

The Committee on Chicano Rights  
The Summer Retreat, July 21-22, 1979, Califas

I. History.....Who are we.....Where are we.....

1968-MAPA organized (Herman, Charlie and Howard are past members). MAPA, a statewide organization, attempts to educate and politicize the Chicano community. MAPA's methods are voter registration, running candidates, i.e. involvement in electoral candidates.

The San Diego based MAPA runs the following candidates:  
Ernie Ozochar (69), Sweetwater Trustee seat  
Peter CHacon (70), State Assembly seat  
Ben Moreno (70) Southwestern Junior College seat  
Jesse Ramirez (72), National City Mayor seat

Mapa also endorses:

Duffy-Sheriff Race

Miller-District Attorney race

=Trade-Off: Two Mexican-American positions-

George walker Smith-School  
Micheal Walsh-U.S. Attorney  
Ricardo Romo-Governor  
Julian Nava-Super. of Schools  
Leon Williams-City Councilman

Climate: The late sixties is a period of little Chicano involvement. It's considered a novelty when CHicano's run for office. The Chicano community has little political experience and is just developing organizing skills. Main organizing is done around the HUELGA-UFW movement.

1969- The Chicano movement sees one of the first community-based CHicano protests with the "YA BASTA" march on Dia De La Madres, sponsored by MAPA . At that time Herman Baca was chairman of the organization and MAPA was represented by a delegate to the Chicano Federation.

Post- 1970-Traditional party electoral politics begins to be seen as manipulative and not resulting in responsiveness to the Chicano Community needs. "Trade-Off" liasons to the Sheriff and D.A. turn around to become establishment mouth pieces.

State MAPA backs the traditional parties. membership is predominately older "college students with service experience and families. Organizational activities generally come out of the campus. MAPA members going to college are also members of MECHA Central. Building a link between the community and student community.

MAPA and other Chicano activists show strong empathy to the Black movement and increasing community awareness. Services to the Chicano Community are demonstrated for. The San Diego Chicano Federation is conceptualized. Chicano activists see that the game of influencing politicians isn't making it. Chicanos need to organize their own community and create their self-destinies.

Southwest caucuses of Chicano activists result in the conceptualization of a "La Raza Unida Party (RUP). JOse Angel Gutierrez actualizes the concept in Crystal City, Texas. A southwest-wide united front effort never concretely results.

1970- San Diego establishes an organizing committee for RUP while maintaining the MAPA office.

Concepts behind RUP:

Alternatives to President Johnson's established Mexican-American politicians.

Corky Gonzalez-use it to politicize and educate.

Jose Angel Gutierrez- use it to take political office.

RUP disintegrates at a national level. Local efforts to register 10,000 do not succeed.

1971- Bert Corona-long time labor organizer, plants a seed.

Corona focusing on the immigration issue through organizing of CASA, (CENTRO ACCION SOCIAL AUTONIMO).

Mario Cantu, Texas, is also involved and is editor of

"Sin Fronteras". Corona plays an influential role in

Chicano politics through his involvement in MAPA, RUP and CASA (Abe Tapia and Senor Amador are also involved). Abe Tapia at one time was President of MAPA, Amador was one of the leaders in MAPA Los Angeles Area.

Corona introduces the immigration concept to Herman and the RUP-MAPA volunteers. Herman and Charlie create a San Diego based organization called CASA JUSTICIA. Casa Justicia provides services to undocumented workers for approximately five years. Casa Justicia and RUP and MAPA all in one fight DUFFY memorandum (71-72) ordering taxi-drivers to help identify and apprehend "illegals".

Meanwhile, community-based organizations are becoming coopted.

