

By BILL OLSON

JULY 1967

①

A divergence of basic goals has begun to show itself within the Confederation of Free City States, formerly the Alliance of Federal Land Grants.

Although it cannot be properly characterized as a "split", it is a conflict between the rural and urban segments of the membership over the future direction of the Confederation.

The philosophy of the rural, or northern, element is well known. It centers around the recovery of lands lost to Anglo's and Government over the last century. The values of ~~the urban~~ ^{this} element are traditionally rural. ■ There is some hostility to welfare programs--considered degrading--and much suspicion of politicians--considered opportunistic tools of the (urban) establishment. There is even a strain of religious fundamentalism.

The people of the north regard the land as their mother, and they hold that its restoration to them is the key to dignity, civil rights, and an escape from the poverty which plagues them.

The urban segment, however, under the influence of Coloradoan Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, chairman of the Denver-based Crusade for Justice, is moving toward the means and goals of the Negro Civil Rights Movement. Most of the urban-oriented Confederation members are concentrated in Albuquerque and in the southern areas.

Gonzales approach is distinctly racial. He emphasizes civil rights and Hispano unity. Speaking at a ~~Hispano American~~ rally in Albuquerque last Saturday held in the Alianza Hall on North Third Street, Gonzales lashed out at "cultural and economic exploitation" of Spanish-Americans by ~~the~~ Anglos.

Mule

He also attacked what he calls "this class-industrial society", "the great industrialists who are making millions in supplies for the War in Viet ~~nam~~ Nam", "fascist" government officials, and "Tio Tomases" ("Uncle Toms")--a term unknown to the rural segment.

Perhaps most significantly, Gonzales, who does not speak Spanish well, pointed out that "The rights violated in Tierra Amarilla are a minor thing compared to the civil rights violated in Albuquerque every day."

The rural-urban conflict was brought ~~into full view~~ into full view ~~and~~ over the question of the defense of Reyes Lopez Tijerina, the Confederation's imprisoned leader. Felix Martinez, a 28 year old former law student and a leader of the rural wing, rose to charge that Santa Fe attorney Albert Gonzales, Tijerina's personal choice, had been ignored in the establishment of Tijerina's defense committee.

Martinez ~~submitted~~ ^{to the meeting} submitted a letter written by Tijerina on June 17 to Gonzales which stated "You are hereby authorized to act as coordinator for the legal defense of myself and followers...I would like for you to negotiate for the best legal talent ~~available~~ available for the best price possible and to arrange for the raising of funds for a legal defense...this authority shall continue until I am released on bond or the authority is revoked or determined."

The rural faction then moved that the existing defense committee be directed to include Gonzales. The motion was challenged by Anselmo Tijerina, ~~Reyes Tijerina's brother~~ Reyes Tijerina's brother, who, according to some observers has alligned himself with the urban wing. The motion was tabled.

mole

3

The meeting adjourned without a serious split, but ~~with~~ ^{many of the} ~~observers~~,
with some ill feeling on each side.

According to some observers, this means that the ultimate direction of the Confederation of Free City States will have to be determined by Reies Tijerina, himself, since he ~~has been the one force able to unite~~ ^{is the one force who has been able} both rural and urban elements. ~~It~~ It appears certain that if he is forced to ~~choose~~ choose between the two, he cannot afford to alienate the north, for the restoration of the land has been the cornerstone upon which he has built his organization and his entire case.

~~handwritten~~