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Hispanic's "Patriotism" Not Automatic About Iraq War

By Fresia Rodriguez Cadavid

The American GI Forum, founded by Mexican-American veterans who returned from World War II to find that some serious civil rights battles awaited them at home, is as patriotic as any group in the nation.

Born on March 26, 1948, in Corpus Christi, Texas, it quickly expanded across the nation as a major civic and social organization that embraced all Latino veterans and their families.

Still thriving today, it speaks with great orgullo about how Latino boys have been first to rush to this nation's defense whenever our democracy has been threatened. Each Veterans' Day, its chapters salute those who lost their lives on battlefields across the world.

The Forum takes special pride in the high numbers of Hispanics who were decorated -- many posthumously -- with the nation's Medal of Honor.

But today, like many Hispanic organizations, the Forum is acting with caution on whether to support President Bush in his determination to wage war against Iraq. The organization has yet to take a position.

"No one wants another Vietnam," Juan

Mireles, its national commander, told Hispanic Link News Service following the release of a national survey that found Hispanic support for an Iraqi invasion is lower than that of the general U.S. population.

Forum members have growing fears over Hispanic military personnel being stationed abroad and U.N. inspections not being given ample opportunity to function, Mireles said.

The bilingual war poll was released jointly by the Pew Hispanic Center and Bendixen & Associates. It surveyed 400 Hispanics via telephone Feb. 13-16.

The poll found that only 48 percent of Hispanics support a U.S. ground invasion to remove Saddam Hussein from power. This contrasts to figures in Gallup/CNN (63 percent) and CBS/New York Times (66 percent) polls for all groups.

Fifty-two percent of U.S.-born Latinos and 46 percent of foreign-born Latinos support a ground war.

Pew Center director Roberto Suro and pollster Sergio Bendixen note that Hispanic opposition to the war increases when concern over economic well-being, potential casualties and civil liberties are factored in.

They find this is true especially among foreign-born Latinos, speculating that "the



level and nature" of Spanish-language media coverage, a stronger belief in the United Nations, and personal experiences with war influence foreign-born Hispanics' attitudes.

Bendixen calls the poll, with a 4.9 percent margin of error, a "pretty accurate representation of the Hispanic point of view."

Anti-war attitudes among Hispanics do not surprise University of California at San Diego Professor Jorge Mariscal.

"A lot of immigrant families realize that if we go to war and the economy turns toward military expenditures, a lot of resources they need to make their family better will be gone," he says.

Long-time Republican activist Fernando Oaxaca, who writes a popular on-line opinion column from his Los Angeles base, disagrees, pointing out that the poll doesn't differentiate among Hispanic national-origin groups. The sample is too small and it doesn't give the length and legality of respondents' U.S. residency or their voting status, he says, adding that there's no way to know whether they are "long-term residents or just got off the boat yesterday."

Other results of the poll show:
-- 60 percent of foreign-born Hispanics support extending U.N. inspections, compared to 48 percent of U.S.-born Hispanics.

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Washington compara protestas pacifistas con las de los años 80

El gobierno estadounidense estimó que las manifestaciones hostiles a la guerra contra Irak, que reunieron varios millones de personas en el mundo el fin de semana pasado, evocan el precedente de las protestas de los años 80 contra el despliegue de misiles estadounidenses en Europa.

"No es la primera vez que hay manifestaciones masivas", admitió el portavoz de la Casa Blanca Ari Fleischer.

"En los casos anteriores Estados Unidos permaneció firme en sus principios, el presidente estadounidense hizo lo que pensaba que favorecía la paz. En consecuencia el muro de Berlín cayó y el mensaje de los manifestantes 'antes neutrales que muertos' se reveló falso", afirmó el portavoz de la Casa Blanca.

A fines de 1983 Estados Unidos decidió desplegar en Europa occidental misiles balísticos Pershing, de alcance intermedio para contrarrestar los SS-20 soviéticos. Esta decisión provocó masivas manifestaciones anti-estadounidenses, principalmente en Alemania, Holanda y Gran Bretaña.

"Lo que quiero decir es que las manifestaciones masivas no siempre logran el efecto esperado por la gente. El militarismo que tenían los manifestantes no se produjo. Con frecuencia el mensaje de los contestatarios es desmentido por la historia", agregó Fleischer.



Cuando se le hizo notar que las manifestaciones pacifistas del fin de semana no se habían desarrollado solamente en Europa sino también en Estados Unidos, Brasil y Canadá, Fleischer respondió: "Como dijo el presidente (Bush) la gente tiene derecho a expresar su opinión en cualquier lugar del mundo".

Bush había declarado que "la

democracia es algo bello" y que "la gente tiene derecho a expresar su opinión".

Agregó sin embargo que si esa opinión es que Saddam Hussein "no representa un peligro, me permito no estar de acuerdo" y advirtió que "si él (Saddam Hussein) elige no desarmarse, dirigiremos una coalición de países voluntarios para hacerlo".

Legendario "Patriotismo" de Hispanos No Automatico En Caso de la Guerra

Por Fresia Rodriguez Cadavid

El American GI Forum (foro norteamericano de personal militar alistado), fundado por veteranos mexicano-americanos que regresaron de la segunda guerra mundial y encontraron que serias luchas por los derechos civiles les aguardaban, es tan patriótico como cualquier otro grupo en la nación.

Nació el 26 de marzo de 1948 en Corpus Christi, Texas, y rápido se expandió por toda la nación, convirtiéndose en una de las grandes organizaciones cívicas y sociales que acogia a todos los veteranos latinos y sus familias.

Tan fuerte como cuando comenzó, el grupo se expresa con gran orgullo sobre cómo los jóvenes latinos han sido los primeros en acudir a defender esta nación cuando nuestra democracia ha sido amenazada. Cada año para el Día del Veterano, sus capítulos honran a los que perdieron la vida en campos de batalla alrededor del mundo.

El American GI Forum se enorgullece especialmente del gran número de hispanos que fueron condecorados con la Medalla de Honor de la nación, muchos de ellos póstumamente.

Pero hoy, esta organización, al igual que muchas otras organizaciones hispanas, actúa cautelosamente en cuanto a apoyar al presidente Bush en su determinación de declararle la guerra a Irak. El American GI Forum aún no ha tomado una decisión al respecto.

"Nadie quiere otro Vietnam", dijo el comandante nacional Juan Mireles a Hispanic Link News Service luego de la publicación de una encuesta nacional que reveló que el apoyo hispano a la invasión de Irak es menor que el de la población general de EEUU.

Mireles dijo que se ha incrementado entre los miembros de su organización el temor a que destinen personal militar hispano al exterior y a que los inspectores de la ONU se les prive de oportunidades para operar.

El sondeo bilingüe sobre la guerra lo publicaron conjuntamente el Pew Hispanic Center y Bendixen & Associates. El mismo entrevistó a 400 hispanos por teléfono entre el 13 y el 16 de febrero de 2003.

La encuesta encontró que sólo el 48 por ciento de los hispanos apoya una invasión terrestre para sacar a Saddam Hussein del poder. Este número contrasta con las cifras de las encuestas de Gallup/CNN (63 por ciento) y CBS/New York Times (66 por ciento) para todos los grupos.

Un 52 por ciento de los latinos nacidos en los EEUU y 46 por ciento de los latinos nacidos en el exterior apoyan una guerra terrestre.

Roberto Suro, el director del Pew Center y el encuestador Sergio Bendixen notaron que la oposición hispana a la guerra aumenta cuando se considera el impacto que perciben tendrá sobre el bienestar económico, el número potencial de víctimas y las libertades civiles.

Ambos declaran que esto se observa particularmente entre latinos nacidos en el extranjero y especulan que "el nivel y la naturaleza" de la cobertura de los medios de habla hispana, una confianza mayor en las Naciones Unidas y las experiencias personales con la guerra influyen en sus actitudes.

Bendixen dice que la encuesta, la cual presenta un margen de error de 4.9 por ciento es "una representación bastante precisa del punto de vista hispano". (Continúa Pagina 6)

Latinos de Estados Unidos no apoyan la guerra contra Irak

Una encuesta desarrollada por el Centro Hispánico PEW, indica que hay gran temor por parte de los latinos (tanto inmigrantes como nacidos en el país) con respecto a la pérdida de sus empleos y sobre todo, que haya una persecución aún mayor en perjuicio de los extranjeros con la guerra como excusa.

48% de los hispanos dice apoyar el envío de soldados con el fin de sacar a Saddam Hussein del gobierno de Irak.

Entre los encuestados nacidos en América Latina el apoyo a la guerra fue claramente más bajo que entre los nacidos en Estados Unidos, un 46% contra 52%.

En ambos casos las cifras están por debajo del resto de la población, cuando la pregunta es si deben usarse tropas de Estados Unidos en caso que se encuentre a Irak en posesión de armas de destrucción masiva.

Para el resto de los estadounidenses, en ese caso, la cifra de respaldo a la guerra es de 63% según una encuesta conducida por Gallup, CNN y el diario USA Today.

Por su parte, los sondeos de CBS y el New York Times dicen que en caso de que efectivamente se encuentre a Irak en infracción, el apoyo entre la población no latina treparía a un 66%.

En conferencia de prensa, Robert Suro, director del Centro Hispánico PEW dijo: "Se nota un menor nivel de apoyo para una acción militar contra Irak entre los hispanos que en el público en general".

Según estos informes, la comunidad hispana registra una tasa de aprobación a la gestión de Bush similar a la de la población en general. Un 54% de hispanos habría respondido que el presidente hace un trabajo "bueno" o "excelente".

La encuesta telefónica realizada a 400 hispanos adultos reveló varias razones para la renuencia a apoyar la opción armada contra Irak.

"Vemos preocupaciones por el nivel de apoyo internacional, por la cantidad de bajas y por el contexto de las libertades civiles que una guerra presentaría", señaló Suro.

Un 54 por ciento de los entrevistados por el Centro Hispánico PEW dijo tener "mucho preocupación" de que se desate una mayor acción policial contra los inmigrantes, como resultado de la guerra.

