

LABOR

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A Tale of Two Texans

LABOR is proud to honor two Texans, Lyndon B. Johnson—the new senator from Texas—and Felix Longoria, an American with Mexican ancestors.

Longoria died fighting for his country in the Philippines. When his body was brought back to the United States, the only undertaker in his home town, Three Rivers, Texas, refused to accept it for burial.

"White people object to the use of my funeral home by people of Mexican origin," the undertaker said.

When Senator Johnson heard of this, he expressed regret that "the prejudice of some individuals extends even beyond this life," and sent this message to a friend of Longoria's family:

"I have made arrangements to have Felix Longoria reburied with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery here at Washington, where dead of our nation's wars rest.

"Or, if his family prefers, he can be reburied at Fort Sam Houston National Military Cemetery at San Antonio. There will be no cost."

Longoria's widow wired Senator Johnson: "Humbly grateful for your kindness in my hour of suffering and humiliation. Gladly accept your offer for reburial of my husband at Arlington."

Preview Given on Inquiry Into Soldier Burial Fuss

By WICK FOWLER

Austin Bureau of The News

AUSTIN, Texas, Feb. 18.—A heated preview of the coming investigation of the Three Rivers soldier burial fuss was dished up Friday.

Rep. J. F. Gray of Three Rivers, author of a bill to abolish the Texas Good Neighbor Commission and also of a resolution to investigate charges of discrimination in reburial plans for a Latin-American soldier, exchanged sharp remarks with Commission Chairman R. E. Smith of Houston at a press conference.

Gray said he believed conditions were worse since the commission was established several years ago. Smith said they were improved. Newsmen had a difficult time following the rapid-fire exchanges between Gray and Smith and Gray and Thomas S. Sutherland, executive secretary of the body.

"Great improvement has been made," Smith said.

"That isn't reflected in the armload of letters I have received," Gray retorted.

"Findings (by the legislative in-

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vestigators) will show that the commission should not be in existence or should be expanded," Smith said. "I'm awfully glad you're doing it, although I think it will harm the state."

Gray wanted to know Sutherland's source for inclusion in his report on the Three Rivers incident a statement that conversations on a diplomatic level involving labor contracts had been stopped.

Sutherland said he was not at liberty to divulge his source.

"Is there any authority in a democracy that these things should be kept secret?" Gray challenged. "I'm asking why you put it out."

Gray cited a news report from Mexico City which he said denied the labor conferences had been broken off.

Then the exchange lingered on the technical question of whether "stopped" and "broken off" have the same meaning.

"I think we've got no right to comment on diplomatic conversations," Smith interjected. He told Sutherland that this part of his report should not have been given to the newspapers.

Gray added that in the face of contradictory reports by a Mexican official "one is incorrect."

Sutherland said he had confidence in his source for the report. He had charged last week that dis-

crimination was involved in the Three Rivers case. The Three Rivers undertaker and Gray denied this.

Smith told reporters and Gray that the commission's records will always be open for inspection. Then he said to Gray:

"If you find any misrepresentation by this commission I'll leave it."

Gray said he was not questioning the integrity of anyone on the commission.

At the end of the fast-moving press conference the principals shook hands.

The House adopted Gray's resolution for the investigation into the Three Rivers incident Thursday with a \$1,000 appropriation for expenses. Speaker Durwood Manford has not named the five members of the investigating committee.

Felix Longoria, the soldier involved, was buried at Arlington National Cemetery Wednesday with full military honors, after attempts by the good neighbor commission and Three Rivers officials to have the reburial at the South Texas town were voted down by the dead man's wife.

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Doctor Accuses Funeral Home Head In Longoria Burial Controversy

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

THREE RIVERS, March 11.—A House committee completed two full days of testimony here Friday in its probe into the controversy over the reburial of Pvt. Felix Longoria.

Several more witnesses remain to be called and committee members predicted the investigation here will continue into Saturday at least. Rep. Cecil Storey of Longview, chairman of the group, said another

meeting of the committee might be held later in Austin.

Dr. Hector P. Garcia, Corpus Christi physician, spent the entire morning in the witness chair. He identified himself as president of the American G.I. Forum in Corpus Christi, which voiced a protest in the reburial controversy.

Dr. Garcia said he telephoned T. W. Kennedy, Jr., Three Rivers funeral home director, the night of Jan. 10 at the request

of Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, the Latin-American soldier's widow. Longoria's body was being shipped home from Luzon where he died in action.

"Mr. Kennedy absolutely refused to conduct the funeral in the funeral home," Dr. Garcia said.

Garcia said the American G.I. Forum, an independent veterans group, held a protest meeting in Corpus Christi. Tele-

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Da Express 3/12

Funeral Home Head Accused in Longoria Case

Continued from Page 1

grams were sent to a number of persons, including Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson and Mayor J. K. Montgomery of Three Rivers.

Garcia testified that Johnson offered to have the soldier reburied in Arlington National Cemetery. He said Montgomery offered his home in Three Rivers as a site for the services.

Felix Longoria was buried Feb. 18 in Arlington. His widow and several members of the family attended the services.

"School students, school clubs, civic organizations and other groups in South Texas raised \$1,552 to send the family to Washington," Dr. Garcia said.

"At no time did I suggest where the boy should be buried," the physician said. "All I have done was at the re-

quest of the widow and the parents."

Dr. Garcia testified that Thomas S. Sutherland, executive secretary of the Texas Good Neighbor Commission, twice asked him to do his best to have the services held in Three Rivers.

Sutherland said Kennedy had agreed to hold the service in his chapel "if the family insisted."

"I told Mr. Sutherland that I did not think it advisable to accept such terms," Dr. Garcia said. "Mr. Kennedy had told me he couldn't hold the service in the chapel because the whites would not like it."

Dr. Garcia said he had asked Sutherland if the incident did not look like a "clean cut case of discrimination." Sutherland said he agreed, Dr. Garcia testified.

Chapel Refused Reburial, Says Dr. Garcia



A HEARING into the reburial of Felix Longoria, a Three Rivers Latin-American truck driver who lost his life on Luzon, is under way at Three Rivers by a committee of the Texas House of Representatives. In photo above, young Longoria's father, Guadalupe Longoria, Sr., (left) is questioned by Atty. Gus Garcia of San Antonio about statement Garcia prepared for him. Longoria had trouble remembering signing it and where it was prepared. Left to right, are: Longoria, Garcia, Three Rivers Atty. Harry Schulz and M. A. Childers of San Antonio, counsel for T. W. Kennedy, Jr., owner of funeral home in Three Rivers.—**Evening News Photo.**

Forum Head Testifies in Longoria Case Quiz

Letter Purportedly Written by Latin Vet's Widow Expresses Gratitude to Three Rivers Funeral Home

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

THREE RIVERS, March 11.—Dr. Hector P. Garcia, Corpus Christi physician, told a legislative committee here Friday that a Three Rivers funeral home "absolutely refused" the use of its chapel for reburial services for a Latin-American soldier.

Garcia said he talked by telephone on Jan. 10 with T. W. Kennedy, manager of the Rice funeral home here and that "Mr. Kennedy absolutely refused to conduct the funeral in the funeral home."

SPECIAL TO EVENING NEWS

THREE RIVERS, March 11. South Texas' far-famed "Felix Longoria incident," which gained national notoriety when the family of Longoria, a battle casualty, failed to find burial in his home town here, was still being probed Friday by a special House committee.

The investigation continued with Dr. Hector Garcia of Corpus Christi, president of the American G.I. Forum, who launched the protest, being called as a witness.

Garcia protested to representatives of the Texas Good Neighbor Commission, that a Three Rivers funeral home had refused to handle the reburial of the war victim, who fell in battle in the Philippines.

As a result of the ensuing controversy, Longoria, a former truck driver, was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Corpus Christi physician and surgeon, under questioning from members of the five-man investigating committee, declared that the Longoria case was brought to his attention by Mrs. Sara Moreno, sister of the widow, Mrs. Beatrice Longoria.

The physician testified that after he had talked with the widow and her sister, he called a meeting in Corpus Christi, to protest against

"discrimination against a Latin-American soldier."

Committee members asked if he had contacted anyone in Three Rivers prior to calling the protest meeting, and

Kennedy Garcia testified that he had sent a letter to J. K. Montgomery, Three Rivers mayor, and that by telephone he had talked with Tom Kennedy, Jr., owner of the Rice Funeral Home, which was to handle burial arrangements.

Garcia told the committee that the dead man's widow had told him that the family had been refused use of the funeral home chapel, and that she was dissatisfied with arrangements for the funeral.

Previously, a letter purportedly from Mrs. Longoria, had been introduced into evidence, in which she expressed her gratitude to the funeral home.

At this point, Dr. Garcia declared that he wished to state "for the record," that he and his organization had asked "specifically for the use of the funeral chapel."

Kennedy, Garcia testified, told him that he had refused use of the chapel because "the last time Latin-Americans used it, they got drunk and tore things up."



(Turn to Page 8, Column 5)
LONGORIA



THOMAS SUTHERLAND, executive secretary of the Good Neighbor Commission, is shown testifying in the Felix Longoria reburial case at Three Rivers. Sutherland was questioned regarding his investigation of the handling of services in Three Rivers. Longoria was reburied in Arlington National Cemetery.—Evening News Photo.

Longoria

Committee members asked: "Did he (Kennedy) refuse the use of facilities of the funeral home, or just the chapel?"

A—"He refused to conduct the funeral in the funeral home."

Dr. Garcia, described for the record as "quite a requester" is one of several witnesses who will be heard. He is also probably the major one. Garcia instigated an investigation by Thomas Sutherland, executive secretary of the Texas Good Neighbor Commission.

Sutherland, himself, may be recalled to the witness stand Friday. He appeared Thursday afternoon when the committee members inferred that a single telephone call to Three Rivers might not have been an adequate investigation of what Sutherland described as a "serious" matter. Sutherland has been instructed by Chairman Cecil Storey of the committee to give the investigation the number of such investigations he has made that have originated with Dr. Garcia. He guessed Thursday that it was "four or five" of some 30 he has handled during the year.

The widow of Longoria was also expected to take the stand Friday.

Kennedy Thursday testified that he discouraged use of his chapel for the pre-funeral "sitting up" customary here. He said he feared trouble because of friction among the members of Longoria family. Storey refused to let him say what nature the "serious" situation existing among the family because he wanted no reflection on them if it could be avoided.

Sutherland testified that he called Kennedy about the burial arrangements and advised Kennedy to let the family use the funeral chapel. He said Kennedy agreed to it if the family wanted it.

Rep. James W. Windham of Livingston asked Sutherland if the Longoria investigation was typical of his investigations. Sutherland replied: "I consider Mr. Kennedy the best witness."

Windham: "Is it customary for the commission to go to the scene of a complaint or to use the telephone?"

Sutherland: "I use the best method."

Windham: "In how many cases do you go to the scene?"

Sutherland: "I haven't bothered to analyze it from that point of view. I can find out."

Rep. Tom Cheatham of Cuero asked Sutherland if Mrs. Longoria or anyone else beside Dr. Garcia ever asked him to investigate. Sutherland said no one else had asked.

Cheatham then brought out that Dr. Garcia had requested "four or five" investigations and observed "Doesn't that make Dr. Garcia quite a requester?"

Sutherland appealed to the chair that it was a leading question. Storey thought not and

Sutherland admitted that Dr. Garcia had requested several investigations.

"Then, may I be permitted to observe that you have answered my question evasively?" Cheatham said.

Rep. Byron Tinsley then requested Sutherland to consult his files and report how many such requests have come from Dr. Garcia.

Rep. Frank Oltorf raised the question of whether the investigation was getting into the Good Neighbor Commission. Storey ruled that the committee wants to know to what extent the commission went into this incident.

Other witnesses Thursday were Guadalupe Longoria Sr., father of Felix. He admitted signing a statement, but later said he didn't know what was in the paper. He said he had never asked that the boy be buried in Three Rivers. It was brought out that the document was prepared in his home by attorney Gus Garcia of San Antonio.

Montgomery testified that he interviewed Kennedy and the American Legion commander, Harold C. Smith, and reported to Dr. Garcia that there had been some mistake; that the full facilities of the funeral home had been offered Mrs. Longoria; that the American Legion had planned to accord the soldier full military honors at the service, and that the mayor's home was open for their use if it was needed.

He said he never got a reply.

A letter purportedly signed by the elder Longoria, and admitted to evidence with a check of signatures due, said Mrs. Longoria had full permission from him to arrange the funeral. The letter said "we don't blame the white people of this town . . . please excuse us for what you have read on the newspapers."

Summoned for appearance Friday were Garcia, Mrs. Longoria, R. H. Farley of Bexar county Central Council of the American Legion, Raul Cortez of San Antonio; Bob McCracken, Bob Jackson and George Groh, the latter Corpus Christi newsmen.

Schools' Pay Hike Measure Almost Ready

The Austin American Capitol Staff

The emergency pay raise bill for higher education institutions likely will be completed by a Senate finance subcommittee this week and readied for Senate action next week, Senator R. L. Proffer said Wednesday.

The college and university payrolls were not affected by other pay raise bills approved Feb. 28. An estimated \$300,000 will be provided to give them the same increases for the remaining six months of the biennium as granted other state workers.

Many faculty members have received supplemental pay under authority given the boards of regents to adjust salaries of key personnel. It was estimated such increases have averaged 6.2 per cent for the University of Texas payroll as a whole, and about 5 per cent for several colleges. Some of the colleges have made no increases.

Estimates are that an additional \$117,000 will be paid University of Texas faculty members and non-faculty employees for the rest of the period until Sept. 1, when new biennial appropriations will carry salary increases "across the board."

It was expected the Senate bill for colleges will propose the same 15 per cent increase on the first \$3,000 of salary as granted all other state workers. Any increases that have been given university and college personnel since Sept. 1, 1947, will be taken into account, so that benefits of the pending bill cannot exceed 15 per cent. The optional supplements have been made chiefly to upper-bracket salary classifications.

TALKS TWO DAYS AND VOWS HE ISN'T FILIBUSTERING

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN

WASHINGTON—Last week our senators didn't do a blessed thing but talk. This week they have voted to do some more of the same. Looks to me like we'll have to put the gentlemen on a piece-work pay scale.

Then maybe they'll pass some laws.

Older heads than mine claim I'm all wrong. They say that the best government is the least government and so long as the Senate is tied up in its filibuster it is damaging nothing but its own blood pressure and as such is worth whatever it costs.

This strikes me as the negative approach. It makes me groan when I sit in the press galley and figure that as a taxpayer I'm paying each one of the 96 lawgivers at the rate of \$15,000 per year for doing nothing but yammer.

The trouble is, it's hard to place the blame. President Truman says the boys have got to pass a law against their own talk-talk-talk, so they can get a vote on his civil rights legislation. The Southerners, who are equally as sincere, say they'll talk until they keel over before they'll stuff gags in their own mouths.

Some of the Republicans side with Mr. T. while some stand up for Sen. Richard B. Russell of Georgia and Co. The latter are doing the talking; they are prepared to keep it up indefinitely and, if they do, some things about our nation can go to

pot.

Take rent control. More of my correspondents claim it's bad than otherwise, but the fact remains that it expires the end of the this month. Unless the Senate cuts out the argument about its right to talk, nearly 5,000 rent controllers lose their jobs and the price of an apartment across the nation will be up to negotiations between landlord and tenant.

Maybe that's good. I wouldn't know, but the fact remains that Mr. Truman has asked his lawgivers to extend control over rents for another two years.

The trouble seems to be, for one thing, that Mr. Truman has hurt the feeling of his more sensitive legislators. Take Sen. Russell. He told his cohorts that he wouldn't feel right about accepting his wages as a US senator, if he had to take orders from the White House.

Then there was Sen. Spessard L. Holland of Florida, who talked for two days about the filibuster, but said he was not filibustering. If he were, he added, he would quote a few more newspaper pieces

on the subject. In almost the same breath he said he felt so strongly on the subject that he could talk indefinitely.

Fortunately for his own larynx and the ears of his peers, he didn't.

When last I looked in on the gentlemen, Sen. Arthur V. Watkins, a white-haired Republican from Utah, was sounding off on an entirely different subject. And those southerners were egging him on.

Senator Watkins said it was a doggone funny thing that newspaper reporters could find out what was in the Atlantic treaty, but senators couldn't. Whenever it looked like he was about to sit down, one or another of the filibusterers would jump up and ask him a question.

The idea was that it didn't matter what their cohorts talked about, so long as they reached no vote on shutting off filibusters. And that's the way it is, taxpayers. Piece work seems to be the only answer; pay 'em for laws passed and dock 'em, maybe, for time out for talk. (Copyright, 1949, United Features, Syn.)

WANTED, HIND QUARTER

Britain's vaudeville trade paper, The Stage, carried this ad: "Urgent. Wanted, male dancer with sense of humor to play hind-quarters of comedy horse for No. 1 pantomime, 10 or 12 weeks run."

Three Rivers GI Reburial Inquiry On

3-10-49

Local Newsmen To Testify Tomorrow; 35 To Be Called

BY JOHNNIE BROWN
Times Staff Writer

THREE RIVERS—A five-man committee from the Texas House of Representatives this morning opened an investigation of the nationwide notoriety the town of Three Rivers recently received regarding the reburial of Felix Longoria, Three Rivers war veteran.

T. W. Kennedy, manager of Rice Funeral Home, was the first witness called. The committee was called to order at 9:30 o'clock.

Rep. Cecil Storey, of Longview, chairman of the committee, indicated that approximately 35 witnesses may be called in the investigation, which will continue at least through Friday.

Among witnesses to be called will be all members of the Longoria family, Dr. Hector Garcia, Corpus Christi; M. Rice, former owner of Rice Funeral Home; Mayor J. K. Montgomery, mayor of Three Rivers; F. M. Ramsey, president of the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce; Live Oak County Sheriff Albert Smith; R. H. Farley, secretary of the Bexar County Central Council of the American Legion, San Antonio; Thomas S. Sutherland, executive secretary of the Good Neighbor Commission, Austin; Robert M. Jackson, editor, Bob McCracken, managing editor, and George Groh, reporter, of the Corpus Christi Caller-Times.

All members of the committee were present when the investigation started. Committeemen beside Storey are Rep. Tom Cheatham of Cuero, Rep. James Windham of Livingston, Rep. Frank Oltorf of Marlin and Rep. Byron Tinsley of Greenville.

Jackson, McCracken, Groh and Dr. Garcia were to be called before the committee at 9:30 o'clock Friday morning. Sutherland is scheduled to be present at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon.

The investigation is being held in Rotary Hall. About 25 people were present as the inquiry opened.

The committee invoked the rule providing that witnesses not testifying must remain outside the building.

Sutherland walked into the building a few minutes after the investigation started.

M. A. Childers of San Antonio is legal counsel for Kennedy.

E. E. Shirar has been appointed interpreter.

Tuesday Eve., Jan. 11, 1949.

Protest Meetings Planned

Funeral Home Refuses Chapel for Rites of Latin-American War Dead

CORPUS CHRISTI, Jan. 11 (AP). A funeral home at Three Rivers, has refused to allow the body of a Latin-American soldier killed in action to enter the home because "the whites won't like it."

The soldier is Felix Longoria, killed in the Philippines in 1945. The body is en route home.

T. W. Kennedy, manager of the Rice Funeral Home, told a Corpus Christi Caller-Times reporter Monday by telephone that "we just never make a practice of letting them (Latin Americans) use the chapel, and we don't want to start now. Most of them don't want the chapel service."

Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, widow of the soldier, said she has telegraphed the authorities telling them the situation and asking that they hold the body until she can make other arrangements. She said she will bring the body to Corpus Christi if the Three Rivers Funeral Home continues to refuse to allow the body there.

An organization of Latin Amer-

ican war veterans, the American GI Forum, has called a protest meeting here Tuesday. Dr. Hector Garcia, president of the forum, said another meeting will be scheduled later this week at Three Rivers. Mrs. Longoria is to speak at the meeting here.

Mrs. Longoria said funeral home officials told her they would not allow the body to rest there because "the whites won't like it."

2-10-47

Inquiry Opens In Longoria Burial Case

AUSTIN, March 9. (AP) — A five-man investigating committee left here today for Three Rivers determined to find out who's right and who's wrong in the fuss over a Latin American soldier's reburial.

Rep. Cecil Storey, of Longview, head of the House committee, said he did not expect the probe to be a "long drawn out affair".

"All I want to find out is what are the facts and who's telling the truth," he said.

The formal investigation opens tomorrow in Three Rivers on the reburial of Felix Longoria, who was killed on Luzon during the war. The soldier's body was returned to the United States at the request of his wife and relatives.

Public attention was attracted to the town when it was reported the director of a Three Rivers funeral home "discouraged" the use of his chapel for the reburial rites.

Longoria was reburied Feb. 16 in Arlington National Cemetery.

The investigation was asked by Rep. J. F. Gray of Three Rivers, author of a bill to do away with the Texas Good Neighbor Commission. He contended the agency made untruthful reports on the reburial.

R. E. Smith of Houston, chairman of the commission, denied this.

The investigating committee must report back to the House by March 15.

Vol. 11

Felix Longoria To Be Buried at San Antonio

CCCaller 1/19/49

Felix Longoria will be buried at San Antonio, after a special service has been held in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D. C., his widow, Beatrice, said this morning.

Longoria, who was killed in World War II, became the center of a national incident after Rice Funeral Home in Three Rivers first refused and then "discouraged" on racial grounds, a chapel service for the veteran.

His family met late last night in Three Rivers and yielded to Texas pressure after the intervention of R. E. Smith, Houston, chairman of the Good Neighbor Commission. Smith urged that the burial be "in Three Rivers, or at least in Texas" to clear the state's reputation in the incident.

Three Rivers Rejected

The family unanimously rejected any service in Three Rivers. Guadalupe Longoria, Sr., father of the veteran, said the San Antonio decision was taken to show that the family "bore no grudge." He also denied, however, an earlier statement by Mayor J. K. Montgomery of Three Rivers that he favored a hometown ceremony. At no time, said Longoria, did he make that statement.

Offer of the Arlington ceremony

had previously been accepted by the veteran's widow, who joined in the family decision last night. Smith's offer, which was accepted on that basis, stipulated that "if members of the family go to Washington, we will arrange for all military honors on a national level" at the capitol.

En Route to Washington

Longoria's body is now en route to Washington, according to his widow. Members of the family who said they planned the Washington trip include the widow; his daughter, Adelita; his mother, Dolores; three brothers, Arturo, Alberto and Guadalupe, Jr.; a sister, Carolina Longoria. The burial at San Antonio will be in the state memorial cemetery there, but other details were not completed this morning.

Dr. Hector Garcia, head of the American GI Forum, said he has raised \$1,200 from individuals and South Texas Latin American organizations to pay for the Washington trip. Three Rivers has also pledged to pay expenses of one member of the family. They plan to make the trip by plane, leaving Corpus Christi in a group.

The meeting last night was arranged by Garcia, at the request of Smith.

Live Oak County Report

by Della Goebel

~~Three Rivers News~~ 1/20/49

Three Rivers lays claim to being a town where there is harmony among its citizens.

There has never been strife here among residents of different race origins. We resent and deplore the unfavorable publicity which has gone abroad concerning our town. Action following the recent Felix Longoria incident was occasioned mainly to serve selfish interests of persons who either wished to pay political debts or who wished to stabilize their position in public opinion. We doubt that such a project ever does react favorably to the instigator.

Anyone who knows this community knows that its spirit is one of cooperation

"DISCRIMINATION"

CHARGED BY GROUP

CC Press 1/20/49

Refusal of the Rice Funeral Home to open its chapel for services for a Latin-American youth, who was killed in World War II, and whose body was brought back across thousands of miles of ocean, caused a flurry of excitement, protests and comments, pro and con, in Corpus Christi last week.

The management of the establishment maintained that they had a private institution, with the right to serve the community with the same privileges as any other business. On the other hand, the Latin-American colony "went to bat" on the basis that the company was engaged in a type of racial discrimination.

The soldier involved was Felix Longoria of Three Rivers. He was killed in the Philippines.

Commenting on the situation, T. M. Kennedy, manager of the home, admitted refusing the use of the chapel for the service. "We never did let them use it and don't want to start a precedent," he declared.

Various organizations, protesting the action, pointed out that it was contrary to the "principles for which Longoria gave his life."

On the other side of the "tempest" were statements from persons who asserted that "Democracy is founded upon a principle of private enterprise, and that efforts to dictate the policies of privately-owned firms, savored of dictatorship."

Representatives Vote Inquiry in Longoria Case

CCCall 2/17/49
BULLETIN

AUSTIN, Feb. 17 (P) — The House of Representatives today ordered a legislative investigation of the controversy over the reburial of Felix Longoria and voted \$1,000 to finance the inquiry.

AUSTIN, Feb. 17. (P)—Rep. J. F. Gray of Three Rivers today asked a House investigation of the controversy over the reburial of Felix Longoria.

Question of Expenses

Gray's resolution was referred to the House Committee on State Affairs, but half an hour later Gray secured house permission to bring the matter up for immediate consideration on the floor.

