system should insure that the human needs of its people will be met without the slave type labor conditions that exist, where some people must put in long hard hours or hold two jobs while others work at substandard wages or are unemployed.

People need time to develop those qualities needed for a more humane society and to develop intellectual capacity to its fullest in order that humanity may advance. Humanity needs to improve itself, but this is difficult if a person is so tied down with surviving that she or he has no time to deal with it, or has to scrape for minimal sustenance to live another day.

In short, THE PARTIDO PROPOSES THE FORMATION OF A SOCIETY WHICH DISTRIBUTES "JUSTLY" AMONGST ITS MEMBERS THE GOODS IT PRODUCES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE, AS DECIDED BY THE PEOPLE FOR THE COMMON GOOD, WITH FULL DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS BASED UPON THE BEST ELEMENTS OF THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE.



# LA RAZA UNIDA PARTY

## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PARTIDO

In the early 1840's, Juan Nepomuceno Cortina led a liberation army in South Texas in defense of his people's rights. This led to his forming a political party, La Raza Unida, between 1846 and 1848. The purpose of the party was to build a strong economic and political force that would be self-governed by them, while retaining their cultural identity and nationality. The principles of this party were "unity, devotion to the community, mutual aid and brotherly love".

In 1890 in New Mexico, El Partido del Pueblo Unidos was founded by Juan Jose Herrera and members of Los Caballeros de Labor (The Knights of Labor). The purpose was to counteract the Republican Party, which was the most powerful party at that time, and to bring issues that dealt with the Mexican/Chicano people to the forefront.

From the 1880's until World War II, Chicano workers participated by the tens of thousands in strikes in the mining, cattle and agricultural industries of the Southwest, encountering military counter-action at times. Chicanos participated side by side with other workers, but always raised issues that were particular to Chicanos. These struggles included not only economic demands, but were also against discrimination of an oppressed people.

In 1962, an attempt was made to give the Mexicano in Crystal City, Texas some political representation. The Political Association of Spanish-Speaking Organizations (PASO) collected a number of Mexican-American Democrats and ran them for office against gringo incumbents. In the 1963 election, they succeeded in throwing out the gringo mayor, who had been in office 38 years, and created an all Mexican-American city council. They were also successful in other counties. Unfortunately, PASO did not build an independent mass movement.

In 1969 and 1970, during the Denver Youth Conference, Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzalez pushed for the establishment of a separate Chicano political party, El Congreso de Aztlan. Thus, organizing began towards El Partido La Raza Unida, with El Congreso de Aztlan as its governing body.

In 1970, something new came into the picture in full force. La Raza Unida Party (LRUP) emerged out of a mass movement which developed as a result of the school walk-outs



in Crystal City. Unlike PASO, LRUP did not view itself as simply an electoral coalition to elect candidates. LRUP viewed itself as a political party in the full sense of the word, with participation in strikes, boycotts of gringo-owned businesses, and the fight for community control of the schools.

Many of the students who participated in the walk-outs were not politically minded at first, but quickly began to see events in their true perspective. The assistant principal of the high school, a Chicano, was mayor of the city. Yet, it was only during the walk-outs when they saw his reactionary role that they realized the existence of the "vendido" Chicano. The same was true for the Chicano teacher who also happened to serve on the city council. Thus, the real basis for the independent campaign of LRUP came about as a result of the parents' and students' desire to get rid of the existing racist school board and city council.

On April 4, 1970, the slate of LRUP swept the school board elections in Crystal City, defeating the Democratic Party candidates. LRUP became a reality as an alternative political party, even though the elections were officially "non-partisan" since everyone knew of the party affiliation. Jose Angel Gutierrez, age 25, a founder and former state chair of the Mexican-American Youth Organization (MAYO), headed the slate of three Chicanos. Arturo Gonzalez, age 21, a gas station attendant, and Miguel Perez, age 31, operator of a Chicano dance hall, were also elected. Two Democratic vendidos (sell-outs) were defeated in addition to a rancher, E.W. Ritchie Jr., age 46, who in desperation began claiming that he was "half Mexican".

On April 7, 1970, LRUP candidates again swept to victory in the city council elections in three cities. In Carrizo Springs, Company D Headquarters for the Texas Rangers, Rufino Cabello was elected the first Chicano mayor in the city's history. In Cotulla, LRUP candidate Alfredo Zamora was elected mayor. In both cities, an additional LRUP councilman was elected. In Crystal City, two Raza Unida councilmen were elected to the five-member city council. PASO was frightened by the LRUP victory and abandoned its candidates. Eventually, it lost almost all posts and became vote-getters for the Democratic Party, much like California's MAPA (Mexican-American Political Association.)

Pablo Puente, Raza Unida candidate for city council, was ruled off the ballot in Crystal City on the basis of a municipal law requiring candidates to own property. La Raza Unida Party succeeded in having the law ruled unconstitutional in the federal courts. Puente was placed on the ballot and subsequently won the election along with Ventura Gonzalez Jr.



La Raza Unida Party also succeeded in forcing the Civil Rights Commission to come to Crystal City to observe the elections so that the ranchers and agribusinessmen could not blatantly intimidate people with threats of violence, loss of jobs for voting, or tamper with the ballots.

Once LRUP was on the school board, some of the changes that were made were that the school district would build houses for school employees, but rent would be based on a percentage of the individual's salary. The school buses would have to patronize all gas stations equally, including the Chicano gas stations (previously all business had gone to anglo-owned service stations).

Since the candidates of La Raza Unida Party assumed office on April 15, 1970, the following programs have been instituted in the Crystal City School District.

- 1) Complete bi-lingual education from kindergarten through third grade.
- 2) A free breakfast and lunch program for every student in every school.
- 3) Banning of the use of the culturally biased I.O. tests and English Proficiency tests.
- 4) The use of relevant texts in the classroom, even though they were not "state approved", which relate the true contributions made to society by Chicanos.
- 5) Student records were declared completely confidential. Crystal City High School was the first secondary school in the United States which no longer provided the Selective Service Board with any information. This is a reflection of the growing anti-war feelings of Chicanos who suffered one of the highest death rates in Vietnam.

All of the changes in the schools are too numerous to list here. Chicanos are being hired to fill vacancies at all levels from teachers, counselors and board director to vice principals and principals. The school song was even changed to "Jalisco". The city council in Crystal City also took action to improve the living conditions of Chicanos. The jurisdiction for law enforcement by the State Police and the Texas Rangers was revoked by the council.

## PARTIDO RAZA UNIDA



This seriously hindered the ability of these two racist "law and order" outfits to harass the people of Crystal City within their own city limits. The all-Chicano city police force was required to undergo a community involvement training program which was headed by LRUP.

A 20-year contract for municipal tax exemption and services for the Del Monte Corporation was voided when La Raza Unida Party learned that the former city councilman who signed the contract had been under salary for Del Monte at the time. This resulted in increased revenues for the city. Another successful result of the Crystal City election victories was the organization of Ciudadanos Unidos (United Citizens) where participatory democracy is seen at its highest level. The citizens come together in regular meetings where the city and school officials are required to be present. The citizens, not the bureaucracy or the administration, make or change policy.