Un 67 por ciento de los hispanos, que en promedio suelen ser más pobres que el estadounidense promedio, manifestó tener "mucho preocupación" por el posible impacto negativo del conflicto sobre la economía.

(continúa Pagina 6)

Léa El Editor Primero



Comentarios

by Bidal Agüero

Last week's LULAC and Hispanic Chamber's banquets brought many of Lubbock's Hispanic VIPs together to talk about important issues that affect our community. Foremost in the conversation was education and economics.

I guess we could expect nothing less since each organizations mission can be defined as education and economics.

J.R. Gonzalez, chairman of the U.S. Hispanic Chambers of Commerce and speaker at the Chamber's banquet brought statistics that can be described as overwhelming yet predictable.

It is easy to realize that Hispanic spend hundreds of millions of dollars in today's economy. But it is distressing to realize that many of today's Fortune 500 companies fail to admit the reality.

It is even sadder to note that here in Lubbock the majority of businesses are ignoring the fact that Hispanic contribute \$700 million to the economy. As Gonzales pointed out the so-called sleeping giant has most certainly awakened.

At LULAC's banquet the primary word education. Tech Regent David Lopez stressed the need for Hispanic leaders to continue to work toward first keeping our youth in schools and then supporting them in the efforts to accomplish their goals. Channel 11 journalist Abner Euresi, who acted as MC for both events delighted the audience with his wit and sense of humor but ended the evening by speaking seriously about his commitment to education. Abner spoke about his brother Gary who is a teacher in Corpus Christi. "As Gary tells me about his kids and the struggles he goes through to educate and keep them in school, I can only remember the many struggles both of us went through to finish school. But as I think, I can realize that all we need to do is give all of them a chance at education and we can only give them a chance. If we give them a chance, I know they will succeed. This why today I too am writing a check, not to help LULAC but to give our kids a chance." The event was also highlighted by the presentation of a check from Standard Sales Co./Budweiser for \$4,000.

Write Bidal: eleditor@llano.net

El Editor
Primero en Noticias
al Momento

Mucha Esperanza Para Los Trabajadores Agrícolas

Por Dick Meister

De a pocos, pero seguro, el Sindicato de Trabajadores Agrícolas (UFW por sus siglas en inglés) ha estado ganando victorias importantes en la lucha por ganar condiciones decentes de vivienda y trabajo para los que cosechan nuestra comida.

La victoria más reciente de la UFW fue ganarse el derecho de representar a los trabajadores en los campos del cultivador de fresas más grande del norte de California, la empresa Coastal Berry, que cuenta con más de 1600 empleados en el norte y el sur de California.

El que los empleados votaran para ser representados por la UFW significa que el sindicato por fin gana el movimiento por organizar la industria de fresas de California, evaluada en \$800 millones al año, que ha sido punto de preocupación para la UFW y los muchos que la apoyan durante casi siete años.

Pocos movimientos por organizar de la UFW han sido más ambiciosos ni más importantes. Una victoria con esta industria bien podría implicar un romper de las barreras comparable con ganarse los derechos a ser representante sindical de la industria de la uva en California, hito que marcó el éxito más importante de la UFW hace tres décadas.

El sindicato ganó el derecho a representar los trabajadores del sur de California de la Coastal Berry

nace tres años, pero perdieron frente a un simulacro de sindicato de la compañía en una elección por la representación en las instalaciones del norte de California.

Presentados con la oportunidad de votar de nuevo a fines del año pasado, los trabajadores del norte de California optaron por la representación de la UFW, cuyas negociaciones con la Coastal Berry han resultado en condiciones mucho mejores para los trabajadores en el sur de California que los del norte.

Actualmente el sindicato negocia un contrato para los trabajadores del norte que se considera seguro que alcanzará como mínimo los términos del contrato que en el sur marcó un precedente. Y estos términos son los mejores que han ganado nunca los trabajadores agrícolas.

El contrato provee un sueldo de hasta \$12 la hora, seis feriados pagados, vacaciones pagadas, seguro médico y dental a cuenta de la empresa y otros beneficios que también cubren los que dependen de los trabajadores -- además de procedimientos formales de quejas y un sistema de antigüedad.

Es asombroso el contraste con la forma en que la gran mayoría de los trabajadores son tratados. La mayoría yace en la pobreza, su sueldo y sus condiciones de trabajo y vivienda una desgracia nacional.

Los que cosechan las fresas, en

gran parte mexicanos y mexicano-americanos, son los que hacen el trabajo más de difícil y más peligroso de todos. Sin embargo se les paga menos de \$10,000 al año y muchas veces no reciben ningún beneficio secundario. Tienen suerte si se les da agua potable fresca e inodoros de campo mientras trabajan. Carecen de seguridad de empleo y de protección contra casi todos los actos arbitrarios de los patrones.

Trabajan doblados por la cintura, cosechando a mano las fresas, por lo que la fruta es demasiado frágil para ser cosechada sino por trabajadores doblados que avanzan rápido entre las filas inundadas en un pie de agua, agachándose hasta la tierra para coger una fresa, y otra, y otra. Apenas pausan para enderezarse. Son comunes los problemas a la espalda entre los trabajadores, pero el seguro médico es escaso.

Trabajan así durante doce horas al día. Después, vuelven a casa, sea una choza, o un apartamento o habitación pequeñísima, o una casa compartida por dos o tres familias o seis o más hombres solteros. Algunos trabajadores ni esto tienen. Duermen en carpas o a la intemperie, bajo los árboles.

Aquellos trabajadores que se enferman - como lo hacen muchos por la extraordinaria distribución de pesticidas que utilizan los cultivadores de fresas -- no reciben mucha ayuda ni de sus patrones ni del go-

bierno.

Además de ganar protecciones sindicales para un número creciente de los que cosechan las fresas, la UFW ha lanzando nuevas y efectivas campañas de organización entre los trabajadores de varios cultivos más.

En los últimos años el sindicato ha ganado contratos que cubren, entre otros, mas de la mitad de todos los que cosechan las rosas en California; la mayoría de los que cosechan champiñones; a los trabajadores de uno de los cultivadores más grandes de lechugas; trabajadores del viñedo más grande del estado de Washington, y los empleados de la granja más grande de champiñones del estado de Florida.

La UFW ha ganado también legislación que obliga que los cultivadores de California abandonen tácticas de demora que han utilizado muchos para evitar llegar a acuerdos contractuales con los trabajadores que votan por la representación sindical. Esta nueva ley permite que los cultivadores tomen siete meses para llegar a un acuerdo o dejar que un árbitro lo formule.

Esta es una de muchas indicaciones que al fin algunos de nuestros trabajadores que más lo merecen están recibiendo el tratamiento decente que se les ha negado, por muchos, muchos años.

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Republicans = the joke is on us OR REPUBLICANS are often humorous people - despite themselves.

I was discussing politics with one of the Rush clones the other day and said.

Yep, my grandfather was a Democrat, my dad was a Democrat, and I am a Democrat He said; now wait a minute., that is a silly argument. Suppose your grandpa was a greedy old rascal, and your dad was a greedy old rascal, then I suppose automatically that that would make you a greedy old rascal. NO, I said, that would make me a Republican.

I saw a good sign at an anti-Bush/War march - it said- Help rid America of MAD COWBOY DISEASE.

These Republicans drive me bonkers, they are not responsible for any of these problems, it is the fault of the Democrats in office before them they whine. Heck, they have blamed their mess on every Democrat since Woodrow Wilson.

Despite all the jokes and such, I will have to admit that not all Republican politicians are wicked and self serving, it is mostly the 95% of Republican politicians that give the remaining 5% a bad reputation.

I read where Prez Bush wants to give the ultra-rich yet another nice big slice of the pie tax cut. This while our schools crumble, our Veterans can't get in to see a doctor, our little kids are getting kicked off of Medicaid by the states who are broke, there are record numbers of homeless - including kids - in our cities, our senior citizens are eating dog food so they can afford their overpriced medicines (since the drug industry is a big contributor to the Republicans) and our fire and police departments can't get needed money from the feds to protect us against terrorism.

-----But we can find money for yet another give away to the Richest among us - who need it about as much as a hog needs a skateboard. ----- Man this prez reminds me of the old mine owner back home in Indiana who divorced his wife of 40 years to take up with a show girl. The rich get the mine, and we all get the shaft.

"It is better to Light a Candle than to curse the darkness."

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Submitted by: Kennsabe@aol.com

A Lesson on Conscience Shared by Two Leaders

By Tony Castro

Frail and severely weakened by a fast in its third week, César Chávez found his spirits lifted as he braced himself against a brisk March wind that whipped through his home in the early spring of 1968 in Delano, Calif.

Chávez, then emerging as a national civil rights figure, was told by his wife Helen that a telegram had just been delivered.

"It's from Martin Luther King Jr.," Helen told him.

"Please, read it to me," said Chávez, whose eyesight had also been weakened by the long fast that would reach 25 days.

In the telegram, King expressed solidarity with Chávez, who was fasting to rededicate his farm workers' movement to the principles of nonviolence practiced by Mahatma Gandhi and King.

"As brothers in the fight for equality, I extend the hand of fellowship and good will and wish continuing success to you and your members," King wrote. "The fight for equality must be fought on many fronts -- in the urban slums, in the sweatshops of the factories and the fields.

"Our separate struggles are really one -- a struggle for freedom, for dignity and for humanity," the telegram continued. "You and your valiant fellow workers have demonstrated your commitment to righting grievous wrongs forced upon exploited people. We are together with you in spirit and in determination that our dreams for a better tomorrow will be realized."

Surprisingly, the two men who would come to be recognized as the foremost national leaders of the country's two largest minority groups had never met -- and never would.

Only days later, on April 4 in Sacramento as he campaigned for the Democratic presidential nomination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, Chávez would learn of King's assassination. Kennedy had joined César in Holy Communion when he ended his fast and later urged Chávez to seek out King in the future.