Reps Abraham Kazen, Jr., of Laredo and John Crosthwait of Dallas told Gray his resolution would not accomplish its objective because it contained no provision for money with which to make the investigation.

"If you are going to get anything more than a whitewash committee, you had better get enough money to make the thorough kind of investigation you want," Kazen advised.

The House then sent the resolution to the contingent expenses committee to determine how much money should be allowed.

Rep. Johnny B. Rogers of Austin suggested that the Good Neighbor Commission had been set up by the state to handle just such cases as this.

Gray quickly attacked the Good Neighbor Commission, saying he had evidence the agency already has made untruthful reports about the Longoria incident.

"We feel—we know—we have evidence that reports recently made by the Good Neighbor Commission are not truthful—and not only on that incident."

Gray said an investigation was needed to clear up "conflicting reports that have been circulated and continue to circulate, some such reports alleging that discrimination had been shown in the handling of his funeral arrangements."

He asked a five-man group from the House to investigate and report back before March 1.

Gray's resolution said that the inquiry "is now absolutely necessary for the continuation of good relations among the peoples of South Texas and to our international relations."

He added that "without the public knowing the facts, injustice is being done to the people involved in this controversy making it doubly necessary that the truth be found."

Gray told the House he had received a report today that the commission had erroneously reported the breaking off of labor contract negotiations between the United States and Mexico as a result of the Longoria incident.

"Alfonso Guerra, a Mexican foreign ministry official, has officially denied that report," declared Gray. The South Texas representative has introduced a bill to abolish the Good Neighbor Commission.

The Dallas

DALLAS, TEXAS, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17,

Morning News

1949 — 40 PAGES IN 2 SECTIONS — PRICE 5 CENTS



PRIVATE LONGORIA'S FAMILY STANDS BY

A family of Latin-American descent from Three Rivers, Texas, stands by the casket in a drizzling rain at Arlington National Cemetery at last rites Wednesday for Pvt. Felix Z. Longoria. Left to right, are, Mrs. Lupe Longoria, mother; Mrs. Sarah Morino, sister-in-law; Miss Carolina Longoria, sister; Cpl. I. Walt, attending the family; Mrs. Felix Longoria, the wife, and in front, Longoria's daughter, 8-year-old Adelita. (Associated Press Wirephoto.)

SERVICES BRIEF AND MOVING

Arlington Cemetery Rites Held for Private Longoria

By DAVID BOTTER

Washington Bureau of The News

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, Va., Feb. 16.—They buried little Felix Longoria Wednesday on a quiet Arlington hillside while diplomats of two nations stood in bare-headed tribute to a simple Texas boy they never knew.

The President of the United States sent his military aide—a blunt-spoken man who said he was there because of “the stupidity of that undertaker.”

And the Mexican ambassador sent flowers for an American Army private whose burial had become a “cause.”

It was more attention than the short and stocky fellow from Three Rivers, Live Oak County, could have reasonably expected.

For Felix Z. Longoria had been a pretty regular sort of a Latin-American in a South Texas county. He had married and had a cute little daughter when he was drafted at twenty-five. He shipped out with the 27th Division and in June, 1943, Japanese small arms fire killed him on wooded Luzon.

Whether there had been “dis-

crimination”—even in death—against Pvt. Felix Longoria was still a subject of dispute as the last sweet notes of “Taps” echoed over the rolling knolls and around the white marble tablets that mark the final resting places of Americas’ war dead.

His fur-coated widow, Beatrice, said there had been—that she was denied the use of a funeral chapel in the home town of Three Rivers for his reburial—because he was a “Mexican.”

The undertaker, T. W. Kennedy Jr., said there had been a misunderstanding, no discrimination.

But in the resultant dispute and contention, with Latin-American groups in South Texas taking the issue as a basis for crusade, arrangements were made to bury Felix Longoria in Arlington.

The services were impressive, brief, militarily moving.

Felix Longoria’s family was here—his widow, their charming 8-year-old daughter, Adelita; his mother, Mrs. Guadalupe Longoria Sr.; his brothers, Lupe, Alfredo and Alberto; his sister, Carolina; a sister-in-law—sent by air liner with funds raised by Latin-American groups

and friends in Three Rivers and Corpus Christi.

The women wept quietly at the grave as Mrs. Beulah Walton, a former San Antonio resident, held an umbrella over Mrs. Longoria’s bared head. Little Adelita was curious, understanding but little, even as her mother laid a picture on the grave of the mustached boy who had been her father.

It was a mass burial for nineteen war dead. But the diplomats and American officials were there specifically for the Texas boy.

Justo Sierra, first secretary of the Mexican Embassy arrived with his government’s floral tribute borne by Mexican army and navy officers. Nearby stood Paul J. Reveley, head of the State Department’s Mexican affairs desk.

Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, President Truman’s blunt-spoken military aide arrived early. He told reporters he was there for the burial of “that Longoria boy from Texas which got all that unfavorable publicity because of the stupidity of that undertaker.”

Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson, who ar-
See LONGORIA, Page 19, Col. 2

Longoria Reburied At Arlington Cemetery

Washington, Feb. 17 (UP).—The body of Felix Longoria lay today in a fresh grave in Arlington National Cemetery, on a wooded hill not far from the final resting place of Gen. John J. Pershing.

Longoria was killed in the Battle of the Philippines. His body was reinterred at Arlington as the result of a furor which arose in his native town, Three Rivers, Tex.

His widow said the plans she made for reburial snagged on racial prejudice. Three Rivers of-

ficials stepped in and explained the incident as one born of misunderstanding, not of prejudice against citizens of Mexican descent.

But the widow, Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, rejected Three Rivers' efforts to have the body of the 36-year-old corporal sent home. U. S. Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson (Dem.) of Texas, who was among those at yesterday's service in Arlington, arranged for the burial in the national cemetery.

Bathing Overdone.

La Jolla, Calif. (INS).—Naturalists report that Pacific fulmars' gull-like relatives of the petrels and albatrosses, like to bathe so well they sometimes become sodden from too much dunking and drown.

The Corpus Christi Times

AS second class matter at the post office at
Christi, Texas, under the Act of March 3, 1879

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1949

Times



LONGORIA INVESTIGATING GROUP—The special Texas House of Representatives committee investigating the Felix Longoria incident is shown above on the job during the first day of its session in Three Rivers. Left to right are Rep. Frank Oltorf, Marlin; Rep. James

Windham, Livingston; Rep. Cecil Story, Longview, chairman; Rep. Byron Tinsley, Greenville; Rep. Tom Cheatham, Cuero; R. J. (Jack) Utecht, committee clerk, and Court Reporter Agnes Miller. The picture was taken while Mayor J. K. Montgomery was testifying.

'Obscene' Mail on Longoria Case Sent Three Rivers Mayor

Dr. Garcia Repeats Forum Charge of Discrimination

BY JOHNNIE BROWN
Times Staff Writer

THREE RIVERS—"Discrimination in its worst form," was the way Dr. Hector P. Garcia, Corpus Christi, president of the American GI Forum, this morning described a statement by Funeral Director T. W. Kennedy, Jr., regarding reburial arrangements for Felix Longoria.

Dr. Garcia said that the statement he was referring to was Kennedy's remark regarding the funeral plans that "the whites won't take it."

Contradicts Kennedy Testimony

The Corpus Christi man told the House of Representatives investigating committee that he telephoned the Rice Funeral Home the night of Jan. 10 and asked to speak to the owner. He said that Kennedy told him that he was the owner. He testified further that when he told Kennedy that Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, wife of the deceased war veteran, had asked him to request the funeral chapel for reburial services, he said "I can't do it," and that "the whites here won't like it."

Dr. Garcia testified that he told Kennedy that Longoria had been killed in action, had died for democracy. He quoted the undertaker as saying that made no difference. He quoted him further saying in conclusion, "It can't be done."

The doctor said, in contradiction to Kennedy's testimony on Thursday, that the conversation did not become heated, "there was no anger on my part and Kennedy did not appear to be angry."

Garcia in further testimony before the committee, said that he asked Mrs. Longoria if Kennedy had refused use of the chapel for the soldier's funeral and that she said he did refuse her.

Quotes Sutherland

Dr. Garcia said that Tom S. Sutherland of Austin, executive secretary of the Texas Good Neighbor Commission, telephoned him and said, "Doctor, I am sick about this thing." He testified that Sutherland said that he had talked with Kennedy and that the undertaker stated that he would let the chapel be used if the family insisted.

Dr. Garcia said that he stated to Sutherland, "Don't you think this is discrimination?" He said, "Yes, I do, doctor." I said I don't think it is advisable to accept such terms."

Mayor J. K. Montgomery testified earlier this morning that he had received a large batch of obscene letters regarding the Felix Longoria incident, "which makes you think things you don't want to think."

Montgomery, mayor of Three Rivers for 18 years, was recalled as a witness as the second day of the House of Representatives investigation here got underway.

Tells of Fund Drive

Montgomery told the committee of a fund drive the Three Rivers Rotary Club sponsored to assist Juan Diaz, a Three Rivers High School football player, injured on the gridiron in 1947. He said he estimated \$1,000 or \$2,000 was raised by public subscription in the community.

The mayor also said on several occasions high school students of Latin American extraction were entertained at social functions in his home. (At Thursday's testimony, the mayor said that he offered his home for Longoria's funeral services, but that he received no reply

(See HEARING, Page 18.)

HEARING

(Continued From Page One.)

on the offer.)

In testimony yesterday Tom S. Sutherland of Austin, executive secretary of the Texas Good Neighbor Commission, described the incident as "largely a newspaper matter" which did not particularly disturb the residents of Three Rivers.

He added, however, that townspeople were disturbed about the nationwide publicity given the town.

Sutherland was one of five witnesses called to testify during the first day of the hearing.

Mayor J. K. Montgomery, declaring that no discrimination existed against Latin Americans in the 2,500-population town, said that he had attempted in a wire to Dr. Hector P. Garcia of Corpus Christi to straighten out the matter of reburial of the soldier killed on Luzon by offering his own home for the funeral. He said he received no answer to the message.

On cross-examination by Gus C. Garcia of San Antonio, attorney for Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, the soldier's widow, the mayor said that Latin and Anglo American cemeteries were "connected." The town, he said, has no ordinance prohibiting discrimination and that no incident had arisen previously to make such an ordinance necessary.

Testimony by George Flores, a former deputy sheriff, concerning the arrest of Guadalupe Longoria, Jr., brother of the soldier, was stopped by committee members because they did not want to go into an investigation of the moral behavior of the war veteran's wife. Garcia objected to the reference and stated that such testimony would be welcomed, but Rep. B. R. Tinsley of Greenville refused.

Funeral Director T. W. Kennedy Jr., testified that he had discouraged use of the chapel for the Longoria services because of an "ill feeling" in the Longoria family.

Only other witness during the day was Guadalupe Longoria, Sr., 66-year-old father of the soldier, who denied that he had had any differences with his daughter-in-law.

LIVE OAK COUNTY

VOLUME XXX

GEORGE WEST, TEXAS, T

THREE RIVERS

MARCH OF DIMES CHAIRMEN

The following volunteer workers have been selected as chairman of their communities to accept your contributions to the March of Dimes Drive. This money will be used for the care and research work for infantile paralysis.

Mrs. O. W. Appelt, county chairman.

Mr. E. A. Gay, George West.

Mrs. J. K. Montgomery, Three Rivers.

Mrs. A. B. Gomillion, Whitsett.

Mrs. W. C. Matkin, Simmons.

Mrs. William Hinnant, Lagarto.

Mrs. Beauford Davis, Oakville.

Mrs. Paul Schweikert, Fant.

Mrs. E. O. Braune, Ray Point.

Mrs. J. R. McGuffin, Dinero.

Mrs. Walter Franke, Pawnee.

Three Rivers C. of C. To Meet Monday

January 24th, Monday, at 7 P. M., dinner will be served and a business session will follow for the members of the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce, in the Rotary Hall, according to an announcement made by S. F. Ramsey, president, and B. L. Brown, secretary.

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Three Rivers—Funeral services for "Tex" Luke Jones were held Thursday, January 13, at 2 P.M. in the Rice Chapel after he died suddenly Tuesday morning at his home on Church St. in Three Rivers. The Rev. R. D. McCelvey, Baptist minister, was in charge. A mixed choir of family friends sang the hymns.

Mr. Jones came to Live Oak County in 1932 from Real County and for the past ten years had lived in Three Rivers. He was a cattle-trader in this county and

THE LONGORIA CASE

By V. D. Wellington

It is not my intention to enter into any controversy concerning Mr. Kennedy's action in regard to the burial of Felix Longoria.

I would like to express an opinion, however, to this effect. It is indeed, unfortunate, that the citizens or officials of Three Rivers or of the county should in any way be blamed. It is possible that the publicity given the case may lead outsiders to believe that racial discrimination is promoted and encouraged in this area.

I moved here from New York state less than four years ago. I had heard much propaganda in regard to the discrimination as practiced through the south and west. Previously I have lived in Buffalo, N. Y., for nearly 20 years. So, I was amazed to discover that, in my opinion, at least, the Americans of Mexican descent here had much better opportunities and were, in practically every way better treated than were certain racial minorities in Buffalo.

There may have been no legal racial discrimination in Buffalo, but an American of Polish descent was called a Polack or a Hunkey. A Negro was a Nigger in Buffalo. An Italian-American was a Dago. A white man's restaurant or saloon had to serve a Negro, but it was rumored that a cup of coffee would cost him 50c instead of a nickel. Whether that was true or not, it was very evident that Negroes were never seen in certain restaurants and saloons.

In Three Rivers and Live Oak county you will find Americans of Mexican descent in all places of business, restaurants, stores, etc. You will see them operating cafes, gas stations, and stores, and you will find Americans not of Mexican descent, trading with them, and associating with them.

It is my contention that racial

Quarter Million Suit?

It is rumored that certain Three Rivers officials are considering bringing a quarter million dollar damage suit against the Detroit Free Press for allegedly false statements, said to have been detrimental to Three Rivers. In the event such action is taken, and is successful, the money would be used to erect a permanent memorial to Texas veterans who fought and helped win the war.

The body of Felix Longoria was scheduled to arrive in San Francisco, California, on January 13th, and was expected to reach its final destination approximately 30 days thereafter.

The next day, January 14th, at least one newspaper stated that his body had been returned to Three Rivers, Texas, and that the people of Three Rivers said that "he could not sleep out eternity in the soil of his native town and state."

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J. K. Montgomery

COUNTY VETERANS OFFICER MAKES S

THE OAK COUNTY HERALD

GEORGE WEST TEXAS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1949

THREE RIVERS

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It is interesting to note that a Texan (recently a damn-yanked, Mr. Kennedy, is primarily involved in this whole mess. Also that another Texan (formerly a damn Yankee) is endeavoring to help clear it up. Another Texan (formerly a damn Yankee) is the county veterans' service officer. Would any northern state uphold its new citizens as well as the Texans?

Just One Instance

One newspaper reported as follows: "The Forum's protest also drew telegraphed apologies from Gov. Beauford Jester, Rep. John E. Lyle, Attorney General Price Daniel and Three Rivers Mayor J. K. Montgomery.

"Mayor Montgomery said the whole thing was 'a mistake.' He offered the services of the American Legion Home, or 'my own home' for the funeral services, and said he believed use of the chapel also could be arranged."

Inasmuch as this could be so easily misconstrued, and actually was to the effect that Mayor Montgomery did not know for certain whether the funeral chapel could be used or not, the telegram is reproduced below:

Jan 11, 1949

Dr Hector P Garcia
Pres American G I Forum
Corpus Christi, Texas

I have just interviewed T W Kennedy Rice Funeral Home stop Some mistake stop Kennedy did not refuse use of his facilities and does not refuse use stop Arrangements can be made for use if desired by Longoria family stop American Legion had arranged full military honors also offer use of American Legion Hall stop Mayor's home offered if necessary.

J. K. Montgomery, Mayor.

COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICER MAKES STATEMENT

January 18, 1949

Mr. Kennedy's Statement

About two months ago Longoria, the deceased's came into our office and if we would handle the service for her husband, who was shipped home within the six months. We told her at that time that we would handle the service, and on January 8th came to the bus depot and came, stating that she had telegrams concerning the rival of her husband. She order to accommodate her drove to the bus depot and talked with her about arrangements. She asked to have remains left at the Funeral Home, and at that time I tried to discourage her of that by saying if there was any place she could take the remains. She said she had an empty lot in Three Rivers and so I asked her if it would not be better to take the remains there. She said she was satisfied to do so and so we then went and a reply to the telegram to Worth depot confirming previous address as to where remains were to be sent. Then we went by the house and she had mentioned to examine and plan as to where the casket and chairs could be put, after completing that I took her to her uncle's house and leaving asked again if she was satisfied and again she said that she was. She took the remains for Corpus Christi and it was an assumption that, apparently, parents did not like the arrangements. However, I was not contacted by members of the family at that time. Instead Hector Garcia of Corpus Christi called me. As we talked our conversation became rather heated. It was my understanding that no one except Mrs. Longoria someone duly authorized by her was in a position to make arrangements for this funeral.

Ram Supply Co. 11-1-48

NTY HERALD

MORE WIDELY READ
IN LIVE OAK COUNTY
THAN ANY OTHER
PUBLICATION

TEXAS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1949

SECTION A

NUMBER 3

ERS SPEAKS!

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IN REGARD TO MILITARY HONORS

January 19, 1949.
To whom it may concern:
We, the undersigned, went to Harold C. Smith, Commander, American Legion Post 413, Three Rivers, Texas, on January 10, 1949, to ask for military honors at the funeral of our deceased brother, Felix Longoria, killed in action on Luzon.
Commander Smith promised military honors at the funeral.
Arrangements were made to furnish firing squad, color bearers, color guard and bugler from American Legion Post 413 and pall bearers would be furnished by the family.
(Signed)
LUPE LONGORIA, JR.
ALBERTO LONGORIA
HAROLD C. SMITH,
Commander,
American Legion Post 413.

(Continued from preceding column)
the fact that the "whites" would not like the disgrace of a public disturbance at a funeral in the chapel. I humbly apologize for the use of the word "whites." I can only defend myself by the fact that I was unjustly accused and angry when I made that statement.
I was contacted by other members of the family. They asked me to notify them of the arrival of the body, and the funeral date, as they were not sure that they would be notified. This only intensified my desire to not have trouble in the funeral chapel. I felt that by encouraging her to use her own house it would be up to her to handle any situation that might come up.
However, if Mrs. Longoria had mentioned any dissatisfaction with these arrangements, I would have been glad to work out almost anything that would have been satisfactory to her.
I wrote Mrs. Longoria and Dr

The entire nation seems to have become incensed over the arrangements for the reburial of Felix Longoria of Three Rivers. Mr. Longoria was an American soldier of Mexican descent who was killed in action in the Philippines in 1945.
The Rice funeral home of Three Rivers, Texas, is accused of practicing racial discrimination in connection with the affair. The Herald, this week, is endeavoring to present the whole story by statements from the parties involved.

C. of C. President Makes Statement

In a meeting of the board of directors of the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce held on Thursday afternoon, a resolution was adopted deploring the unfavorable publicity that the City of Three Rivers and its citizens have received through the publication of misconstrued facts concerning the reported refusal of a local undertaker, T. W. Kennedy, Jr., to bury one of our fellow-townsmen, Felix Longoria, who was killed in action in the Philippines in 1945.
The directors went on record as saying that the Longoria family is held in the highest esteem here and it is regrettable that this situation has developed; that no town in South Texas enjoys better relations with Americans of Mexican descent than does Three Rivers; and that since the above mentioned report has gone out over the State and Nation it has become necessary for Three Rivers to clear its good name.
A good many letters have been received from people throughout the State acquainted with the actual conditions in Three Rivers expressing their disgust with the adverse publicity that Three Rivers received. These people

Mrs. A. B. Gommillion, Whitsett.
Mrs. W. C. Matkin, Simmons.
Mrs. William Hinnant, Lagarto.
Mrs. Beauford Davis, Oakville.
Mrs. Paul Schweikert, Fant.
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Mr. Jones came to Live Oak County in 1932 from Real County and for the past ten years had lived in Three Rivers. He was a cattle-trader in this county and was well known among all the business circles.

The pall bearers were Lewis Murphy of Corpus Christi, Fred L. Churchill, J. T. Bomar, C. E. McMurray, Arthur Reynolds, and Frank Gibbens all of Three Rivers.

Mr. Murphy's daughter, Mrs. Arthur Coel, of Corpus Christi, and the W. H. and J. C. Gallows were other out of town friends present at the last rites. Unable to attend were all the family of Mrs. Jones, the deceased's widow, who live in California.

Besides the widow, Mr. Jones left a daughter, Miss Louise Jones, and four sons, John, Joe, and R. L. "Tuffy" of Three Rivers and Ray Jones who is in the United States Navy.

OIL NEWS

James G. McCarrick, Trustee No. 1 Mrs. Leslie Cox, second test for a new Live Oak county oil producing area 4 miles from Dinero, Friday was drilling at 2,250 feet. It is about 933 feet northeast of the No. 1 Richey discovery.

A CARD FROM ELDEN

Dear Mr. Wellington: I am sorry I did not have time to tell you I was leaving. I certainly enjoyed working for your (our) paper.

My sister will take care of the Mountain View news.

Lots of luck.

Elden D. Stalnaker.

this area.

I moved here from New York state less than four years ago. I had heard much propaganda in regard to the discrimination as practiced through the south and west. Previously I have lived in Buffalo, N. Y., for nearly 20 years. So, I was amazed to discover that, in my opinion, at least, the Americans of Mexican descent here had much better opportunities and were, in practically every way better treated than were certain racial minorities in Buffalo.

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It is my contention that racial prejudice is being overcome, and can be completely overcome only by education. Education takes time. I believe that certain of the northern critics would do well to look in their own back yards.

The fact that hundreds of Americans of Mexican descent have chosen this county in recent years for their permanent homes, should conclusively prove that this minority group is fairly treated here.

ROTARY NEWS

George West—Tom C. Davis of Corpus Christi, District Engineer for the Texas State Highway Department was speaker at the regular luncheon meeting of the local Rotary Club last Thursday. Mr. Davis was introduced by Marvin Johnson, and gave a very interesting talk on the work of the Highway Department, outlining its function in regard to Federal, State, and County roads. Mr. Davis also discussed the proposed Farm-to-Market program in Live Oak County, a project that has already been started, and talked briefly on the widening of Highway 281 in the north end of the county.

W. H. Striebeck Jr., Resident Engineer in George West, was a guest, and John W. Herring of Alice, Milton Hornung of Three Rivers, Walter W. Lipps and Jack Forgason, both of Beeville, were visiting Rotarians.

DRIVE CAREFULLY

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On April 1, 1945, he was sent to the hospital after an acute attack of rheumatic fever, which was brought on by exposure on the front lines. He remained in the hospital in Europe until September 1st, at which time he was flown back to the United States and stayed in Camp Pickett General Hospital until November 2, 1945, when he was given a medical discharge.

He spent until February, 1946, convalescing in Schulenburg, Texas, which was the home of his wife, and then entered Landig College of Mortuary Science in Houston, Texas. Graduating on November 15, 1946, he took a written Texas State Board examination and passed. Then he moved to Beeville, Texas, and served a year's apprenticeship before coming to work for Mr. Rice.

Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy became the proud parents of a baby daughter on August 4, 1948. He states that his stay in Three Rivers has been most pleasant and that he has acquired many friends, not only in the city but in all of Live Oak County.

CARD OF THANKS

We express our appreciation for all the kindnesses you have shown to us during our recent bereavement. May the Lord bless each and every one of you.

Mrs. Tex Jones and family.

DANCE SATURDAY NIGHT

"The Nameless Band" will play for a dance at Purple Sage, Jr., next Saturday night.

also drew telegram from Gov. Beauford John E. Lyle, Ator Price Daniel and Mayor J. K. Montgo
"Mayor Montgo whole thing was 'a offered the service American Legion H own home' for the vices, and said he of the chapel also ranged."

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COUNTY VETERANS' OFFICER MAKES ST

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It instructed her t the arrival of her husb in the United States receive a telegram from ernm asking her t the final instructio when the body wa shipped

I told her that upo rival of this telegran needed any assistance the telegram I would g her send it

When Mrs. Beatrice started to leave I ask she wanted her husband military honors and "yes."

I told her that the received the telegram government to inform mately and I woul th American Legion wold make the nece ragements. She said word do that.

That is the last I he Mr. Beatrice Longoria (Sigh) WILLIAM E. Coun Service Officer, Cnty, George We

body of Felix Longoria scheduled to arrive in San Francisco, California, on January 13th, and was expected to reach its final destination approximately 30 days thereafter. The next day, January 14th, at one newspaper stated that the body had been returned to Three Rivers, Texas, and the people of Three Rivers stated that "he could not sleep out only in the soil of his native land and state."

BRIEF HISTORY OF T. W. KENNEDY, JR.