As a result of the triumphs in Crystal City, the Partido was extended to the states of Colorado, New Mexico and California. It eventually existed in 19 states at the time of El Partido de La Raza Unida's National Convention in El Paso, Texas, held in 1972. The four-day gathering drew 3,000 Chicanos. The Raza Unida chapters represented were a kiverse lot---as different as a rural barrio in Texas is from a city barrio in East L.A., and as distinct as San Francisco is from Kansas. A national organization was established with Jose Angel Gutierrez elected National Chairperson.

In Colorado in 1970, an entire slate of Chicanos ran for almost every political office in the state. The Partido received 2 to 5 percent of the vote. This was the largest total ever won by a third party in the history of Colorado. The vote total was significant for two other reasons: 1) the campaign was conducted without any real financing,, and 2) the Chicano slate appeared late in the campaign.

The first LRUP regional conference was held in June, 1970, in Denver. More than 300 Chicanos attended. Committees gave reports on how they were doing and announced candidates for office. There were other regional conferences held throughout Colorado. At every one of these conferences candidates were chosen to run for different political offices. Over thirty Chicanos were chosen to represent the Partido.

The following is a part of the complete platform of LRUP Colorado for the November 1970 elections.

Housing: To implement and/or utilize those resources now available and to strive for those resources necessary to accomplish adequate housing for La Raza. We want our living areas to fit the needs of the family



# CONTROL OF OUR OWN DESTINY

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and cultural protections, and not the needs of the city pork barrel, the building corporations or architects.

**Education:** We resolve that schools be warm and inviting facilities and not similar to jails in any way. We also resolve a completely free education from kindergarten to college with no fees, no lunch charges, no tuition or dues. Spanish shall be the first language and English the second language. Textbooks shall be re-written to emphasize the heritage and contributions of the Mexican-American or Indio-Hispano in the building of the Southwest..

**Economic Opportunities:** We resolve that the businesses serving our community be owned by that community. Instead of our people working in big factories across the city, we want training and low interest loans to set up small industries in our communities. These industries would be co-ops, with the profits staying in the community.

**Job Development:** We resolve training and placement programs which would develop the vast human resources available in the Southwest. In job placement, we demand that all racist placement tests be dropped and that texts be used which relate only to the qualifications necessary for that job. We further demand non-discrimination by all probate and public agencies.

**Law Enforcement:** We resolve an immediate investigation of the records of all prisoners to correct the legal errors or to detect the prejudice which operated those court proceedings, causing their convictions or extra-severe sentencing. We resolve immediate suspension of officers suspected of police brutality until a full hearing is held in the neighborhood of the event.

**Redistribution Of The Wealth:** That all citizens of this country share in the wealth of this nation by institution of economic reforms that would provide for all people. Further, we resolve that welfare in the form of subsidies in taxes and pay-offs to corporate owners be reverted to the people who are the foundation of the economy and tax base for this society.

**War In Vietnam:** We resolve that the draft board be representative of the population and that members of



the draft boards be 35 years of age or younger, and that these draft boards be appointed every four years concurrent with the election for Governor. We resolve that this war (Vietnam) is unjust and that it is a form of genocide that has been used against La Raza to eliminate our national resource---our youth!

These are examples of the activity in Texas and Colorado which was also taking place in Arizona and New Mexico. In California, El Partido de La Raza Unida was first organized in the Bay Area in Northern California (Oakland, Hayward, Berkeley and Union City.) Later, it spread to San Jose and Fresno. In February, 1970, a conference was held in Stockton and it was attended by over 1,300 Chicanos. During the same month, there were conferences held in East Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino. The developmental process traveled from Northern California to Southern California (San Diego).

During this period there had been two types of accomplishments for the Partido: political and social. First, there were the political accomplishments. Candidates of LRUP made a good showing in their first elections in Oakland on April 20, 1971. Tito Lucero ran for councilman at large and received 1,087 votes. Florencia Medina, a candidate for the Oakland Board of Education, won almost 27,000 votes or 33 percent of the votes cast against the anglo in that office. Also, Trinidad Lopez, a Raza Unida candidate for the Board of Trustees received 25,000 votes, which is 25 percent of the votes. Two other LRUP candidates ran in Berkeley and also had a very good showing. All the above candidates ran as independents but reflected the idealism of La Raza Unida Party. An incident a few days before the election showed the strength of Raza Unida as much or perhaps more than the votes. One of the La Raza Unida candidates, Antonia Rodarte, was dropped from the slate because he endorsed a regular Democratic Candidate. Thus the Partido made it clear that it would not be exploited by "sell-outs" and that it did not endorse any other political party.

In Los Angeles that same year Raul Ruiz Profesor at San Fernando Valley State Collage run in the 48th Assembly District and recieved more than 2,786 votes. Everyone should bear in mind the length to which the Democrats went in their frenzied efforts to beat La Raza Unida.

(1) The Democratic Party held a fund raiser on the Queen Mary Oceanliner at which they raised \$120,000. (2) One of the strongest men at that time in the California Democratic Party, Walter Karabian, was backing the Democratic candidate both physically and financially. (3)



California State Senator David Roberti came out and walked precincts for the Democratic candidate. (4) U. S. Senator Allen Cranston also came out and walked precincts for the Democratic candidate. (5) U.S. Senator Muskie came out to California and used the Catholic Church for political gains in his attempt to help the Democratic candidate, but he was run out of the barrios in a hail of eggs.

In San Diego Gilberto Robledo ran for mayor as an independent under the banner of La Raza Unida Party. He came in 5th in the race, which was a good showing for the Partido.

In April 1972, the first formal convention of La Raza Unida Party was held in San Jose. In attendance were chapters from Oakland, Hayward, Berkeley, Union City, San Jose, Fresno, Stockton, East Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Ana, San Diego, San Fernando, Gilroy, Santa Cruz, La Puente, El Monte, Whittier, City Terrace, Newark, Sacramento, Redlands, Stanford and Coachella.

Some of the resolutions passed at this convention and still fully supported by La Raza Unida Party, California are: La Raza Unida Party is not to organize solely for political elections, but to also emphasize the economic and social endeavors reflecting the needs of each specific barrio, area, and state. Political education by the Partido is to discuss the oppressive conditions as they relate to workers, welfare recipients, students, unemployed, the deported, veterans, ect.. Any Federal, State, County or City agency utilizing government subsidies and contracts must institute Affirmative Action Programs with yearly goals and quotas in hiring, promoting and training Raza Men and Women in order to meet goals. All Raza citizen and not citizen, will be protected from intimidation from his employer and any institution when he wants to join in the struggle against exploitation. They shall receive equal wages and benefits. Both men and women will receive equal pay for equal work. Women must be able to collect disability during maternity leave. All workers should be guaranteed jobs and living wages. La Raza Unida will offer an alternative to the two party system and will not endorse candidates from any other political party. The organizing committees will make an

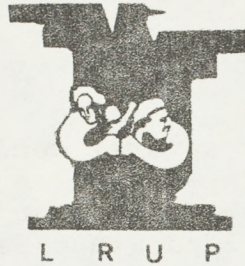




effort in their political education to expose and analyze the causes and effects of the "illegal" and deportation problems; these causes being the imperialistic and economic exploitation of Mexico by the U.S., which then uses deportations as a divisive tactic. LRUP is opposed to the U.S. government's use of deportations of our people in order to deceive workers into thinking that Mexicanos are solely responsible for scab labor and in this manner, pitting us against each other. LRUP opposes the EOP budget cuts, and takes an anti-war stand on South-east Asia.

