

Rights Commission Will Air Mexican-American Bias

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The U.S. Civil Rights Commission will hold a week-long hearing in San Antonio, Tex., next month for its first look at the Problems of discrimination against Mexican-Americans.

Some Mexican-American leaders have accused the Commission of practicing its own brand of "discrimination" by ignoring the problems of Spanish-speaking Americans—the second largest minority in the United States—while concentrating on discrimination against Negroes.

Walked Out on Hearing

In San Francisco last year, Mexican-Americans walked out on a Commission hearing, protesting there never has been a Commissioner to represent them nor a study of their problems.

Just last week President Johnson named the first Mexican-American to the six-man Commission. He is Dr. Hector P. Garcia, a physician from Corpus Christi, Tex., who was nominated on a recess appointment.

In announcing the hearings Dec. 9-14, Howard A. Glick-

stein, Acting Staff Director of the Commission, said:

"We hope that the information gathered at the San Antonio hearing will enlighten the Nation as to the history, language, and culture of the Mexican-American people. We will explore allegations of individual and institutional discrimination which may have prevented Mexican-Americans from fully participating in American society.

To Check on Schools

One thing that the Commission is particularly interested in is whether public schools impose sanctions for the use of Spanish and ignore Mexican history and culture in the school curricula. The hearings

also will study the effect of "ethnic isolation" on Mexican-American children.

In the area of economic security, the Commission will take testimony on the controversial issue of "commuter" workers from Mexico. It will also look into the question of whether Mexican-Americans are fairly represented on juries and in law-enforcement agencies.

Also coming under scrutiny will be the adequacy of Federally-financed poverty and job-training programs for Mexican-Americans in the Southwest.

Glickstein said Federal, state, and local government officials will be among those subpoenaed to testify at the week-long hearings.