T. W. Kennedy was born Oct. 5, 1908, in Duncansville, Pa., and graduated from high school in 1927, at Bellwood, Pa. He entered the U. S. Army on March 3, 1942, and on Dec. 23, 1942, served at Camp Maxey, Texas, which is located in the vicinity of Paris, Texas. After about a year of extensive infantry and medical training he went on maneuvers to Louisiana, and reported to Camp Swift, Texas, for two months. This camp is near Bastrop, Texas. There he met the girl, and was married on July 7, 1944. In June, 1944, his wife was sent to Fort Dix, New Jersey and in September, 1944, he was shipped overseas to Germany and immediately into action. Mr. Kennedy was a company aid man in a line company, and here earned the nickname "Doc." In April 1, 1945, he was sent to the hospital after an acute attack of rheumatic fever, which was brought on by exposure on front lines. He remained in the hospital in Europe until November 1st, at which time he was flown back to the United States and stayed in Camp Pickens General Hospital until November 2, 1945, when he was given a medical discharge. He spent until February, 1946, convalescing in Schulenburg, Texas, which was the home of his father, and then entered Landig College of Mortuary Science in Houston, Texas. Graduating on September 15, 1946, he took a ten Texas State Board examination and passed. Then he moved to Beeville, Texas, and completed a year's apprenticeship before coming to work for Mr. Rice and Mrs. Kennedy before the proud parents of a daughter on August 4, 1948. It is stated that his stay in Three Rivers has been most pleasant and that he has acquired many friends, not only in the city but in all of Live Oak County.

DEEDS OF THANKS

To express our appreciation for all the kindnesses you have shown to us during our recent bereavement. May the Lord bless and every one of you.
Mrs. Tex Jones and family.

ONCE SATURDAY NIGHT

The "Nameless Band" will play a dance at Purple Sage, Jr., Saturday night.

JUST ONE MISTAKE

One newspaper reported as follows: "The Forum's protest also drew telegraphed apologies from Gov. Beauford Jester, Rep. John E. Lyle, Attorney General Price Daniel and Three Rivers Mayor J. K. Montgomery."

"Mayor Montgomery said the whole thing was 'a mistake.' He offered the services of the American Legion Home, or 'my own home' for the funeral services, and said he believed use of the chapel also could be arranged."

Inasmuch as this could be so easily misconstrued, and actually was to the effect that Mayor Montgomery did not know for certain whether the funeral chapel could be used or not, the telegram is reproduced below:

Jan 11, 1949

Dr Hector P Garcia
Pres American G I Forum
Corpus Christi, Texas

I have just interviewed T W Kennedy Rice Funeral Home stop Some mistake stop Kennedy did not refuse use of his facilities and does not refuse use stop Arrangements can be made for use if desired by Longoria family stop American Legion had arranged full military honors also offer use of American Legion Hall stop Mayor's home offered if necessary.

J. K. Montgomery, Mayor.

COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICER MAKES STATEMENT

January 18, 1949.

About two and a half months ago Mrs. Beatrice Longoria approached me with some papers concerning the return of her husband's body to the United States for burial. She did not know what the papers meant and came to me to explain them to her.

I told her that they were complete instructions to her telling her just what to expect in the near future in regard to the return of her husband.

It instructed her that upon the arrival of her husband's body in the United States she would receive a telegram from the government asking her to confirm the funeral instructions as to where the body was to be shipped.

I told her that upon the arrival of this telegram, if she needed any assistance in sending the telegram I would gladly help her send it.

When Mrs. Beatrice Longoria started to leave I asked her if she wanted her husband to have military honors and she said, "yes."

I told her that the minute she received the telegram from the government to inform me immediately and I would contact the American Legion and we would make the necessary arrangements. She said that she would do that.

That is the last I heard from Mrs. Beatrice Longoria.

(Signed) WILLIAM E. SMITH,
County Service Officer, Live Oak
County, George West, Texas.

telegrams concerning the arrival of her husband. So, in order to accommodate her, I drove to the bus depot and talked with her about arrangements. She asked to have the remains left at the Funeral Home, and at that time I tried to discourage her of that by asking if there was any place else she could take the remains to. She said she had an empty house in Three Rivers and so I asked her if it would not be better to take the remains there. She said she was satisfied to do that and so we then went and sent a reply to the telegram to Fort Worth depot confirming the previous address as to where the remains were to be sent. After that we went by the house that she had mentioned to examine and plan as to where the casket and chairs could be put, and after completing that I took her to her uncle's house and before leaving asked again if she was satisfied and again she stated that she was. She took the bus for Corpus Christi and it is my assumption that, apparently, her parents did not like the arrangements. However, I was not contacted by members of the family at that time. Instead, Dr. Hector Garcia of Corpus Christi called me. As we talked our conversation became rather heated. It was my understanding that no one except Mrs. Longoria, or someone duly authorized by her, was in a position to make any arrangements for this funeral. I so stated to Dr. Garcia, and in the heat of the argument undoubtedly made other statements that could possibly be misconstrued. I made the statement that, as far as I knew the chapel had never been used for such a burial. That it had not been the practice. As far as I know the use of the funeral chapel had never before been requested by any person of Mexican descent, so naturally, this permission has never been refused. So I stated that "it has not been the practice," and if I was wrong I apologize. I did not wish to change the practice for this particular funeral and so stated.

There were reasons why I "discouraged" the use of the funeral chapel. There is considerable evidence to the effect that there has been trouble between the wife of Felix Longoria and the rest of the family, including his parents. For very apparent reasons, I did not wish to bring this out at that time, and refrained for some time, but in all fairness to myself I believe that it should be stated now. I did not want trouble in the funeral chapel. In that connection I felt that Mrs. Longoria would or should be able to handle the situation in her own house, but, inasmuch as I could not deny the entrance of anyone at the chapel it might lead to family trouble. I did use the word that the "whites would not like it." I was referring to

(Continued in next column)

ers, color guard and bugler from American Legion Post 413 and pall bearers would be furnished by the family.

(Signed)

LUPE LONGORIA, JR.
ALBERTO LONGORIA

HAROLD C. SMITH,
Commander,
American Legion Post 413.

(Continued from preceding column)

the fact that the "whites" would not like the disgrace of a public disturbance at a funeral in the chapel. I humbly apologize for the use of the word "whites." I can only defend myself by the fact that I was unjustly accused and angry when I made that statement.

I was contacted by other members of the family. They asked me to notify them of the arrival of the body, and the funeral date, as they were not sure that they would be notified. This only intensified my desire to not have trouble in the funeral chapel. I felt that by encouraging her to use her own house it would be up to her to handle any situation that might come up.

However, if Mrs. Longoria had mentioned any dissatisfaction with these arrangements, I would have been glad to work out almost anything that would have been satisfactory to her.

I wrote Mrs. Longoria and Dr. Garcia letters, stating that there was a misunderstanding, and that if I was in the wrong, then my apologies were extended. A copy of her answer appears below.

I have been honored to handle all of the funeral services for veterans of Mexican descent in this area up to this time, and will do my best to handle them in a proper manner in the future.

I freely admit that in the excitement I made statements which I would be happy to retract, but feel that I have been misquoted and misjudged. I am indeed proud that so many of my new neighbors are willing to forget my mistakes. I am not a native-born Texan, but I am proud to be called a Texan!

(Signed) T. W. KENNEDY.

January 14, 1949.

Rice Funeral Home,
T. W. Kennedy, Jr.,
P. O. Box 328,
Three Rivers, Texas.
Dear Mr. Kennedy:

I wish to acknowledge your letter dated Jan. 12 which I received today. I want to thank you for your offer, however, I feel that it is still too late.

My husband will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D. C. My thanks and gratitude to the people of Three Rivers for their sentiment on the matter.

I want to let you know that I bear no grudge and still think greatly of all of the people from Three Rivers. I am sorry about the whole matter.

Sincerely yours,
MRS. BEATRICE LONGORIA.

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January 14, 1949.

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P. O. Box 328,
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My husband will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D. C. My thanks and gratitude to the people of Three Rivers for their sentiment on the matter.

I want to let you know that I bear no grudge and still think greatly of all of the people from Three Rivers. I am sorry about the whole matter.

Sincerely yours,

MRS. BEATRICE LONGORIA.

C. of C. President Makes Statement

In a meeting of the board of directors of the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce held on Thursday afternoon, a resolution was adopted deploring the unfavorable publicity that the City of Three Rivers and its citizens have received through the publication of misconstrued facts concerning the reported refusal of a local undertaker, T. W. Kennedy, Jr., to bury one of our fellow-townsmen, Felix Longoria, who was killed in action in the Philippines in 1945.

The directors went on record as saying that the Longoria family is held in the highest esteem here and it is regrettable that this situation has developed; that no town in South Texas enjoys better relations with Americans of Mexican descent than does Three Rivers; and that since the above mentioned report has gone out over the State and Nation it has become necessary for Three Rivers to clear its good name.

A good many letters have been received from people throughout the State acquainted with the actual conditions in Three Rivers expressing their disgust with the adverse publicity that Three Rivers received. These people who know the actual conditions voiced their opinion that Three Rivers has been grossly misrepresented.

We still feel that the hasty action of Senator Johnson was largely responsible for this unfavorable publicity and attracted it to the national interest. As far as we know Senator Johnson did not contact one single person in Three Rivers before taking this action.

(Signed)

S. F. RAMSEY, President,
Three Rivers Chamber of
Commerce.

Jan. 19, 1949.

TEXANS ARE PROUD!

By V. D. Wellington

I have lived in Texas only a few years, but I am proud to call myself a "Texan." I am proud of my fellow Texans. I am proud of the fact that the Texans of Three Rivers, the Mayor, the president of the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce, and other people, do not condemn Mr. T. W. Kennedy at this time. Mr. Kennedy spoke hastily, and in anger. That is granted: "He was a 'damnyankee,'" the same as I. I did not expect the people to back him, any more than I would expect them to back me in similar circumstances.

Mr. Kennedy, unquestionably, made a mistake, largely due to the fact that he is a newcomer to Texas. But his neighboring Texans had accepted him. Now they do not condemn him for this one mistake. I hope that if I ever make as serious a mistake they will do the same for me.

I am proud to be a Texan!

Longoria Incident Aired in Probe

Testimony Taken by House Committee At Investigation in Three Rivers

By BILL REDDELL

San Antonio Express Staff Writer

THREE RIVERS, March 10.—The "full story" of the Felix Longoria "incident" was being unraveled here Thursday night and it looked like the little town of 2,000 people would be cleared of any taint of discrimination in so far as the burial of its war dead is concerned. Chairman Cecil

Storey of the special investigating committee of the House of Representatives called for the "full story" in refusing a request of Committeeman Frank Ottorf of Marlin to limit the scope of the probe to the initial "refusal or discouragement" of the use of the funeral home here to the widow of Longoria. The soldier was killed on Luzon during the war.

Testimony has brought out these points:

- That no request was ever made for the use of the funeral chapel.

- That the Rice Funeral Home owner, T. W. Kennedy, Jr., feared trouble when the widow and other members of the family gathered there after the body arrived.

- That the body never was in Three Rivers after it was returned from overseas.

- That the investigation stemmed from a request from Dr. Hector Garcia of Corpus Christi, president of the American G.I. Forum there.

- That Dr. Garcia is "quite a requester" of such investigations.

Kennedy was in the witness chair all morning detailing his experiences in trying to make funeral arrangements.

Not Denied

He testified that at no time were his facilities denied Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, widow of the dead soldier. He got into the record his written offer extending his full services to the widow and her written expression of appreciation for it.

The dispute arose over a serious family situation between members of the Longoria family and the widow, testimony revealed. Kennedy said that after he had started arrangements he heard of this serious family condition and that he discouraged use of his chapel, suggesting that a private home be used.

He said he offered the funeral home's services in making the casket ready, etc., and that this met with the approval of the widow.

The committee refused to allow Kennedy to go into the nature of "the serious family dispute."

Kennedy said racial factors weren't involved at all.

He also testified that in a "heated" telephone exchange with Dr. Hector Garcia of the American G.I. Forum in Corpus Christi, he had used some "unfortunate terminology" and that he had apologized.

Kennedy said he advised the widow through her sister that he was ready and willing to make whatever funeral arrangements she wished, including use of any and all of his facilities, but that the widow was to make up her mind and let him know what she wanted.

Sutherland On Stand

Thomas S. Sutherland, executive secretary of the Texas Good Neighbor Commission, took the stand in the afternoon. He was questioned by Rep. James W. Windham.

Sutherland testified that the complaint against the Three Rivers funeral home had originated with Dr. Garcia. It was brought out that nobody but Dr. Garcia had requested an investigation.

Rep. Tom Cheatham of Cuero, member of the committee, asked Sutherland how many of the 30 investigations Sutherland had conducted in the past year had been requested by Dr. Garcia.

After a ruling from the chair that the question should be an-

swered, Sutherland testified that Garcia had asked for "several" of them.

Rep. Cheatham retorted: "May I be permitted to observe that you have answered my question evasively."

Sutherland was asked to look up how many cases he had investigated by going to the scene and how many by telephone. He had testified that he made one call to Three Rivers—to the funeral home operator—in his investigation of the Longoria case. He was to report on the number at Friday's sessions.

Guadalupe Longoria, Sr., was called to the stand. He admitted that he had signed a statement drawn up by Gus Garcia of San Antonio.

Much of his testimony concerning the statement was indefinite, as he answered "I don't remember" to a number of questions.

He said that he had never asked that the funeral of the soldier be held in Three Rivers.

The hearing was likely to take two or three days in Three Rivers and a day or two in Austin before the committee will be ready to report to the Legislature by March 15.

Subpoenas were issued for Friday appearances of Dr. Garcia, Mrs. Longoria, Bob McCracken, Bob Jackson and George Gros of Corpus Christi. The three latter witnesses are newspapermen. Also called are R. H. Farley, Bexar County Central Committee of the American Legion and Raul Cortez, both of San Antonio.

Mayor J. K. Montgomery testified that he advised Dr. Garcia the funeral home had never been refused, that the American Legion had started arrangements for a military funeral and that his own home was open if it were needed.



—San Antonio Express Staff Photo

FULL SERVICES OFFERED—Three Rivers funeral home owner, T. W. Kennedy, Jr., right foreground, tells House committee investigating "Felix Longoria incident" that his complete facilities were offered for burial of the soldier killed in the war. His counsel, M. A. Childers, is at left foreground. The committee, left to right, includes Rep. Frank Oltorf, Marlin; Rep. James W. Windham, Livingston; Chairman Cecil Storey, Longview; Rep. Byron Tinsley, Greenville; and Rep. Tom Cheatham, Cuero. Court reporter at right is Agnes Miller, Austin.

Truman Aide Attends Rites For Longoria

CCCaller 2/17/49

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17. (AP)—Private Felix Z. Longoria of Three Rivers, Texas, lies in his Arlington National Cemetery grave today.

Longoria, an oil field truck driver before the war, was killed in the Philippine Islands in 1945.

Maj. Gen. Harry Vaughan, aide to President Truman, attended the services.

He said President Truman learned of the case from Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson (D-Texas).

Latin American groups in South Texas charged the director of a funeral home in Three Rivers declined use of the funeral chapel to the Longorias. The Latin American groups charged race prejudice.

T. W. Kennedy, Jr., director of the funeral home, denied charges of the Latin American groups. He said he tried to discourage the Longorias from selecting the chapel in the belief that friction existed between the widow and the dead soldier's parents.

A Latin American organization contacted Johnson and he arranged the Arlington burial.

Among those attending the reburial services were the widow, an eight-year-old daughter and his mother.

Others included Lupe Longoria, Jr., and Arturo Longoria, brothers of Felix; Carolina Longoria, his sister; Sara Moreno, sister-in-law; and Mrs. Beulah Walter, formerly of San Antonio, who now lives here.

Justo Sierra, first secretary of the Mexican embassy, represented his country at the services.

Longoria Inquiry Now 'Far Afield', Legislator Claims

3-12-49

BULLETIN

THREE RIVERS—The House committee investigating the Felix Longoria reburial incident ended its session at Three Rivers at noon today and recessed until it reconvenes at Austin probably next week.

By **JOHNNIE BROWN**
Times Staff Writer

THREE RIVERS—Rep. Tom Cheatham of Cuero protested that the investigation of the Longoria incident had gone "far afield" this morning when Attorney Gus Garcia, San Antonio, asked

Mayor J. K. Montgomery on cross examination if there is segregation in the Three Rivers cemetery and barber shops.

In response to the question Montgomery answered that the cemetery was connected but that it is a custom for Latin Americans to bury on one side and Anglo Americans on another. Some barber shops refuse to serve Latin Americans.

Montgomery said he did not know about the recently opened barber shop next to the Rotary Hall where the investigation is being conducted.

Rep. Cecil Storey of Longview,

chairman of the House of Representatives investigating committee, said that the Three Rivers inquiry was expected to end today.

The five members of the committee are instructed to report their findings by next Tuesday.

At the outset of the morning session today Attorney Garcia was reprimanded by Storey for his remarks in connection with his attempted introduction of a four-page statement by Guadalupe Longoria, Sr., father of the deceased Felix Longoria.

Statement Given Out

Garcia, in excepting to the committee's refusal to permit the statement to be entered in testimony turned and handed a typed statement to members of the press. The statement said in part that Guadalupe Longoria Sr. wished to state that "my son's widow, Beatrice Longoria, and I have never had any personal difference. She, members of her family, and all members of my family including myself have always been the best of terms."

(Funeral director T. W. Kennedy Jr., testified earlier before the committee that he discouraged use of the funeral chapel for the Longoria services because of "ill feeling" between Longoria's widow and the soldier's blood relations, and not because of his Latin American ancestry).

Sara Moreno, sister of Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, and Gladys Blucher, secretary-nurse to Dr. Hector P. Garcia of Corpus Christi, also testified during the morning session.

Miss Moreno now a resident of Corpus Christi said that she formerly lived in Three Rivers and went to "the segregated Mexican school in Three Rivers."

She said that she never met Kennedy but talked to him over the telephone. She said that Kennedy telephoned Corpus Christi and asked for her sister. She said that she (Miss Moreno) talked with Kennedy and explained that her sister was broken hearted and could not come to the phone.

Tells of Phone Call

Miss Moreno said that she told
(See HEARING, Page 10.)

HEARING

(Continued From Page One.)

Kennedy that he had refused use of the chapel and that her sister had come to Corpus Christi and told her about it. Then she said Kennedy told her that Dr. Garcia had called him and "acted very smart" about it. She quoted Kennedy as saying that he had a lot of Latin American friends but that that made no difference, "the whites wouldn't like it."

Rep. Byron Tensley asked Miss Moreno why she did not appeal to Kennedy for satisfactory funeral arrangements in Three Rivers. She answered that he (Kennedy) had already refused use of the chapel.

Some of his questions and her answers follow:

Question: "Are you absolutely sure he denied?"

Answer: "I took my sister's word for it."

Question: "How did she appear to you, at the time?"

Answer: "She appeared heart broken and disappointed that she could not get the chapel."

Question: "Isn't it possible that she might not have remembered everything that happened?"

Answer: "I knew that she was telling everything right."

Question: "Didn't you think it was worth a call to Kennedy?"

Answer: "No."

PUBLICITY MOST DISTURBING

3-11-49

Longoria Incident Is Termed 'Largely a Newspaper Matter'

By **JOHNNIE BROWN**
Caller Staff Writer

THREE RIVERS — T. S. Sutherland, of Austin, executive secretary of the Texas Good Neighbor Commission, Thursday described the nationwide incident arising over reburial arrangements for Pvt. Felix Longoria as "largely a newspaper matter," rather than anything that the people of Three Rivers were disturbed about.

Sutherland told the Texas House of Representatives investigating

committee here that this was his impression of the matter after an investigation by the commission. He said that residents here did not seem to be very disturbed about the actual incident, but that they were disturbed about the publicity the Live Oak County town received.

The commission's executive secretary was one of five witnesses called to testify after the legislative committee opened an investigation into the Longoria matter

Thursday morning. The investigation is being held in the Three Rivers Rotary Hall, and will be resumed at 9 o'clock Friday morning. Rep. Cecil Storey, of Longview, chairman of the group, said.

The committee was assigned to investigate nationwide notoriety this area received as result of funeral arrangements for Longoria, war veteran returned early this year from Luzon for reburial. After discussions over the arrangements which were given national publicity, the body was reburied in Arlington National Cemetery at Washington, D. C.

Reports Tuesday

The committee has been instructed to make its report on the investigation by next Tuesday. While approximately 35 persons are listed as probable witnesses, members of the investigating group indicated that only part of them may actually be called and that they, the investigators, hope to be back in Austin working on other matters Monday.

J. K. Montgomery, mayor of Three Rivers for the past 18 years, testified that he wired Dr. Hector P. Garcia, of Corpus Christi, head of the GI Forum, advising him that Funeral Director T. W. Kennedy, Jr., did not refuse use of his chapel for Longoria's funeral, that a chapel funeral here could be arranged, or that the services could be conducted in his (Montgomery's) home, if desired.

The mayor said, in answer to questions propounded by Gus C. Garcia, of San Antonio, counsel for Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, the soldier's widow, that he received no reply from Dr. Garcia or Mrs. Longoria regarding the offer. Montgomery said that he knew Longoria in his lifetime before the

Turn to Page 22, Column 1



FUNERAL DIRECTOR TESTIFIES—T. W. Kennedy, Jr., left facing investigators, is shown above as he testified Thursday morning before a Texas House of Representatives committee at Three Rivers. M. A. Childers, of San Antonio, the funeral director's counsel, is shown at right. Back of Kennedy is Harry Schulz, of Three Rivers, counsel for Mayor J. K. Montgomery, in the investigation of the incident arising over the recent reburial arrangements for Pvt. Felix Longoria. (Caller Staff Photo).

LONGORIA

(Continued From Page One.)

war, that they had worked for the same company.

Mayor Montgomery was the final witness during Thursday's session, and he insisted in his testimony that Latin Americans aren't discriminated against in this town of approximately 2,500.

Attorney Garcia asked if the community did not have separate cemeteries.

"I believe they are connected," Montgomery said.

"By custom are some buried on one side and some on another?" questioned Garcia, and the mayor said that he did not know.

When the attorney asked if the city has an ordinance prohibiting discrimination, Mayor Montgomery said that it did not.

Rep. Tom Cheatham, of Cuero, a member of the investigating committee, asked Montgomery if any incidents had arisen making such an ordinance necessary, and he answered, "No."

Tempers Flare

Tempers flared briefly when a former deputy sheriff, George Flores, was called to testify. Garcia objected under the rules of evidence because Flores had been in the building and had heard part of the previous testimony.

Cheatham insisted that Garcia should have known that an officer would be excused from the rule. Garcia said that he did not know that Flores was an officer, and Cheatham replied that he should know before he "popped off."

The first few questions asked Flores revealed that Cheatham was wrong, that he was not an officer, but was a former Live Oak County deputy. By agreement of all concerned his testimony continued.

Flores testified that he had arrested Guadalupe Longoria, Jr., brother of the deceased soldier, late in 1947, together with another man following a disturbance at a dance hall here. He said that they pleaded guilty and paid fines.

The committee refused to permit the testimony to go any further to determine the reason for the "trouble" the two men had, because it did not want to go into an investigation as to the moral behavior of the war veteran's wife.

Garcia objected at this point to the "chair" referring to Mrs. Longoria's character, insisting that it would be all right with him for the committeemen to investigate along this line if they so desired.

Another committeeman, Rep. B. R. Tinsley, of Greenville, cut in to tell Garcia, "Perhaps you don't care, but I do."

Funeral Director Kennedy told the committee earlier in the day that he discouraged use of his funeral chapel for the Longoria services because of an "ill feeling" in the Longoria family.

First Request

He explained further that no request ever had been made previously for use of the chapel for a Latin American funeral and that he felt that it was the custom of Latin Americans to have their services in a private home or in a church.

"These are the only reasons why I discouraged the chapel arrangement—and not because they were Latin American," the Three Rivers undertaker emphasized.

Kennedy said that Dr. Garcia telephoned him the night of Jan. 10 and asked why he refused chapel services for Longoria.

"I tried to tell him I didn't refuse, but that I tried to discourage it," Kennedy testified. "I believe he was mad—I know I was mad."

The Three Rivers funeral director said that he used bad terminology when he said that, "The white people wouldn't like it." He said that he apologized for the statement. In explaining the statement, he said that he was thinking that there might be another funeral at the same time as the Longoria funeral, that there might be trouble between Longoria's blood relatives and his widow, and that people connected with the other funeral might object.

Requested Action

Sutherland testified that the commission was asked to take action in the matter by Dr. Garcia. He said that he (Sutherland) telephoned Kennedy and asked that the rites be held in the funeral chapel. He quoted Kennedy as saying, "The white people would object to that and I couldn't start that sort of thing."

Finally, Sutherland testified, Kennedy said that the Longoria reburial rites could be held in the chapel. "If the family insists."

Members of the committee ques-

tioned Sutherland concerning the policy of the Good Neighbor Commission in acting on charges of alleged discrimination. The executive secretary said that the agency tried to get both sides of a controversy and then help the community affected solve the problem itself.