In July, 1972, another State Convention was held in East Los Angeles. Some important resolutions passed and still supported by LRUP California: That we call for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all troops and material from Indochina, and that we support all Demonstrations for this purpose. We, LRUP of California, despite relentless pressure from the Democratic and Republican parties, the two party monopoly system of the United States, reaffirm our position that we will not support any candidate for any office from any party other than our own in the 1972 elections. This includes "disguised" candidates in so-called non-partisan elections. We invite all peoples of La Raza to join us in building and strengthening LRUP as a party which will participate in elections when it is clearly to our advantage, but which will go beyond the electoral process. The process is unquestionably discriminatory and rigged against us and must, therefore, be used with discretion. We must not be blinded by the fever of the 1972 elections, but must continue to organize and educate ourselves on the job, in the schools, in all the institutions, and in our barrios in order to deal with our oppression on all levels and in whatever manner we decide is best and necessary. The basic unifying political ideology of all movement liberation groups is the changing of the present oppressive economic system, and the recognition of different fronts of the same struggle. (As there are different cultures and backgrounds, there is a necessity for different fronts.) Our front is through a nationalistic political party, uniting all Raza and involving them in the struggle against oppression within this system. Our practical priority is to unite, educate and actively involve all Raza in creating change and alternatives to this political-economic system. LRUP is not a political party in the traditional sense, but, rather, it uses the electoral process to create political-economic change for La Raza. We seek equal representation and self-determination in controlling the institutions that affect our lives, such as labor, housing, education, health, etc. Our priority is to unite, educate and actively involve all Raza in creating change and offering alternatives to this capitalist political-economic system. We will use voter registration as a tool for educating the masses.





In the June primary of 1972 the LRUP office in San Diego County received numerous complaints of irregularities and outright violations of the election laws. Chicanos, especially those registered LRUP, were misinformed and harassed. Some were denied the right to vote. Some of the complaints included the following: one individual was told that non-partisans could not write in candidates. People were denied pencils for the write-in election and others were told that there was no such thing as a write-in. Some individuals were sent home for their sample ballot in order to prove that they were registered. People were questioned about their ability to speak English and others were denied the right to vote because of party affiliation. This type of abuse was to become common practice throughout the state.

In November of 1972, candidates that ran under the banner of LRUP were: Raul Ruiz, Los Angeles' 40th Assembly District; Antonio Abaca in San Francisco's 13th Assembly District; and Roger Granados, write-in candidate for the 38th Congressional District in San Bernardino. There was a great need to "get out the vote" since Californians had to vote in general elections in order to retain registered status and LRUP was aspiring to qualify itself as a "legal" party in the State which requires 66,336 registrations to qualify. The campaigns were also utilized as a means of on-going communications with the community. If engineered correctly, they could provide an avenue to expose the Party to the people.

In the 40th Assembly race Raul Ruiz netted 5,130 votes, which was 13% of the votes cast. In light of the fact that Spanish surnamed registration was approximately 18% of the district, 13% of the vote was quite an achievement for LRUP.

During the same time, the Partido had taken control of the Cucamonga Board of Education. In Ontario, where the Chicano population is only approximately 15%, the Partido had elected the first Chicano city councilman in the history of that city. In that same area, the Partido had created and implemented a non-profit cooperative "peoples'" corporation through which low-cost housing was made possible for families of the barrios in that area.



In 1973 LRUP again ran several candidates for various positions here in California. In January, Andres Rodriguez Torres, a member of the San Fernando chapter, ran in a special election for the 22nd State Senatorial District. In February, Ernie Macias Porras ran for councilman in the city of La Puente and came in third in a field of five candidates. In April, Rodolfo Gonzales ran for City Councilman of Rosemead and Nellie Bustillos ran for member of the Hacienda-La Puente Unified School Board of Trustees. Ms. Bustillos came in fifth in a field of eight candidates for three at-large seats.

In August the third State Convention of LRUP was held in Fresno. These are some of the resolutions which were adopted and are still supported by the Partido.

- \*Condemn the racist jailings and police brutality against members of the UFW.
- \*Denounce the U.S. Government for its involvement in the production, transportation, and distribution of repressive drugs, and the profit-oriented economic system which produces many of the repressive drugs for the Black Market which are then sold in poor communities. In our communities the pusher must be identified as the foot soldier in the government's drug war against the people and should be seen as the enemy in our communities.
- \*Oppose the use of immigration raids, deportations and the use of discriminatory laws as an attempt to exploit undocumented workers by using them as scapegoats for the present economic crises and to cover up corruption found in the INS.
- \*Express solidarity to the national liberation movements which are being waged against U.S. imperialism in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. In addition, LRUP expresses solidarity with the revolutionary struggles in Mexico, Palestine, and Puerto Rico. The Partido also demands an end to the economic blockade being directed against Cuba by the U.S.

In 1974 the City Terrace chapter of LRUP helped put the Incorporate East Los Angeles Cityhood Initiative on the ballot. In the November race for city council of East Los Angeles, Raul Ruiz received 1,710 votes which was the highest number received by any of the 39 candidates. Unfortunately, the Cityhood Initiative lost by 1,140 votes.



The fourth LRUP State Convention was held in September, 1975 in Arvin. The principles and the preamble found in this manual were accepted at that Convention. This Convention also gave birth to La Federacion de Mujeres del Partido La Raza Unida (California). As a result of the Convention, the Partido called for the abolition of the quota system imposed by the immigration regulations on immigration from the Western Hemisphere. LRUP holds that undocumented workers in the U.S. who have established roots in a community in the form of having employment, paying rent and paying taxes should have their status legalized without delay. It is the Partido's belief that "legalized" residents in the U.S. who have resided "legally" in the U.S. for two (2) years should be granted the right to vote in the state and local elections in California.

In March 1976, the San Fernando LRUP ran two candidates, Marshall Diaz and Xenaro Ayala, for the San Fernando City Council. In November, Jose Gonzales, 63rd Assembly District candidate, and Andres R. Torres, 39th Assembly District candidate, both received over 5% of the total votes in their districts.

The 1977 State Convention for the Partido was held in Ventura. The focus of this Convention was the strengthening of the Partido's structure.