(Maac, Federation, Padre Hidalgo, etc.) The immigration issue proves to be a major test of funded organizations commitment, many won't take a position on the Duffy Memorandum. Herman and Charlie form the AD-Hoc Committee On Chicano Rights in order to bring these organizations together and articulate issues of the Chicano Community. The Ad-Hoc Committee attempts to bring about unity and strength on issues cutting across the entire Chicano Community. Some of the involved organizations take some time to join, but slowly they come to be part of the coalition:

CASA JUSTICIA, MAPA, RUP, MECHA, G.I. FORUM, SSPA, CHICANO FEDERATION.

CHICANO PARK STEERING COMMITTEE, PADRE HIDALGO, SPANISH SPEAKING POLITICAL ASSOCIATION, UNITED CALIFORNIA MEXICAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, N.I.A. BLACK FEDERATION

Some major initiatives of the AD-Hoc Committee are:

Duffy Memorandum

Jail picket (400-500 protestors)

Dixon-Arnett Bill-L.A. 10,000 protestors

Rodino Bill-help stopped introduction

Late in 1971, among Chicano activists, the immigration issue is thought to be a no-win situation. A right-wing mentality among

Chicano allows the undocumented to be seen as job-thieves and swelling the welfare lines. Intense education and consciousness raising has to be done to begin changing this mentality. Albert Garcia, working at the border, brings down Congressional hearings against the U.S. Customs Service. Thousands of cases were presented (mainly women who had been searched, by men) and testimony was given by victims of the searches. The hearings result in hiring some Chicano Customs officers, women and matrons. Also included were several promotions for already service Chicano officers.

1972- The Duffy Memorandum is rescinded. San Diego Police Chief Hoobler issues a similar memorandum and the Committee is once again in action. Nick Inzunza leads the "Fire Hoobler" "Ya Basta" effort against the order (Nick gets busted)/ Mayor Wilson says the situation "creates a bummer." Wilson calls a meeting, 200 decide to boycott. Wilson sends an ultimatum to Louie Natividad (then Director Chicano Federation). The ultimatum outlines "stop working with Herman Baca or lose the Federation's dollar a year lease". Wilson's ultimatum makes clear a beginning split between activist groups and funded agencies.

The Ad Hoc Committee fights the Rodino Bill. Border Patrolmen Richard Cock rapes a Mexican woman (Lopez). Local authorities disclaim jurisdiction, so do Federal offices. Daniel Magana's erupts in Fallbrook. Two Border Patrolmen bust into Magana's house, he runs away and lags down Sheriff. They take him back and, with Border Patrolmen, beat Magana up. Later Bernie Gallardo refuses to become a police informant, two weeks later he's fatally shot.

In 1972 Herman and Charlie pull out of MAPA. MAPA members are developing careers as "professionals" and losing their grassroots identity. 1972's MAPA state convention in Los Angeles proves to be unproductive. Herman and Charlie concentrate their energies into RUP, CASA and the Committee. RUP is up and down. Casa Justicia is healthy. The Ad Hoc Committee is active.

1973- Key issues are immigration, police brutality, and zoning. The police attempt to infiltrate the Committee with Herman Iglesia, the plant blows his own cover. Hoobler admits the attempted infiltration. CasaJusticia membership grows through UCSD and SDSC students involvement. Committee fights an attempt to rezone Otay as a commercial and industrial district. In Casa the Rodriguez brothers (L.A.) dominate a major break.

1975- on October 12, 1975, Tato Rivera is fatally shot by patrolmen Short of National City. 300 people meet and demands are made. On October 29, 1975, 2,000 people march on the Administration of National City. The Ad Hoc Committee security policies begin and confrontation with left opportunists. Ad Hoc community purpose and direction grows as recall against the National City Council is started. Ralph Inzunza has become involved. Concept of regular involvement and giving up personal time and luxuries is established. A network is being developed. Herman, Charlie and Ralph are doing most of the work, Ad Hoc members organization generally only come for decision-making and to be highlighted.

MAAC Project pulls out of the committee. A split grows between activists and "poverty-pimp agencies". A seed for a Committee on Chicano Rights is planted.