Rep. Frank Oltorf, of Marlin, committee member, objected to the line of questioning and asked other committeemen if they did not think that "this is turning into an investigation of the Texas Good Neighbor Commission, instead of the Longoria incident."

Storey said that he thought the questions were relevant to the probe.

Cheatham asked if Dr. Garcia was "quite an asker" on investigations. Sutherland first declined to reply, but further questioning brought this answer: "If asking four or five investigations makes him a requester, then he is."

Kennedy said that after his telephone conversations with Dr. Garcia and later with a Corpus Christi Caller-Times reporter, the night of Jan. 10, he tried to talk with Mrs. Beatrice Longoria in Corpus Christi by telephone, but that her sister told him that she could not understand and that she (the sister)

He said he told the sister that if there was any misunderstanding that he humbly apologized, and that all of my facilities would be available, if desired.

"I told her 'if you go into a store and buy a pair of shoes that don't fit, do you call Dr. Garcia?' I said that all she needed to do was contact me and we'd make other arrangements. I told her it wasn't because of Latin Americans that we tried to discourage the funeral."

Father Appears

Guadalupe Longoria, Sr., 66 year old father of the deceased soldier and a resident of Three Rivers for 25 years, denied on the stand that he had had any differences with Mrs. Beatrice Longoria.

Garcia questioned the father concerning a statement of fact on the reburial incident signed on Feb. 20. Storey said that evidence already introduced showed the investigation was ordered Feb. 17. The statement of fact was not allowed to be introduced as evidence.

Montgomery said that the elderly Longoria refused to sign a statement to which his signature was requested by a Three Rivers group trying to arrange to have the body brought here. Among those in the group were S. F. Ramsey and Montgomery, the mayor testified.

The mayor presented a handwritten letter which he said Guadalupe Longoria, Jr., delivered to him. The elderly Longoria said that he knew nothing of this letter either.

It said in part, "I am very sorry because I cannot sign any statement" (regarding the arrangements.) The letter explained that the soldier's widow had authority to make the arrangements. The letter added that the writer did not "blame all the white people of this town for what happened," and "Excuse us for what you have read in the newspapers."

Members of the investigating body and the press had a chicken dinner at Ray's Cafe Thursday noon, with the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce as host. President Ramsey attended the luncheon.

THREAT TO SAFETY

Elgin & E. H. H. 2/19/20

Lugs of Solon's Car Loosened

By ROY GRIMES

San Antonio Express Austin Correspondent

AUSTIN, Feb. 19.—A threat to the safety of Rep. J. F. Gray of Three Rivers, whose bill to abolish the Texas Good Neighbor Commission has developed into a center of storm in the 51st Legislature, was disclosed Saturday. It was learned that the front wheel lugs on the representative's automobile were loosened while it was parked on the Capitol grounds Thursday night, apparently with the intent of causing an accident.

Gray's bill against the good neighbor commission and his resolution calling for an investigation of the Felix Longoria burial incident because of unfavorable publicity to Three Rivers have provoked a cross-fire of dissension during the past week. Rio Grande Valley representatives, with A. J. Vale of Rio Grande City as spokesman, have headed up opposition to both measures.

No Report Made

No official report was made of the wheel lug tampering and Rep. Gray declined comment from his home in Three Rivers Saturday. However, he did admit that the lugs on the front wheels had been loosened, and the condition was discovered because "a car just doesn't run very good when it's like that."

The legislature adjourned for the week end Thursday, and normally Rep. Gray might have been expected to start the drive home to Three Rivers Thursday night. He stayed over until Friday night because of legislative business.

Controversy over the Three Rivers representative's bill and resolution reached a high point of temperature Friday when he was faced in a crackling press conference by R. R. (Bob) Smith of Houston, chairman of the Good Neighbor Commission, and Tom Sutherland of Austin, executive secretary. Smith in effect demanded a full-scale investigation of the commission, although the resolution as

adopted had not called for that, and Gray took up the challenge.

Deliberate Attempt

While Gray declined to give any details of the car-tampering case, other sources said there was no doubt the wheel lugs had been loosened in a deliberate attempt to cause an accident. When the car was checked later, they reported, wrench marks on the lugs which had not before been loosened were plain to see. Gray was urged to report the incident to the Texas Department of Public Safety but preferred not to do so.

Friends of Gray doubted there had been any effort to steal the wheels and tires from the representative's car, since the hub caps after being removed had been carefully replaced and there would have been no reason to do this if a theft attempt had been interrupted.

Speaker of the House Durwood Manford said Saturday he will wait until next week to appoint the five-member investigating committee set up in Gray's resolution. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 104 to 20 in the House Thursday, despite the efforts of Reps. Vale, Abraham Kazen of Laredo, Joe Kilgore of McAllen and others to block it.

Burial in Arlington

Both the bill and the resolution grew out of burial plans for Pfc. Felix Longoria, a Latin-American infantryman killed on Luzon whose body was returned in January. It assumed the proportions of an international incident when charges were made

Continued on Page 4, Col. 4

Loosening of Lugs on Solon's Car Held Attempt to Injure Him

Continued from Page 1

that T. W. Kennedy, Jr., a Three Rivers undertaker and World War II veteran, had declined use of his chapel for the funeral. Kennedy claimed it was a misunderstanding, not racial discrimination, that caused the situation to develop.

Longoria was buried with full military honors Wednesday in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington. Arrangements were made by the office of U.S. Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson. The widow, Mrs. Beatrice Longoria of Three Rivers; a daughter, two sisters and three brothers attended the services.

In Friday's heated conference, Gray told Smith that his chief reason for seeking elimination of the Good Neighbor Commission was that "I think it's useless. Conditions now are no better than before it was established. In fact, I think they are worse."

Conditions No Better

Smith called the representative to account on a statement Gray had made that reports is-

sued by the commission were untruthful, mainly a report from Sutherland that diplomatic conversations in Mexico City on a farm labor contract with the United States had been "stopped" because of the Longoria incident. The contract was signed two days after the report had been made, and spokesmen for the Mexican Government were quoted as saying the

Three Rivers case had nothing to do with the situation.

Smith said he welcomed the investigation, and that his commission has never been one to take a position of "apologizing and whining."

"If you find in this investigation that any employee of the commission has lied," Smith told Gray, "I'll fire them immediately. But if you are wrong, I want you to promise that you'll be man enough to stand up and admit it."

Gray accepted the challenge.

Investigation Of Longoria Case Called

CCC
Callers 2/13/49
Hearings on Racial
Discrimination
Are To Be Public

AUSTIN, Feb. 17. (AP)—Legislative investigation of the row over reburial of Felix Longoria, a Latin American soldier killed on Luzon, was ordered today by the Texas House of Representatives.

Rep. J. F. Gray of Three Rivers, the town where South Texas Latin American groups charged a funeral home declined use of its chapel by the Longoria family, said he wanted to find out the true facts.

Charges Denied

The funeral home director denied the charges by the Latin American groups.

An investigation is needed to clear up "conflicting reports that have been circulated and continue to circulate, some such reports alleging that discrimination had been shown in the handling of his (Longoria's) funeral arrangements," Gray said in his resolution.

The vote in favor of investigation was 104 to 20. Speaker Durwood Manford will name a five-man committee to conduct the inquiry and report back before March 15. A \$1,000 appropriation to cover expenses was authorized.

Public Hearings Asked

"Do you propose that all hearings by this committee shall be public hearings?" Rep. Abraham Kazen Jr., of Laredo asked Gray.

"Well, that's not in the resolution, but in all countries ruled by democracy that is taken for granted," Gray replied.

Gray's resolution had to be amended to provide for the \$1,000 appropriation.

That action came after Kazen advised Gray: "If you are going to get anything more than a white-wash committee, you had better get enough money to make the thorough kind of investigation you want."

An Open Letter to Senator Johnson

Three Rivers News 2/20/49

Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson

United States Senate

Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator

Your answer to certain telegrams sent you from Three Rivers, relative to the burial of Felix Longoria, has caused considerable doubt in the minds of some of your supporters as to whether or not you really are representing all of the people in this matter.

In answer to one of these telegrams you stated, "No action of mine has enforced any stigma on anyone." Kindly read the editorial from the Detroit Free Press, study the cartoon and draw your own conclusion.

Previous to your action, not one word had been said in Three Rivers as to where this American soldier would be buried, other than the Longoria family lot in the Three Rivers Cemetery, where his father and family, would have liked for him to rest, where the citizens of Three Rivers, Veterans and all others would have given him an American soldier's burial in his own native town.

This was to be the return of the body of one of our citizens who had given his life for his country and before this situation developed, arrangements had been made by the brothers of Felix with the local American Legion Post for a military funeral. Arrangements that were no different from any other burial of any other American soldier. Officers of the post have informed us that the burial detail, firing squad and even pall bearers had been arranged for and even now are alerted for they have never been informed that the body would not be buried here.

Therefore, Senator, you can very easily understand why the citizens of Three Rivers were so stunned when over the radio and in the papers came reports that you had made arrangements to have Felix buried in Arlington Cemetery.

This, then, had become national news—wires and letters began coming in—not to Mr. Kennedy who had made the mistake—but to the Chamber of Commerce, citizens of Three Rivers, the Mayor and others blaming

not Mr. Kennedy, but all citizens of Three Rivers, Live Oak County and the State of Texas.

We certainly do not uphold Mr. Kennedy in his answer to Garcia and the newspaper when he was called by telephone and told how to run his business and in stating that the "whites wouldn't like it." Mr. Kennedy is a young man and anxious to succeed in his business, having purchased the business on January 1, 1949, so when these calls came in after he had made acceptable arrangements with the widow of Felix, his reaction was probably the same as yours—without first finding out all the facts he more or less lost his head and said things of which he is now very sorry.

In view of these facts some are wondering why you so promptly informed certain people outside of Three Rivers that you would see that Felix was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, or words to that effect.

If you could read some of the vile letters that we businessmen and officials are receiving blaming the citizens of Three Rivers, Live Oak County and State of Texas, you could not but feel that you had some part in it.

Of course no one here expects to tell you how you should run your business, but it does seem reasonable to believe that had you thought of us as you seemingly thought of others you could have at least requested an explanation from one of our city officials. Had this come to pass Felix would still have a chance to be buried in Three Rivers as we citizens want him to be, his family and friends in Three Rivers would be happy, his friends and relatives from surrounding towns could still come to visit his grave, and he would rest peacefully in his native town, where all men are treated fair and equal.

We have always respected the law-makers of our country and have been proud of the men we have sent to Congress—please do not let us down.

Respectfully yours,
Cecil Cunningham,
Della Goebel
Editors.

THE AMARILLO GLOBE

(AP) Indicates
The Associated Press
(UP) Indicates
The United Press



News About Amarillo
and the Entire
Great Plains
Empire

TWENTY-SIXTH YEAR, NO. 13

AMARILLO, TEXAS, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1949

28 PAGES PRICE 5 CENTS

Lyndon Johnson Scores Cloture; 'No Gag in Campaign,' He Says

WASHINGTON, March 9. (AP)—Sen. Lyndon Johnson of Texas opened the ninth day of the Southern filibuster in the Senate today, as administration leaders decided they will make an effort tomorrow to break the talkathon through a parliamentary maneuver. Democratic Leader Lucas of Illinois announced the move was approved in a huddle of Northern and Western party members.

The plan is this: Lucas will file a petition for cloture, meaning a limitation of debate. That will force a ruling by Vice-President Barkley on whether debate can be limited in the present parliamentary situation.

Southern Senators contend that it can not. Technically, the business before the Senate is a motion by Lucas to take up a proposed anti-filibuster change in Senate rules.

If Barkley rules the present debate can be limited, the Southerners can appeal to the Senate. That means the Senate would vote on whether or not Barkley ruled correctly.

If the cloture petition is defeated, which I hope it is not, we will be right back where we are now," Lucas said. "Our course then would be the subject for another conference."

Lucas has indicated in talks with reporters previously that the whole situation, in that event, would be checked to President Truman.

The President would have to decide whether any more efforts should be made to get an anti-filibuster rule through the Senate. The administration wants such a rule to clear the way for the President's "civil rights" program.

But the fact that the present filibuster is preventing action on other administration measures puts pressure on the White House to drop the idea.

On the Senate floor, the Southerners took up their filibuster after a day of rest due to Republican speeches, with Texas Senator Johnson leading off.

Johnson, otherwise an administration supporter, is one of a score of Southern Democrats who oppose the civil rights program.

The Texan told his colleagues in a lengthy prepared speech that the Senate is "being asked to choose between the freedom to enact laws hastily and the freedom to speak."

"For me," he said, "there is no choice. I cannot embrace any freedom which demands, as the terms of its existence, the imprisonment of another and more precious freedom."

Johnson said he was "profoundly impressed with the weight and power of unlimited debate" in last year's Presidential campaign.

He said the information was abroad in the country "that the Democratic Party was doomed to defeat."

"But there was no cloture rule on the man in the White House," the Texan said. "There was no rule limiting him to an hour's debate because two-thirds of the nation thought they had heard from him all they could hear."

Johnson, who traveled for a period with Mr. Truman on his campaign train, said the people changed their minds because the President "dared to keep speaking."

Johnson said he believes "that the right of unlimited debate in the Senate is an essential safeguard against potential total supremacy of the executive branch."

"A man elevated to the office of the Presidency has virtually unlimited powers of influence over his countrymen," Johnson declared. "His own personality is a force of great impact upon all the people of the nation and, in fact, upon the

Johnson said that if the country gives to the President "the further intoxicant of an overwhelming majority of loyal supporters in the legislative branch, then you have a force well nigh irresistible."

Negro on Dallas Ballot

DALLAS, March 9 (U.P.)—Howard Daniels, Jr., first Negro ever to seek a city council post in Dallas, will have his name on the April 5 ballot, it was revealed today.

The city council yesterday, on a motion of Mayor Pro Tem Wallace Savage, instructed City Secretary Earl Goforth to place Daniels' name on the ballot whether his method of seeking the ballot place was legal or not.

Daniels' plea for a ballot place was mailed to the secretary Saturday night. He originally asked to go on the ballot from Place 6, but later asked that this be changed to Place 5 when he learned that he lived in this council district.

City Atty. Henry Kucera said today that he was not prepared to rule on the legality of Daniels' method of filing his candidacy by mail or whether it was valid to change places after the filing deadline.

The council, acting on Savage's motion, voted unanimously to place Daniels' name on the ballot.

Savage will oppose Daniels in the election.

Body Firm's Strike Idles Car Builders

DETROIT, March 9 (U.P.)—An additional 14,500 Chrysler Corporation workers were laid off today, bringing to 23,200 the number idled by a shortage of body frames.

A Chrysler spokesman said delivery of the frames from the Midland Steel Company, strikebound Monday, was "lagging."

The spokesman said the layoffs probably would be for "only a day or two," but employees were instructed not to report for work until further notice.

Almost half the workers are employed at the Dodge plant. All plants, the spokesman said, are operating on a reduced scale.

Axis Sally's Fate Is Up to Jury Now

WASHINGTON, March 9 (U.P.)—The treason charges against Mildred E. "Axis Sally" Gillars went to a federal court jury of seven women and five men this afternoon after a six-week trial.

If the 48-year-old American-born woman who broadcast for the Nazis during World War II is found guilty, the maximum penalty could be death. But a traitor has never been executed by the United States in peacetime.

The minimum sentence for treason is five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Filibuster Also an Arch-Buster



(P) Wirephoto
Sen. Harry P. Cain, Washington Republican, rubbed head and foot last night after he spoke continuously for six hours and 45 minutes against nomination of Mon Wallgren to be chairman of the National Securities Resources Board. During the speech he changed to the extra shoes to rest aching feet. It was the longest continuous address the Senate has heard so far this year.

One-Man Talkathon Is a Boring Sight

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON, March 9 (P)—How does a one-man talkathon look? From where I sat it's a sad sight: bleak, lonely, and boring.

Sen. Harry Cain of the State of Washington put one on yesterday. The sandy-haired Cain, who looks younger than his 43 years, talked for six hours and 45 minutes.

Seems Republican Cain doesn't like Democrat Mon C. Wallgren who used to be governor of Cain's state.

Cain has made this known many times before. In case anyone had any doubt about it, he threw his marathon talk yesterday.

Senate work came to a full stop. Never more than a handful of Senators sat around, listening or talking among themselves.

Stray visitors wandered into the galleries, stared down at Cain, listened blankly, and left.

Cain opened up the talk, fully prepared with a 264-page address, 79,000 words long, plus anything else he could think of to throw in.

He talked, waved his arms, pointed his finger sternly in the air like a magistrate passing judgment, raised his voice, lowered it, put a dramatic pitch in, took out the dramatic pitch, stepped forward, stepped back, put a hand in his pocket, took it out, looked very earnest, and talked.

The hours dragged on. The dim light filtered in through the sky-

light in the Senate ceiling, some newspapermen peeked in through the gallery doors to reassure themselves he was still at it and those who had to stay and listen to every word just stayed and listened.

If you ever hear that a one-man talkfest is going on, stay away.

All this started some time ago.

Wallgren, before he became governor of Washington, was a congressman and a senator. While he was in the Senate he became a great pal of Sen. Harry Truman.

They remained pals when Mr. Truman became President. In the last election Wallgren was defeated for re-election as governor.

Mr. Truman remembered his old friend, and having won a new See FILIBUSTER—Page 2

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Garcia, Dr Hector P
Corpus Christi, Texas

NUECES COUNTY

1-31-49 Tel. War Personnel, Longoria, Felix^X

2/8/49 War, Longoria, Felix

2/16/49 war, longoria, felix

Card Refiled in Senate Card Index
of Correspondence, 1949-51

Dr. Hector P. Garcia

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON
408 TEXAS BLDG.

OFFICE PHONE 3-1508

RES. PHONE 3-2109

For Senator Johnson:

Address: Senator:

Am sending you
these things now. We will
have more.

Will photostat Crohn's
(Registered) statement Monday
and send you three copies

Mr Gray is making
a serious mistake -
I'll write Monday -

FEB 21 P.M.

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CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

Date 2-11-61

U. S. Reg. No. 67083

Good Neighbor Panel Seeks 'Full' Probe

Officials Argue Over 'Longoria Incident'

BY FRED WILLIAMS

The Austin American Capitol Staff

R. E. Smith of Houston, chairman of the Good Neighbor Commission, promised Friday to pay for a private investigation of his agency if the House examining committee doesn't make a "full" one.

In an hour and a half press conference, Smith defended the commission's record. He stressed the agency's actions in the case of the reburial of Felix Longoria, Latin-American soldier killed on Luzon.

Latin American groups of Three Rivers had charged that a funeral home there declined use of its chapel to the Longoria family. The row became an international story, climaxed Wednesday with Longoria's burial in Arlington Cemetery.

Representative J. F. Gray of Three Rivers Thursday obtained House permission for a five-man committee with a \$1,000 budget to investigate the incident, and incidentally, the Good Neighbor Commission. He made unexpected appearance at the press conference.

"We welcome the opportunity for an investigation," Smith said. "We've never been apologizing and whining and we're not now. If the majority of the people want this office abolished after a full and true report of our activities, then it should be."

Tom Sutherland, executive secretary of the commission, added that "we welcome such a committee if it is objective and will do a thorough job."

Gray spoke up to explain why he introduced a bill earlier in the session to abolish the commission.

"I think it's useless," the Three Rivers man said. "Conditions now are no better than before it was established. In fact I think they are worse. In the second place, I believe if every time Mrs. Gray and I had a domestic argument and someone broadcasted it to our families and neighbors, we should be separated now."

Smith denied that his agency had publicized the Longoria incident, saying instead the story was in the newspapers before the information reached the commission's office here.

The legislator turned to Sutherland and asked him where he got the information he released stating that labor relations between Mexico and the US had been broken off, when the contract was signed shortly afterwards.

"I didn't say they were broken off," Sutherland answered. "I said they were stopped. It turned out it was only a temporary stoppage."

It was this report which Gray had used in telling the House Thursday that "we feel—we know—we have evidence that reports recently made by the Good Neighbor Commission are not truthful—and not only on that incident."

Smith said he "objected to the 'untruthful' phrase more than anything Gray has said. 'If you find any member of this commission or any employe who has lied, and that's what an untruth is, I'll fire them immediately. But if you're wrong, I want you to promise the press that you'll be man enough to stand up and admit it.'"

Sutherland refused to tell the source of this information on the stopping of labor talks, but he added: "I'll be glad to tell the House committee where I got it."

Gray quipped: "I have a mind you'll have an opportunity to do it."

Gray told newsmen that "I'm sticking by my decision that the commission is useless, and that it's used only as a sounding board and a magnifying glass of such little domestic incidents."

Do you mean the Longoria case was a little domestic incident?" Smith asked.

"It was until you people, US Senator Lyndon B. Johnson, and the press got through with it." (Johnson was responsible for getting Longoria reburied in Arlington with full military honors).

It was then that Smith promised Gray that "you're going to get your full investigation you want."

COMMISSION ON GRIDDLE

Lyle Denies Longoria Case Put End to US-Mexico Labor Parley

By GLENN M. GREEN JR.
International News Service

A Texas congressman was quoted Thursday as declaring the Felix Longoria burial case had "no effect" on US-Mexican labor contract negotiations.

State Representative J. F. Gray of Three Rivers said he had a telephone conversation with Congressman John Lyle of Corpus Christi Thursday during which Lyle assured him the publicized incident "was not officially recognized by either side."

The information was attributed to the US State Department.

If the coming Texas Legislature investigation of the incident establishes this fact, Gray said Thursday, he will demand the resignation of R. E. Smith of Houston, chairman of the Good Neighbor Commission.

Gray has protested the commission's part in the case. He has introduced a bill which would abolish the commission. At a recent conference with Gray, Smith declared that he would resign if reports issued by the commission were proven untrue.

Gray had taken issue with a statement attributed to Tom Sutherland, executive secretary of the commission, that the Longoria case caused a halt to the international negotiations.

"It looks," said Gray, "as if the Good Neighbor Commission is going to be minus a head."

Under a resolution introduced by Gray, the speaker of the Texas House is to appoint a five-member committee to investigate the incident. Racial discrimination was charged when difficulties arose over the use of a Three Rivers funeral chapel for reburial services. Longoria was killed on Luzon.

The body subsequently was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

Queried about Gray's statement Thursday, Sutherland quickly disputed it.

"I have just finished talking with Washington and I can assure you that what I have said is absolutely true," he asserted.

Sutherland continued:

"Of course, neither government can officially recognize the incident. One of the chief reasons why there must be a Good Neighbor Commission is that the status of many citizens of Texas is still discriminated against by some people on the basis of their Mexican ancestry.

"Whether Mexico can officially recognize incidents affecting US citizens of Mexican ancestry does not alter the fact that the incidents have a tremendous effect, psychologically, on relations with the United States—as witness the fact that Mexico has refused to send laborers here.

"If quick action had not been taken by Texans to do something about the case (Longoria incident), the damage would have been much greater."

Gray said Lyle had told him he had contacted the proper parties in the US State Department and had determined that the incident did not halt the negotiations.

(Recent reports from Washington indicated a final settlement on the labor situation is near.)

Three Rivers Soldier Buried in Arlington

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16—(AP)—A family of Latin-Americans from Three Rivers, Texas, stood in a cold drizzling rain in Arlington National Cemetery Wednesday and heard last rites for Private Felix Z. Longoria.

His dark-eyed widow, eight-year-old daughter and mother were among those gathered solemnly at one side of the flag-bedecked casket holding the remains of the 26-year-old soldier.

An oil field truck driver before the war, Longoria was killed on Luzon in the Philippine Islands in June 1943.

His reburial was not far from the burial site of General of the Armies John J. Pershing.

Maj. Gen. Harry Vaughan, aide to President Truman stood at the head of the two long rows of caskets of 19 war dead who were re-buried Wednesday. Longoria's casket was at the head of one row.

Just before the services, newsmen asked Vaughan if he was there as President Truman's personal representative.

"Yea," replied Vaughan, "I came

here for the services of that Texas boy who got all the unfavorable publicity due to the stupidity of that undertaker."

He said the President learned of the case from Senator Lyndon B. Johnson (D-Texas).

The incident to which Vaughan referred occurred several weeks ago when plans were made for Longoria's reburial.

The director of a funeral home in Three Rivers at first declined use of the funeral home chapel to the Longorias. Latin-American groups in South Texas charged race prejudice.

T. W. Kennedy Jr., director of the funeral home, said he had tried to discourage the Longorias from selecting the chapel in the belief that friction existed between the widow and the dead soldier's parents.

A Latin-American organization contacted Senator Johnson and he promptly arranged the burial services in Arlington.

The Senator and Mrs. Johnson, accompanied by Representative Lyle (D-Texas), stood under a canopy to

one side of the row of caskets during the service.

When the firing squad had fired three rounds and taps were sounded General Vaughan, Johnson and Lyle were among the first to step up and offer their condolences to the family.