During the 6th Annual State Convention, which was held in San Jose in November, 1978, this manual was accepted by the body. The Partido's Constitution, which is also found in the manual, was approved.

The most recent State Convention was held in November, 1979, in Bakersfield. Some of the resolutions passed at this Convention included:

- \*that each LRUP chapter seek to establish or formulate a La Raza Estudiantil in their area.
- \*that LRUP believes that all people have the right to a religious faith.
- \*that LRUP condemn and not tolerate any infiltration from any organization or individual.
- \*a series of labor-related resolutions were passed; varying from unionizing the unorganized to building a National Confederacion de Trabajadores.
- \*changes were made to the State Constitution.
- \*that LRUP support the belief that the Palestinian people have the right to a home land and self-determination; that the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) is the only negotiating body for the Palestinian people.



- \*that LRUP support the Puerto Rican people's struggle for liberty and self-determination.
- \*that LRUP endorse and support the 20th Decennial Census of population and housing that was to be conducted on April 1, 1980.
- \*that LRUP take a position to urge President Carter to nationalize the American oil companies.

In April, 1980, Angel Jesus De Los Santos, the Soldedad Chapter Chair, was elected to the Soledad City Council.

El Partido in California has worked with the National Partido through the National Steering Committee with efforts focused on problems faced by Chicanos and other people in the State of California. It has also stood in solidarity with many international struggles. Nationally, LRUP has supported the farmworkers' struggle and has actively worked on the boycott and ballot propositions which affected the farmworkers. Other work includes the Partido's participation in coalition with other organizations around the deportation question. The Partido worked and mobilized people against the Dixon-Arnett Bill.

Other national and State activities in which the Partido has played a part include labor struggles and strikes against Mejian Chevrolet, Sloan, Farah, Major Safe, Ramona's Mexican Food Products, Industrial Insulation, Coors and others. In the case of LRUP vs State of California, the Partido played a major role in preventing the construction of a one hundred million dollar freeway that would have displaced more than 5,000 low-income Chicano families in Alameda County. El Partido was instrumental in getting an injunction from U.S. District Judge Robert F. Peckham. In issuing the order, Peckham found that state highway officials had not complied with two relatively new federal laws. This decision has had far-reaching significance in the barrios and other residential areas, affecting the entire spectrum of society.

El Partido has helped poor people in the communities by offering such services as free income tax service, offering political awareness classes, sponsoring events for the poor during Easter and Christmas, and in some cases, obtaining legal assistance for people in need. In the area of education, LRUP has been very instrumental in organizing parent groups in many school districts in order to fight for better education. El Partido has also been active in local colleges and universities for the purpose of voicing Raza community concerns.



LRUP was an active member of coalitions for the defense of Ricardo Chavez Ortiz, Juan Corona, the Committee to Free Los Tres del Barrio, and the Skyhorse and Mohawk Defense Committee. El Partido also supported the AIM (American Indian Movement) march to Washington and other struggles to regain that which belongs to the American Indian. LRUP is also a member of CODEL (Coalition of Organizations for Democratic Election Laws) in its suit against California due to its unfair election laws.

The California LRUP has sent various delegations to many parts of the world to learn and bring back experiences that would be helpful to our struggle. The experiences and struggles throughout the world as well as the struggles and experiences gained here at the National, State and local levels have helped the Partido in its growth.



## PRINCIPLES OF THE NATIONAL PARTIDO

List of priorities adopted September 1 - 4, 1972, at the National Convention:

Labor: Support the right to strike and support the Farm Workers' Union. Equality in employment opportunities and wages for Chicanos in government and public service agencies, companies, unions, etc. An end to the exploitation of undocumented workers. Adequate minimum wage law. Guaranteed minimum annual income and benefits. Government subsidies shared with laborers who work for subsidized farmers. End to the "Right to Work" laws.

Business: Redistribution of wealth and the break-up of monopolies.

Education: Bilingual-bicultural education throughout the entire educational system. Increased opportunities for Chicanos in higher education in order to increase representation in the professions.

Housing: Assurance of adequate housing for Chicanos.

Health: Free clinics. Stop drug traffic in Chicano communities. National health insurance to insure adequate health care for Chicanos. Increased recruitment of Chicanos into medical schools.

Indochina: Immediate withdrawal of the U.S. from Indochina.

Penal System: Prison Reform.

Latin America: Elimination of U.S. economic and military intervention in Latin America. Support Puerto Rican independence..

Law Enforcement: End police brutality. Support Chicano community control of law enforcement agencies.

Justice: Chicano service in judgeships and juries at all levels. Free legal aid to insure adequate legal representation for Chicanos. Enforcement of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Complete political independence. Support for the Raza Unida Party candidate for the governor of Texas. Support none of the two major party candidates for President of the U.S.



Land: Honor the original Mexican and Spanish land grants.  
Cease taxation of the land.

Mujer Chicana: Pledge responsible support of Latina women in their struggle for equal rights in all spheres of life.

In General: Support community control of social, economic, political and educational institutions. Support Chicano self-determination.



## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE PARTIDO

The National Convention is the highest governing body of the National LRUP. Between conventions, El Congreso de Aztlan is the policy-making body. Should the need arise for an emergency meeting and the Congreso cannot be called together, El Consejo de Aztlan, or the executive committee of El Congreso, can be called together. El Consejo de Aztlan is composed of three members. All states have autonomy under the National Partido.

The State Convention, which meets annually, is the highest governing body of El Partido de California. Between conventions, the State Central Committee sets policy. It is composed of two representatives from every certified chapter, the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and six state representatives (from Northern, Central and Southern California). They are all elected at the annual State Convention. Between State Central Committee meetings, the Executive Board is the decision-making body which is composed of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board meets once a month.

The County Central Committee is the highest governing body of the County Partido. It is composed of two representatives from every certified chapter in the county and each county sets the time and number of meetings. An existing option is that a chapter may be organized "countywide", with local committees or "concilios" representing each community or barrio. The county chapter would have a Mesa Directiva which is elected by the county membership. This Mesa would be the highest body in the county.

At the local level, the chapter or concilios' membership meeting is the highest governing body, which must meet at least once a month. It is composed of all LRUP members in that area.



PRINCIPLES OF EL PARTIDO  
LA RAZA UNIDA DE CALIFORNIA

- I. La Raza Unida is a political party which is open to everyone regardless of nationality, sex, religion, race, color or creed.
- II. One of the major priorities is to encourage and develop moral, intellectual and physical growth in the communities.
- III. The Partido will be a means of encouraging participation and involvement in our local political process for the betterment of our communities.
- IV. We will help everyone who truly needs & wants our help.
- V. We will work within ourselves to become one in spirit as mujeres y hombres.
- VI. We will not allow ourselves to be manipulated by selfishness or greed. Truth and goodness will be our guide. Love will be our strength.