Some pluses are: Committee membership increases; community endorses leadership; people politicized and educated; media recognizes Committee; Newsletter started/Media expertise developed; request for membership organization and fundraising starts.

The History is in the makings from MAPA to RUP, CASA and AHC.

1976- The Committee works on Proposition 14 campaign. Immigration activities continue. The Committee drafts its initial set of by-laws. The coalition is dissolved and an independent organization is started.

1977- The Committee On Chicano Rights is established, by-laws are drafted. A southwest conference on immigration is called for. San Bernardino conference seen as a build-up for San Antonio conference. The San Bernardino meeting becomes a counter to the upcoming conference, when it becomes apparent that the Texas session is SWP coopted.

In September of 1977, a declaration is made against the SWP. The month before, in August, a decision is made to create a national movement against the Carter Immigration Plan. In October David Duke announces that the KKK will patrol the border. This emotional issue leads to a San Ysidro border march. 3,000 people protest along the International Border. CCR's first Newsletter comes out. Membership increases and some national recognition is gained. Contacts increase and some major tours occur. During 1977 the Sweetwater issue is taken on by CCR and the Sweetwater Coalition is formed.

1978- The Newsletter evolves into El Tiempo Chicano, a newspaper fundraising becomes intensified. Mike Castro and David Avalos become fulltime staff, later these positions go and some burnout occurs. CCR becomes involved in the Jess Haro issue. A positive outcome is the Community Convention. Anti-Carter Plan efforts continue, slowdown after the plan is seen to be in trouble in Congress. Locally CCR sees a Chicano right developing and merging with the powers that be. Howard sparks a CRR membership drive.

1979- The increased militarization of the border and proposed construction of a fence along the international border focuses more attention on the immigration issue, border violence escalates. Two baby children die at the San Ysidro Border crossing. Shootings increase, two handcuffed men are shot resulting in a death of one of them. On February 11, 1979 a San Ysidro National protest march occurs and more than 3,000 participate. Media coverage increases both positive and negative. CCR participates in a locally-made video-tape on the immigration issue (channel 39). Oil is discovered in Mexico and leads to new developments in U.S.-Mexican relations. Fallout occurs on Chicanos, this is exemplified by the Olmos case. George Olmo, shot in the head, is denied medical attention by University hospital. The reason cited is that Olmos might be an indigent illegal alien, later it is discovered that Olmos was born at University Hospital. San Diego County's Grand Jury conducts two studies which result in attacks on the Chicano Federation and Bilingual education.

Construction on the Fence begins with some difficulty.  
CCR's proposal is funded. Cases are documented and Herman  
Charlie and Rafael Arreola visit Washington D.C..  
Fall hearings are promised, CCR begins concrete step for developing  
direction and future planning.

#### CCR WEAKNESSES AND NEEDS

##### Weaknesses

no well-defined goals - yes  
leadership skills - no  
unclarified purpose -  
membership role - yes  
decision making and  
chain of command -  
shop not controllable as CCR office -  
lack of space -  
Herman spread too thin -  
media over emphasized -  
out of touch with community  
lack of family involvement -  
decision making limited -  
cliquish set-up -  
image as "personality cult" -  
shop closed evenings -  
lack of communication -  
lack of discipline -  
things don't get done on time -  
morale -  
not enough associate members -  
not following bylaws and committee  
structure -  
delegation of authority by Herman -  
forgetting our allies -  
"Pig" reputation -  
no unifying goal -  
lack of consistency -  
don't know where we're at  
politically -  
finances -  
lack of follow-through -