Justo Sierra, first secretary of the Mexican Embassy, represented his country at the services.

Others who attended were Lupe Longoria Jr., and Arturo Longoria, brothers of Felix; Carolina Longoria, his sister; Sara Moreno, sister-in-law; and Mrs. Beulah Walter, formerly of San Antonio, but who now lives here.

After the services, the Longoria family, with the families of others buried on Pershing Hill, were taken to view the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

They had intended to place a wreath there, but learned that considerable time would be required in getting permission. The wreath then was taken back to Private Longoria's grave.

The American flag which had covered Longoria's casket was presented to his widow.

Austin American 2-17-49

Arlington Cemetery Rites Held for Private Longoria

By DAVID BOTTER

Washington Bureau of The News

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, Va., Feb. 16.—They buried little Felix Longoria Wednesday on a quiet Arlington hillside while diplomats of two nations stood in bare-headed tribute to a simple Texas boy they never knew.

The President of the United States sent his military aide—a blunt-spoken man who said he was there because of "the stupidity of that undertaker."

And the Mexican ambassador sent flowers for an American Army private whose burial had become a "cause."

It was more attention than the short and stocky fellow from Three Rivers, Live Oak County, could have reasonably expected.

For Felix Z. Longoria had been a pretty regular sort of a Latin-American in a South Texas county. He had married and had a cute little daughter when he was drafted at twenty-five. He shipped out with the 27th Division and in June, 1945, Japanese small arms fire killed him on wooded Luzon.

Whether there had been "discrimination"—even in death—against Pvt. Felix Longoria was still a subject of dispute as the last sweet notes of "Taps" echoed over the rolling knolls and around the white marble tablets that mark the final resting places of Americas' war dead.

His fur-coated widow, Beatrice, said there had been—that she was denied the use of a funeral chapel in the home town of Three Rivers

for his reburial—because he was a "Mexican."

The undertaker, T. W. Kennedy Jr., said there had been a misunderstanding, no discrimination.

But in the resultant dispute and contention, with Latin-American groups in South Texas taking the issue as a basis for crusade, arrangements were made to bury Felix Longoria in Arlington.

The services were impressive, brief, militarily moving.

Felix Longoria's family was here—his widow, their charming 8-year-old daughter, Adelita; his mother, Mrs. Guadalupe Longoria Sr.; his brothers, Lupe, Alfredo and Alberto; his sister, Carolina; a sister-in-law—sent by air liner with funds raised by Latin-American groups and friends in Three Rivers and Corpus Christi.

The women wept quietly at the grave as Mrs. Beulah Walton, a former San Antonio resident, held an umbrella over Mrs. Longoria's bared head. Little Adelita was curious, understanding but little, even as her mother laid a picture on the grave of the mustached boy who had been her father.

It was a mass burial for nineteen war dead. But the diplomats and American officials were there specifically for the Texas boy.

Justo Sierra, first secretary of the Mexican Embassy arrived with his government's floral tribute borne by Mexican army and navy officers. Nearby stood Paul J. Revaley, head of the State Department's Mexican affairs desk.

Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, Presi-

dent Truman's blunt-spoken military aide arrived early. He told reporters he was there for the burial of "that Longoria boy from Texas which got all that unfavorable publicity because of the stupidity of that undertaker."

Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson, who arranged for the Arlington burial, and Mrs. Johnson, and Rep. John Lyle of Corpus Christi stood not far away as the family gathered at the graveside while a Catholic chaplain said the military rites of burial.

Felix Longoria's grave was just over the hill from that of the late, great Gen. John J. Pershing, on grounds that belonged to the Potomac River home of Robert E. Lee, a bugle call from the white marble sarcophagus that holds the remains of the Unknown Soldier.

The army's band played a dirge, then "Nearer, My God, To Thee" and Chaplain Ernest Pearsall said the Catholic service, praying:

"Eternal rest unto them, oh Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them . . ."

The flag-draped steel casket was unsheathed. The folded flag was presented to Beatrice Longoria, and from across the knolls came those bugle echoes:

"Peaceful dreams . . ."

The salute fired. The band played again—"Onward, Christian Soldiers, marching . . ."

The diplomats and the officials and the friends filed by the family. They moved on up to the Unknown Soldier's tomb, to place another wreath.

And Felix Longoria, the little

See LONGORIA, Page 19, Col. 3

peace—his "last full measure of devotion" paid, his "cause" for others to dispute.

Inquiry to Be Sought

Austin Bureau of The News

AUSTIN, Texas, Feb. 16.—A legislative inquiry into charges of discrimination in reburial plans for the Latin American soldier at Three Rivers will be sought Thursday in the House of Representatives.

Rep. J. F. Gray of Three Rivers said he filed a resolution with House Speaker Durwood Manford Wednesday calling for a 5-member committee to "learn the truth or untruth of the allegations."

The resolution said, "so many conflicting reports have been circulated and continue to circulate, some alleging that discrimination had been shown in the handling of

funeral arrangements for Pvt. Felix Longoria," an organization at Corpus Christi had charged that a Three Rivers undertaker denied use of his chapel for reburial services for the soldier killed on Luzon.

These charges were denied.

"Without the public knowing the facts, injustice is being done to the

people involved in this controversy," the resolution continued, making it doubly necessary that the truth be known.

If the committee goes into action it would have power to subpoena witnesses and take testimony. Its findings would be made in a report back to the House.

Bexar County Veterans Council Defends Three Rivers

The following letter and resolutions are self-explanatory:

February 5th, 1949.

Honorable Walter Winchell
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Winchell,

For a number of years the writer has been an ardent follower of yours and rarely misses a broadcast of yours.

The steadfast belief in your integrity that I have convinces me that there is not enough money in the world to hire you to knowingly harm an American who was wounded in defending our country.

The judgment passed out on the Longoria incident was from appearance and not righteous judgment: therefore I believe you will appreciate the attached resolutions.

Sincerely yours,
R. H. FARLEY,
Secretary-Treasurer,
Central Council.

Bexar County Central Council
of

American Legion Inc.
205 W. French Place
San Antonio 1, Texas

January 27, 1949.

The Bexar County Central Council of the American Legion in regular meeting January 27th, 1949, passed the following resolutions:

WHEREAS

Through careless and immature actions by people in high and honorable places, harmful humiliation and embarrassment has been caused to the Kennedy family, Rice Funeral Home, the good people of the City of Three Rivers and the State of Texas

by bringing nation-wide publicity in the burial arrangements of Felix Longoria, a soldier killed in the Philippines in 1945.

WHEREAS

The American Legion through competent, loyal and unbiased investigators have not found the least trace of any act of un-American activity or racial discrimination practiced in this matter.

WHEREAS

The people of Three Rivers now and have at all times enjoyed peaceful, orderly and most pleasant relations among all races.

WHEREAS

Arrangements were made with American Legion Post No. 413 for full military honors to be held at the funeral and a letter expressing regret was sent to Mr. Tom Kennedy by the wife of Felix Longoria over this unhappy event.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That Central Council (the representative body of twenty Posts in Bexar County) go on record deploring this hasty and unjust action that has caused the unwarranted criticism of fair and just citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Honorable Lyndon Johnson, Honorable Walter Winchell and Dr. Hector Garcia earnestly hoping they will endeavor to counteract the harm and hurt done these good people in the same manner in which it was inflicted.

The above resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Bexar County Central Council,

R. H. FARLEY,
Secretary-Treasurer.

there 2
clippings are
old but
if you don't
have them
you may need
em to complete
your file.
FOR

This is new

The Dallas Morning News

8—Section V

Sunday, January 30, 1949

CASE OF PVT. LONGORIA

Three Rivers Digs Out Of Blizzard of Abuse

By WICK FOWLER

Staff Correspondent of The News

THREE RIVERS, Texas, Jan. 29. —This little Live Oak County town Saturday was digging itself out of a blizzard of abuse.

Meddling and misunderstanding, say Three Rivers citizens, caused it all.

Criticism struck Three Rivers two weeks ago when it was charged there had been racial discrimination in plans for reburial of Pfc. Felix Longoria, soldier of Latin-American descent who was killed on Luzon.

JOHNSON STEPS IN

When the alleged news of discrimination reached Washington, Lyndon Johnson, new junior Senator from Texas, offered to arrange for burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Three Rivers citizens didn't like that and have protested against what they called snap judgment. Senator Johnson replied that he was merely trying to help and do his duty.

The Texas Good Neighbor Commission also caused local anger when it entered the case.

State Rep. J. F. Gray of Three Rivers said he would like to see the commission abolished. He likened the commission to a "mother-in-law who keeps things agitated."

The incident reached international scope when the leader of the GI Forum at Corpus Christi, Dr. Hector P. Garcia protested to Washington.

The Forum is an independent organization of veterans of Latin-American descent.

STORY EXPLODES

Dr. Garcia sent a long telegram to Texas officials, to Washington and to other places charging that T. W. Kennedy Jr., an undertaker recently removed to Three Rivers from Altoona, Pa., had refused his facilities here for reburial of Private Longoria.

The story exploded over America and Mexico.

Indignation meetings followed. Abusive letters, some obscene, and telegrams poured into Three Rivers, a South Texas town of 2,000 people, a quarter of them of Mexican descent.

From the Communist party of Texas came demands to the Governor that Undertaker Kennedy's license be revoked.

But some people wrote that they didn't believe the charges. Now many others who sent abuse are offering apologies.

The body of Private Longoria was on the Pacific Ocean in an army casket when the storm broke and spread to international size.

His home town was ready to honor him. It had paid tribute to other dead soldiers brought back home. But so confused was the incident Saturday that nobody hereabouts knew for certain, not even the Longoria family, whether the dead soldier was en route to New York from San Francisco, to Arlington National Cemetery, Fort Sam Houston, Fort Worth army quartermasters or Three Rivers. They hope that the original plans for services and burial here will be carried out.

BODY IN NEW JERSEY

The Washington Bureau of The News found Saturday from Army Department sources that the body was being held at a Bayonne, N.J., quartermaster depot, with instructions to send it to Arlington when a date for the funeral was set by the family. Apparently, the army believes the family wants an Arlington burial.

It seems apparent that Private

Longoria, deceased, had become a political issue without a voice to protest the fuss.

Undertaker Kennedy is a good looking young man of twenty-six. He fought in the Ninth Army in Europe with the 102d Infantry Division after training at Camp Swift and Camp Maxey in Texas. He married a pretty Schulenburg girl and they have a 6-month-old daughter.

While crossing the Rhine River on a volunteer patrol Kennedy's boat was shelled. He was wounded and stayed in the icy waters for ten hours. He was seven months in hospital.

"I was reared in Pennsylvania," he said Saturday as he sat on a divan in the living room of his apartment in the funeral home he acquired recently.

"I went to school with Negroes and discrimination has never entered my mind. There were Latin-Americans in my army unit. I buried the first Latin-American boy brought back from overseas to Three Rivers."

VISITED BY WIFE

He said Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, wife of the dead soldier, who now resides at Corpus Christi, came to him two months ago and asked him to handle the reburial services. He suggested that the vacant home that her husband built her be used for the services, he said, because there had been family trouble. She appeared to be satisfied with the arrangements.

"The next thing I knew a man by the name of Hector Garcia called me and demanded this and that," he related. "I got mad and said some things I'm sorry I said. But I told him it was a matter for the widow to decide and that I had never refused my services to anybody."

Seldom do people of Mexican descent use funeral chapels. They prefer their homes or a church.

"I helped the widow send a telegram to the army quartermaster at Fort Worth advising them that I would handle the services. So far as I know the arrangements haven't been changed and they are certainly welcome to use the chapel and anything else I have."

Lupe Longoria, husky brother of the dead soldier, said he regretted all of the fuss.

"Felix would rather stay buried on Luzon than to come back to all this," he said. There were five boys and three girls in the respected Longoria family.

COMRADESHIP SHOWN

Three Rivers points to the case of Juan Diaz, a high school junior, who was paralyzed after a football injury, to show there is good comradeship between the Anglo-American and the Latin-Americans. The people raised \$4,000 for the lad to pay hospital expenses and other costs.

There is no segregation here in the school after pupils pass the second grade and overcome language difficulties. The two groups of citizens mingle freely and do business with one another with no apparent thought of difference in race origin.

S. F. Ramsey, president of the chamber of commerce, held a handful of telegrams and letters exchanged with Senator Johnson.

Johnson, in one telegram said his action had not been hasty. In a letter the Senator said he was informed of the discrimination charges by a constituent and that he checked again "at my own expense" with two Texas friends "in whom I have great confidence." Johnson criticized the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce.

"In none of your communications do you deny the facts that were presented to me," he said in a letter.

REQUESTS SOURCES

Ramsey said he has asked the Senator to reveal his sources of information but has received no reply. In one telegram to Johnson the chamber of commerce said: "If you had investigated the matter thoroughly and not accepted Dr. Garcia's report as being factual the matter could not have reached national interest."

Representative Gray said the state appropriations for the Good Neighbor Commission should be used to combat tuberculosis among Latin-Americans in Texas.

"These people here are all Americans," he said. "The Good Neighbor Commission has no business mixing in these things."

Gray said he told Thomas Sutherland, executive secretary of the commission, that the state office would not have entered the case "if an Irish boy had been involved."

Three Rivers *American* Up in Arms on Funeral Issue

THREE RIVERS, Jan. 13.—(UP)—This little South Texas town was in an uproar Thursday night over plans for reburying one of its citizens—a youth of Mexican descent who went to war and fell in the Battle of the Philippines.

Outside of Three Rivers, most everyone knew by now of the reports that the town's funeral director, T. W. Kennedy, had declined to handle arrangements for the hometown funeral of Felix Longoria.

"Other white people might object," was the way Kennedy had been quoted.

In Washington, Texas' new US Senator Lyndon B. Johnson said, all right, if Three Rivers felt that way, Longoria should be buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Three Rivers said Thursday night, through the offices of its Chamber of Commerce president and through funeral director Kennedy, that it did not think that way.

Kennedy said he was willing to make the burial arrangements. The uproar which was heard in Washington, it was explained, was the result of Kennedy's refusing the use of his chapel for the service.

"I did not refuse the use of the chapel because he was Latin-American," said Kennedy. "I felt I was avoiding trouble here at the funeral home by asking Mrs. Longoria, the widow, if she could use her home."

Kennedy and S. F. Ramsey, banker and Chamber of Commerce president, said they understood that Longoria's widow and his parents were at odds over some personal matters and the disagreement extended to the funeral plans.

Ramsey said, "our funeral chapel here probably would not be appropriate anyway for such a service. It's small and it's used mostly—by whites and Latin-Americans, alike—only to let a body lie in state. The chapel isn't like in big cities. Most funerals here are held in churches or homes."

Three Rivers, said Ramsey, "is ashamed of the publicity, which is not deserved. You'll find no town anywhere in South Texas that has enjoyed better relations between Latin-Americans and whites."

(At Corpus Christi, Jr. Hector Garcia, president of the American GI Forum, said citizens of his city had raised \$300 to send Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, the widow, to Washington for the service at Arlington. It was, said Garcia, an effort to make amends.)

Ramsey was hopeful that plans might be made even this late to bring Longoria "home." But if the body goes to Arlington, Three Rivers will send along at least one member of Longoria's family.

"I'll underwrite it here at the bank if civic clubs don't make up enough money, which I'm sure they will," he said.

Ramsey was angry with Senator Johnson. "It is our feeling that he capitalized on this to further his own standing with the Latin-American population," said the Chamber of Commerce man.

(The body of Longoria, who died on Luzon, was reportedly due to arrive in San Francisco sometime Thursday.)

Johnson Takes Gavel In McKellar Absence

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—(AP)—Senator Lyndon B. Johnson (D-Texas) presided over the Senate for an hour Monday in the absence of President Pro Tem McKellar (D-Tenn.).

The Texan, who served 11 years in the House before becoming a senator last week, took over the gavel while debate proceeded on an anti-filibuster bill.

American

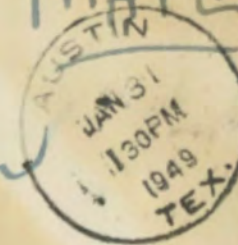
P.O. Box 472

City of Austin

E.O. BOX 1180
AUSTIN, TEXAS

Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson
Senator from Texas
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

Air
MAIL



FEB 1 A.M.

A Hero's Return

Bigotry in Texas

PRIVATE FELIX LONGORIA was, before he entered the Army of the United States back in 1944, a resident of Three Rivers, Tex.

He was an American citizen who put on the uniform of his Country in order that this Nation might continue to be free; that men might always enjoy the guarantee of human liberty and dignity contained in the Bill of Rights; that the immortal words of Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence—"life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness"—might be more than an empty phrase.

In the closing days of the war, Private Longoria was killed in the Philippines, wearing the uniform of his Country, fighting for all of her people including those of Texas.

His body was returned to the United States—to Three Rivers, Tex., for burial—a hero's burial.

But the people of Three Rivers, who live securely and prosperously because of the sacrifice which Private Longoria and thousands like him made, said he could not sleep out eternity in the soil of his native town and state.

You see, Private Longoria was of Mexican descent.

The hundred per cent Americans of Three Rivers, Tex., do not think that an American of Mexican extraction is entitled to the privileges of United States citizenship in life—or in death.



THE Three Rivers funeral parlor would not accept the flag-draped casket which contains all that is mortal of Private Longoria.

His widow, seeking to make funeral arrangements, was rebuffed.

No Mexicans allowed—not even if they are heroes!

United States Senator Lyndon Johnson was notified, and fixed matters so that the remains of Private Longoria would be interred in Arlington National Cemetery.

Arlington is not in Texas. It is a United States military cemetery where are buried such men as Pershing, Custer and Admiral Dewey. They were not Texans either. It is just possible that even their national extraction, religion or political faith would have barred them from the soil of Three Rivers.



WE ARE not inclined to condemn men for their prejudices. Those are weaknesses with which they are born—like some disease which persists through generation after generation.

Rather, we pity them.

And in the case of the patriots of Three Rivers, Tex., we are inclined to acknowledge our gratitude.

What they have done is to have advanced the cause of civil liberties in the United States beyond all the efforts put forth in their behalf to date.

With this classic example before them, we cannot conceive of any Southern bloc of legislators opposing bills to further the cause of racial and national equality.

When the half-citizens of this land are finally granted full admission to American citizenship, they can thank the Three Rivers, of which, unfortunately, there are many in the South—and the North.



THE map shows that Texas is the largest state in the Union.

Today, in the eyes of sincere Americans, it is seen dimly, much smaller than tiny Rhode Island.

D'ya Think We Want the Flag of Texas Sullied?



— TEXAS
PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU
DALLAS

San Angelo (Tex.) Standard

JAN 13 1949

Johnson Arranges Military Funeral For Latin-American

AUSTIN, Jan. 13. (AP) Felix Longoria, a Latin-American soldier who was killed on Luzon, will be reburied with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery—not at his home town of Three Rivers.

Action on the reburial came after a South Texas funeral home "discouraged" the use of its facilities. This brought prompt reaction from Gov. Beauford H. Jester, the Texas Good Neighbor Commission, a veterans' organization and national officials.

Tom Sutherland, executive secretary of the Good Neighbor Commission, received a wire from Dr. Hector P. Garcia, president of the American G-I Forum. Garcia said U. S. Sen. Lyndon Johnson of Texas had informed him that Longoria would be buried with full honors in Arlington National cemetery. The body is due to arrive in San Francisco today.

The commission took quick action after Jester referred them a protest from Garcia of the independent veterans' organization.

Sutherland quoted the South Texas funeral director as saying he "discouraged" the use of his facilities for the reburial. After talking to Sutherland, the funeral director said he would handle the reburial "if the family insists."

Sutherland said that numerous Anglo-American funeral homes in

Texas offered the use of their facilities after they heard of the protest.

Mayor J. K. Montgomery of Three Rivers, where the funeral home is located, said the whole thing was a "mistake."

TEXAS
PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU
DALLAS

San Antonio (Tex.) Express

Date JAN 16 1949

THREE RIVERS NOT OFFICIALLY TOLD OF ARLINGTON BURIAL OF WAR HERO

SPECIAL TO SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS
THREE RIVERS, Jan. 15.—
As far as Three Rivers knows
officially, war hero Felix Longoria
will be buried in Three
Rivers.

Sen. Lyndon Johnson was
quoted by press association dis-
patches a few days ago as say-
ing that arrangements had been
made to bury Longoria in Ar-
lington National Cemetery.

However, no official word
from the government or from
the widow, Mrs. Beatrice Lon-
goria of Corpus Christi, has

come here to confirm the sena-
tor's report.

T. W. Kenedy, war veteran
manager of the funeral home
here, said Saturday that offi-
cially he still was looking for
the body to come to Three Riv-
ers. If it does, he said he is pre-
pared to conduct the funeral.

A week ago Kenedy said he
went to the telegraph office
with Mrs. Longoria and to-
gether they sent a telegram to
the government confirming that
the body of the soldier should
be sent to Three Rivers for

burial. Mrs. Longoria's name,
with her Corpus Christi ad-
dress, was signed to the tele-
gram.

Kenedy said he has heard no
more. He said, of course, that
the government may have sent
new instructions to the widow
in Corpus Christi.

He said that at that time Mrs.
Longoria appeared to be en-
tirely satisfied with the funeral
arrangements.

TEXAS
Press Clipping Bureau
DALLAS

From
Palestine (Tex.) Press

JAN 14 1949

Date

Funeral Director Denies Spurning Latin Americans

THREE RIVERS, Tex., Jan. 13
(AP) — The manager of the Rice Funeral Home here said last night he had not refused to handle the reburial service for a Latin-American soldier.

In fact, said T. W. Kennedy, "there was no question whatever of discrimination involved."

Senator Johnson (D-Tex) had arranged for Felix Longoria of Three Rivers to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. Johnson said he was informed the funeral home refused to handle the service "solely because of his Mexican ancestry."

Kennedy said:

"The report that we refused to handle the reburial of a Latin-American soldier is incorrect. We did not refuse, either, the use of our chapel. When making arrangements with the deceased's wife, I did discourage the use of the chapel, but not the burial facilities. I discour-

aged the use of the chapel, frankly, because of friction that I heard existed between members of the family. Due to this friction, I thought it would be better that the services be held at the widow's home or some other private home.

"There was no question whatever of discrimination involved. I have many good friends of Latin-American ancestry. I am a disabled veteran of the Second World War and I have fought alongside many Latin Americans."

Johnson said his information came from Dr. Hector Garcia, president of the American G-I

1/20/1949

"Know The Truth"

Citizens of Three Rivers are going all out to tell the world the truth about the situation which, within the past ten days, has brought censure on this town, community and State.

The report was published last Tuesday, by newspapers and radio, that T. W. Kennedy, Jr., a local undertaker, had refused to re-bury the body of Felix Longoria, a returned war hero, because he was of Mexican ancestry. Since that time, city officials, postmaster, newspaper editor, officials of the Chamber of Commerce, and other residents of Three Rivers have received derogatory, abusive and, in some cases, obscene letters from persons from many parts of the nation. Letters have also been received from persons who understand the situation and who lay the blame where it belongs.

That all may know the facts, we herewith publish statements written and signed by persons most concerned and giving a complete account of the situation:

LONGORIA'S BODY WILL BE BURIED IN ABOUT 30 DAYS

The erroneous report has gone out that the body of Felix Longoria was actually returned to Three Rivers and refused admittance to the funeral home here. THE FACT IS THAT HIS BODY WAS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT SAN FRANCISCO ON JANUARY 13 AND WILL REACH ITS FINAL DESTINATION APPROXIMATELY 30 DAYS AFTER ITS ARRIVAL IN AMERICA.

The people of Three Rivers hope to arrange to have his burial here.

STATEMENT BY THREE RIVERS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In a meeting of the board of directors of the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce held on Thursday afternoon a resolution was adopted deploring the unfavorable publicity that the City of Three Rivers and its citizens have received through the publication of misconstrued facts concerning the reported refusal of local undertaker, T. W. Kennedy, Jr. to bury one of our fellow-townsmen, Felix Longoria, who was killed in action in the Philippines in 1945.

The directors went on record as saying that the Longoria family is held in the highest esteem here and it is regrettable that this situation has developed; that no town in South Texas enjoys better relations with Americans of Mexican descent than does Three Rivers; and that since the above mentioned report has gone out over the State and Nation it has become necessary for Three Rivers to clear its good name.

A good many letters have been received from people throughout the State acquainted with the actual conditions in Three Rivers expressing their disgust with the adverse publicity that Three Rivers received. These people who know the actual conditions voiced their opinion that Three Rivers has been grossly misrepresented.

We still feel that the hasty action of Senator Johnson was largely responsible for this unfavorable publicity and attracted it to national interest. As far as we know, Senator Johnson did not contact one single person in Three Rivers before taking this action. (Signed) S. F. Ramsey, President,
Three Rivers Chamber
of Commerce.

STATEMENT BY AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 413 THREE RIVERS, TEXAS

January 19, 1949

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We, the undersigned went to Harold Smith, Commander American Legion Post 413 Three Rivers, Texas Jan. 10, 1949 to ask for military honors at the funeral of our deceased brother Felix Longoria, killed in action Luzon.