PLATFORM OF EL PARTIDO  
LA RAZA UNIDA DE CALIFORNIA

1. El Partido de La Raza Unida is an organization of Raza dedicated to fight all forms of oppression. By "la raza" we mean those people from, or descendants of people from, Mexico, Central America, South America and the Antilles, and those living within the confines of the U.S. who identify culturally with La Raza.
2. One of the major priorities of the Partido is to create a higher political consciousness among our people.
3. El Partido de La Raza Unida will support the just struggles of other oppressed peoples whose objectives and programs are not in conflict with the Partido's. La Raza Unida Party supports the struggles of all oppressed people consistent with our principles. While we are aware of the presence and history of other struggles against oppression, el Partido is committed to develop its ideas and methods in congruency with the dictates of the conditions of the communities where it wages struggles, and not to attempt to initiate the experiences of struggles in other parts of the world.
4. The Partido is a tool to organize our people into a strong, united political force.



5. El Partido de La Raza Unida under this present system recognizes that la mujer (the woman) has been triply oppressed in the forms of 1)sexism, 2)being a national minority, and 3)being economically exploited at all levels. The Partido calls for full equality for la mujer. The Partido strives to develop la mujer culturally, politically, and in all other aspects where la mujer is deprived. The Partido will take special measures to insure la mujer's development in the Partido, in communities and wherever positions of leadership are necessary. Both men and women of La Raza will make special efforts to combat the ideology of male supremacy which has been perpetrated by this system.

6. El Partido de La Raza Unida's first priority shall be the commitment to wage the long struggle to help free the community of La Raza in the U.S. Our methodology shall be consistent with our goals, and we will safeguard against programs that do not advance the cause of freeing our people towards a societal transformation but which instead perpetrate an exploitive capitalistic society.

Our methods of operation will always be governed by a vigilant offensive against the capitalistic structure within our own communities. It is paramount that we analyze offensive targets and that our priorities be established. On the other hand, politics of reaction allow the establishment to concentrate its repressive forces against the Partido and destroy the Partido's potential effectiveness.

However, the Partido leadership, acting in the name of el Partido, will never jeopardize the community by irresponsible acts. By "irresponsible" we mean the type of behavior that is characterized by a total disregard for conditions in the community that would bring immediate and evident danger to the community.

The State Central Committee will bear the responsibility for defining the standard of care for the leadership on a case-by-case basis.

7. Labor - La Raza Unida Party will struggle for full employment and the end of exploitation of all working people. Working people will struggle and organize on every front.

8. Health - The present health-delivering system is not meeting the needs of the community. It is based on profit and greed rather than preventative health care for the



people. Genocides are being used in forms of synthetic chemicals in medicines prescribed, canned foods, pesticides in the fields and forced sterilizations. Resolutions: 1) free clinics run by the community, 2) legal aid directed to those being abused, 3) total emphasis on preventative medicine, acupuncture, herbology, etc.

9. Housing - Decent housing is a basic human right which should not be denied to anyone. Overtaxation, racial exclusion and discriminatory denial of funds by credit institutions should be attacked by La Raza Unida Party.

10. Education - All education should be free with open admissions (multicultural, multilingual and political education is a right of all people.).

11. Penal & Legal System - LRUP does not recognize the legitimacy of the present system of laws and punishment. We seek a system of laws determined and defined by the working people. We will work to abolish the present penal system which confines and brutalizes the victims of an exploitative society. Prisons and jails should be converted into schools and hospitals. We believe that the entire concept of true rehabilitation is through education and health.

12. The Land - We support the right of the campesinos to organize to attain their basic human rights, while we oppose all those who exploit their labor. Presently, the land is being used for profit and greed. Eighty-five percent of the land is controlled by a corporate few and less than five percent is controlled by the population. Resolutions: 1) the land should be distributed proportionately among those who wish to work it, 2) LRUP should attempt to establish neighborhood cooperatives, 3) development of construction should be limited to non-agricultural areas.

13. La Familia - The preservation and development of the family concept is strongly envisioned by the Partido as our base. Carnalismo will be utilized as the inherited bond that will proceed to overcome the communication obstacles that maintain our people in a divided and conquered condition.



## PREAMBLE

### Historical Justification

For over a century the people of La Raza in the United States have been victims of political, economic and cultural exploitation and oppression by a capitalist, imperialist system. Through unjustified aggression, our mother country, Mexico, was invaded. We were dispossessed of our land and the use of its natural resources. The existence of our culture has been threatened by deliberate, racist, culturally genocidal policies. Victimized by Capitalism, which is motivated by profit rather than by need, La Raza community has been economically deprived and oppressed by discriminatory hiring practices, dehumanizing working conditions and deplorable wages. This has occurred principally in the Southwest, in the fields, in the railroads, in the mines and in the factories. The result has been the amassment of great wealth and power for the corporate few on the one hand, and on the other, cumulative poverty for La Raza. Our dignity, self-respect and native american nature have been dishonored and degraded through the deceptions of the sham democracy of so-called "majority rule", which is exemplified by the electoral practices and system of courts and prisons of the U.S. Thus, the aggression, exploitation and oppression inherent in capitalist imperialism has created a community which is starved for societal justice.

According to 1970 statistics, Chicanos constitute 15% of the population of the State of California and have only 2% representation in statewide offices. Considering that by the 1980's Latinos will constitute the largest minority in the U.S. and by the year 2,000 will constitute the majority population in California, the need for organizing an effective national and statewide Partido has become imperative for the effective participation of the Chicano population in the political and economic life of this country.

### Birth and Uniqueness

Historically, el Partido de La Raza Unida was born from the cry and long struggle of La Raza community for societal justice. El Partido is the sole national organization which was created and has developed from the growing consciousness of La Raza community and its immediate



condition, and from the need for a better future society. This is a unique characteristic of the Partido. Thus, el Partido is the only organization which must maintain a constant reliance on the support of all segments of La Raza community as a basis for its existence.

### A New Society

El Partido de La Raza Unida is dedicated to the political, economic and social transformation of a capitalist society to a society which shall be based on theories of justice as a means to fairness. Economic and political justice based on fairness require that institutions which are concerned with the distribution of wealth, goods and services; the control of the mass of production; and the exercise of political power provide the greatest benefit to those with the greatest need.

All peoples with distinct ethnic and cultural heritages shall be guaranteed all necessary opportunities to develop and improve their cultural heritages without external pressures to sacrifice or give up any part of these in the interest of any dominant group.

El Partido de La Raza Unida recognizes that the needs of La Raza and of the majority of the American people cannot be set within the present political, economic structure of the U.S. All of our daily work shall be directed towards achieving the goal of a just distribution of the wealth, political power and resources of this country in order to create a new society which will end the exploitation of humanity.



## ARTICLE I

### NAME

This organization shall be known as "La Raza Unida Party", hereinafter also referred to as "El Partido La Raza Unida" de California, a political party. This document shall be officially known as the Constitution and By-Laws of said political party, and it shall also be the Constitution of every affiliated subordinate body.

