

La Justicia Mayorista (English Translation)

San Fe MAYO Newsletter

Majority justice La Justicia Mayorista Translation March 1969

(I wrote most of the copy for the Del Rio MAYO newsletter. We published three or four of these. I only have one original copy. We would create the copy in Del Rio and then drive up to San Antonio and work in the Mexican American Unity Council offices on Guadalupe on the second floor of the building that had a blue tile wall on the corner at the Bernal Drug Store, across the street from the Guadalupe Theater. Chema Saenz was the person who helped us type the mimeograph masters and would run the copies with our hands stained from the black ink. We would take the copies back to distribute in Del Rio. The San Antonio publishers of El Deguello would freely take from our writings and also help disseminate our information through their published newsletters.

First time I wrote extensively in Spanish. We published three editions of the newsletter. This one was also the source of much of the content of the Deguello Newsletter published at the same time, set up and printed at the same office.)

The 30th of January (1969) was a historic day in Del Rio because a group of young people had the first public demonstration for the Mexican American and against the injustices that have been done against our people.

The occasion was when the case of Mr. Natividad Fuentes (From Uvalde) was brought to the federal court. Our Uvalde brothers I have had many experiences similar to these with the police and now they appeal to the court although they don't seem to get the support they need. We in Del Rio share a brotherhood with all Chicanos from other towns and if they need our support to protest injustices we are ready to help. Saturday the 1st of February there were other demonstrations in Del Rio streets. The two demonstrations were legal peaceful and orderly. But it seems that the city doesn't like us to have these rights given to us and guaranteed by the constitution and God. On the 11th of February they passed a city ordinance that prohibits any kind of demonstration in any place public place without having the permission of the chief of police with 10 days notice. The Supreme Court recently declared that this is a right for which there should not be any impediments. It's clear that here in Del Rio they don't want us to have public demonstrations that express ideas contrary to those of some of our leaders. And all of you that are not in agreement with the young people cannot deny that it's unjust to pass laws just to silence those that think differently to us.

We didn't know about this new rule on Thursday the 13th of March when governor Smith sent his infamous telegram stopping the Vista programs in Del Rio. The first ain't stinks that night was to go to plus a brown and take a walk at the same time showing our indignation peacefully. Suddenly several police cars were there and the chief of police got down and lay read to us the complete NYU law. Those of us that were there did not understand what harm we were doing. Because the Plaza is a public place and it has very nice tables and benches we didn't know it was a crime. When chief kug told us that he could take us to jail we went home because we had no protection and there were some children in the group.

But things were not going to stop there. The next day Friday many people proposed to have a meeting at the GI forum. That night there was a very united Wake for the death of justice.

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by 5:30 in the afternoon there were at least 500 people reunited gathered in the lions park next to the hammer bridge. This was going to be a burial a funeral and there were many who were going to accompany the dead justice in morning clothes. There were more people in cars than on foot. The majority of the mourners were adults because the wake the evening before it had been at the GI forum. Most of them have been adults the night before. Because the young people did not have cars and it is tradition among Mexicans to follow the hearse on foot and because these young people were the ones that most felt mourned the death of justice they were standing behind the hearse and in front of the rest of the people that were going to follow in cars.

By this time there were also 13 police cars municipal police cars county deputies sheriff's and the very valiant highway patrolman state highway patrolman. they even say that some other deer TTexas RRangers or llinchhes were there. They also say that in another part of town there was a group of were there. there was a group of police there was a group of policemen there was a group there was a group of policemen with guns.

The anger of the people especially those that saw some of our own people mistreat the young people uh that they went as soon as possible to jail these dangerous criminals.

People went to the police headquarters. The police were confused and it seemed that they didn't know what to accuse the 32 heroes of. Those that were outside shouted justice and sang the coloris. Inside you could see the young people in good spirits. Oh they were surrounded by officials and policemen they also had good lawyers that were on top of the case. Doctor colleran was ready to put to pay the money necessary to save the young people. Outside people continued to try to encourage the young people that were inside and also letting the police know that they were what they felt about the injustices that just had just been committed. Finally a few police came outside said that if they wouldn't keep quiet they were going to run them away one of them said we're trying to conduct business inside the police headquarters. A lady with a really good heart answered that she didn't know that that place was for business but but rather for justice.