Commander Smith promised mili-

tary honors at the funeral

Arrangements were made to furnish firing squad, color bearers, color guard and bugler from American Legion Post 413 and pall bearers would be furnished by the family.

(Signed) Lupe Longoria, Jr.
Alberto Longoria.

Harold C. Smith, Commander
American Legion Post 413,

MR. KENNEDY'S STATEMENT

About two months ago Mrs. Longoria, the deceased's wife, came into our office and asked if we would handle the services for her husband, who was to be shipped home within the next six months. We told her at that time that we would handle the service, and on January 8th she came to the bus depot and called me, stating that she had two telegrams concerning the arrival of her husband. So, in order to accommodate her, I drove to the bus depot and talked with her about arrangements. She asked to have the remains left at the Funeral Home, and at that time I tried to discourage her of that by asking if there was any place else she could take the remains to. She said she had an empty house in Three Rivers and so I asked her if it would not be better to take the remains there. She said she was satisfied to do that and so we then went and sent a reply to the telegram to Fort Worth depot, confirming the previous address as to where the remains were to be sent. After that we went by the house that she had mentioned, to examine and plan as to where the casket and chairs could be put, and after completing that I took her to her uncle's house and before leaving asked again if she was satisfied and again she stated that she was. She took the bus for Corpus Christi and it is my assumption that, apparently, her parents did not like the arrangements. However I was not contacted by members of the family at that time. Instead, Dr. Hector Garcia of Corpus Christi called me. As we talked our conversation became rather heated. It was my understanding that no one except Mrs. Longoria, or someone duly authorized by her, was in a position to make any arrangements for this funeral. I so stated to Dr. Garcia, and in the heat of the argument undoubtedly made other statements that could possibly be misconstrued. I made the statement that as far as I knew the chapel had never been used for such a burial. That it had not been the practice. As far as I know the use of the funeral chapel had never before been requested by any person of Mexican descent, so

naturally, this permission has never been refused. So I stated that "it has not been the practice," and if I was wrong I apologize. I did not wish to change the practice for this particular funeral and so stated.

There were reasons why I "discouraged" the use of the funeral chapel. There is considerable evidence to the effect that there has been trouble between the wife of Felix Longoria and the rest of the family, including his parents. For very apparent reasons, I did not wish to bring this out at that time, and refrained for some time, but in all fairness to myself I believe that should be stated now. I did not want trouble in the funeral chapel. In that connection I felt that Mrs. Longoria would or should be able to handle the situation in her own house, but, inasmuch as I could not deny the entrance of anyone at the chapel it might lead to family trouble.

I did use the word that the "whites would not like it." I was referring to the fact that the "whites" would not like the disgrace of a public disturbance at a funeral in the chapel. I humbly apologize for the use of the word "whites." I can only defend myself by the fact that I was unjustly accused and angry when I made that statement.

I was contacted by other members of the family. They asked me to notify them of the arrival of the body, and the funeral date, as they were not sure that they would be notified. This only intensified my desire to not have

trouble in the funeral chapel. I felt that by encouraging her to use her own house it would be up to her to handle any situation that might come up.

However, if Mrs. Longoria had mentioned any dissatisfaction with these arrangements, I would have been glad to work out almost anything that would have been satisfactory to her.

I wrote Mrs. Longoria and Dr. Garcia letters, stating that there was a misunderstanding, and that if I was in the wrong, then my apologies were extended. A copy of her answer appears below.

I have been honored to handle all of the funeral services for veterans of Mexican descent in this area up to this time, and will do my best to handle them in a proper manner in the future.

I freely admit that in the excitement I made statements which I would be happy to retract, but feel that I have been misquoted and misjudged. I am indeed proud that so many of my new neighbors are willing to forget my mistake. I am not a native of Texas, but I am proud to be called a Texan!

(Signed) T. W. Kennedy.

LETTER FROM MRS. LONGORIA

January 14, 1949.

Rice Funeral Home,
T. W. Kennedy, Jr.
P. O. Box 328,
Three Rivers, Texas.
Dear Mr. Kennedy:

I wish to acknowledge your letter dated Jan. 12 which I received today. I want to thank you for your offer, however, I feel that it is still too late.

My husband will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D. C. My thanks and gratitude to the people of Three Rivers for their sentiment on the matter.

I want to let you know that I bear no grudge and still think greatly of all of the people from Three Rivers. I am sorry about the whole matter.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Beatrice Longoria.

An Open Letter to Senator Johnson

Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator

Your answer to certain telegrams sent you from Three Rivers, relative to the burial of Felix Longoria, has caused considerable doubt in the minds of some of your supporters as to whether or not you really are representing all of the people in this matter.

In answer to one of these telegrams you stated, "No action of mine has enforced any stigma on anyone." Kindly read the editorial from the Detroit Free Press, study the cartoon and draw your own conclusion.

Previous to your action, not one word had been said in Three Rivers as to where this American soldier would be buried, other than the Longoria family lot in the Three Rivers Cemetery, where his father and family, would have liked for him to rest, where the citizens of Three Rivers, Veterans and all others would have given him an American soldier's burial in his own native town.

This was to be the return of the body of one of our citizens who had given his life for his country and before this situation developed, arrangements had been made by the brothers of Felix with the local American Legion Post for a military funeral. Arrangements that were no different from any other burial of any other American soldier. Officers of the post have informed us that the burial detail, firing squad and even pall bearers had been arranged for and even now are alerted for they have never been informed that the body would not be buried here.

Therefore, Senator, you can very easily understand why the citizens of Three Rivers were so stunned when over the radio and in the papers came reports that you had made arrangements to have Felix buried in Arlington Cemetery.

This then, had become national news-wires and letters began coming in—not to Mr. Kenedy who had made the mistake—but to the Chamber of Commerce, citizens of Three Rivers, the Mayor and others blaming

not Mr. Kennedy, but all citizens of Three Rivers, Live Oak County and the State of Texas.

We certainly do not uphold Mr. Kenedy in his answer to Garcia and the newspaper when he was called by telephone and told how to run his business and in stating that the "whites wouldn't like it." Mr. Kennedy is a young man and anxious to succeed in his business, having purchased the business on January 1, 1949, so when these calls came in after he had made acceptable arrangements with the widow of Felix, his reaction was probably the same as yours—without first finding out all the facts he more or less lost his head and said things of which he is now very sorry.

In view of these facts some are wondering why you so promptly informed certain people outside of Three Rivers that you would see that Felix was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, or words to that effect.

If you could read some of the vile letters that we businessmen and officials are receiving blaming the citizens of Three Rivers, Live Oak County and State of Texas, you could not but feel that you had some part in it.

Of course no one here expects to tell you how you should run your business, but it does seem reasonable to believe that had you thought of us as you seemingly thought of others you could have at least requested an explanation from one of our city officials. Had this come to pass Felix would still have a chance to be buried in Three Rivers as we citizens want him to be, his family and friends in Three Rivers would be happy, his friends and relatives from surrounding towns could still come to visit his grave, and he would rest peacefully in his native town, where all men are treated fair and equal.

We have always respected the law-makers of our country and have been proud of the men we have sent to Congress—please do not let us down.

Respectfully yours,
Cecil Cunningham,
Della Goebel
Editors

Live Oak County Report

by Della Goebel

Three Rivers lays claim to being a town where there is harmony among its citizens.

There has never been strife here among residents of different race origins. We resent and deplore the unfavorable publicity which has gone abroad concerning our town. Action following the recent Felix Longoria incident was occasioned mainly to serve selfish interests of persons who either wished to pay political debts or who wished to stabilize their position in public opinion. We doubt that such a project ever does react favorably to the instigator.

Anyone who knows this community knows that its spirit is one of co-operation.

CARE GIVEN INJURED MEXICAN BOY

A case in point is the manner in which Juan Diaz, a local boy, was cared for after he was injured in a High School football game. Juan is an American boy of Mexican descent. His parents are tenant farmers. In November of 1947, while Juan was a member of the junior class of the local High School and a member of the football team, during a game played with Poteet on the evening of November 14, he was seriously injured and, for a time, was totally paralyzed. Immediately following his injury, Juan was taken to the local hospital and given every attention. These included the services of a specialist from San Antonio who came here to the hospital regularly and assisted local doctors in treating Juan. He was furnished a special nurse for three months that he remained in the hospital. His medical and hospital bills of \$3,000.00 was paid out of local Public School funds.

At Christmas time, the local Rotary Club sponsored a donation which amounted to \$1,069.24 and was presented to Juan to be used in purchasing orthopedic devices or other aids to be used in his convalescence. J. A. Gurwitz who collected this fund, reported to the Rotary Club that "It was a pleasure. Everyone contacted donated cheerfully and generously; everyone was glad to express his good wishes for Juan's recovery."

Following this presentation, Juan authorized the following statement in the local newspaper, "Juan Diaz wishes to express here his thanks to his friends for their gifts and good wishes. He and his family appreciate the good will and helpfulness evidenced by the people of Three Rivers."

After Juan was taken from the hospital to his home, his friends continued to visit him and look out for him. Through the influence of his friends here, he was admitted to the Gonzales Warm Springs Foundation at Gonzales where he received treatment. This Fall he was able to re-enter school, although he uses a wheel chair for locomotion. His classmates, both Anglo-American and Latin-American, help him by moving his chair about the building and grounds.

ALL CHILDREN ATTEND SCHOOL TOGETHER

Another condition which shows the fair-mindedness of Three Rivers citizens is evidenced by the fact that the Three Rivers Public Schools have pioneered in this section of the State in providing equal education facilities for children of all residents.

It has been a custom here for many years to admit children of Mexican parentage, not only to the same educational facilities enjoyed by all other children, but also to the same buildings, class rooms, and recreational groups. At present and for many years past, children of all grades except those who do not speak or understand English, attend school together. A separate school with English speaking teachers is provided for these and, as soon as they have overcome language difficulties, they also are admitted.

Longoria Funeral Set for Feb. 16 In U.S. Cemetery

Washington Bureau of The News

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The army Friday notified Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson's office that funeral services would be conducted Feb. 16 for Felix Longoria, Three Rivers war casualty.

Longoria was killed on Luzon, Philippine Islands.

His body will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery. Mass services will be held at the same time for a group of Pacific war casualties who are to be buried at Arlington.

It was not known if Longoria's widow and other members of his family would attend the rites.

It was alleged by a Latin-American leader in Corpus Christi that a funeral home in Three Rivers had discriminated against Longoria by refusing to handle his funeral and burial.

Johnson, acting at the widow's request, obtained army permission to bury him in Arlington.

Three Rivers officials and civic leaders later denied any discrimination was involved.

FEB 6 A.M.

Dallas News Sat 2/5/49

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P. 12 p. sec. II

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ROB

CHAIRMAN SAYS

Neighbor Panel Open To Probe

HOUSTON, Feb. 4.—The Texas Good Neighbor Commission is willing to be investigated "by any one at any time," its chairman said here.

R. E. Smith, Houston oilman, made the statement when asked for comment Thursday night on reports that a member of the Texas House of Representatives plans to introduce a bill which would abolish the commission.

Representative J. F. Gray, Three Rivers, Texas, wants to do away with the commission because of wide publicity given an incident involving reburial of a Latin-American soldier killed in the Philippines.

"It is a matter of public record," said Smith. "We have no quarrels with anyone."

Rep. Gray said he thought the Good Neighbor Commission "serves no useful purpose" and should be abolished through repeal of a law which made it a permanent agency two years ago.

"I don't think," he said, "that there is any need for a commission or agency of that type at all. I hope that, instead of hindering, I am taking out a stumbling block in the way of good relations."

One of the commission's functions is to promote better relations between Texas and Mexico and citizens of Latin-American ancestry by combating racial discrimination.

But Gray said "any differences between citizens of any foreign country can best be handled by the State Department of the federal government, and differences between citizens of this country, regardless of their blood, can be ironed out in the courts."

"If the minority classes are so badly treated in South Texas," he argued, "that they have to create a special commission, I can't understand why so many people are interested in coming into this country—and when they come here, they want to stay."

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Caso March 'Hot' Against School Plan

The Austin Statesman Capitol Staff

Baylor law professor Caso March joined hands Friday with State Superintendent L. A. Woods in opposition to the Gilmer-Aiken school system reorganization proposal and said he would be a candidate for governor to carry on his fight against it.

The Waco man, who has been a gubernatorial candidate for the past two elections, said he is "still running," being particularly hot about the Gilmer-Aiken plan.

The Baylor professor says his opposition is based on the assertion that the Gilmer-Aiken proposals are a scheme to keep from taxing natural resources.

Earlier, Woods told newsmen he could "be pushed" into the race for governor in 1940. He bitterly opposes the phase of the committee's recommendations which would abolish Woods' position as elected head of the state school system.

Under the bill, the State Board of Education would be elected and would then in turn appoint a state commissioner of education.

Woods said, on questioning about the gubernatorial race: "Well, they could push me into it. If they kick me out of here without the will of the people, it might give me a pretty good chance."

Previously mentioned most frequently as possible 1950 gubernatorial candidates were Lieutenant Governor Allan Shivers, Land Commissioner Bascom Giles, Attorney General Price Daniel and Railroad Commissioner Olin Culberson.

Both March and Woods made "hot" speeches against the Gilmer-Aiken plan at a mass meeting held last week in Waco.

DAM SITE

Plan Calls For Moving All Zapata

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—(AP)—Tentative plans for transplanting an entire town when the proposed international Falcon Dam is built across the Rio Grande are before President Truman.

The town is Zapata, Texas, population 4,000.

The prospective plight of the predominantly Latin-American populated Zapata County seat was presented to the chief executive Thursday by Robert Lee Bobbitt, Laredo and San Antonio attorney who represents the county.

He said the Texas border city would be inundated when waters back up behind the Falcon Dam, one of three authorized by the U.S.-Mexico water treaty.

Work should start on it in the next three months and be completed in about three years at an estimated cost of approximately \$40,000,000, he added.

"The court house, jail and schools, as well as churches and homes will have to be moved to higher ground, Bobbitt told a reporter upon leaving the White House.

"When I mentioned all these angles to the President he recalled that there is precedent for the Government giving assistance in such circumstances."

Bobbitt said he had discussed the problem also with Senators Connally and Johnson and Representative Bentsen, all Texas Democrats, and with various federal authorities.

"Everyone concerned is willing to help," said Bobbitt. "We now will have to work out details of a plan that will be satisfactory to the people of Zapata."

Johnson City Boy Seriously Burned

JOHNSON CITY, Feb. 4.(SPL)—Lloyd Smith, 9-year-old son of Floyd Smith of Johnson City, was seriously burned here Friday afternoon in a gasoline explosion.

The explosion occurred when an uncle of the boy was using gasoline to ignite a grass fire. The boy is being treated in a Fredericksburg hospital.

Widow

(Continued from Page 1)

Ramsey, in defending Kennedy, said that "most funerals here are held in churches or homes "because the "chapel probably would not be appropriate for such a service."

"It's small and its used mostly--by whites and Latin-Americans alike--only to let a body lie in state," he said. "The chapel isn't like in big cities."

Ramsey criticized Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson (D., Tex.,) who made the arrangements in Washington for Longoria to be buried there.

"It is our feeling that Johnson capitalized on this situation to further his own standing with the Latin-American population in Texas," Ramsey said.

"Our town is ashamed of the publicity the affair has received. We didn't deserve it. You'll find no town anywhere in South Texas that has enjoyed better relations between Latin-Americans and whites."

Live Oak County Resident Offers Home For Rites

R. R. Stricklen, prominent Live Oak county resident who visited in Laredo Thursday, offers his own home for funeral services for the Latin-American soldier reportedly refused burial by a Three Rivers, Texas, funeral home earlier in the week.

"I wish to volunteer my own home for the boy's funeral," Stricklen told The Times yesterday. The visitor is a traveling representative of an Iowa firm and makes frequent trips here. A property owner, his home is located near Three Rivers.

"I regret and condemn this funeral director's actions," Stricklen declared. "I think personally most of the people in my county are ashamed of him. Possibly the court house in Live Oak county would be available and I am sure all the citizens of the county would be proud and honored to have services for one of its heroes take place there."

Post Office, Politics Separation Advised

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (UP).—The Hoover Commission said Thursday that Congress should take the Post Office Department out of politics.

Recommending a wholesale reorganization to put the postal service on a "business-like" basis, the commission proposed:

1. The Postmaster General remain in the Cabinet, subject to Senate confirmation, but he should not be "an official of a political party, such as chairman of a national committee."

(Jesse M. Donaldson, the present Postmaster General, came up from the postal ranks and is the first one in years who has not also served as chairman of the Democratic or Republican National Committees.)

2. As far as possible, postmasters should be selected by top postal officials from candidates on Civil Service lists "in consultation with community leaders." The requirement of Senate confirmation should be abolished for postmasters.

The bi-partisan commission, headed by former President Herbert Hoover, said in its fourth report on government streamlining that needed reorganization could well start with an agency that has grown in 159 years into one of "the world's largest business organizations."

It said its operations are hamstrung by an obsolete and over-centralized administrative set-up and by a maze of outmoded laws, regulations and traditions which freezes progress and stifles proper administration.

The problem is further complicated, it said, by "political appointment of first, second and third-class postmasters and certain other officials (which) produces ineffi-

ciency and militates against the incentive of promotion."

The commission said the department's revenue has climbed from \$38,000 in 1790 to more than \$1,300,000,000 a year but is currently operating at a deficit.

It placed the 1948 deficit at \$310,000,000, or 22 per cent of its total income, and estimated the figure would climb above \$500,000,000, or more than 30 per cent, this year.

Latin Service Discouraged By Rice Funeral Home

Rice Funeral Home in Three Rivers this morning qualified its refusal to hold chapel services for a Latin American killed in World War II, but Latin organizations continued to press a protest campaign.

T. W. Kennedy, manager of the home, admitted last night that he had refused the use of his chapel for Felix Longoria, Three Rivers veteran killed in the Philippines in 1945. "We never did let them use the chapel," he said then, "and we don't want to start now."

Termed 'Misunderstanding'

This morning Kennedy said that "We're not refusing, but we're doing everything we can to discourage it." To date, he added, the chapel has never been used for Latin services. Terming the whole thing a "misunderstanding," Kennedy said it had been "cleared up" when his funeral home offered to send the body to Corpus Christi, where it could be given a chapel service.

The American GI Forum, however, went ahead with a protest meeting scheduled for 8 o'clock

tonight at Lamar School. Mrs. Beatrice Longoria is scheduled to speak at the meeting, according to Dr. Hector Garcia, Forum president. (See PROTEST, Page 10.)

STATE GROUP ENTERS CASE

AUSTIN, Jan. 11. (AP) —The Good Neighbor Commission took quick action today on a complaint that a South Texas funeral home had refused its facilities for re-burying a Latin American GI killed on Luzon.

Tom Sutherland, executive secretary of the commission, said the director of the funeral home at Three Rivers told him he had "discouraged" but had not refused to handle the re-interment.

Sutherland said the funeral home director said he would handle the re-burial "if the family insists."

PROTEST

(Continued from Page One.)

dent. Garcia said a protest meeting is also scheduled at Three Rivers later this week, and said his group would not be satisfied unless the Rice Home completely reversed its policy against Latin services in the chapel.

Lulac Protests

Lee Licona, president of League of United Nation American Citizens, Council No. 1 in Corpus Christi, added this morning that Lulac also "bitterly protested" the incident. The council, he said, plans to call the attention of the Texas Funeral Directors and Embalmers' Association to the funeral home's policy.

The Forum last night also sent about two dozen protest telegrams to civic leaders and government officials in Three Rivers, the Good

Neighbor Commission, Army officers in charge of returning dead soldiers, and state and federal officials.

The telegrams read in part:

"In our estimation the action is in direct contradiction of the same principals for which Longoria died. The people for whom he died have denied him the last rites deserving any American hero, regardless of racial origin. It is typical of discriminatory practices occurring intermittently within this state."

Legislative Panel to Examine Background of Longoria Case

Austin Bureau of The News

AUSTIN, Texas, Feb. 17.—A five-member legislative committee will investigate the Felix Longoria case. The House ordered the investigation Thursday by a vote of 104 to twenty.

The young soldier from Three Rivers, Live Oak County, was buried at Arlington National Cemetery Wednesday.

An international incident, alleging discrimination against Latin-Americans, grew out of the case.

Electric Co-operative Given \$220,000 Loan

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (AP).—The Rural Electrification Administration said Thursday it had made a \$220,000 loan to the Taylor Electric Co-operative, Merkel, Texas.

His body was brought back from Luzon, where he died in action in World War II. Mrs. Longoria claims a Three Rivers undertaker denied them use of his chapel, because Longoria was a Latin American. The undertaker, war veteran T. W. Kennedy Jr., insists that a misunderstanding, not discrimination, occurred.

State Representatives heeded the plea from Three Rivers' Rep. J. F. Gray for an official inquiry. The committee, which has a \$1,000 expense account, is directed to report by March 15.

Rep. Abraham Kazen Jr., of Laredo asked that all hearings during the investigation be public. Gray replied that it should be "taken for granted" that hearings will be public in a free country.

Rep. Johnny Rogers of Austin suggested that the Good Neighbor Commission, a state agency, investigate the matter.

Representative Gray said he hoped to avoid mentioning the commission since he has a bill to abolish it.

"We feel, we know, that reports recently published by the Good Neighbor Commission are not true, not only concerning this incident," replied Gray. The legislator said he "undue publicity" on the Longoria case had reflected on his community, state and nation.

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Three Rivers CofC Brands — Reburial Story 'Bad Publicity'

Callers-Times News Service

THREE RIVERS — Citizens of Three Rivers will leave no stones unturned to counteract the "bad publicity" to which their town has fallen victim within the last few days. S. F. Ramsey, banker and president of the Chamber of Commerce said last night.

He had reference to the uproar, as violent as an earthquake in Three Rivers and felt all over the nation, over plans for reburying one of its soldier dead—a youth of Mexican descent who fell in the Philippines.

It all started when T. W. Kennedy, manager of Rice Funeral Home here, declined use of his chapel for services for Felix Longoria. A member of the family complained to Dr. Hector Garcia of Corpus Christi, president of the GI Forum.

Garcia, after talking with Kennedy, charged that Kennedy's action was an act of discrimination against Americans of Mexican descent.

Kennedy at the time said: "We just never did make a practice of letting them use the chapel."

Discrimination Intent Denied

Later, Kennedy denied any intention or act of discriminatory practice on his part. In a lengthy statement issued Thursday he said he had suggested the use of a private home instead of the chapel because he had heard there was "some conflict between" the soldier's widow and his parents.

(In Corpus Christi Dr. Garcia released a letter from Kennedy to Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, the widow, which said in part: "If there was a misunderstanding on my part, my apologies are extended. If you still want use of our funeral chapel and want us to conduct services, we will be only too glad to be able to be of service . . .")

Ramsey said he was hopeful that plans might be made even at this late date to bring Longoria "home."

Meanwhile there was nothing to indicate that the Longoria family would change arrangements, made by Sen. Lyndon Johnson, to bury Longoria in Arlington National Cemetery.

(Dr. Garcia said last night that "as far as we are concerned, the case is closed. The family is well pleased with arrangements.")

In his statement Thursday Kennedy said that original plans called for use of the chapel and that he had or made no objection. He said he suggested use of a private home only after he had heard of differences between members of the surviving family, because he didn't want the chapel to be the scene of any trouble.

He said that Mrs. Longoria, the widow, offered no objections at the time, but that her parents in Corpus Christi were disturbed and "instead of contacting me to make arrangements, they took the matter to Dr. Hector Garcia in Corpus

Christi. He in turn phoned me and jumped me up about it. . .

"I did not at any time refuse to bury him or allow use of the chapel because he was Latin American. I thought I was avoiding any trouble at the funeral home by asking Mrs. Longoria to use her house. I felt that she could take care of any situation that might come up better at her house than at a public business place."

'Ashamed of Publicity'

Chamber of Commerce President Ramsey said he and other Three Rivers citizens will not permit the issue to be dropped until the "name of our city has been cleared." Three Rivers, he said, "is ashamed of the publicity, which is not deserved. You'll find no town anywhere in South Texas that has enjoyed better relations between Latin and Anglo Americans."

Ramsey also was put out with Sen. Johnson. "It is our feeling," he said, "that he capitalized on this to further his own standing with the Latin American population."

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Felix Longoria To Be Buried at San Antonio

Felix Longoria will be buried at San Antonio, after a special service has been held in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D. C., his widow, Beatrice, said this morning.

Longoria, who was killed in World War II, became the center of a national incident after Rice Funeral Home in Three Rivers first refused and then "discouraged" on racial grounds, a chapel service for the veteran.

His family met late last night in Three Rivers and yielded to Texas pressure after the intervention of R. E. Smith, Houston, chairman of the Good Neighbor Commission. Smith urged that the burial be "in Three Rivers, or at least in Texas" to clear the state's reputation in the incident.