## ARTICLE II

### PURPOSE

El Partido La Raza Unida de California recognizes that the two major political parties of California have failed to protect and defend our peoples' interests. El Partido de California has been created out of the need for a truly representative political force to protect and further the human rights, education and economic interests of our people. The human rights of all peoples will be honored by the Partido, especially those of all Third World Peoples. Equal opportunity will be guaranteed for all. The educational system must be representative of the people it educates. Therefore, the Partido advocates an educational system which will be truly multilingual and relevant to the real needs, culture and life of the people. The Partido will protect and seek to further the economic interests of our people of California and their right to wages and working conditions which will support them in a decent and just manner.

## ARTICLE III

### CONSTITUTION

This Constitution, as adopted at the November 11, 1978 Convention which convened in San Jose, California, and then at the November 25, 1978 Convention in Placentia, California, and as may hereafter be amended, shall be the supreme law of La Raza Unida Party of California, and can be amended only by a majority vote of the delegates at succeeding regular conventions.

## ARTICLE IV

### EMBLEM

Family of three backgrounded by the Aztec Eagle with the name of the party indicated. The official colors shall be Black, White, and Red.



## ARTICLE V

### MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Membership in LRUP is open to all voters who are registered in LRUP, and all who wish to support LRUP but cannot otherwise register to vote because of state laws.

Section 2 Membership in LRUP is open to all persons registered in LRUP, and all persons who are committed to support LRUP ideology, philosophy, principles of unity, and who are not members of any political party or organization which is in contradiction to LRUP principles.

## ARTICLE VI

### GENERAL CONDUCT OF PARTY AFFAIRS

The State LRUP shall be governed by its membership in the following manner.

Section 1 The highest tribunal shall be the State Convention composed of voting delegates who are democratically elected by the membership of the local Chapters.

Section 2 The State Central Committee shall be the highest authority between Conventions. The Central Committee shall hold regular quarterly meetings and such special meetings as are required.

Section 3 The State Executive Board (Chair, V-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) shall be the highest executive administrative authority between meetings of the State Central Committee. The Board shall hold regular monthly meetings and such special meetings as are required.

Section 4 The executive administrative authority of the State LRUP shall be vested in the State Chair between meetings of the State Executive Board. The State Chair shall be responsible to the general membership, to all Partido Officials and to all Partido official state bodies.

Section 5 Unless otherwise provided for by the Constitution or by mutual consent, relaxed Robert's Rules of Order, which is hereby adopted by reference, shall be the parliamentary reference governing all conventions and meetings of La Raza Unida Party of California from the Chapter level to the State.



Section 6 The operation of the State Executive Committee (Board), State Central Committee, County Central Committee, or Chapter shall be in accordance with these Article or By-Laws. Each committee or chapter shall have the authority to adopt supplementray rules, as long as such rules do not conflict herewith and provided that such rules are filed with the State Raza Unida Secretary. All such rules filed herewith or hereafter are hereby adopted by reference.

Section 7 The use of proxies or proxy voting is hereby prohibited at all conventions, county and chapter meetings:

(a) Proxy vote is by any other means outside the physical presence of the delegate.

(b) A chapter representative at a State Convention shall have two (2) votes.

## ARTICLE VII

### CONVENTIONS

Section 1 State Conventions will be held every year.

Section 2 Workshops, resolutions, and the nominations and election of officers will be the main order of business.

Section 3 Each cerified chapter shall have two votes. Chapters may elect alternate delegates if they so desire.

Section 4 Not less than thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the regular convention, the State Chair and the State Secretary shall issue the Call to the Convention and shall furnish all certified chapters with credentials for its delegates.

Section 5 Chapters, in order to be entitled to voting delegates at the Convention, shall have been certified by the State Central Committee at least two(2) months prior to Convention.

Section 6 All members of California LRUP shall have a voice but no vote in the Convention. Only duly elected delegates shall have vote on all final decisions.

Section 7 Copies of all resolutions and constitutional amendments to be considered by the Convention should be sent to the State Secretary not later than 30 days prior to the date set for the Convention. These will then be distributed to all State Convention participants.



Section 8 Challenges of delegate elections must be received by the State Secretary by not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the convening of the Convention. These protests shall be referred to the Credentials Committee.

Section 9 The State Central Committee shall appoint a Credentials Committee which shall assemble the day before the Convention. The committee shall examine all credentials received by the State Secretary and investigate the standings of the delegates and the chapters they represent; receive the original credentials of the delegates elected to attend the convention, and be in position to report at the opening of the Convention.

Section 10 After the Credentials Committee report is given and delegates are seated, the Convention will then approve the Credentials Committee report.

Section 11 Each chapter shall pay a \$ 25.00 registration fee in order to be seated at the State Convention.

(a) Fee is payable before the convening of the Convention. (Refer to Art. 7 Sec. 4).

Section 12 All persons present at any Convention must identify themselves and their organizational affiliations, if any when requested to do so by the Convention Chair, his/her assistants, or any other officer of the Convention.

## ARTICLE VIII

### OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1 The elective officers of the State Party shall be one (1) State Chair, one (1) State Vice-Chair, one (1) State Secretary, one (1) State Treasurer, six (6) State Representatives, who shall be elected by the State Convention.

Section 2 The six (6) State Representatives will be two (2) from the Southern part of the state, two (2) from the Central part of the state, and two (2) from the Northern part of the state.

Section 3 The term of office of all elective officers shall be for the period up to and including the next Convention. The term of office shall begin immediately upon installation.

Section 4 No member of any Chapter located in California



shall be eligible to hold any elective or appointive position in LRUP if he/she is a member of any other political party.

- (a) Violation of Section 4, Article VIII shall be grounds for expulsion.

Section 5 In the event of the death, removal, or resignation of any elected or appointed officer, the State Central Committee shall elect a replacement to serve until the next regular Convention.

## ARTICLE IX

### DUTIES OF STATE OFFICERS

#### Section 1 State Chair

- (a) Call regular or special meetings -
- (b) Preside over meetings -
- (c) Preside over all conventions and conferences called by the Partido.
- (d) Maintain contact with National Body, all County Central Committees and, where applicable, international communications.
- (e) Serve as chief organizer.
- (f) Represent the State Central Committee in public discussions.
- (g) Stimulate knowledge about and growth of LRUP.
- (h) Always work for unity within the Partido.

#### Section 2 Vice-Chair

- (a) Preside over meetings in the absence of the Chair.
- (b) Assist Chair in carrying out delegated duties.
- (c) Along with the Secretary, shall keep a complete record of the membership of the Partido, both active and registered.
- (d) In conjunction with State Representatives, be responsible for developing and establishing the means/ways by which organizers can be trained, effective immediately. Work with local chapters to conduct recruitment workshops and organizing sessions, at least quarterly, for the purpose of increasing the membership.
- (e) With the consent of the State Executive Board, appoint such assistants as may be necessary to conduct the affairs of the office.