##### NEEDS

defined goals  
leadership training/building  
Unity of purpose  
allegiance and accountability  
CCR building  
emphasis on: flexibility  
honesty  
understanding  
work/sacrifice  
systematized involvement  
full time staff  
family involvement  
community support-base  
priority setting  
sharing talent/expertize  
youth involvement  
game plan for 10,15,30 years  
  
honesty on what we can  
really do  
fulfilled commitment on  
bringing in associate members  
adhere to and when necessary  
update by-laws and committee  
structure  
consistent communication  
locally, state wide and  
nationally  
clarification of business  
relationship  
resolution of how we're  
going to work together  
clear up what kind of organ-  
ization do we want to be  
develop better relations  
stronger alliance with  
third world groups who have  
proven themselves  
need for an economic base  
insurance of follow through

## Potential Goals/Objectives for CCR

School/credit union/Coop/Economic development

own political party (RUP concept)

an organization that (1) contributes to the creation of those policies insuring equitable civil rights for people of Mexican descent, (2) for and humane resolution of the border issue and (3) articulates the positions of the Chicano community and mobilizes for the addressment of Chicano needs;

Nationalism/Aztlan

A community-based organization that politicizes and educates the Chicano community, helps provide for cultural identification and trains organizers (note: security must be tighter)

research component

nonpartisan political organization

vanguard organization

nationalism through self-determination.... 1 year

campaign on issues

organizing for and insuring the equitable civil rights of Chicano Mexicanos through community based self determination, education, and the development of grassroots political power.

### Various definitions of self-determination

control our destiny

love of our people

land address our own background

common history, language

chicano rights sovereignty-a chicano nation

chicano community speaking for itself-chicano power

land ownership and historical claims to

keeping our self identity, language and culture

## Survival Rules.....CCR

1. avoid political confrontation whenever possible, or unless otherwise instructed
2. don't be fooled, maintain political/organizational awareness
3. in personal relationship, play it by ear

### Policy:

- a. maintain status quo CCR position within business relationship regardless of personally positive or negative feelings
- b. remember that in carrying out CCR business expedient relationship must be established with individuals/groups having diverse political orientations.

### Membership issues

1. members not recruiting
2. no new recruits over past 3,4 months
3. lack of help or volunteer
4. question on who we recruit:
  - a. associate members
  - b. general members
5. potential member must:
  - a. have good vibes-fit into group work and meetings
  - b. volunteer time
  - c. have exhibited complimenting or neutral politics
  - d. be favorable people

### Polcy:

that associate members agree with the goals and objectives of the CCR

### Issues to be ironed out

1. grant, staff, funds
2. building
3. chain of command
4. campaign
5. allegiance
  1. roles with enemies (maintain CCR policy on relationship\_
  2. other organizations (see policy directly below)
6. policy position;
7. bad mouthing CCR, actions to those who do.

Policy" CCR members must reaffirm and make as first priority their allegiance to the committee.

### Critique of CCR charge

-created better understanding of members  
more time  
good start  
caused growth of organization  
good resolutions  
some going round in circles  
image of organization  
position of nationalsim established  
by-laws should have been discussed  
chain of command not discussed  
follow up on goals and objectives is needed  
utilization of time and enregy  
stronger dedication to building

organization stronger and better  
too much time on recognizing nationalism  
organizer should go into the community. We must state where we stand and maintain truthfulness

retreat update

9-10-79

Herman, Juan P, Ernesto, Rat, Juan Del, Mike, Charles, let, David, Howard,  
Jess, Beck, Jeff.

1. Read retreat packet.

2. Juan - consistency in setup in comite for that  
charlie - since we have mechanism for uniq. shouldn't we have  
one for other comites.

3. Howard - we already have structure for that stick with it  
Herman - need time, H,  
ernesto - must provide some thing for members.

Herman - purpose of CCR. to defend Human, Civil + constitutional  
Rites - how can we form ourselves into a team  
Carlos - begin to eliminate some dormant comites + put  
our energy into main comites.

Howard - penalties for non-performance  
Herm. points for activities.

Motion to assign a person to work on comite to develop  
accountability sheet. 2nd Ernesto passed  
Rat, Jess, Herm, Carlos, Howard, Juan P.  
will meet at Carlos's house