Three Rivers Rejected

The family unanimously rejected any service in Three Rivers. Guadalupe Longoria, Sr., father of the veteran, said the San Antonio decision was taken to show that the family "bore no grudge." He also denied, however, an earlier statement attributed to Mayor J. K. Montgomery of Three Rivers that he favored a hometown ceremony. At no time, said Longoria, did he make that statement.

Offer of the Arlington ceremony

had previously been accepted by the veteran's widow, who joined in the family decision last night. Smith's offer, which was accepted on that basis, stipulated that "if members of the family go to Washington, we will arrange for all military honors on a national level" at the capitol.

En Route to Washington

Longoria's body is now en route to Washington, according to his widow. Members of the family who said they planned the Washington trip include the widow; his daughter, Adelita; his mother, Dolores; three brothers, Arturo, Alberto and Guadalupe, Jr.; a sister, Carolina Longoria. The burial at San Antonio will be in the state memorial cemetery there, but other details were not completed this morning.

Dr. Hector Garcia, head of the American GI Forum, said he has raised \$1,200 from individuals and South Texas Latin American organizations to pay for the Washington trip. Three Rivers has also pledged to pay expenses of one member of the family. They plan to make the trip by plane, leaving Corpus Christi in a group.

The meeting last night was arranged by Garcia, at the request of Smith.

Funeral Home Action Draws Forum Protest

The American GI Forum last night called a protest meeting for tonight after Rice Funeral Home in Three Rivers refused use of its chapel for a Latin American veteran killed in World War II.

The veteran was Felix Longoria who was killed in action in the Philippines in 1945. His body is now en route home on an Army transport.

Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, the veteran's wife, is scheduled to address the meeting tonight. She said last night that the funeral home refused to let the body remain in its chapel until burial on grounds that "the whites don't like it."

T. W. Kennedy, manager of the funeral home, confirmed the woman's story by telephone last night. "We just never did make a practice of letting them use the chapel," he said, "and we don't want to start now."

Most of them, he added, don't want the chapel service.

The Forum meeting tonight will be held at 8 p.m. in Lamar School, according to Dr. Hector Garcia, president of the organization. He said another protest meeting was scheduled later in the week at Three Rivers.

Funeral arrangements meanwhile have been held up pending a possible change of decision by the funeral home. Mrs. Longoria said she will bring her husband's body to Corpus Christi for burial if use of the chapel continues to be denied. She has wired Army officers, she said, notifying them of the funeral home's attitude and asking them to hold the body at present for that reason.

Legislator Seeks Probe Of Reburial

Three Rivers announced Wednesday he will call for an investigation of circumstances surrounding the reburial of a Texas Latin-American war veteran.

Gray had ready for introduction in the House a resolution asking for a five-member committee to probe for "the truth in this controversy" involving the reburial of Felix Longoria, Three Rivers veteran who died during the battle of Luzon.

Gray previously had introduced a measure calling for the abolishment of the Texas Good Neighbor Commission because of its activity in the case. Gray declared the commission was stirring up, instead of settling, racial feelings.

Wednesday's resolution scores "conflicting reports" regarding the Three Rivers incident and it "is absolutely necessary for the continuation of good relations among the peoples of South Texas and to our international relations" to establish the truth about what happened.

The resolution also asserts, "without the public knowing the facts, injustice is being done to the people involved in this controversy making it doubly necessary that the truth be found."

It asks that the House speaker appoint a five-man committee empowered to call witnesses and take testimony and report its findings "not later than March 1, 1949, to the end that justice may be done."

ARLINGTON REBURIAL FOR TEXAS SOLDIER READIED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—(AP)—A hero's burial was arranged for Wednesday afternoon for Felix Longoria of Three Rivers, Texas, in nearby Arlington National Cemetery.

Grave openings for the Texas youth of Latin-American descent who was killed in the Philippines and for 18 other World War II heroes were readied atop Pershing Hill. A few yards away is the plot where General of the Armies John J. Pershing was buried only a few months ago.

The selection of the nation's foremost national cemetery as the last resting place for Longoria came after charges that a Three Rivers funeral home had refused to handle the soldier's body because he was a Latin-American.

The funeral home denied the charges, voiced by a Latin-American organization in Texas, but during the furore the family decided to accept the opportunity to have the burial in Arlington.

The body, interred in the Philippines at first, recently was brought back for burial.

Members of the family who arrived by plane Tuesday night included the widow, Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, and daughter, Adelita; Mrs. Lupe Longoria, the soldier's mother, two sisters and three brothers.

Senator Lyndon B. Johnson (D-Texas), who arranged the Arlington burial, and Representative Lyle (D-Texas), planned to attend. Senator Connally (D-Texas) was unable to be present due to a meeting of the Senate foreign relations committee, of which he is chairman.

The full military burial ceremony was scheduled to last about 30 minutes, with brief last rites by clergy representing the faiths of the 19 men.

A firing squad stood by to fire three rounds, followed by a bugler sounding taps.

Texas House to Sift Case of Longoria

**Three Rivers Solon
Asks Action After
Arlington Rites**

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS
AUSTIN, Feb. 17.—The House of Representatives Thursday ordered a legislative investigation of the controversy over the reburial of a Latin-American soldier killed on Luzon.

The vote was 104 to 20.

The investigation was asked by Rep. J. F. Gray of Three Rivers.

An appropriation of \$1,000 to conduct the inquiry was approved, and the five-man committee to be appointed was instructed to report back before March 15.

Gray's resolution first was referred to the house committee on state affairs, but half an hour later Gray secured house permission to bring the matter up for immediate consideration on the floor.

Reps. Abraham Kazen, Jr., of Laredo and John Crosthwait of Dallas told Gray his resolution would not accomplish its objective because it contained no provision for money with which to make the investigation.

"If you are going to get anything more than a whitewash committee, you had better get enough money to make the thorough kind of investigation you want," Kazen advised.

The house then sent the resolution to the contingent expenses committee to determine how much money should be allowed.

Rep. Johnny B. Rogers of Austin suggested that the Good Neighbor Commission had been set up by the state to handle just such cases as this.

Gray quickly attacked the Good Neighbor Commission, saying he had evidence the agency already has made untruthful reports about the Longoria incident.

"We feel—we know—we have evidence that reports recently made by the Good Neighbor Commission are not truthful—and not only on that incident."

Felix Longoria, an oil field truck driver from Three Rivers before the war, was reburied Wednesday in Arlington National Cemetery. Several weeks ago the director of a funeral home in Three Rivers was reported by the Good Neighbor Commission to have declined the use of the funeral home chapel to the Longoria family for the rites. The funeral director denied this.

Gray said an investigation was needed to clear up "conflicting reports that have been circulated and continue to circulate, some such reports alleging that discrimination had been shown in the handling of his funeral arrangements."

Gray's resolution said that the probe "is now absolutely necessary for the continuation of good relations among the peoples of South Texas and to our international relations."

He added that, "Without the public knowing the facts, injustice is being done to the people involved in this controversy, making it doubly necessary that the truth be found."

Gray told the House he had received a report Thursday that the commission had erroneously reported the breaking off of labor contract negotiations between the United States and Mexico as a result of the Longoria incident.

LATIN GI REBURIAL ROW PROBE VOTED

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1949

38 Pages

TEXAS
PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU
DALLAS

San Antonio (Tex.) Light

Date FEB 4 - 1949

Solon to Ask GNC Action

Special to The Light.

AUSTIN, Feb. 4.—As south Texas legislators planned their fight to preserve the Texas Good Neighbor commission, Rep. J. F. Gray, Three Rivers, who wants to abolish it, stood pat today and said he would demand an early decision on the matter.

Rep. Gray said the Good Neighbor commission had "irritated relations" in connection with the incident at Three Rivers last month which resulted in the burial of Felix Longoria in the National cemetery at Arlington rather than in his home town of Three Rivers.

Gray also denounced Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson "and other politicians" who "jumped on the bandwagon for publicity." Johnson made arrangements for the Arlington burial after hearing reports a Three Rivers funeral home had refused to handle his funeral at its chapel.

ASKS EARLY ACTION

The Three Rivers legislator, who said he has many friends among Latin-Americans, said he would ask that his bill to wipe out the 4-year-old GNC be set for early hearing.

Reps. Abe Kazen, Laredo; A. J. Vale, Rio Grande City, and Joe Kilgore, McAllen, all said they would fight the bill. Vale was author of the bill creating the GNC in 1945, and Kilgore and Kazen were co-authors of the bill which made it a permanent state agency in 1947. The commission includes Hugh Halff and Gen. Jonathan Wainwright, San Antonio, among its membership and has two employees. Executive Secretary Tom Sutherland and his secretary, Mrs. Caroline Long.

HIGH PRAISE

Dr. Hector P. Garcia

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON

OFFICE PHONE 3-1508
3024 MORGAN

REG. PHONE 3-2109
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

For Senator Lyndon Johnson:

Address _____

R: Am sending you the rest of
the reports:

This typewritten numbered
sheets are copies of Reports or
News items that appeared
in The Corpus Christi Caller
times with respective dates..

Mrs. Gonzales et family
send you kindest regards.
Thank you Again - Senator

KIRTLEY'S DRUG STORE

915 S. PORT AVE. PHONE 3-8551
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

Date 10/2

Reg. No. 5367

Dr. Hector P. Garcia

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON

OFFICE PHONE 3-1508
3024 MORGAN

RES. PHONE 3-2109
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

For _____

Address _____

R_x

KIRTLEY'S DRUG STORE

915 S. PORT AVE. PHONE 3-8551
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

Date _____

Reg. No. 5367

1.

This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller on January 11, 1949:

FUNERAL HOME ACTION DRAWS FORUM PROTEST

The American GI Forum last night called a protest meeting for tonight after Rice Funeral Home in Three Rivers refused use of its chapel for a Latin American veteran killed in World War II.

The veteran was Felix Longoria who was killed in action in the Philippines in 1945. His body is now en route home on an Army transport.

Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, the veteran's wife, is scheduled to address the meeting tonight. She said last night that the funeral home refused to let the body remain in its chapel until burial on grounds that "the whites don't like it."

T.W. Kennedy, manager of the funeral home, confirmed the woman's story by telephone last night. "We just never did make a practice of letting them use the chapel," he said, "and we don't want to start now".

Most of them, he added, don't want the chapel service.

The Forum meeting tonight will be held at 8 P.M. in Lamar School, according to Dr. Hector Garcia, president of the organization. He said another protest meeting was scheduled later in the week at Three Rivers.

Funeral arrangements meanwhile have been held up pending a possible change of decision by the funeral home. Mrs. Longoria said she will bring her husband's body to Corpus Christi for burial if use of the chapel continues to be denied. She has wired Army officers, she said, notifying them of the funeral home's attitude and asking them to hold the body at present for that reason.

2.
This article appeared in the Caller-Times on January 11, 1949:

LATIN SERVICE DISCOURAGED BY RICE FUNERAL HOME

Rice Funeral Home in Three Rivers this morning qualified its refusal to hold chapel services for a Latin American killed in World War II, but Latin organizations continued to press a protest campaign.

T.W. Kennedy, manager of the home, admitted last night that he had refused the use of his chapel for Felix Longoria, Three Rivers veteran killed in the Philippines in 1945. "We never did let them use the chapel," he said then, "and we don't want to start now."

TERMED 'MISUNDERSTANDING'. This morning Kennedy said that "We're not refusing, but we're doing everything we can to discourage it." To date, he added, the chapel has never been used for Latin services. Terming the whole thing a "misunderstanding", Kennedy said it had been "cleared up" when his funeral home offered to send the body to Corpus Christi where it could be given a chapel service.

The American GI Forum, however, went ahead with a protest meeting scheduled for 8 O'clock tonight at Lamar School. Mrs. Beatrice Longoria is scheduled to speak at the Meeting, according to Dr. Hector Garcia, Forum president. Garcia said a protest meeting is also scheduled at Three Rivers later this week, and said his group would not be satisfied unless the Rice Home completely reversed its policy against Latin services in the chapel.

LULAC PROTESTS. Leo Licona, president of League of United Nation American Citizens, Council No. 1 in Corpus Christi, added this morning that Lulac also "bitterly protested" the incident. The council, he said, plans to call the attention of the Texas Funeral Directors and Embalmers' Association to the funeral home's policy.

The Forum last night also sent about two dozen protest telegrams to civic leaders and government officials in Three Rivers, the Good Neighbor Commission, Army officers in charge of returning dead soldiers, and state and federal officials.

The telegrams read in part:

"In our estimation the action is in direct contradiction of the same principals for which Longoria died. The people for whom he died have denied him the last rites deserving any American hero, regardless of racial origin. It is typical of discriminatory practices occurring intermittently within this state."

This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller on January 12, 1949:

ARLINGTON BURIAL FOR THREE RIVERS VETERAN PLANNED

(By George Groh)

Mrs. Beatrice Longoria said last night that she will bury her war casualty husband, Felix, in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Arlington facilities were offered by Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson after Rice Funeral Home of Three Rivers refused the use of its chapel for Longoria, who was killed in action in 1945. Later, T.W. Kennedy, manager of the funeral home, qualified his earlier statement that Rice did not allow use of its chapel to Latin Americans by stating that the practice was "discouraged" but not forbidden. He also said that the funeral home would make its chapel available "if necessary."

Mrs. Longoria made a statement last night at Lamar School where several hundred persons crowded into a protest meeting sponsored by the American GI Forum. The forum took a collection to pay for her Washington funeral trip and guaranteed all expenses.

JOHNSON'S STATEMENT. Senator Johnson's statement which was telegraphed to the forum, read in part:

"I deeply regret to learn that the prejudices of some individuals extend beyond this life. I have made arrangement to have Felix Longoria buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery where the honored war dead rest."

The Forum's protest also drew telegraphed apologies from Gov. Beauford Jester, Rep. John E. Lyle, Attorney General Price Daniel and Three Rivers Mayor J.K. Montgomery.

Mayor Montgomery said the whole thing was "a mistake". He offered the services of the American Legion Home, or "my own home" for the funeral services, and said he believed use of the chapel also could be arranged.

GROUPS REPRESENTED. The Forum meeting was attended by representatives of several South Texas Latin groups, and by a Latin American Gold Star Mothers Club delegation of Corpus Christi. Also attending were Longoria's brothers, Guadalupe, Alberto and Arturo.

W.T. Neblett, of Laredo, president of the Veterans County Service Association of Texas called The Caller-Times to say that any funeral home in Laredo, "as well as any other building" was open to Mrs. Longoria in which to hold her husband's funeral if she wished.

4.

This article appeared in the Caller-Times on January 12, 1949:

LONGORIA WILL BE BURIED IN ARLINGTON

Felix Longoria, killed in the Philippines in World War II, will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Rice Funeral Home, in Longoria's hometown of Three Rivers, had refused use of its chapel for a re-burial service on racial grounds. Rice later withdrew its refusal but Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, the veteran's wife, announced last night that she had accepted an offer of Arlington facilities.

The offer, which was telegraphed by Sen. Lyndon Johnson, was accepted last night at a protest meeting held by the American GI Forum in Lamar School. Sen. Johnson's telegram read in part:

"I deeply regret that the prejudices of some individuals extend even beyond this life. I have made arrangements to have Felix Longoria buried with full military honors in Arlington, where the honored war dead rest."

Telegraphed apologies from Gov. Beauford Jester, Rep. John E. Lyle and Mayor J.K. Montgomery, of Three Rivers, also were read at the meeting. Montgomery, who termed the incident "a mistake," offered use of his own home for the service if necessary.

The Forum took a collection at the meeting to pay Mrs. Longoria's expenses to Washington for the service.

5.

This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller on January 13, 1949:

ARLINGTON BURIAL ARRANGED FOR THREE RIVERS VETERAN

WASHINGTON, Jan 12. (AP)-Felix Longoria, U.S. soldier of Mexican ancestry who died in action in the Philippines, will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

U.S. Senator Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas said today he had arranged for the reburial of Longoria at Arlington with full military honors. He said he was advised by the American GI Forum of Corpus Christi that a funeral home in Longoria's home town of Three Rivers, had refused to handle the soldiers body, "solely because of his Mexican ancestry."

At Three Rivers, T.W. Kennedy, manager of the Rice Funeral Home, said that his funeral home had not refused to handle the reburial service for a Latin American soldier and added:

"There was no question whatever of discrimination involved."

"The report that we refused to handle the reburial of a Latin American soldier is incorrect," said Kennedy. "We did not refuse, either, the use of our chapel. When making arrangements with the deceased's wife, I did discouraged the use of the chapel, frankly, because of friction that I heard existed between members of the family. Due to this friction, I thought it would be better that the services be held at the widow's home or some other private home."

"There was no question whatever of discrimination involved. I have many good friends of Latin American ancestry. I am a disabled veteran of the second world war and I have fought alongside many Latin Americans."

Dr. Hector Garcia, President of the Corpus Christi American GI Forum in a telegram told Johnson the funeral home declined service because "other white people might object to the use of the funeral home by people of Mexican origin."

Kennedy said: "The first World War II soldier to be reburied at Three Rivers was a Latin American. We handled the service."

The Good Neighbor Commission yesterday quickly began an investigation after Gov. Beauford Jester referred to it a protest from Dr. Garcia.

Johnson wired Garcia last night he had arranged for Longoria's interment without cost either in Arlington or, if the family desired it, in Fort Sam Houston National Military Cemetery at San Antonio.

The soldier's widow, Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, notified Johnson that she preferred Arlington.

This article appeared in the Caller-Times on January 13, 1949.

THREE RIVERS APOLOGIZES.
DRIVE STARTS TO SEND LONGORIAS TO ARLINGTON.

Organizations in Three Rivers joined those in other South Texas towns this morning in offering amends to the family of Felix Longoria, Latin American veteran killed in World War II.

Longoria, who will be buried with military honors in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C. became the center of sharp controversy after Rice Funeral Home, in Three Rivers, "discouraged" reburial service from its chapel on racial grounds. (T.W. Kennedy, manager, yesterday denied an earlier statement that the chapel service was refused.)

\$300 RAISED. This morning Three Rivers organizations offered to pool funds to send a member of the Longoria family to Washington for the service. Mayor J.K. Montgomery said the move was initiated by Ann Fair, of the Civic Club, and is being underwritten by the Civic Club, chamber of Commerce and Rotary. The Longoria family, he said, will be asked to select the member who is to make the trip.

The American GI Forum, Corpus Christi organization which made the original protest, has raised \$300 to send the widow, Beatrice Longoria, to the Arlington service.

Dr. Hector Garcia, president of Forum, said a joint movement by Latin organizations is also underway to pay for the Arlington journey of Mrs. Guadalupe Longoria, the veteran's mother. Forum and League of United Latin American Citizens councils in Corpus Christi, Beeville, Kingsville and Robstown will be asked to help, he said. Raul Cortes, president-general of Lulac, San Antonio, was asked for the assistance of his office this morning.

JOHNSON ARRANGED SERVICE. The Longoria family, in addition to the widow and mother, includes his daughter, Adelita, 9; his father, Guadalupe; and three brothers, Arturo, Alberto, and Guadalupe, Jr. All are of Three Rivers except the widow and daughter, who live at 2801 Lamar.

The Arlington ceremony for Longoria was arranged by Sen. Lyndon Johnson after protests against the Three Rivers incident.

2.
This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller on January 14, 1949:

THREE RIVERS C OF C BRANDS REBURIAL STORY "HAD PUBLICITY"
(Caller-Times News Service)

THREE RIVERS--Citizens of Three Rivers will leave no stones unturned to counteract the "bad publicity" to which their town has fallen victim within the last few days, S.F. Ramsey, banker and president of the Chamber of Commerce said last night.

He had reference to the uproar, as violent as an earthquake in Three Rivers and felt all over the nation, over plans for reburying one of its soldier dead--a youth of Mexican descent who fell in the Philippines.

It all started when T.W. Kennedy, manager of Rice Funeral Home here, declined use of his chapel for services for Felix Longoria. A member of the family complained to Dr. Hector Garcia of Corpus Christi, president of the GI Forum.

Garcia, after talking with Kennedy, charged that Kennedy's action was an act of discrimination against Americans of Mexican descent.

Kennedy at the time said: "We just never did make a practice of letting them use the chapel."

DISCRIMINATION INTENT DENIED. Later, Kennedy denied any intention or act of discriminatory practice on his part. In a lengthy statement issued Thursday he said he had suggested the use of a private home instead of the chapel because he had heard there was "some conflict between" the soldier's widow and his parents.

(In Corpus Christi Dr. Garcia released a letter from Kennedy to Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, the widow, which said in part: "If there was a misunderstanding on my part, my apologies are extended. If you still want use of our funeral chapel and want us to conduct services, we will be only too glad to be able to be of service....")

Ramsey said he was hopeful that plans might be made even at this late date to bring Longoria "home".

Meanwhile there was nothing to indicate that the Longoria family would change arrangements, made by Sen. Lyndon Johnson, to bury Longoria in Arlington National Cemetery.

(Dr. Garcia said last night that as far as we are concerned, the case is closed. The family is well pleased with arrangements.")

In his statement Thursday Kennedy said that original plans called for use of the chapel and that he had or made no objection. He said he suggested use of a private home only after he had heard of differences between members of the surviving family because he didn't want the chapel to be the scene of any trouble.

He said that Mrs. Longoria, the widow, offered no objections at the time, but that her parents in Corpus Christi were disturbed and "instead of contacting me to make arrangements, they took the matter to Dr. Hector Garcia in Corpus Christi. He in turn phoned me and

Three Rivers C of C Brands Reburial Story 'Bad Publicity', Continued.

jumped me up about it.

"I did not at any time refuse to bury him or allow use of the chapel because he was Latin American. I thought I was avoiding any trouble at the funeral home by asking Mrs. Longoria to use her house. I felt that she could take care of any situation that might come up better at her house than at a public business place."

'ASHAMED OF PUBLICITY'. Chamber of Commerce President Ramsey said he and other Three Rivers citizens will not permit the issue to be dropped until the "name of our city has been cleared." Three Rivers, he said, "is ashamed of the publicity, which is not deserved. You'll find no town anywhere in South Texas that has enjoyed better relations between Latin and Anglo Americans."

Ramsey also was put out with Sen. Johnson. "It is our feeling," he said, "That he capitalized on this to further his own standing with the Latin American population."

8,
This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller on January 15, 1949:

MAYOR SAYS FATHER OF LONGORIA WANTS BURIAL AT HOME

Three Rivers, Jan. 12 (AP)-Lupo Longoria, Sr., still wants his hero son, Felix Longoria, who was killed on Luzon, buried in Three Rivers, according to Mayor J.K. Montgomery.

"If it were in my power, I still would have my son buried in Three Rivers," Longoria told the mayor.

Since areport that a Three Rivers funeral home refused to conduct the reburial from its chapel, which the funeral home management flatly denied, Sen. Lyndon Johnson acted to have the Texas buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

The senior Longoria also was quoted Friday by Mayor Montgomery and by S.F. Ramsey, president of the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce, as saying he did not appreciate the report that money was being solicited in Corpus Christi and other South Texas towns with which to send members of the soldiers family to Washington for the funeral.

According to reports here Senator Johnson had notified the widow of the dead soldier, Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, of the arrangements for burial in Arlington and she had accepted the offer to inter her husband there.

This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller-Times on Sunday, January 16, 1949:

JOHNSON DENIES ATTEMPT TO GAIN BY STATEMENT

Senator Lyndon Johnson denied yesterday that he tried to make political capital out of the Felix Longoria incident, according to Dr. Hector Garcia.

In a telegram to Garcia several days ago, Johnson condemned the refusal of Rice Funeral Home in Three Rivers to hold chapel services for Felix Longoria, a Latin American veteran killed in World War II. The funeral home later termed it a misunderstanding and offered to hold the service.

After complaints from Three Rivers, according to Garcia, Johnson asked publication of the fact that he did not release the telegram to the press himself. The release was made by Garcia, at a meeting of the American GI Forum.

Meantime, the campaign continued to send members of the Longoria family to the Arlington National Cemetery ceremony which Johnson arranged for the veteran. Garcia said yesterday \$900 has been raised in a South Texas drive, in addition to the drives conducted independently by the American GI Forum here and various organizations in Three Rivers.

Chief contributors to the \$900, Garcia said, were organizations in San Antonio, Refugio and Taylor. The Taylor Froum raised \$127, the San Antonio League of United Latin American Citizens \$100, and the Refugio Forum another \$100. The remainder of the sum came from other Latin Organizations and from individual contributors.

10.

This article appeared under two pictures in the Corpus Christi Caller Times on January 17, 1949:

TEXAS GI TO BE BURIED IN ARLINGTON CEMETERY (Under Pictures)

A Texas soldier of Mexican ancestry, who had lived in Three Rivers, Texas, before the war, will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. At left aged Lupe Longoria and his wife Dolores, father and mother of the deceased Felix Longoria, sadly contemplate the picture of their son. They are both slightly bewildered by the turn of events which catapulted them, unlettered and obscure working people into a maelstrom of national publicity. At right Mrs. Beatrice Longoria and her daughter, Adelita, widow and daughter of Felix, look at his picture as they recount the story of his death on Luzon.