- (f) Be responsible for a central information exchange throughout the state.
- (g) As information exchange officer, keep a current master calendar of the political campaigns and elections where LRUP will be involved, culminating with 1982 elections. Also disseminate call to all Chapters that 25% of funds from fund-raisers by each chapter be turned over to LRUP state treasury. The chapter assigned to legislative lobbying be excluded from the 25% fee.
- (h) Implement the logistics of publishing and distributing of statewide newspaper and newsletter.

Section 3 Secretary

- (a) Record and file the minutes of all meetings.
- (b) Disseminate all Partido's correspondence.
- (c) Keep records available for membership use.
- (d) Notify the membership of all meetings.
- (e) Along with the Vice-Chair shall keep a complete record of the membership of the Partido, both active and registered.

Section 4 Treasurer


- (a) Maintain a record of all Statewide funds.
- (b) Disburse available funds according to Central Committee approved expenditures.
- (c) Give reports to all Central Committee meetings of LRUP financial conditions. (written)
- (d) Pay outstanding bills and maintain record of payment.
- (e) Chief overseer and promoter of statewide fundraising efforts.
- (f) When a local Chapter has failed to report and pay dues as provided for herein, the Treasurer shall notify the Chapter Chair with copies to the Executive Board.
- (g) Establish a finance committee at the State Central Committee level to raise money for LRUP and that 10% of the funds raised be allocated to the treasury for political statewide campaign purposes.

Section 5 State Representatives

- (a) Shall attend all State Central Committee meetings.
- (b) Bring reports from and take reports to county organizations.
- (c) Assist officers in carrying out their duties.



- (d) Will be part of a recruitment and or organizing committee.
- (e) Will serve as state representative to National meetings, Party and inter-organizational meetings.
- (f) Work with local chapters to conduct recruitment workshops and organizing sessions at least quarterly for the purpose of increasing the membership.

  
*public forum*

ARTICLE X

STATE STRUCTURE

- Section 1 State Convention
  - (a) Chapter Delegates
- Section 2 State Central Committee
  - (a) Local Chapters
    - (1) Chapter Officers
    - (a) Chapter Members
- Section 3 State Executive Board
  - (a) State Committee Coordinators
  - (1) County Committee Coordinators
- Section 4 County Central Committee
  - (a) Local Chapters
    - (1) Chapter Officers
    - (a) Chapter Members
- Section 5 Chapters
  - (a) Chapter Officers
  - (1) Chapter Members

ARTICLE XI

NOMINATIONS FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

- Section 1 Nominations for public office on the local level shall be made by and from active LRUP members of that local chapter.
- Section 2 Nominations for public office on the county level shall be made by the County Central Committee.
- Section 3 Nominations for public office at the State level shall be made by the State Central Committee, preferably by the State Convention where applicable.



Section 4 Criteria for LRUP candidates

- (a) Registered in LRUP and active in the party.
- (b) Must have past experience in La Raza Movement.
- (c) Must not be a member of any other party.
- (d) In opposition to imperialist aggression, the imposition by any means of one country's will upon the people of another country.
- (e) Must endorse the goals and the platform of LRUP.
- (f) That a candidate be member of a Chapter for at least six months, and have two letters of recommendation from her or his local chapter to the county or State Central Committee.

ARTICLE XII

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Section 1 The State Central Committee shall consist of two representatives from every chapter of the state, the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, six State Representatives, and the Chair or Coordinator of any standing committees.

Section 2 Only the two representatives from every chapter shall have voting rights at the State Central Committee meetings.

- (a) State officials shall not serve as chapter representatives at State Central Committee meetings.

Section 3 The State Central Committee shall meet once every three months.

Section 4 Location of the meeting will be rotated North, South and Central (California).

Section 5 A special meeting of the Central Committee can be called by any chapter with the approval of the State Executive Board.

Section 6 At the State Central Committee meeting, 51% of the certified chapters will constitute a quorum.

Section 7 Chapters will be fined \$2.00 for not sending representatives to the meeting.

Section 8 Chapters can be subject to decertification for



two or more consecutive, unexcused absences.

- (a) Recertification can be done at the discretion of the State Central Committee.
- (b) Unexcused, as defined by State Central Committee.

*Merced  
modesto*

#### ARTICLE XIII

#### COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Section 1 The County Central Committee shall consist of two or more local chapters of LRUP which are located in the same county.

Section 2 The County Central Committee shall meet at least once every 45 days.

Section 3 The County Central Committee shall recognize and certify new chapters in their areas.

#### ARTICLE XIV

#### CHAPTERS

Section 1 Five active and/or registered members of LRUP will constitute a chapter.

Section 2 Registrars shall have quotas to meet. The number is to be decided independently by each chapter and reported to the State Central Committee.

Section 3 Political education shall consist of weekly meetings to follow registration in an attempt to build a main political base.

Section 4 Work for community advocacy projects where relevant (free income tax service, free breakfast programs, legal assistance to combat police harassment, free political movies, etc.) with the purpose of politicizing the community.

Section 5 Each chapter shall have a permanent address, phone and contact person.

Section 6 Each chapter shall maintain a file of all registered and supporting members of LRUP in their area.

Section 7 Each chapter shall pay to the State Central Committee \$5.00 per month to remain in good standing.

Section 8 Each chapter shall submit the names of chapter officers elected by chapter to the State Secretary.

*Merced*

Section 9 A member in good standing of any chapter shall



have the right to attend and speak at any meeting of another chapter in accordance with parliamentary procedures. The chapter may decline to grant the floor to such visiting member in all matters of special inner chapter concern and especially in matters against a member under charges if the chapter in its judgement deems it is to be in the party's best interest to do so. The visiting member shall not be allowed to vote.

Section 10 A member desiring to transfer to another chapter must get from the treasurer of his chapter a letter which will initiate the transfer, provided such member is or places him/herself in good standing. This letter shall be presented to the receiving chapter.

Section 11 Every chapter numerically able to, shall elect a standing grievance committee of three chapter members who shall investigate all charges referred to it, and report its findings to the chapter.

Section 12 All charges must be made in writing, signed by the individual member or members preferring same, and must be submitted to the chapter having jurisdiction over the member in question.

Section 13 The charges must state briefly the nature of the offense alleged, but they shall consist of no arguments or statements which may be construed as discussion of the charges. They shall be accompanied with specifications, which may be read before the chapter meeting at the time that the charges are filed, provided that they do not do any more than specify charges until the Grievance Committee has thoroughly investigated them and reported to the chapter.

Section 14 The Grievance Committee shall deliver a copy of the charges and specifications to the accused and shall proceed to investigate the case without unreasonable delay. The committee shall arrange a hearing at which the accused shall be cited to appear and at which witnesses of both sides may be heard.

Section 15 Members who are not a party to the proceedings shall not be allowed to be present at Grievance Committee hearing except upon invitation or with specific approval of the Grievance Committee.

Section 16 A detailed report of the investigation and the findings with the recommendations of the Committee shall be submitted to the chapter meeting.