"The spirit doesn't die," Chávez said upon hearing of King's death. "The ideas remain. We study them and apply them, and they're alive."

Chávez said later that one of his life's regrets was not having met King personally. Whenever newspapers carried accounts of King's battles in the South, the stories "would jump out of the pages at me," Chávez would recall. He had followed King's career since the 1950s Montgomery bus boycott.

In the fields of California's Central Valley, Chávez applied King's early strategies. During the grape boycotts of the 1960s, marchers sang, Nosotros Venceremos, the Spanish-language version of "We Shall Overcome." In a letter to a grape industry leader in 1969, Chávez quoted from King's "Letter from the Birmingham Jail," describing King as one who "gave himself totally to the nonviolent struggle for peace and justice."

Chávez himself was jailed in 1970 for violating an anti-boycott injunction. King's widow, Coretta, visited him there. Chávez later said he felt that she was one of the few who understood the political impact of his jailing.

In a speech in 1990, Chávez concluded, "The truth many people don't want you to remember is that Dr. King was a great activist, fighting for radical social change with radical methods. ... Dr. King used direct action to challenge the system. Dr. King wasn't afraid of tension. He welcomed it and used it wisely. In his famous letter from the Birmingham jail, Dr. King wrote that 'the purpose of the direct action is to create a situation so crisis-packed that it will inevitably open the door to negotiation.'

"Dr. King knew that he very probably wouldn't survive the struggle that he led so well. But he said, 'If I am stopped, the movement will not stop. If I am stopped, our work will not stop. ... It should be clear to all of us that there is an unfinished agenda, that we have miles to go before we reach the Promised Land.'

"The men who rule this country today never learned the lessons of Dr. King. They never learned that nonviolence is the only way to peace and justice."

It may be that what ties the legacies of both King and Chávez are their roles, not just as civil rights leaders. It is their call to conscience.

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High Hopes for Farmworkers

By Dick Meister

Slowly but surely, the United Farm Workers Union has been scoring major victories in its struggle to help win decent working and living conditions for those who harvest our food.

The UFW most recently won the right to represent workers in the Northern California fields of the country's largest strawberry grower. That's Coastal Berry, which has more than 1,600 employees in Northern and Southern California.

The employees' vote to be represented by the UFW was a sure sign that the union is finally winning the drive to unionize California's \$800 million-a-year strawberry industry that has preoccupied the UFW and its many supporters nationwide for nearly seven years.

Few UFW drives have been more ambitious or more important. Victory could very well lead to a breakthrough comparable to the winning of union rights from California's grape growers that marked the UFW's first major success three decades ago.

The union won the right to represent Coastal Berry's Southern California workers three years ago but lost out to a bogus company-domi-

nated union in a representation election at the firm's Northern California facility. Given a chance late last year to vote again, the Northern California workers opted for representation by the UFW, whose negotiations with Coastal Berry have gained the Southern California workers much better conditions than those in the north.

The union is currently negotiating a contract for the Northern California employees that is certain at least to match the terms of the precedent-setting Southern California contract. And those are by far the best terms ever won by farm workers.

The contract provides pay of up to \$12 an hour, a half-dozen paid holidays, paid vacations, employer-financed medical and dental insurance and other benefits that also cover workers' dependents -- plus formal grievance procedures and a seniority system.

The contrast with how the vast majority of farmworkers are treated is stunning. Most are mired in poverty, their pay and working and living conditions a national disgrace.

Strawberry pickers, Mexicans and Mexican Americans for the most

part, do some of the roughest and most dangerous work of all. Yet they are paid less than \$10,000 a year and get few, if any, fringe benefits. They're fortunate if they have fresh drinking water and field toilets at work. They have no job security and almost no protection against the arbitrary acts of employers.

They work bent in half, picking the strawberries by hand, since the fruit is too fragile to be harvested except by stooped workers who move swiftly along narrow furrows a foot deep in water, bending to ground level to snatch up a berry, then another and another. The workers scarcely pause to straighten. Back ailments are common, but health insurance coverage rare.

They do that for as many as 12 hours a day. After that, it's home to a shack or tiny apartment or motel room, or to a house shared by two or three families or by a half-dozen or more single men. Some workers don't even have that. They sleep in tents or under trees.

Workers who fall ill -- and many do because of the extraordinarily heavy use of pesticides by strawberry growers -- get little or no help

from their employers or the government.

In addition to winning union protections for growing numbers of the strawberry pickers, the UFW has waged new and effective organizing campaigns among workers in several other crops.

Over the past few years it has won contracts covering, among others, more than half of California's rose growers; most of the state's mushroom growers; one of its largest lettuce growers; vineyard workers at Washington state's largest winery, and employees of Florida's largest mushroom farm.

The UFW also has won legislation to force California growers to abandon stalling tactics that many have used to avoid reaching contract agreements with workers who vote for union representation. The new law gives growers seven months to reach an agreement or have an arbitrator draft one.

That's but one of many signs that some of our most deserving workers are finally winning the decent treatment that's been denied them far, far too many years.

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Una Leccion de Conciencia que Compartieron Dos Lideres

Por Tony Castro

Frágil y severamente debilitado a consecuencia de tres semanas en huelga de hambre, el ánimo de César Chávez se levantó mientras enfrentaba los bruscos vientos de marzo que azotaban su hogar durante la primavera del año 1968 en Delano, California.

Chávez, quien en aquel momento emergía como una figura nacional en el ámbito de los derechos civiles, escuchó a su esposa decir que acababa de recibir un telegrama.

"Lo envía Martin Luther King, Jr.," le dijo Helen.

"Por favor, léeme!", dijo

Chávez, cuya vista se había afectado por el largo ayuno que habría de alcanzar 25 días.

En el telegrama, King expresó su solidaridad con Chávez, quien estaba realizando una huelga de hambre con la intención de reenforzar el movimiento de obreros agrícolas hacia los principios de la no violencia promulgados por Mahatma Gandhi y King.

"Como hermanos en la lucha por la igualdad, les extiendo la mano del compañerismo y la buena voluntad y les deseo éxito continuo", King escribió.

"La lucha por la igualdad tiene

que llevarse a cabo en muchos frentes: en las barriadas urbanas, en los talleres de explotación obrera de las fábricas y en los campos de cultivo.

"Nuestras luchas separadas son una en realidad: la lucha por la libertad, la dignidad y la humanidad. Usted y sus valientes compañeros obreros han demostrado su compromiso de enmendar los males opresivos a los que han sido sometidos los explotados. Estamos con ustedes en el esfuerzo y la determinación de ver realizado nuestro sueño de un mañana mejor".

Sorprendentemente, los dos hombres que llegarían a ser reconocidos

como los principales líderes nacionales de los dos grupos minoritarios más grandes de la nación no se conocían y nunca lo harían.

Sólo días después, el 4 de abril de 1968, mientras hacía campaña para la nominación presidencial demócrata del senador Robert F. Kennedy, Chávez se enteraría del asesinato de King. Kennedy había acompañado a César a recibir la sagrada comunión luego de concluir su huelga de hambre y lo había instado a buscar a King en el futuro.

"El espíritu nunca muere", dijo Chávez al escuchar sobre la muerte de King. "Los ideales sobreviven. Los estudiamos y los ponemos en práctica; así se mantienen vivos".

Chávez luego declaró que uno de los pesares de su vida fue no haber conocido a King personalmente. Siempre que un periódico informaba sobre las batallas de King en el sur, las historias "cautivaban mi atención", Chávez solía recordar. El había seguido de cerca la carrera de King desde el boicot contra el servicio de autobuses en Montgomery, Alabama, en 1950.

En los campos del valle central de California, Chávez aplicó las primeras estrategias de King. Durante el boicoteo de las uvas de los años sesenta, los activistas cantaban "Nosotros venceremos", la versión en castellano de la canción "We Shall Overcome". En una carta de 1969 a un líder de la industria vinícola, Chávez citó la "Carta desde la prisión de Birmingham" de King y describió al último como "una persona que se entregó completamente a la lucha no violenta en favor de la justicia y la paz".