(NFA Telephoto)

11.

This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller-Times on January 19, 1949:

FELIX LONGORIA TO BE BURIED AT SAN ANTONIO

Felix Longoria will be buried at San Antonio, after a special service has been held in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C., his widow, Beatrice said this morning.

Longoria, who was killed in World War II, became the center of a national incident after Rice Funeral Home in Three Rivers first refused and then "discouraged" on racial grounds, a chapel service for the veteran.

His family met late last night in Three Rivers and yielded to Texas pressure after the intervention of R.M. Smith, Houston, chairman of the Good Neighbor Commission. Smith urged that burial be "in Three Rivers, or at least in Texas" to clear the state's reputation in the incident.

Three Rivers Rejected

The family unanimously rejected any service in Three Rivers. Guadalupe Longoria, Sr., father of the veteran, said the San Antonio decision was taken to show that the family "bore no grudge." He also denied, however, an earlier statement attributed to Mayor J.K. Montgomery of Three Rivers that he favored a home-town ceremony. At no time, said Longoria, did he make that statement.

Offer of the Arlington Ceremony had previously been accepted by the veteran's widow, who joined in the family decision last night. Smith's offer, which was accepted on that basis, stipulated that "if members of the family go to Washington, we will arrange for all military honors on a national level" at the capitol.

En Route to Washington

Longoria's body is now en route to Washington, according to his widow. Members of the family who said they planned the Washington trip include the widow; his daughter, Adelita; his mother, Dolores; three brothers, Arturo, Alberto and Guadalupe, Jr.; a sister, Carolina Longoria. The burial at San Antonio will be in the state memorial cemetery there, but other details were not completed this morning.

Dr. Hector Garcia, head of the American GI Forum, said he has raised \$1,200 from individuals and South Texas Latin American organizations to pay for the Washington trip. Three Rivers has also pledged to pay expenses of one member of the family. They plan to make the trip by plane, leaving Corpus Christi in a group.

The meeting last night was arranged by Garcia, at the request of Smith.

This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller on January 29, 1949:

HITCH CLAIMED IN LONGORIA BURIAL PLANS

A possible hitch in plans for the burial of Felix Longoria has developed R.E. Smith, chairman of the Texas Good Neighbor Commission, said last night.

Smith had arranged for burial of the Three Rivers veteran of World War II in National Cemetery, San Antonio, and a separate ceremony in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, after a veterans organization protested that a Three Rivers funeral home had refused the use of its parlors. This the funeral home director denied.

REQUEST NOT RECEIVED

Smith confirmed the report last night that Fort Sam Houston and San Antonio National Cemetery authorities had not received any request for the burial. Smith also indicated there was difficulty in arranging a double ceremony, but declined to comment on details.

Mrs. Longoria (Beatrice), widow of the veteran, said last night she had not been informed of any change in plans. "I just don't know," she said when queried on her plans now. "I'll have to think this over."

Smith made the offer of a San Antonio burial to Dr. Hector Garcia, who made the original protest on the Three Rivers incident. His letter to Garcia read in part:

"If you will talk to the widow of Felix Longoria, and ask her if she will be agreeable to a change in plans, whereby this American soldier's body will be brought back to Texas for reburial, I will assure her that if she and other members of the family care to go to Washington, we will arrange for all military honors on national levels in her presence, but bring the hero's body back to Texas where it should be."

DOUBLE CEREMONY

Smith, interviewed by phone last night, indicated that the hitch in arrangements came in plans for the double ceremony, but refused comment on details. He said Tom Sutherland, secretary of the commission, is now in Washington, and is attempting to arrange a solution.

Smith added that publication of his offer to the Longoria's was "premature."

"My whole interest in this thing," he added, "was in trying to do a service for the State of Texas."

Dr. Garcia was in San Antonio attending a medical convention last night and could not be reached for comment.

13.

This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller on February 10, 1949:

FLYING TO ARLINGTON

SEVEN IN LONGORIA FAMILY LEAVE TUESDAY

Seven members of the Longoria family will leave here by Eastern Airlines plane at 12:40 p.m. Tuesday to attend the Arlington National Ceremony services for Felix Longoria, who was killed in World War II, it was announced here yesterday.

The Arlington service was arranged for Longoria by Sen. Lyndon Johnson after Rice Funeral Home, Three Rivers, refused use of its chapel for the service. The Washington ceremony is scheduled for 2 p.m. Feb. 16.

Dr. Hector Garcia, president of the American GI Forum, said South Texas Latin organizations had raised \$1,830 to send the family to Washington for the service. The Forum, which raised the original protest at the funeral home action took in \$300 for the fund at a rally here and sparked the remainder of the drive.

Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, widow of the veteran, said the family has asked Senator Johnson to be present at the ceremony. She will be among the family group making the trip.

Also scheduled to attend the ceremony are Longoria's 9-year-old daughter, Adelita; three brothers, Guadalupe, Jr., Alberto, and Arturo; his sister, Carolina Longoria, and his mother, Mrs. Guadalupe Longoria. All are of Three Rivers except the widow and daughter who live here. Sara Moreno Corpus Christi, a sister-in-law will accompany the group at her own expense.

They are scheduled to leave here by Eastern Airlines at 12:40 p.m., Feb. 15, and will change at Houston to an Eastern Constellation for a thorough flight to Washington. They are scheduled to arrive there that night, and return the next day after the ceremony.

This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller on February 12, 1949:

LONGORIA DISPUTE REPORTEDLY HALTS BRACERO PARLEYS

AUSTIN, Feb. 11.(AP)-The Texas Good Neighbor Commission said today that a recent incident over the burial of a Latin American soldier caused diplomatic talks with Mexico on a labor contract to be stopped.

"National news is, in the 20th century, international news," the commission said in a written statement. "United States prestige and good will were damaged abroad by the ever-ready anti-United States press agents. Specifically, diplomatic conversations with Mexico on the subject of a labor contract were stopped."

The incident resulted when it was reported a Three Rivers, Texas, funeral home refused to handle reburial rites for Felix Longoria because of his race. The funeral home denied the charge.

The commission said: "The Anglo-American leaders of the community in question did not recognize the serious international dangers of their customs of discrimination against Mexicans and some of the Anglo-American leaders still refuse to recognize the danger of insisting on status quo relations with Mexican-Americans."

The commission also said that it needed more money, pointing out that "the sum of legislative action has been an \$8,000 annual budget." With such a small budget, the commission said it was impossible to spread effectively among 254 counties and seven million people.

15.
This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller on February 15, 1949:

rites Wednesday

7 LONGORIA KIN FLYING TO ARLINGTON

Seven members of the Longoria family will leave here by plane today to attend Arlington National Cemetery funeral services for Felix Longoria, who was refused chapel services by Rice Funeral Home in his hometown in Three Rivers.

The funeral home later offered to hold the services, but the Longoria family accepted an offer of Arlington services, in Washington, D.C., which were arranged by Sen. Lyndon Johnson.

The funeral is scheduled there for 2 p.m. tomorrow. The family group, leaving here by Eastern Airlines at 12:40 p.m. today, will include Longoria's widow, Beatrice; his daughter, Adelita, both of Corpus Christi; his mother, Mrs. Guadalupe Longoria, Three Rivers; one sister, Carolyn Longoria, Three Rivers; and three brothers, Guadalupe, Jr., and Alberto, both of Three Rivers, and Arturo, Corpus Christi. A drive led by the American GI Forum raised about \$1,200 to send the family to the ceremony.

Sara Moreno, Corpus Christi, Longoria's sister-in-law, will make the trip with the family at her own expense.

The family, except Miss Moreno and Carolyn Longoria, who will remain in Washington, are scheduled to arrive in Corpus Christi at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, Miss Moreno said.

16

This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller on February 16, 1949:

LONGORIA FAMILY LEAVES BY PLANE FOR ARLINGTON

Arlington National Cemetery services for Felix Longoria, Three Rivers veteran who was killed in World War II, will be attended today by seven members of his family.

The funeral became the center of a national dispute after Rice Funeral Home, in Three Rivers, refused use of its chapel service. Rice later offered to hold the service, but the family accepted the Arlington funeral, in Washington, D.C., which was arranged by Sen. Lyndon Johnson.

Members of the family, who left here by plane yesterday, were Longoria's widow, Beatrice, and his daughter, Adelita, both of Corpus Christi; his mother, Mrs. Dolores Longoria, Three Rivers; a sister, Carolyn, Three Rivers; and three brothers, Guadalupe, Jr., and Alberto, Three Rivers; and Arturo, Corpus Christi.

Funds for the family trip were raised by Latin organizations in Texas. Miss Sera Moreno, Corpus Christi, Longoria's sister-in-law, accompanied the group at her own expense. They are scheduled to return tomorrow.

12.
This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller-Times on February 16, 1949:

HERO'S GRAVE AWAITS LONGORIA TODAY AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. (UP) Felix Longoria, a young Latin-American who died fighting in the Phillippines, was to be buried today in a hero's grave at Arlington National Cemetery.

Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson (D-Texas) planned to attend the services to show the nation that despite an earlier "misunderstanding," Texas and Longoria's home town of Three Rivers are proud of the 26-year-old soldier.

Longoria was killed on Luzpn. After V-J Day, his parents and his widow, Beatrice, arranged to have his body brought home for reburial in the sleepy little South Texas town. But their Mexican ancestry brought complications.

Mrs. Longoria quoted a Three Rivers undertaker as saying that he would prefer not to bury the youth from his funeral home "because the whites might object."

A war veterans group protested. The situation came to the attention of Sen. Johnson who promptly arranged to have the youth buried in Arlington, resting place of the nation's most honored war dead.

The veteran's group raised money to send Mrs. Longoria and the soldier's parents here for the burial service. Pershing Hill, a site near the grave of Gen. John J. Pershing, was chosen for Longoria's grave.

18.

This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller-Times on February 17, 1949:

REPRESENTATIVES VOTE INQUIRY IN LONGORIA CASE

BULLETIN

AUSTIN, Feb. 17 (AP)-The House of Representatives today ordered a legislative investigation of the controversy over the reburial of Felix Longoria and voted \$1,000 to finance the inquiry.

AUSTIN, Feb. 17. (AP)-Rep. J.F. Gray of Three Rivers today asked a House investigation of the controversy over the reburial of Felix Longoria.

QUESTION OF EXPENSES

Gray's resolution was referred to the House Committee on State Affairs, but half an hour later Gray secured house permission to bring the matter up for immediate consideration on the floor.

Reps. Abraham Kazen, Jr. of Laredo and John Crosthwait of Dallas told Gray his resolution would not accomplish its objective because it contained no provision for money with which to make the investigation.

"If you are going to get anything more than a whitewash committee, you had better get enough money to make the thorough kind of investigation you want," Kazen advised.

The House then sent the resolution to the contingent expenses committee to determine how much money should be allowed.

Rep. Johnny B. Rogers of Austin suggested that the Good Neighbor Commission, had been set up by the state to handle just such cases as this.

Gray quickly attacked the Good Neighbor Commission, saying he had evidence the agency already has made untruthful reports about the Longoria incident.

"We feel we know we have evidence that reports recently made by the Good Neighbor Commission are not truthful and not only on that incident."

Gray said an investigation was needed to clear up "conflicting reports that have been circulated and continue to circulate, some such reports alleging that discrimination had been shown in the handling of his funeral arrangements."

Page 2, continued, REPRESENTATIVES VOTE INQUIRY IN LONGORIA CASE.

He asked a five-man group from the House to investigate and report back before March 1.

Gray's resolution said that the inquiry "is now absolutely necessary for the continuation of good relations among the peoples of South Texas and to our international relations."

He added that "without the public knowing the facts, injustice is being done to the people involved in this controversy making it double necessary that the truth be found."

Gray told the House he had received a report today that the commission had erroneously reported the breaking off of labor contract negotiations between the United States and Mexico as a result of the Longoria incident.

"Alfonso Guerra, a Mexican foreign ministry official, has officially denied that report," declared Gray. The South Texas representative has introduced a bill to abolish the Good Neighbor Commission.

This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller on February 17, 1949:

FUNERAL FOR PVT. LONGORIA HELD AT NATIONAL CEMETERY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. (AP)—A family of Latin Americans from Three Rivers, Texas, stood in a cold drizzling rain in Arlington National Cemetery today and heard last rites for Pvt. Felix Z. Longoria.

His dark-eyed widow, eight-year-old daughter and mother were among those gathered solemnly at the side of the flag-bedecked casket holding the remains of the 26-year-old soldier.

An old field truck driver before the war, Longoria was killed on Luzon in the Philippine Islands in June, 1945.

His funeral was not far from the burial site of General of the Armies John J. Pershing.

PRESIDENT'S AIDE ATTENDS

Mr. Gen. Harry Vaughan, aide to President Truman stood at the head of the two long rows of caskets of 19 war dead who were reburied today. Longoria's casket was at the head of one row.

Just before the services, newsmen asked Vaughan if he was there as President Truman's personal representative.

"Yes," replied Vaughan. He said the President learned of the Texas boy's case from Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson (D-Texas). The incident to which Vaughan referred occurred several weeks ago when plans were made for Longoria's reburial.

Latin American groups in South Texas charged that the director of a funeral home in Three Rivers declined use of the funeral home chapel to the Longorias. The Latin American groups charged race prejudice.

CHARGES DENIED

L.W. Kennedy, Jr., director of the funeral home, denied charges of the Latin American groups. He said he had tried to discourage the Longoria's from selecting the chapel in the belief that friction existed between the widow and the dead soldier's parents.

A Latin American organization contacted Sen. Johnson and he promptly arranged the burial services in Arlington. The senator and Mrs. Johnson, accompanied by Rep. Lytle (D-Texas), stood under a canopy to one side of the row of caskets during the service.

When the firing squad had fired three rounds and taps were sounded, Gen. Vaughan, Johnson and Lytle were among the first to step up and offer their condolences to the family.

Justo Sierra, first secretary of the Mexican embassy, represented his country at the services.

FLAG GIVEN TO WIDOW

Others who attended were Lupe Longoria, Jr., and Arturo Longoria, brothers of Felix; Carolina Longoria, his sister; Sara Moreno, sister-in-law; and Mrs. Beulah Walter, formerly of San Antonio, but who now lives here.

After the services, the Longoria family, with the families of others buried on Pershing Hill, were taken to view the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

They had intended to place a wreath there, but learned that considerable time would be required in getting permission. The wreath then was taken back to Pvt. Longoria's grave.

The American flag which had covered Longoria's casket was presented to his widow.

20.

This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller on February 18, 1949:

INVESTIGATION OF LONGORIA CASE CALLED

HEARINGS ON RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ARE TO BE PUBLIC

AUSTIN, Feb. 17 (AP)-Legislative investigation of the row over reburial of Felix Longoria, a Latin American soldier killed on Luzon, was ordered today by the Texas House of Representatives.

Rep. J.F. Gray of Three Rivers, the town where South Texas Latin American groups charged a funeral home declined use of its chapel by the Longoria family said he wanted to find the true facts.

CHARGES DENIED

The funeral home director denied the charges by the Latin American groups.

An investigation is needed to clear up "conflicting reports that have been circulated and continue to circulate, some such reports alleging that discrimination had been shown in the handling of his (Longoria's) funeral arrangements," Gray said in his resolution.

The vote in favor of investigation was 104 to 20. Speaker Durwood Manford will name a five-man committee to conduct the inquiry and report back before March 15. A \$1,000 appropriation to cover expenses was authorized.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ASKED

"Do you propose that all hearings by this committee shall be public hearings?" Rep. Abraham Kazen, Jr., of Laredo asked Gray.

"Well, that's not in the resolution, but in all countries ruled by democracy that is taken for granted," Gray replied.

Gray's resolution had to be amended to provide for the \$1,000 appropriation.

That action came after Kazen advised Gray: "If you are going to get anything more than a white-wash committee, you had better get enough money to make the thorough kind of investigation you want."

21.

This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller on February 18, 1949:

CORPUS CHRISTI FORUM WELCOMES STATE INQUIRY

Dr. Hector Garcia said last night that the American GI Forum "welcomes an investigation" into the Longoria incident, but demands "an open hearing in the presence of all witnesses."

Garcia, who heads the Forum, said demands for an open hearing were telegraphed last night to Representatives O.E. Cannon, Corpus Christi, and Abraham Kazen, Laredo.

The investigation, voted by the House yesterday, followed the burial of Felix Longoria in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C., Wednesday. The burial was arranged by Sen. Lyndon Johnson after the Longoria family was reportedly refused chapel services by Rice Funeral Home, in his Hometown of Three Rivers.

Original protest at the Rice action was raised by the Forum, which charged race discrimination.

The House investigation was demanded by Rep. J.F. Gray of Three Rivers. Gray has also introduced a bill advocating abolishment of the Good Neighbor Commission which he has attacked as making "untruthful statements" about the incident.

This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller on February 19, 1949:

GOOD NEIGHBOR GROUP HEAD OFFERS TO RESIGN POST

AUSTIN, Feb. 18. (UP)-Chairman R. E. Smith of the Texas Good Neighbor Commission said today he would resign if a Legislative investigation of a dispute at Three Rivers about the re-burial of a Latin American soldier revealed the commission had "lied" about the incident.

Smith, of Houston, said he welcomed the investigation ordered yesterday by the House. An appropriation of \$1,000 was made to finance the study by a five-member committee, expected to be named Monday.

His statement was made at a press conference as a "proposition" to Rep. J.F. Gray of Three Rivers, author of the investigation resolution, and also sponsor of a bill seeking to abolish the commission.

This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller on March 1, 1949:

LONGVIEW MAN TO HEAD LONGORIA CASE INQUIRY

AUSTIN, Feb. 28. (AP)-Rep. Cecil Storey of Longview heads the committee appointed to investigate the row over the reburial of a Latin American soldier.

The committee, named by Speaker of the House Durwood Manfor today is under instructions to report March 15.

The investigation was asked by Rep. J.F. Gray of Three Rivers, the south Texas town where it was reported a funeral parlor refused to handle reburial rites for Felix Longoria. The funeral director denied this.

Longoria was killed while with the American Army on Luzon and later was reburied in Arlington National Cemetery.

The House approved the investigation and a appropriation of \$1,000 for the committee's use.

Other members of the investigating group are Reps. Frank Oltorf of Merlin, O.E. Cannon of Corpus Christi, Tom Cheathan of Cuero and James Marvin Windham of Livingston.

24.

This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller on March 4, 1949:

INQUIRY INTO LONGORIA CASE STARTS WEDNESDAY

Austin, March 3, (UP)-A House Committee named to investigate a dispute involving reburial of a Latin American soldier had tentative plans today to go to Three Rivers next Wednesday.

A spokesman for the committee said the group intended to take testimony on both sides and cover the incident "thoroughly."

The committee was appointed following House approval of a resolution by Rep. J.F. Gray of Three Rivers calling for investigation of a controversy concerning reburial of Felix Longoria, a Latin American Soldier killed on Luzon.

The soldier's family had claimed that a Three Rivers funeral director had suggested that the facilities of his funeral home not to be used. The Soldier was buried recently at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington.

25

This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller on April 8, 1949:

' TRAGIC BLOT'
KELLEY RAPS THREE RIVERS CASE REPORT

"The majority report of the so-called "Three Rivers investigation" by the committee of the House of Representatives is a slap in the face of the more than one million Latin American citizens of the State of Texas," State Sen. Rogers Kelley of Edinburg told a Caller reporter here last night.

Kelley called the majority report "A tragic blot on the democracy of Texas and the United States."

"The minority report in contrast clearly and honestly shows the true facts and brands the majority report as an obvious 'whitewash' based on prejudice, bigotry, intolerance and ignoring of the facts," he said.

"The people of Texas are entitled to a full, fair and impartial report of all, and I repeat, all of the facts. The House committee should release to the public the complete testimony and not merely the hand-picked parts which the majority of the committee arbitrarily has selected as their findings," he said.

"This is a sad day for Texas," Kelley declared.

Kelley is here to attend the Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner to be held in the Robert Driscoll Hotel tonight.

26

This article appeared in the Corpus Christi Caller on April 9, 1949:

REP. TINSLEY ASKS REPORT ON LONGORIA CASE BE WITHDRAWN

AUSTIN, April 8 (AP)-Rep. Byron Tinsley of Greenville today asked that a report on an investigation into the Felix Longoria reburial incident be withdrawn.

Yesterday four members of a five-member House investigating committee filed a report of their findings in a month-long probe of the controversy. The four members said they could find no indications of racial discrimination in reburial arrangements for the soldier of Latin American descent who was killed in Luzon. Tinsley signed the report.

The fifth member of the committee, Rep. Frank Oltorf of Marlin, filed a minority report saying he believed there was discrimination against Longoria's family.

Tinsley today released to the press a copy of a telegram he sent Speaker Durwood Manford from Three Rivers.

The telegram read:

"As you know it was my feeling that there was haste in making a majority report of the investigation into the Longoria incident. In view of new evidence which I am now personally investigating, I respectfully request that the majority report of the committee be withdrawn and additional study made. If the majority of the committee is unwilling to do this, I request that my name be withdrawn from the Majority report and I be given the privilege of making a separate report to the Legislature."

Manford's office said the speaker was out of town today.

Rep. Cecil Storey of Longview, chairman of the investigating committee could not be reached for comment.

Three Rivers Apologizes to Longorias For Situation Which Prevents Hero's Burial

THREE RIVERS (U.P.) This sleepy little South Texas town apologized Thursday night to the family of the late Felix Longoria for an "incredible situation" which prevented his being buried here alongside his Latin-American ancestors.

But the apologies came too late for Felix's widow, Mrs. Beatrice Longoria. She said Felix, who was killed in the battle of the Philippines, will be given a hero's burial at Arlington national cemetery in Washington.

A Three Rivers undertaker, Mrs.

Longoria said, had refused the use of his chapel for the funeral service "because whites might object."

"I'm all mixed up about this," said Mrs. Longoria in a wavering voice. "So many things have happened too fast. I am glad, of course, that Three Rivers has come to feel the way it feels. Maybe it will help others."

Reaches San Francisco

U. S. Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson was making arrangements for Felix's re-burial in Arlington. She said the body of her husband had arrived at San Francisco Thursday and she planned to go to Washington for the service in about a week.

T. W. Kennedy, the Three Rivers funeral director, denied he had refused use of his chapel because the Longorias were of Mexican descent. He said, "I felt I was merely avoiding trouble when I asked Mrs. Longoria, the widow, if she could use her house for the funeral."

Kennedy had since written her, offering to make all the arrangements for her husband's re-burial. The Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce directors met Thursday and adopted a resolution. It did not take Kennedy to task because the directors felt he was a victim of misunderstanding.

Unfavorable Publicity

But it did "deplore unfavorable publicity on this incredible situation" and it praised the Longoria family as one "held in high esteem."

The mayor of the town, J. K. Montgomery, offered his big, two-story stone home—one of the Three Rivers' finest—for the funeral. Chamber of Commerce President S. F. Ramsey, a banker, told the Longorias that his tan stucco, two-story house was theirs for the funeral if they would use it.

But the widow said, no. Guadalupe Longoria, Felix's father, told the board of directors, that he would like to have his son brought here, but that the widow was in charge.

would guarantee transportation to Washington for any other members of Longoria's family who wanted to attend the funeral.

"The case is closed as far as we are concerned," said Garcia, in a report to Thomas C. Sutherland, chairman of the Texas Good Neighbor commission at Austin. "The family is well pleased with the arrangements."

Significant Attitudes

Sutherland, chief officer of the official Texas commission for developing friendly relations with Mexico and the Latin-American population of Texas, said Three Rivers and other towns had shown "significant attitudes."

Ramsey was hopeful that plans might be made even this late to bring Longoria "home." But if the body goes to Arlington, Three Rivers will send along at least one member of Longoria's family.

"I'll underwrite it here at the bank if civic clubs don't make up enough money, which I'm sure they will," he said.

Ramsey was angry with Sen. Johnson. "It is our feeling that he capitalized on this to further his own standing with the Latin-American population," said the chamber of commerce man.

Family At Odds

Ramsey said Mrs. Beatrice Longoria and Longoria's parents were at odds over personal matters, including the funeral plans, and that was the "trouble" Kennedy had referred to.

Ramsey said, "our funeral chapel here probably would not be appropriate anyway for such a service. It's small and it's used mostly—by whites and Latin-Americans, alike—only to let a body lie in state. The chapel isn't like in big cities. Most funerals here are held in churches or homes."

"Three Rivers," said Ramsey, "is ashamed of the publicity, which is not deserved. You'll find no town anywhere in South Texas that has enjoyed better relations between Latin-Americans and whites."

To Send Widow

(At Corpus Christi, Dr. Hector Garcia, president of the American GI Forum, said citizens of his city had raised \$300 to send Mrs. Beatrice Longoria, the widow, to Washington for the service at Arlington. It was, said Garcia, an effort to make amends.)

Garcia said the GI Forum in other nearby South Texas towns