

San Diego
to San Diego
This will not be
listed on Council docket

John Lockwood
ml

4775 55th St.,
San Diego, Calif. 92115
24 April, 1970

RECEIVED
CIVIL RIGHTS OFFICE
1970 APR 27 AM 10:51
SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

Mayor Frank Curran and The City Council
Community Concourse,
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Mayor and City Council:

I note with exceeding displeasure that a group of "Chicano" artists have requested that the Ford Building in Balboa Park be made available for their exclusive use as a center for Mexican culture. I sincerely trust that no such move is contemplated and that they will be required to vacate the quarters they are now occupying.

I am certain that you are aware that the "Mexican Culture" in San Diego is a rather small portion of the total culture of this city. That there are areas in Balboa Park where cultural exhibits are provided on a NON-permanent basis.

It is unfortunate, but a great many of these people do not consider themselves to be American citizens even they enjoy such legal status and the benefits thereof. Just as was expressed by a group of them, who invaded a seminar at the intersession at San Diego State College last June, they are interested in removing the border between this area and Mexico. They want the benefits of America but do not want to be part of it. They want their Mexican-Spanish language, their customs, and everyone to defer to them.

To allow this is to create another Quebec, Canada. Am certain that you are aware of the dissension that exists there. The dual language, the dual allegiance that is felt by dissident groups, and the problems that these things bring. There has been and continues to be much strife that has been fanned by visitors from foreign countries. We do NOT need these weakening conditions. We need AMERICANS who carry on the AMERICAN CULTURE, the cultures of the world as MODIFIED to be the truly AMERICAN CULTURE. We do not need it diluted or diminished by those who really feel no loyalty to the United States, who pose and threaten in the attempt to establish their own little foreign nation within these United States.

It is strongly suggested that NO concessions be made to ANY group for ANY permanent foreign cultural exhibit. We must not allow any divisive elements to inject their culture or foreign language into any area of the United States. It can lead only to chaos. Remember Quebec!!!

Sincerely,

Walter W. Whitehouse
Walter W. Whitehouse