Chávez estuvo también encar-

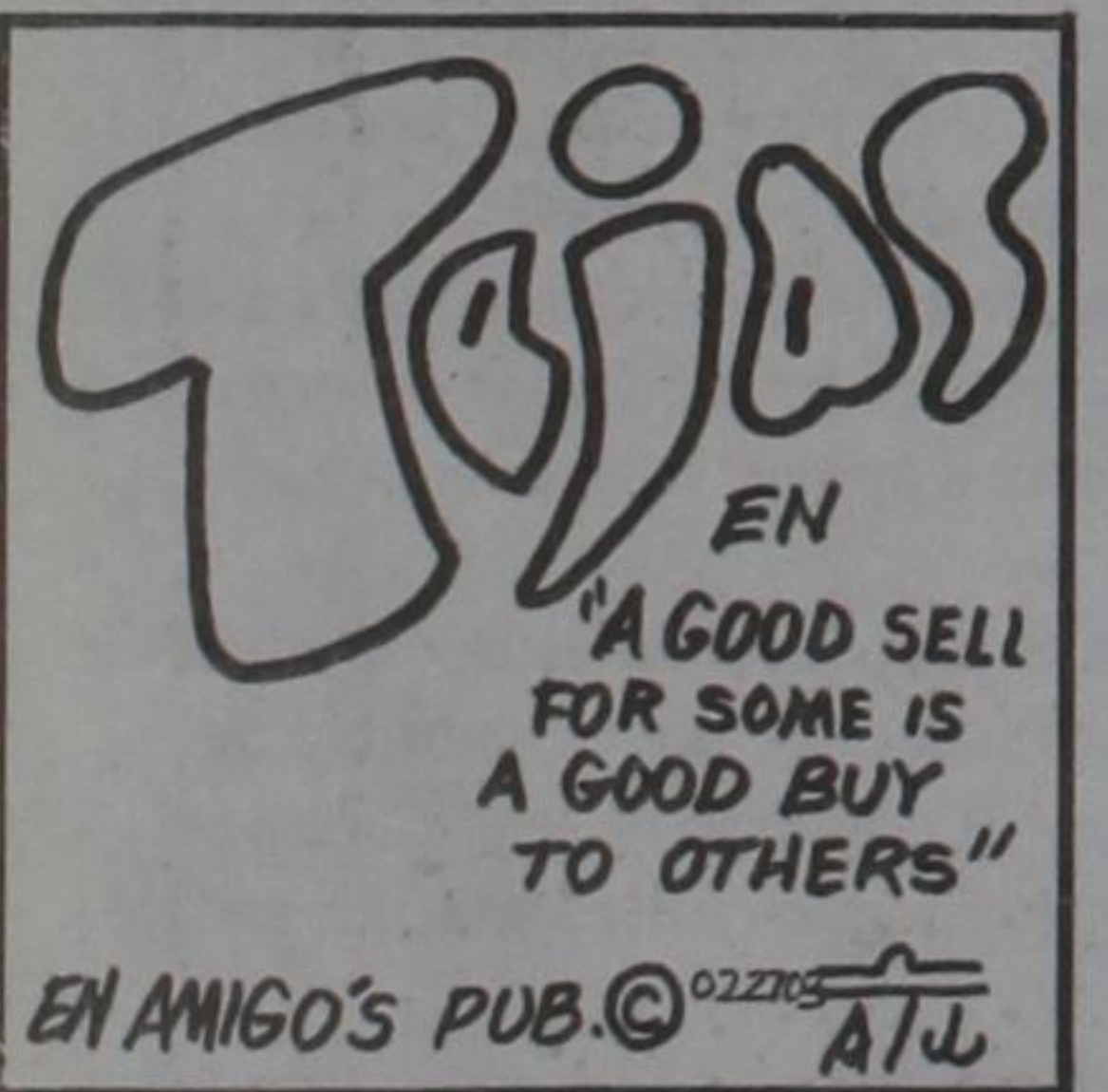
celado en 1970 por violar un interdicto en contra del boicot. La viuda de King, Coretta, lo visitó durante su reclusión. Chávez luego declaró que ella fue una de las pocas personas que entendió el impacto político de su encarcelamiento.

En un discurso en 1990, Chávez concluyó de la siguiente forma: "La verdad que muchos no quieren que ustedes recuerden es que el Dr. King fue un gran activista que luchó a favor de cambios sociales radicales con métodos radicales. ... El Dr. King utilizó acciones directas para retar el sistema. El no le tenía miedo a la tensión. La recibía con brazos abiertos y la utilizaba sabiamente. En su famosa carta desde la prisión de Birmingham, el Dr. King escribió que 'el propósito de la acción directa es crear una situación tan abrumada por la crisis que inevitablemente cederá el paso a la negociación'.

"El Dr. King probablemente sabía que no sobreviviría a la lucha que encabezó con tanto éxito. Sin embargo, él dijo: 'Si me detienen, el movimiento no se detendrá. ... Debe quedarnos claro que existe una agenda inconclusa, que nos falta caminar muchas millas para llegar a la tierra prometida. ... Los hombres que dirigen hoy este país no aprendieron las lecciones del Dr. King. No aprendieron que la no violencia es la única forma de obtener la paz y la justicia'.

El legado de King y Chávez está unido no sólo por los papeles que desempeñaron como líderes de movimientos civiles, sino también por su llamado a obrar con conciencia humanitaria.

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For Hispanic Groups, A Divide on Estrada

When he spoke in support of federal judicial nominee Miguel Estrada at a recent news conference, Jacob Monty masked his harsh criticism of opponents in Spanish. He said Latinos who are fighting against the Bush administration's choice for a judgeship on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit "no tienen vergüenza" -- have no shame.

That comment by Monty, a former chairman of the Texas-based Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans, was just one shot in a bitter war of words that has divided Latino politicians and civil rights organizations in ways rarely seen.

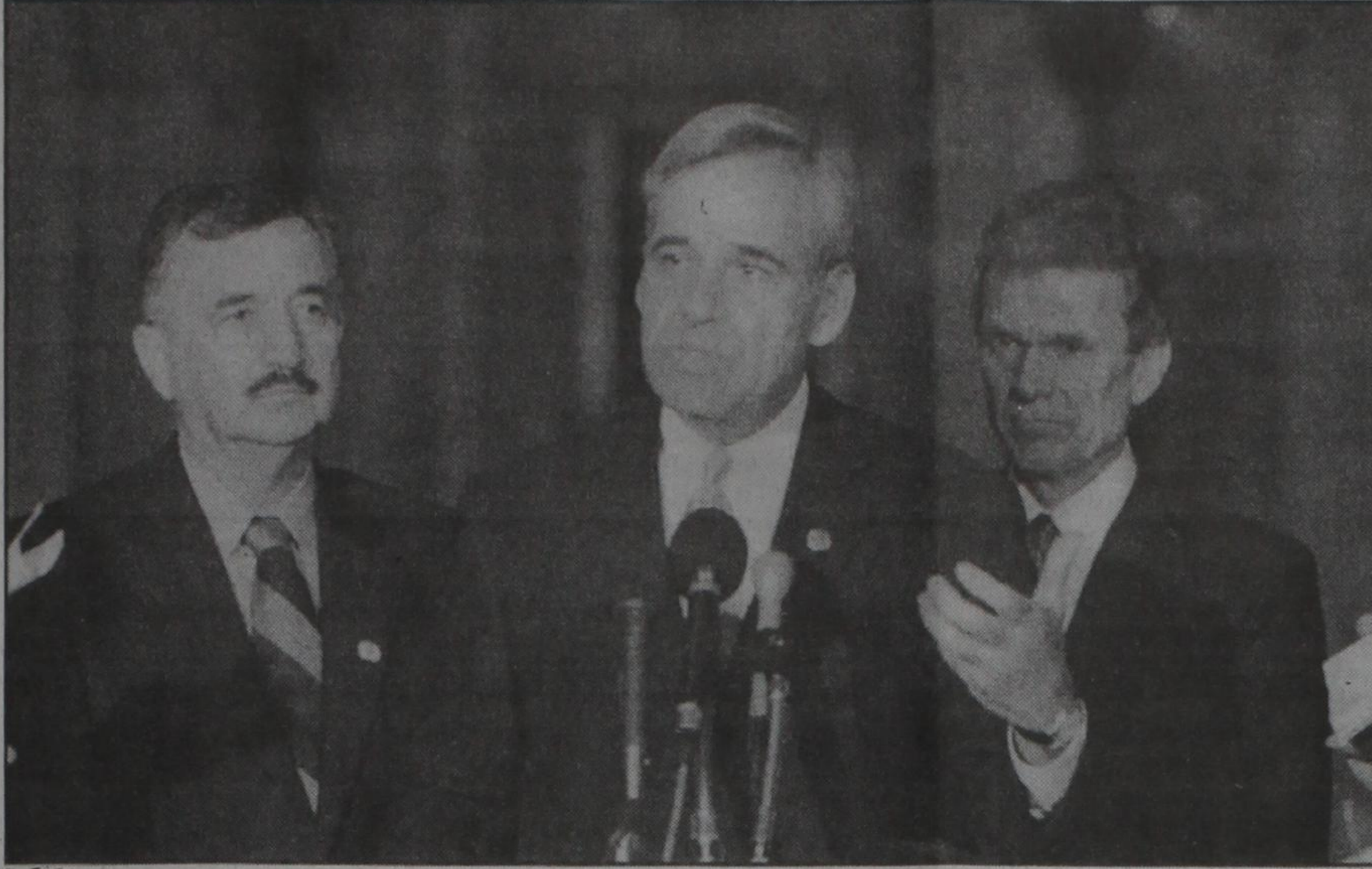
It followed one fired by Rep. Robert Menendez (N.J.), a member of the Democratic Congressional Hispanic Caucus, which opposes the nominee. "Being Hispanic for us," Menendez said, "means much more than having a surname" -- a statement his critics understood to imply that Estrada is not "Hispanic enough."

The name-calling has reminded some observers of the bitterness among African Americans during the Senate confirmation hearing for Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas -- a hearing that Thomas, a conservative black man, likened to a lynching after liberal activists persuaded Anita Hill, a former assistant, to come forward with sexual harassment allegations against him.

Latino activists have differing perceptions of who Estrada is and what kind of judge he would be.

Estrada's supporters say he is a Latino success story, immigrating as he did from Honduras at age 17 and going on to graduate from Columbia College at Columbia University and Harvard Law School, and clerking for Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy. He is now a partner with the District law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and a nominee for a judgeship on what is considered the nation's second most powerful court because it has jurisdiction over all appeals regarding federal regulatory agencies.

Opponents question whether Estrada appreciates the interests of poor people -- his family came from the Honduran elite -- and say his conservative politics would color his decisions on the bench. They say Estrada has a low regard



Reps. Charlie Gonzalez (D-Tex), center, and Ciro D. Rodriguez (D-Tex), left, and Senate Minority leader Thomas A. Daschle (D-S.D.) oppose the nomination of Miguel Estrada to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. The confirmation battle has led to bitter exchanges among Hispanic groups.

for hard-won civil rights protections that benefit Latinos.

Ideological wars over federal judicial nominations are nothing new, but the fight among Latinos offers a small window on how what will soon be the nation's largest ethnic minority is divided by ideology and geography.

Of the Latino community's three most influential groups, each has taken a different position on Estrada's nomination. The League of United Latin American Citizens, based in Texas, supports it; the Mexican American Defense and Educational Fund, in California, opposes it, and the National Council of La Raza, in Washington, has remained neutral.

The fuse for the current debate was lit in June, when members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus met with Estrada in the basement of the Capitol. Rep. Charlie Gonzalez (D-Tex.) said the nominee at first looked uncomfortable as he stared at the faces of 16 Democrats across the long boardroom table.

"We wanted to make sure the nominee... appreciates what the court system means for Latinos," Gonzalez said recently. Estrada was not available for comment.

"We wanted him to give us some idea of how the role of a judge im-

pacts minority communities, and it just wasn't there."

