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From: Mrs. Horiszny

January 4, 1972

(For further information, call Ricardo Parra 219-283-3424.)

For Immediate Release

The first conference of the Mid-West Council of La Raza will be held January 22 and 23 at the Muskegon Community College in Muskegon, Mich. The Mid-West Council formed to improve the conditions of over 1 million Mexican and Spanish-Americans in the Mid-West, will sponsor the "Mi Raza Primero Conference" to focus on political education.

La Raza leaders addressing the conference will be Bert Corona, one of the founders of Mexican American Political Association (MAPA) in California, Jose Angel Gutierrez, president of the Crystal City School Board and Founder of La Raza Unida Political Party in Texas, Salvador Ramirez, director of Mexican American Studies at the University of Colorado, and Manny Fierro, a candidate for governor in Kansas and director of the Human Needs Corporation. Also meeting at the conference will be the Student Caucus of La Raza chaired by Gil Cardenas, a co-author of the text "Los Mojados" (The Wetback Story).

Workshops at the conference will include "The Mid-West and the National Spanish Speaking Coalition," "The Mid-West and Political Strategies," and "The Mid-West and Communications."

Ricardo Parra, executive director of the Mid-West Council, said the conference would be concerned about the self-identity and pride of the Spanish speaking Americans and efforts to gain equal rights. "I believe the millions of Americans who trace their origin from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba and South America have been left behind in national efforts to eradicate poverty, provide justice and eliminate racial prejudice in American life." While Spanish speaking Americans comprise 7 per cent of the national population they are 27 per cent of America's poor, he said.

P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station
New York, N.Y. 10003

January 12, 1972

TO ALL ORGANIZERS, NC MEMBERS AND RAZA WORK DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

On Saturday and Sunday, January 22 and 23, a Midwest Chicano conference will be held in Muskegon, Michigan. The conference is being sponsored by the Mid-West Council of La Raza, funded by the Ford Foundation. It will be attended by a number of prominent Chicanos and probably several hundred activists.

The workshops will deal with political strategy for the Chicano movement and discussion will probably focus on the National Spanish-Speaking Coalition and La Raza Unida Party. For that reason, we want to have a well-organized intervention at this conference. The axis of our participation will be: 1) support to independent Chicano political action in '72; 2) a propaganda intervention with SWP campaign material, Pathfinder literature and The Militant and ISR; 3) support to CoDEL and the USLA Justice Committee efforts.

As many Raza comrades as possible from the Midwest area should try to attend this conference. If possible, Raza comrades from other areas should also attend, although we are not calling for a national mobilization given the distance and expense involved. We urge that Raza comrades be sent from the following cities: Houston, Austin, Denver, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Chicago, Detroit and New York. In addition, regional centers included above should make an effort to have Raza members of the YSA at-large attend. Raza independents who are close to us should also be encouraged to go since this will be a good opportunity for us to discuss with them and bring them closer to us.

The conference will be held at Muskegon Community College and will begin at 8:30 AM Saturday, January 22. Housing arrangements are now being worked out and areas from which comrades will be going will be informed of them ahead of time. Free housing will most likely be available and everyone should bring sleeping bags if possible, as well as warm clothing since it is likely to be very cold.

In order to best coordinate this intervention, organizers from those areas that plan to have comrades attend should contact the YSA national office (212-989-7570) as soon as possible to inform us of who is going. Since most comrades will be passing through either Detroit or Chicago and may want to contact the headquarters, the numbers are: Chicago (312-641-0147) and Detroit (313-831-6135).

Enclosed is a copy of the press release containing all other pertinent information on the conference.

Comradely,



Mirta Vidal
YSA Chicano Liberation Work Director



Lew Jones
SWP National Office