Then to avoid other problems people went to the GI forum to wait the young people the young heroes to be released. It was 8-9 o'clock and finally at 10 uh the young people arrived. Some had been sprayed with Mace and it was said that it was an accident. As they arrived they were received with applause hugs and tears. Everybody had had a different experience with justice and freedom in Texas. The next day on Sunday 16th of March there was a meeting at the same place to see what was going to be done. There were many people in the meeting and everybody was in high spirits. There were dignitaries from other towns like the commissioner from San Antonio Alberto Pena very different to some of the commissioners we have here in Del Rio. When commissioner Pena said he would he would support the actions of the vistas and of Mayo end of the people that had the courage to show such opposition to the actions of the county balvar commissioners in early and the decision of governor Smith he also said he was going to invite everybody across the nation to come to Del Rio to protest the injustices made against our people on the 30th of March. It was agreed with everybody present the majority who were

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from Del Rio. Many people spoke to give their support. The young people who had been arrested were presented and they were given a great applause. He was an emotional meeting and it was the beginning to see a truly united people in Del Rio. Some of the young people spoke of their convictions and their dedication to the chicano cause. Some said that the young people were ready even to die for justice and for the betterment of our people because but they needed the support of the adults. It is not it's not of any use to shout Viva La Raza if at the at the critical time one was alone. Drink

During the next week the word was spread all across and ovation for what's happening in Del Rio one more occasion of injustice against our people. Reporters from everywhere arrived in Del Rio. By Thursday which was gonna be the first court day there were cameras everywhere. Five lawyers came to defend the young people because they understood how many times it was difficult to find justice in our courts. And even though it was clear that the municipal law passed was unconstitutional a it was also seen that this law was passed so that there wouldn't be any public demonstrations like this one. Finally the young people were freed because of a technical point. But the law can easily stay in place and it still hasn't been tested. One local newspaper twisted the court decision in favor of the city saying that this showed justice still existed in Del Rio. But if there hadn't been those lawyers that were so capable and prepared something else would have happened. And it was because of the same justice that they were arrested that they arrested this the young people? Is it because there is so much justice that we have such divisions hate and demonstrations? The newspapers are accusing those who are demanding justice of destroying the democratic system. There's still much to be done before we can see a democratic justice here a democratic system here. Just last year for feet finally the voice of our people was heard in the local elections. And just barely are we hearing people's voice in the barrios. This is the first time that we've seen so many people come together in public meetings of all kinds. No brothers the injustices continue and while they continue there will not be a true democracy. The voice of the people starts to shout but for generations has been said among ourselves that the laws are made for the poor and not for the rich.

Our brothers in Laredo had a demonstration in sympathy with our situation on last Saturday because they knew that the governor was going to stop there in a conference one of those where people just give each other a welcome an congratulate each others. We were invited those of us that could go from Del Rio and 18 of us went. The the March went well because there were only local police and the they were in sympathy with our people and Laredo doesn't have laws in against demonstration peaceful demonstrations. It didn't happen like the newspapers said that the police had to form a human Cora cordon to protect the governor. What did happen was the governor didn't want to hear a committee talk about the problem of the vistas in Del Rio. What does in the rate of fear is that those little politicians in other places who don't like a program like Vista or any other federal program are gonna go to governor Smith to stop the program. Remember that many politicians are losing their power with these programs because people are waking up. In Laredo the group in gathered at the Plaza Jarvis and they they all said they would come to Del Rio to the procession on Palm Sunday to be with us.

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The problems in Del Rio are actually the problems of our people. If we feel brothers then we will then the hurt the damage they do to one of us anywhere be felt by the rest. That's how young people are with her felt at when they came bit income to cause problems they came because they wanted to give support and strength. It's not what the mayor says if there are not enough troublemakers in Del Rio but I a few there are a few that are afraid they want to bring others who aren't afraid.

That's why we're asking all of you brothers of our of our people who have felt and are still feeling the injustices come to be with us on Palm Sunday at 10 in the morning at the Civic Center to declare that it is time. It's enough of excuses to tell our community the county and the state and the whole nation that we have no more cheeks we want to expose to be slept. We have we will have people from across the country officials representatives religious people young people all people rich but especially the poor. Come too experience with us a day of unity and strength without fear. This is something of the United people the new people.