Two weeks later, the caucus returned a recommendation opposing Estrada's nomination to the Senate Judiciary Committee, then controlled by Democrats. Latino civil rights groups read the recommendation, then met among themselves.

In October, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) voted to support Estrada.

"It was just very difficult for us not to support the guy, given his impeccable credentials," said Hector Flores, president of the Texas-based group. "It's the American dream, rising up from Honduras the way he has. The battle isn't whether he's conservative; it's that he represents Latinos, whether we like him or not."

Flores said the vote to support Estrada was overwhelming, but in recent days the California state delegation of LULAC broke away from the national group in opposing the nominee. In a Feb. 12 statement, a former president of LULAC, Mario Obledo, opposed the nominee because of his "sparse record" on civil and constitutional rights issues, and because he declined to answer questions about his record in Senate hearings.

LULAC's overall support was

backed by Monty, the former chairman of AAMA. His assertion that Estrada's opponents were shameless was broadcast on C-SPAN and remembered by Flores, who was present. Monty did not return several calls seeking comment.

President Bush tried to keep up the pressure yesterday by giving an interview to the Spanish-language Telemundo network, and vigorously urged senators to confirm Estrada.

Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah) recently said that Estrada's Democratic opponents were "anti-Latino," and brought howls from his liberal colleagues and from leaders of Latino organizations across the land.

Marisa Demeo, regional counsel for the Los Angeles-based Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, said Hatch failed to mention three Latinos nominated for judgeships by the Clinton administration whom Republican senators opposed. Those nominations -- of Jorge Rangel, Enrique Moreno and Christine Arguello -- were returned to President Bill Clinton without a hearing or vote.

Demeo said LULAC and AAMA back Estrada for cosmetic reasons. "Because he's Latino, they would support him," she said. "They've

been very strong in thinking there should be a Latino sitting on the D.C. Circuit, and we say it is important, but not at such a cost."

The cost, she said, would be the weakening of civil rights laws. "The groups opposing have taken the analysis a step further," Demeo said. "We look at the record to determine what kind of judge Mr. Estrada would be."

MALDEF is supported by the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the Southwest Voter Registration Project and the Hispanic caucus, among other groups.

"I don't know why the administration put up Estrada," said Antonio Gonzalez, president of the Southwest Voter Registration Project. "He was marked as a right-wing ideologue some time ago. Clearly, that is a tactic by the Bush administration... not to really embrace issues that are important to Latinos, but to try symbolic measures."

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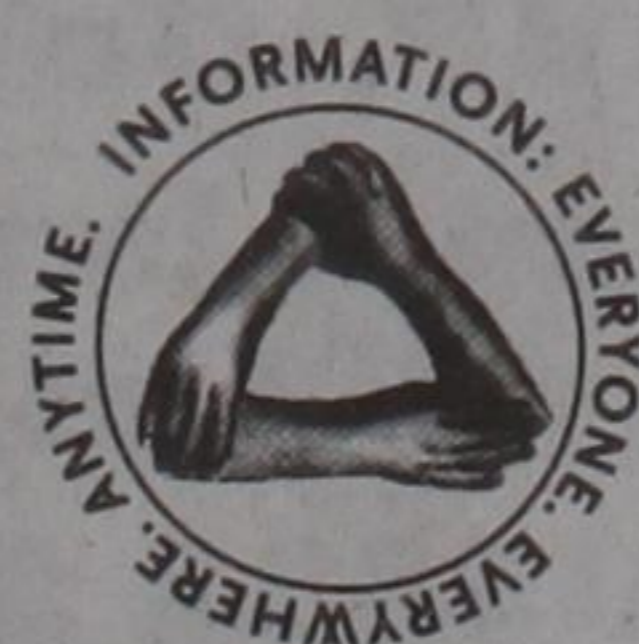
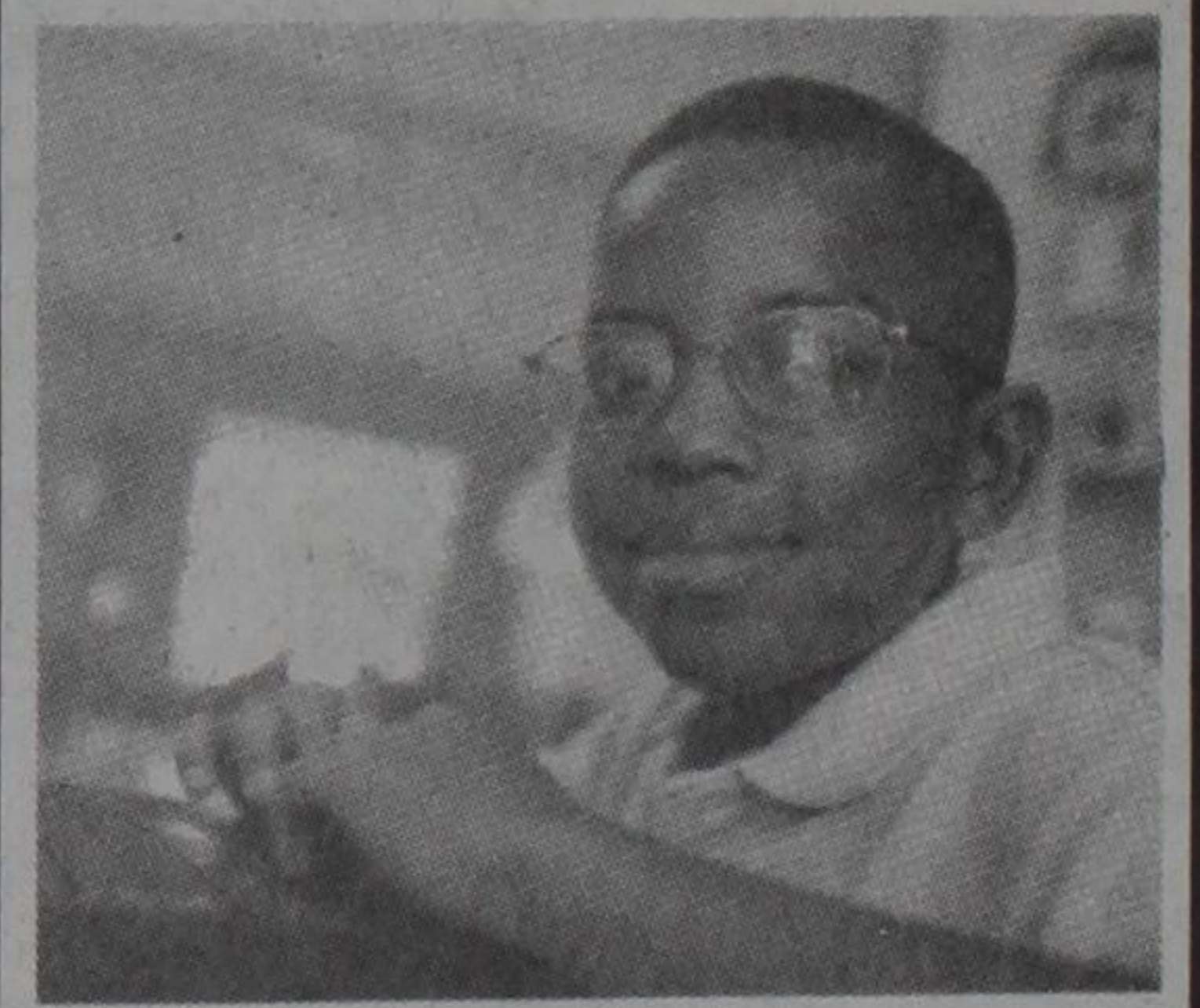
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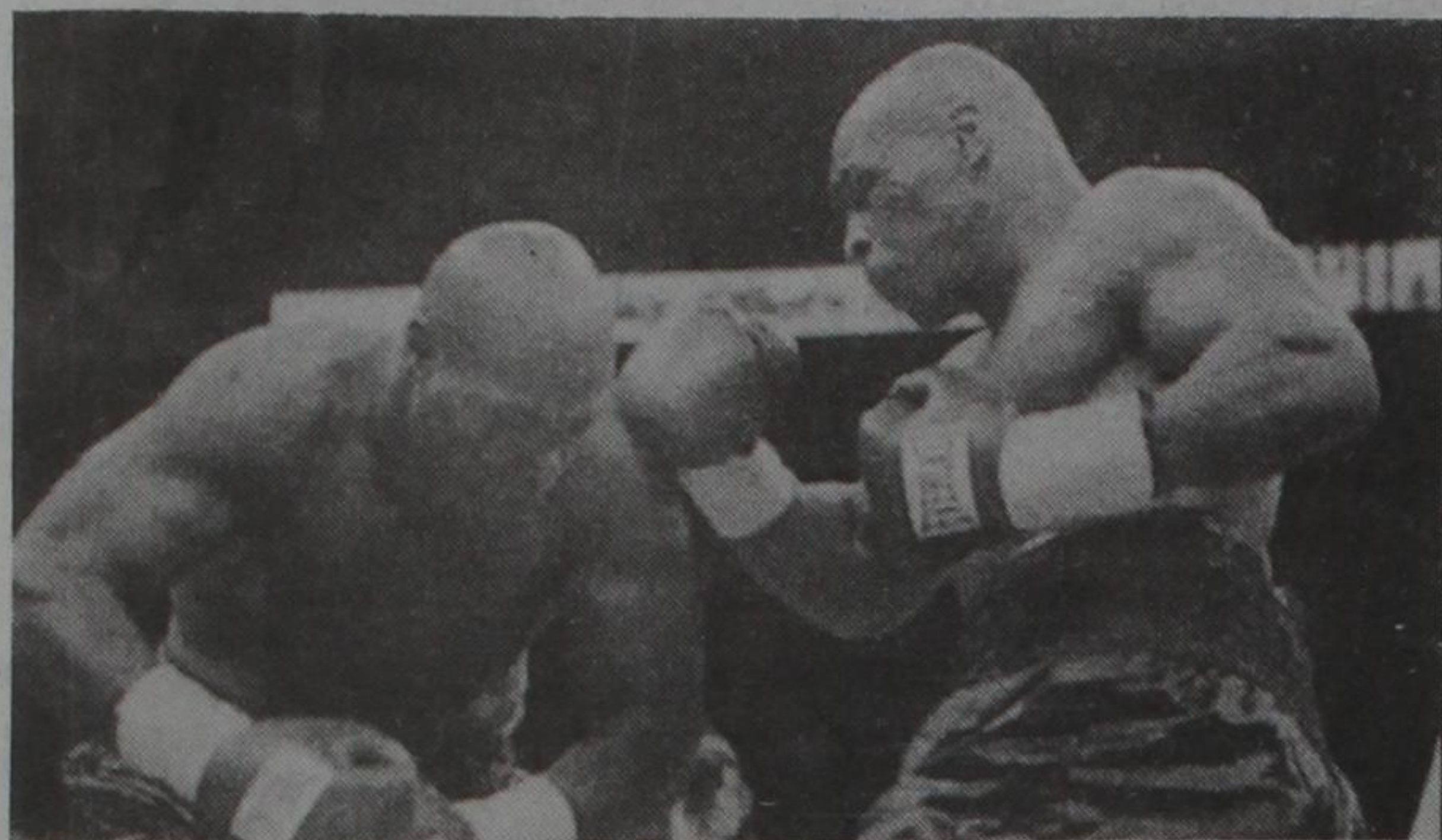
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Tyson: 49 seconds not a good prep for Lewis