Section 17 After the Grievance Committee has rendered its report with its findings and recommendations, the accused shall be permitted to make a statement in his/her defense not to exceed 30 minutes. The accused shall then be required to leave the room, where upon the chapter shall decide the matter in closed session. Its decision will be entered into the minutes. The chapter Chair shall inform the accused in writing of the body's decision. The relevant parts of that body's minutes and all documents concerning the investigation shall be delivered to the Chair who shall then forward them to the State Central Committee where they shall be kept in special file.

Section 18 A majority of the members voting upon this question at any business meeting (at which a quorum is present) shall be sufficient to expel any member or to suspend him/her for a defined period. Expulsion and suspension shall be reported at once to the State Central Committee, giving cause for action.

Section 19 All decisions of the chapter in connection with charges may be appealed within one month to the State Central Committee.

Section 20 Any decisions of the State Central Committee in connection with charges may be appealed to the next State Convention, with notification to the State Chair 30 days prior to the Convention. The State Convention decision shall be final.

Section 21 No chapter shall enter into any compromise with any other party. No candidate of el Partido for any public office shall accept any nomination or endorsement from any other party. Endorsements shall be dealt with on their relative merits and approved by the SCC. No candidate of LRUP shall endorse any candidate from any party unless approved by the SCC.

Section 22 It shall be the duty of each chapter to acquire as soon as possible Party literature dealing with the fundamental principles of the Party and to stimulate their careful study by the members either individually or jointly.

Section 23 Study Classes

- (a) Chapters shall organize study classes on Party materials, positions and other materials relevant to the Party.
- (b) The chapter shall select the instructor of the study class and such instructor shall have full authority to conduct the class.



- (c) The study class instructor shall at all times be subject to the authority of the chapter and may at any time be recalled by the chapter.
- (d) Any criticism of the conduct of the class or instructor shall be voiced only on the floor of the chapter meetings.
- (e) Party members shall not enjoy any more privileges than non-party members in the study class.
- (f) Study classes must be kept under the strict control of the chapter, and the facilitator and/or instructor of the class must not permit such study class to be used as the forum for agents or adherents of other political parties or other organizations for furthering propoganda of such political parties or organizations.
  - (1) If, and when, any member of such study class furnishes reasonable grounds for believing that he/she is using or intends to use the study class for such ulterior purposes, he/she shall forthwith be eliminated from the class.

Section 24 It shall be the duty of each chapter to appoint one (1) member to distribute the Becas de Aztlán and that these members be the selection committee.

- (a) This committee will be headed by a State Beca Coordinator.

## ARTICLE XV

### MEMBERS

- Section 1 LRUP Chapter Organizers
- (a) Active members of chapter
  - (b) Only those registered or active supporters who do not belong to any other party will be members of any chapter.
  - (c) Chapter members should be required to pay dues to remain in good standing.
  - (d) Upon approval by the local chapter, any person may become active member of LRUP provided he/she acknowledges and defends the platform (if applicable), Declarations of Principles, Constitution and Resolutions of the Party, LRUP documents, and belongs to no other political party or political organization.



- (e) It shall be the duty of every party member to support the Party publications by donations and securing of subscriptions to the best of his/her ability.

Section 2 LRUP Supporters

- (a) All people willing to support LRUP by registering in the Partido and through financial support.
- (b) People that can be relied on to work in various efforts.

Section 3 LRUP Sympathizer

- (a) People who will support the Partido in various efforts.

ARTICLE XVI

STATE NEWSPAPER

Section 1 Beginning June 1, 1979, a Party newspaper shall be printed two times a year under the name "El Sembrador".

- (a) The publication schedule of the newsletter, "La Semilla", shall be as follows: January, March, May, July, September and November '79.
  - (1) There will be a list of individuals from each chapter responsible for submitting articles for newspaper and newsletter, which will be submitted to the State Coordinator.

Section 2 Each chapter shall relentlessly insist that each member regularly read the Party organ.

Section 3 The expense to print the paper shall be equally divided by all certified chapters.

Section 4 Failure by any chapter to help with expense of State paper could lead to ground for expulsion from the State Central Committee.

Section 5 The editor of the paper shall be appointed by the State Central Committee, and the co-editor shall be the Vice-Chair.





### THE PARTIDO EMBLEM

The emblem of the Partido (as shown on the cover of the manual) is a picture of "La Familia" against the background of the black eagle of "La Huelga"---which symbolizes La Causa, the struggle of our people for social justice---all against a red background. The color red symbolizes the unity of the people and the blood that has been shed in the struggle. In Mexico, the colors red and black symbolize a union or a workers' organization, and that is precisely what the Partido is about---not only for Chicanos but, in the long run, for all people. The Partido is a humanistic organization, organizing for human rights as well as for civil rights.





## REGISTRATION, THE DRAFT, WAR

La Raza Unida Party recognizes that there is a great need for a united front against registration for the draft. It is the Partido's view that registration is only the first step towards war. We must also fight against the second step, which is the draft. Our efforts against the first and second steps leads us to oppose the third step: war. In the history of the U.S., the draft has been implemented three times. Each of the three times war occurred after implementation. We can only foresee the future. The issue here is not that we fear war or that we would not participate or support the defense of our principles and beliefs. The point is that we see a difference between a war such as WWII, where we fought against fascism and in our own defense, and the war in Vietnam, where the U.S. was the invading force in other lands where it had no right to be.

We, in the community, do not know the specific causes which lead to international problems. The media provides selective information. Literature given to us in the community by various organizations supporting either China or Russia only lends to the confusion. What we can be sure of in our fight against registration, the draft, and war is that the root cause for international problems are the multi-national corporations of the U.S. In order to build unity, all energy should be channeled against these corporations which are the perpetrators of world problems.

The losses that our communities suffered during the Vietnam war cannot be justified and were not in proportion to the population. The war saw a total casualty of 55,000 with 20% of that total being Chicano/Latino. In addition, the dues were high and the benefits few for the veterans and those in the barrio. Since the end of the war, 110,000 Vietnam veterans have died. Some of the causes included: suicide, murder, drugs/alcohol, and diseases contracted as a result of the Vietnam war. As a result of the war, there were a total of 330,000 injuries such as loss of limbs, sight, hearing, and other scars and injuries. We can only assume that the deaths and injuries also included 20% Chicanos/Latinos.

A close assessment of the aforementioned results of the Vietnam war does not support the unjust and illogical excuses given for the great losses suffered by the Chicano people specifically or the American people in general.



The U.S. should not have been in Vietnam or in that war since the Vietnamese were not, and are not, the enemy. The Vietnamese were not at fault for the struggles in our communities, such as drugs, unemployment, inferior education, brutal policing agency tactics and harrassment by la migra. We must address ourselves to those who do play a role in perpetuating the poor living conditions and atmosphere that our people find themselves in.

Join us in the struggle. Don't register for the draft; register Raza Unida Party! Let's draft our brothers and sisters into the Chicano Movement, not military service! Join the war against those who dare to continue the exploitation of our people!





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