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# National Association of Chicano Social Scientists Newsletter, vol. 1, no. 2, Winter 1973

National Association of Chicano Social Scientists

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### APPENDIX III

#### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHICANO SOCIAL SCIENTISTS NEWSLETTER, Vol. I, No. 2 (Winter 1973)

NOTICE: At the meeting of November 17, 1973, at University of California, Irvine the members of the steering Committee present, unanimously voted to change the name of the organization from "National Caucus of Chicano Social Scientists" to "National Association of Chicano Social Scientists" (NACSS).

The following five (5) members of the Steering Committee were present:

1. Carlos Muñoz, (Acting Chairman and Treasurer)  
University of California, Irvine
2. Mario Barrera, University of California, San Diego
3. Tomás Almaguer, University of California, Berkeley
4. Geralda Vialpando, University of California, San Diego
5. Ray Burrola, Colorado State University

Other members present were:

1. Fernando Vasquez, University of California, Berkeley
2. Gil Gonzalez, University of California, Irvine
3. Dan Moreno, University of California, Irvine
4. Victor Baez, Colorado State University

This second issue of the Newsletter is authored by Victor Baez and Ray Burrola and printed through the Office of Chicano Studies at Colorado State University. The Newsletter is mainly devoted to a report of the Steering Committee meeting at U.C., Irvine, on November 17, 1973. The agenda for this meeting was:

1. The foco idea
2. Formalization of structure
3. Location, date, and structure of next meeting.

## FOCO IDEA

One of the major topics of discussion was the foco idea. There was a reaffirmation of the fact that the organization should be structured around the focos. In fact, it was made clear that the organization as conceived in the Las Vegas meeting cannot exist apart from the focos. Unfortunately, it became clear also that most focos are not working. On the other hand, it was mentioned that there are many people now working on various projects which are in fact identical to the foco concept.

As a result of this discussion, there was some further elaboration of the foco concept. There was some consensus that membership in the organization was through the focos. The foco, in turn, is a local group that is engaged in research (analysis) and action around some aspect touching of the life of the Chicano community. These focos then make up the National Association of Chicano Social Scientists.

This idea has obvious implications for the structure of the organization and the kind of general conference being planned. It also suggests that the biggest task for the organization is the stimulation of foco activity. It was agreed therefore that the next general meeting be planned with this in mind and that its purpose be to stimulate foco activity. This could be done by presentations of the activities of the focos underway at that time and also by the presentation of ideas that could stimulate other participants to initiate foco activities.

## ORGANIZATION

Discussion concerning the formalization of the organization's structure was centered around the idea of incorporation. Fernando Vasquez, the representative of the Chicano Planning Council, is willing to provide the legal leg work for incorporation. It was decided, however, not to incorporate until more input is received from the membership. If there is any need for a legally incorporated body, the Chicano Planning Council is willing to serve as the medium for the Association.

## NEXT MEETING

It was decided that the meeting in early December, as proposed in Las Vegas, would have to be cancelled. The main reason was that the Steering Committee felt that it was premature since there was little planning and coordination of the meeting place, date, and structure. It was agreed that the Steering Committee would meet again on February 2, 1974, at the University of California, Berkeley with Tomas Almaguer as host. If there is anyone interested, or are in the area, they are welcomed to attend. Additional information can be acquired by

contacting Tomás Almaguer in the Department of Sociology at UC, Berkeley. The membership meeting was tentatively set for May 3 and 4 or April 19 and 20. Please let Carlos Muñoz know your preference as early as possible.

After some discussion, several places were mentioned as possibilities; there were: (1) University of California at Los Angeles, (2) University of Texas at El Paso, (3) Santa Barbara/Casa de la Raza, (4) University of Arizona. UCLA was mentioned since it was centrally located in California and has good facilities available. Also, it would be easy for out-of-state representatives to fly directly to Los Angeles and then a very short drive to UCLA campus. Rodolfo de la Garza, offered the services of the Cross-Cultural Southwest Ethnic Study Center at UTEP for the December meeting. In view of the facts that the meeting was postponed and that there was some question about the nature of the offer made by the Cross-Cultural Southwest Ethnic Study Center, it was decided that further clarification was necessary.

La Casa de la Raza was introduced as a possibility since it did have facilities, and possible financial assistance. The University of Arizona was a possibility since it is centrally located in the Southwest and it might stimulate possible interest in the association outside of California. The final selection of the site will be made by the Steering Committee in February. The points that will be considered on the site will be:

1. financial assistance for key members
2. facilities available
3. central location

There was a lot of discussion concerning the structure of the forthcoming conference. It was decided that following the decision made in Las Vegas, the conference should reflect the nature of the association which calls for social science research and action. This research should be more problem-oriented than traditional social science research and should be interdisciplinary in nature and should break down the existing barriers between research and action. It should also be highly critical and should study the Chicano Community within the context of dominant institutional relationships.

A number of concrete suggestions were made. First of all, the workshops should be organized around foco activities that promote ongoing analysis and action. It was also suggested that workshops could be based around research presently being done, e.g. (1) economic factors involving integration of the Southwest into the U.S., (2) the examination of occupational structures and changes in the Chicano workforce, (3) political scientists and historians could design a workshop on ideology, and (4) some workshops could be organized by individuals to summarize or to report on their recent research activities

that tie together research and action. Such as the current work done by Ernesto Galaraza in Alviso and Union City.

REPORT

Carlos Muñoz reported that the Association had a total of \$125.00 left out of \$350.00 in the Banco. The monies came from honorariums given separately to Carlos Muñoz (UC, Irvine), Carina Ramirez (UTEP), Mario Barrera (UC, San Diego), and Ray Burrola (CSU) for their part in the written evaluation of New Mexico Highlands University's (Las Vegas) Chicano Studies Program. Once Carlos Muñoz received the monies he paid an outstanding bill of \$225.00 the Association incurred at the Las Vegas Conference.