der for his punching style. Etienne -- aka the Black Rhino -- had gone down seven times in one fight with soft-hitting Fres Oquendo two years ago. Tyson proved that the last thing to go in an aging heavyweight is his punch when his right hand flattened Etienne.

Etienne made the mistake of trying to punch with a puncher, and as soon as Tyson landed his right, he walked away knowing it was over.

"That's what rhinos do," Tyson said. "Rhinos don't dance."

The crowd of 15,171 at the Pyramid went wild over the sixth-fastest knockout of Tyson's career. But the former heavyweight champion was more realistic about what it all meant.

"People are excited to see me knock guys out because that's how I made my reputation," Tyson said. "But I need more rounds. After a fight like this, 49 seconds, I can't go in there against Lewis, a confident fighter who's accurate. I need to go back to the gym."

Whether that happens depends largely on Tyson's mood at any

On Mike Tyson's list of lessons learned from his 49-second destruction of Clifford Etienne, a few stand out:

First, rhinos don't dance, but they sure hit the canvas with a thud.

Second, one devastating right hand doesn't mean Tyson has any chance in a rematch with Lennox Lewis.

"I'm not going to lie to myself and lie to the public," Tyson said. "I need more fights. I'm not inter-

ested in getting beat up again."

Tyson rambled on as only Tyson can after Saturday night's fight, touching on everything from his bad back (broken, he says) to his desire to party (it's big) and, finally, to his future in the ring (more Clifford Etiennes).

But there was an element of truth in his comments that was largely missing from a weird week of pre-fight nonsense that nearly obscured the fact that Tyson was entering the ring with a fighter made to or-

given time. If he skipped training for a week just before the fight to get a tattoo and relax, who's to believe he has enough dedication left to get in top condition?

Mike Tyson helps Clifford Etienne off the canvas after putting him there Saturday night. "I like doing other things. I like getting high, hanging out with my kids. I like drinking," Tyson said. "I have so many demons."

Tyson's handlers had hoped for a spectacular knockout to set up a June 21 rematch with Lewis, who gave Tyson such a beating in the same ring eight months ago that many wrote him off as finished.

Lewis himself gave up an April fight with Vitali Klitschko to see whether Tyson would impress enough to sell the rematch.

But 49 seconds proved little, except that Tyson can still hit like a mule and Etienne can still fall down. And even though Tyson desperately wants -- and needs -- the money a Lewis rematch would bring, he said he needs another fight or two before risking it all against a fighter who simply may be too big and too good for him.

Tyson said after Lewis knocked him out that he could never beat the WBC heavyweight champion. He didn't sound much more confident after disposing of Etienne.

"I don't even know if I want to fight no more," Tyson said. "If I have to make Lennox Lewis my next fight, there's no way I can continue fighting. I don't want to fight Lewis right at this moment."

In his next breath, Tyson gave another reason why.

"I'm so messed up. I just need to get my life together."

Tyson claimed after the fight that doctors told him he had a broken back from a 1997 motorcycle accident. His doctor said the injury was uncomfortable but nothing serious enough to keep him from fighting.

It certainly wasn't enough to stop Tyson from throwing a right hand reminiscent of some of the punches he threw in his prime, when he was the most feared fighter on the planet.

Etienne, who was booed and harassed by some in the crowd as he left the ring, was clearly hit by a big punch. But his head was clear enough that he reached into his mouth to take out his mouthpiece, and he seemed to get up just as the referee finished his 10-count.

Afterward, he seemed more relieved than anything.

"This was the way I had to fight him," Etienne said. "How else could I fight him? I'm OK. He caught me with a good punch."

Etienne whispered in Tyson's ear that he should get his act together and become the heavyweight champion once again. Tyson was so touched he invited Etienne to come to Las Vegas and work with him.

It was the closest Etienne came to Tyson's much-talked about tattoo, which an expert solemnly described earlier in the week as indicative of a Maori tribal warrior design.

Tyson wasn't so sure. He just liked the way it looked.

Jones, Ruiz both gambling on title fight

Roy Jones Jr. will be taking the gamble of his career when he steps into the ring to try to win a piece of the heavyweight title. John Ruiz is taking a gamble of his own, and he's not even sure he'll get paid for it.

Ruiz wanted a big fight so badly he agreed to defend his WBA title against Jones Saturday night with the understanding he'll get paid only if the event sells well on pay-per-view television.

That partly explains why he's so peeved with Jones, who is guaranteed \$10 million but has been doing little to help promote the fight.

"Roy hasn't done his job," Ruiz said Wednesday. "I'm basically depending on pay-per-view buys. He has his guarantee, he can walk away with his money."

Whether Ruiz walks away with some of his own depends not only on how well he can sell himself as a legitimate heavyweight champion but also on how much Jones does to attract attention to the fight.

Jones hasn't done a lot since arriving in Las Vegas, blowing off a scheduled public workout and media session Tuesday and then arriving an hour later for the pre-fight press conference Wednesday.

That's why promoter Don King included an Adolf Hitler imitation and a dissertation on world affairs as part of a nearly three-hour sales job of his own in a fight that has largely been overshadowed by the Mike Tyson-Clifford Etienne fiasco.

"This is what makes a promoter -- you work with an empty chair," King said. "I'll call David Copperfield up here and tell him to wave that cape and make this guy appear."

Ticket sales have lagged for the fight, with one report that only 6,000 were sold for a 19,000-seat capacity arena. Ruiz will make about \$2.5 million if some 400,000 households buy the fight for \$49.95 on pay-per-view, a tall order considering Jones has never sold that many in his career and

Ruiz has never been in a pay-per-view fight.

"Getting Roy Jones to do this fight was the big win," said Mark Taffet, who heads HBO's pay-per-view division. "But I would always like a fighter to do more promotion."

Perhaps Jones was the smart one on Wednesday, as King droned on and on at Caesars Palace. After all, this was a fight Jones didn't really want in the first place and is now having to face up to the reality that he will have to fight.

"People constantly ask me why would I take this fight," Jones said. "They want to see me get hurt. They want to see me knocked out. They want to see me bleed."

Ruiz would like to see all three of those things, of course, as Jones tries to become only the second fighter other than Michael Spinks to win a piece of the heavyweight title while still light heavyweight champion.

Odds-makers like Jones' skills so much he's a 9-5 favorite despite giving away 35 to 40 pounds to Ruiz. Jones is expected to come into the ring at about 185 pounds to between 220 and 225 for Ruiz.

"I get to see the man who's going to try and beat me," Jones said. "That's why I'm here."

Spinks was outweighed by only 18 pounds -- 205 to 223 -- when he beat Holmes in September 1985 to win the heavyweight title in a huge upset. Before Spinks, 12 former or reigning light heavyweight champions tried to win the heavyweight title and all failed.

Jones is regarded by many as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world, but he's a relatively small fighter even by light heavyweight standards and his chance to win against Ruiz depends on his ability to outbox Ruiz while staying away from his power and his weight.

"He's a runner," Ruiz said. "He loves to run around the ring but I'll lean on him, throw the heavier punches. It will take its toll."

Premian a superases del pugilismo

El Consejo Mundial de Boxeo (CMB) entregó reconocimientos a ex monarcas del organismo, entre ellos Alexis Argüello y Julio César Chávez, en una ceremonia donde se celebró su aniversario número 40.

Al nicaragüense Argüello y al mexicano Chávez se le entregaron cinturones honorarios, así como a los ex campeones mundiales estadounidenses Evander Holyfield y Thomas Hearns, el australiano Jeff Fenech y el boricua Héctor "Macho" Camacho.

En la cena de gala del organismo, realizada la noche del lunes en un hotel de Ciudad México, Sulaimán también le otorgó un cinturón a la pugilista estadounidense Laila Ali.

"Para Laila, nuestra admiración y respeto, y desde ahora es campeona honoraria de peso welter del CMB", comentó Sulaimán al entregarle la faja a la hija del legendario Muhammad Ali.

"Es un honor esta distinción y agradezco al señor Sulaimán y al CMB, organismo de donde han surgido los verdaderos campeones", dijo por su parte Laila Ali.

En la ceremonia se hizo entrega del cinturón de campeón mundial welter al nicaragüense Ricardo Mayorga, quien apenas hace unas semanas se lo ganó a Vernon Forrest.

"Me siento gozoso de estar aquí presente en esta gran celebración y agradecido por la oportunidad que me dio el CMB de disputar un título mundial... no tengo con qué pagarles lo que han hecho por mí" expresó Mayorga.

Una larga lista de ex boxeadores, así como actuales campeones, managers y promotores, se reunieron en la cena de aniversario.

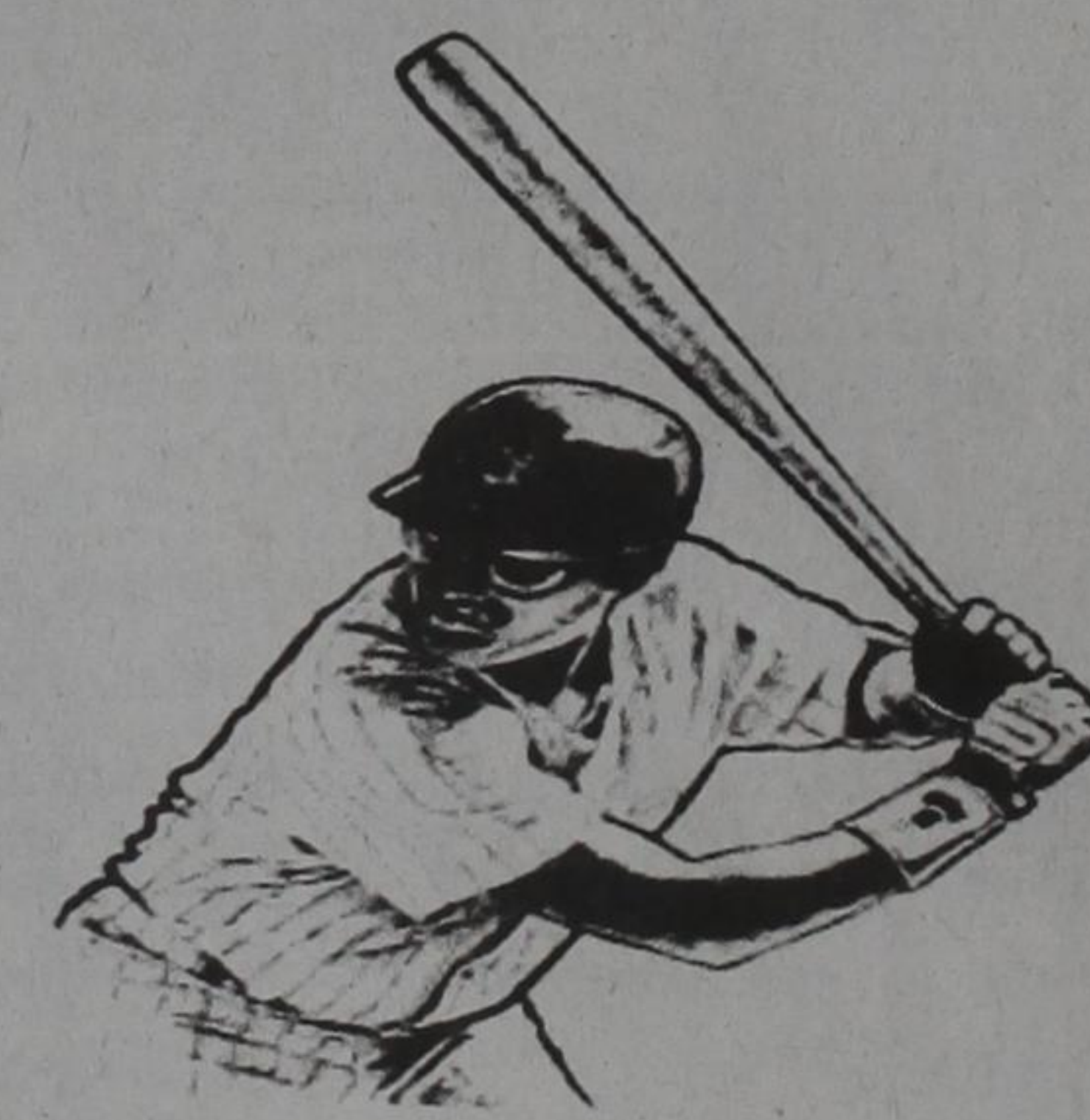
Al tomar la palabra el "Macho" Camacho le pidió a Sulaimán que interviniera para convencer a Chávez a fin de realizar un combate de revancha entre los dos.

"[Chávez] Es un hermano mío, pero en el ring es otra cosa", dijo Camacho sobre el legendario peleador mexicano.

"Más que un aniversario, ésta es una reunión de amigos", dijo Sulaimán en su intervención.

El Editor Newspapers

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En Caso de la Guerra

viene de la primera pagina

La actitud de los hispanos en contra de la guerra no sorprende a Jorge Mariscal, profesor de la Universidad de California en San Diego.

"Muchas familias de inmigrantes

Guerra Contra Irak

viene de la primera

En contraste, un 41 por ciento de los estadounidenses dijo que una guerra empeoraría el panorama económico, según reveló el sondeo de CBS/NY Times.

"Yo, la verdad, no sé a qué hispano le ha preguntado esta gente de las encuestas", declaró para La Raza Eduardo Mejia, que esperaba el autobús en la esquina de Clark y Touhy, un área fuertemente latina en el norte de la ciudad. "A mi no me han preguntado nunca. No conozco a nadie a quien le hayan

preguntado. Y tampoco conozco a ningún hispano que esté a favor de la guerra", completó el preguntado.

En el sur de la ciudad, la señora Rosa Flores, entrevistada en la 16 y Blue Island, coincidía con su colega del norte: "Yo no veo en qué podemos beneficiarnos con la guerra los mexicanos que vivimos en este país, pero sí veo que podemos perder mucho. No sólo nomás nuestras chambas, (como los güeros) sino también que van a seguir aprovechando para volvernos la vida difícil. Nosotros lo único que queremos es trabajar y hacer nuestra vida en paz. Para mí esas encuestas están hechas a pedido del cliente. Nunca le creo a las encuestas, pero no se han atrevido a decir que los hispanos estamos a favor de la guerra, porque todos saben que no estamos".

En sendas recorridas por barrios hispanos de Chicago, no se pudo recoger ni un sólo testimonio favorable a la guerra contra Irak. Un vecino de La Villita, Raúl Grajales dijo: "ponga que tampoco estamos con un dictador como ese Saddam, pero que la guerra no es el único camino"

piensan que si nos vamos a la guerra y la economía se inclina a favor de los gastos militares, muchos de los recursos que necesitan para mejorar la situación de su familia desaparecerán", indica.

Fernando Oaxaca, quien ha sido activista para el partido republicano por muchos años y escribe desde su cede en Los Angeles una columna electrónica de opinión muy popular, no está de acuerdo con la encuesta al decir que la misma no cataloga a los hispanos en grupos de origen nacional.

"La muestra es muy pequeña y no presenta ni la legalidad ni la antigüedad de la residencia de los encuestados, ni su estatus como votantes", dice Oaxaca, quien añade que no existe la manera de precisar si los encuestados son "residentes a largo plazo o si acaban de poner pie en la tierra".

Otros resultados de la encuesta muestran que:

-- Un 60 por ciento de los hispanos nacidos en el exterior apoya una extensión a las inspecciones de la ONU, en contraste con un 48 por ciento de los hispanos nacidos en EEUU; un 71 por ciento de los hispanos nacidos en el exterior está seriamente preocupado de que la guerra afecte negativamente la estabilidad económica de sus familias, en comparación con un 58 por ciento de los hispanos nacidos en EEUU;

-- un número mayor de latinos nacidos en el extranjero (60 por ciento) se preocupa más de quedar sin empleo de ocurrir una guerra que los latinos nacidos en EEUU (28 por ciento);

-- un 64 por ciento de los latinos nacidos en el extranjero teme que, de ocurrir una guerra, la nación se declare en estado de emergencia y las autoridades de inmigración y seguridad hostiguen a inmigrantes y a latinos.

-- Sólo 30 por ciento de los latinos nacidos en EEUU expresa gran preocupación por el hostigamiento.

Como muchos otros, los latinos en este país tienen dificultades para definir la palabra "patriotismo".

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Is 2003 Oscar's Year of the Latino?

Latino actors and filmmakers celebrated 10 Oscar nominations Tuesday, including best actress for Frida star Salma Hayek.

"It's the first time we (Latinos) have had this kind of presence in this kind of award," the Mexican-born Hayek says. "It's a big accomplishment for me, but to be able to share it with your friends that are also being acknowledged in their own right, it's the most fantastic feeling."

Frida also received nominations for art direction, costume design, makeup, score and original song for Burn It Blue.

Nominations also went to Mexico's El Crimen Del Padre Amaro for best foreign language film and to Y Tu Mama; Tambien's screenwriting brothers Carlos and Alfonso Cuarón.

Spain's Pedro Almodóvar received directing and screenwriting nominations for Talk to Her. "It feels like a love declaration from the filmmakers," Almodóvar says. "This is actually history: Spanish history." He is the first Spaniard nominated for a best-director Oscar.

"It's been a long time coming," actor and Latino activist Edward James Olmos says.

But will these nominees make history like winners Denzel Washington and Halle Berry (news) did last year? "We'll see what happens," Hayek says. "It's the first step, and it's extremely important."

More Oscar trivia:

* Meryl Streep is a record-breaker. Her nomination in the supporting-actress category for Adaptation -- the 13th of her career -- tops Katharine Hepburn's record of 12.

* Julianne Moore is up for best actress for Far From Heaven and supporting actress for The Hours; no one has won two acting Oscars in the same year.

* Jack Nicholson's 12th nomina-

tion, for About Schmidt, solidifies him as most nominated actor; Laurence Olivier had 10.

* Eminem's Lose Yourself, from the 8 Mile soundtrack, is the first rap song nominated for an Academy Award. He'll compete with other first-time Oscar nominees U2 (The Hands That Built America from Gangs of New York) and Paul Simon (Father and Daughter from The Wild Thornberrys Movie). Another rap tidbit: This year's only black acting nominee, Queen Latifah (Chicago), began as

a hip-hop star.

* Best-animated-film nominee Spirited Away is the first Japanese animation, or animación, film to receive an Oscar nod.

* Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers is the third sequel to be nominated. The Godfather Part II and The Godfather Part III were the others.

* Donald Kaufman, the imaginary brother of Adaptation screenwriter Charlie Kaufman, earned a nomination.

* Road to Perdition cinematographer Conrad Hall is the first post-

humous nominee since 1995. Hall died Jan. 4 of bladder cancer.

* John Williams' best-score nomination for Catch Me If You Can is his 42nd, one shy of the lifetime record by composer Alfred Newman.

* Last year's top-grossing movie, Spider-Man, earned nominations for sound and visual effects.* Because of a possible war with Iraq, Oscar organizers say they will double this year's security budget for the ceremony. If war does break out, the show will go on.

Hispanic Agenda

Holds Meeting

The organization Hispanic Agenda will be holding a meeting on Monday March 3, at Mahon Library which is located at 1306 Ninth Street in the Community Room on the first floor. The meeting will be begin on 5:30 p.m..

The agenda will consist of Capital Improvements Program, Community announcements which include: Cesar Chavez commemoration, HAW 20th Year Celebration. Please feel free to bring a friend.

Spring Break Computer Camp 2003

The Maggie Trejo Supercenter, 3200 Amherst Street, will be holding this year's computer camp during Spring break, March 17-21, 2003, from 7:45 am to 5:30 pm for students, Pre-K through 6th Grade. Registration will be at the Supercenter on Friday, Feb. 28, at 6 pm. The camp is limited to 50 participants. Ap-

plications from students living in the vicinity of the Maggie Trejo Supercenter and the Mae Simmons areas or attending schools in these areas will be accepted. Parents will be asked to provide sack lunches, plus \$2 per day for snacks.

For more information, please contact Theresa Slemmons or Olivia Solis, 767-2705.

LEGAL NOTICE

On February 6, 2003, VALOR Telecommunications of Texas, LP (VALOR) filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to establish surcharges to recover lost revenues and increased costs associated with seven hundred thirteen (713) Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS) routes implemented in and between VALOR's Texas telephone exchanges and in many instances, exchanges of other local telephone companies. The application is filed based on the Commission's Substantive Rule 26.221 titled, "Applications to Establish or Increase Expanded Local Calling Service Surcharges".

ELCS expands a local calling scope to include one or more additional telephone exchanges, if customers in a petitioning exchange approve by ballot, the payment of an ELCS fee in lieu of long distance charges. The costs and lost revenues associated with VALOR's surcharge application are those not recoverable through the ELCS fee.

In the application, VALOR proposes to implement on an interim basis a monthly per line surcharge of \$.99 for residential customers and \$1.98 for business customers beginning with the April, 2003 bill cycle. This proposed surcharge will apply in addition to any monthly ELCS fees. If rates at or above the level of the interim surcharges are not ultimately approved by the Commission, VALOR will refund all or part of the interim surcharges, as directed by the Commission. Ultimately, VALOR seeks approval of monthly surcharges of \$3.38 for business lines and \$1.69 for residential lines to replace the interim surcharges. Additionally, the application proposes that customers currently billed ELCS fees lower than \$3.50 per residential line and \$7 per business line, will have those fees raised to \$3.50 per residential line and \$7 per business line.

The net annual effect on the revenues of VALOR will be zero since the requested surcharge replaces lost revenues and reimburses VALOR for the increased cost of service associated with ELCS. The estimated total lost revenues and increased costs VALOR seeks to recover through this proceeding is \$7,601,145 annually.

If you have questions about the proposed surcharges or would like further information, please call VALOR at 1-877-520-5220. The Public Utility Commission has assigned Project No. 27363 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Public Utility Commission of Texas as soon as possible and no later than April 14, 2003, the intervention deadline. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, PO Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136.

AVISO

El 6 de febrero de 2003, VALOR Telecom de Texas, LP (VALOR) sometió una solicitud a La Comisión Pública de Servicios de Texas (Public Utility Commission of Texas) para establecer sobrecargos para recuperar las ganancias perdidas y los costos incrementados relacionados con setecientos trece (713) rutas implementadas del Servicio Expandido de Llamadas Locales (Expanded Local Calling Service) entre los despachos centrales de teléfono de VALOR de Texas y en muchas instancias, despachos de otras compañías locales de teléfono. La solicitud se sometió basada en la Regla 26.221 de La Comisión titulada, "Solicitudes para Establecer o Incrementar los Sobrecargos de Servicio Expandido de Llamadas Locales".

ELCS extiende el alcance de llamadas locales para incluir uno o más despachos de teléfono adicionales, si los clientes de un despacho hacen una petición de cambio que es aprobada por voto para pagar un cargo de ELCS en lugar de sobrecargos de larga distancia. Los costos y ganancias perdidas relacionadas con los sobrecargos de la solicitud de VALOR no son recuperables a través de la cuota del ELCS.

En la solicitud, VALOR propone implementar temporalmente un cargo mensual por línea de \$0.99 por cliente residencial y \$1.98 para clientes comerciales empezando con la facturación del ciclo de Abril, 2003. Este cargo propuesto se aplicará en adición a cualquier cargo mensual ELCS. Si las tarifas al o sobre el nivel de los sobrecargos temporarios no son ultimadamente aprobados por la Comisión, VALOR reembolsará todo o parte de los sobrecargos temporales, indicados por La Comisión. Ultimadamente, VALOR busca aprobación de sobrecargos mensuales de \$3.38 por líneas comerciales y \$1.69 por líneas residenciales para reemplazar los sobrecargos temporarios. Adicionalmente, la solicitud propone que los clientes que actualmente son facturados con tarifas ELCS más bajas de \$3.50 por línea residencial y \$7.00 por línea comercial, tendrán un incremento de tarifas a \$3.50 por línea residencial y \$7.00 por línea comercial.

El efecto anual en las ganancias de VALOR serán cero siendo que los sobrecargos solicitados reemplazan las ganancias perdidas y reembolsa a VALOR por incremento en el costo del servicio relacionado con ELCS. El costo estimado total de las ganancias perdidas y el incremento de costos que VALOR tiene como fin recuperar a través de este procedimiento es \$7,601,145 anualmente.

Si usted tiene alguna pregunta acerca de los sobrecargos propuestos o si necesita más información, por favor llame a VALOR al 1-877-520-5220.

La Comisión de Servicios Públicos ha asignado el Proyecto No. 27363 a este procedimiento. Las personas que deseen intervenir o comentar en o sobre estos procedimientos deben notificar La Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas tan pronto como sea posible y no más tarde del día 14 de Abril 2003, fecha límite de la intervención. Para intervenir o para más información, escriba a La Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas (Public Utility Commission of Texas), 1701 N. Congress Avenue, PO Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. También puede solicitar más información llamando a La Comisión de Servicios Públicos al (512) 936-7120 o al (888) 782-8477. Personas con impedimentos de hablar o del sentido de oír con teléfonos de textos (TTY) pueden comunicarse con La Comisión al (512) 936-7136.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED INCREASE IN SERVICE CHARGES

On December 6, 2002 Atmos Energy filed a Statement of Intent to change its service charges with the Railroad Commission of Texas and each incorporated city listed below. The proposed changes will take effect no sooner than 35 days after filing.

The proposed increase will not effect the Company's other gas rate schedules. The change will apply to Residential, Commercial, Small Industrial, and Public Authority customers. The Company proposes the following increased service charges:

	During Business Hours	After Hours
Turn on new service with meter set	\$32.00	\$48.00
Turn on service (shut-in test required)	\$23.50	\$35.25
Turn on service (meter read only required)	\$15.00	\$22.50
Reconnect delinquent service or service temporarily off at customer's request	\$37.50	\$56.25
Miscellaneous service calls	\$11.25	\$16.88

The proposed service charge changes are expected to increase the Company's annual revenues by approximately .4% and therefore do not constitute a "major change." The proposed changes could affect approximately 215,000 gas customers in the following communities and surrounding rural areas:

Abernathy	Lamesa	Quitague
Amherst	Levelland	Ralls
Anton	Littlefield	Ransom Canyon
Big Spring	Lockney	Ropesville
Bovina	Lorenzo	Seagraves
Brownfield	Los Ybanez	Seminole
Buffalo Springs Lake	Lubbock	Shallowater
Canyon	Meadow	Silverton
Coahoma	Midland	Slaton
Crosbyton	Muleshoe	Smyer
Dimmitt	Nazareth	Springlake
Earth	New Deal	Stanton
Edmonson	New Home	Sudan
Floydada	Odessa	Tahoka
Forsan	O'Donnell	Timbercreek Canyon
Frlona	Olton	Tulla
Hale Center	Opdyke West	Turkey
Happy	Pallsades	Vega
Hart	Pampa	Wellman
Hereford	Panhandle	Wilson
Idalou	Petersburg	Wolfforth
Kress	Plainview	
Lake Tanglewood	Post	

*unincorporated - Southland, Welch, Whitharrall

Copies of the filing are available at the Atmos Energy Office at 5110 80th, Lubbock, TX 79424 or a local Atmos Energy Office nearest to you. Affected persons whose gas rates are subject to the original jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission may file in writing comments or a protest concerning the proposed changes with the Docket Services Section of the Legal Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, at any time within 30 days following the date on which the change would or has become effective.

ATMOSenergy

About Iraq War

viene de la primera pagina

-- 71 percent of Hispanics born abroad are greatly concerned that a war will negatively impact their family's economic stability, while 58 percent of U.S.-born Hispanics express the same concern.

-- Foreign-born Latinos (60 percent) are more worried than those born in the U.S. (28 percent) that they may become unemployed if there is a war.

-- 64 percent of foreign-born Hispanics fear that if there is a war and the United States goes go on high alert, immigration and law enforcement authorities will harass immigrants and Latinos. Only 30 percent of native-born Hispanics express a great deal of concern about such harassment.

Like so many others, the nation's Latinos are finding "patriotism" a difficult word to define.

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Rose Mediano • 766-1134 • rmediano@lubbock.k12.tx.us • www.lubbock.k12.tx.us

