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11-1-77

Approved
5-23-78
AMB

W.D.J.
6/21/78

MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE
SABBATICAL LEAVE REPORT

by
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Submitted to
Mt. San Antonio College
Board of Trustees

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SUMMARY OF RESEARCH

During my Spring '77 sabbatical I worked on my Ph.D. dissertation under the direction of Carlos Cortes, History Department, University of California, Riverside. The tentative title of my study is "The Cult of Machismo In Chicano Thought: An Analysis Of Its Appearance in La Raza Newspapers (dates undecided)."

My purpose in researching this topic is to 1) clarify the meaning of the word and the concept of machismo and the behavior it purports to describe, 2) determine whether or not machismo, as portrayed by the social scientists, exists in reality and, if so, among whom? More specifically, to what degree do Mexicans in the United States subscribe to a doctrine of exaggerated male supremacy and can this subscription, if it exists, be listed as a bona-fide cultural trait, or is it instead a stereotype imposed by the dominant (Anglo) society? 3) add to the data bank regarding the La Raza experience by utilizing sources not previously searched, namely, Spanish language newspapers published in the southwest.

Between February and June of '77 I researched three chapters, two of which have been submitted to my chairperson, and the third of which is partially written. Professor Cortes accepted the preliminary draft of chapter 1 and 2. He suggested some revisions but, since they are relatively minor, recommended that I wait until the entire first draft is finished before incorporating them. Altogether, I researched, wrote, and rough typed ninety-five pages of text, seven pages of bibliography, and approximately one hundred footnotes.

Chapter three and the remainder of the dissertation should be complete by fall of 1978.

OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH

My first main task was reviewing the literature available to determine nature and contents of the material. Since no in-depth study on machismo exists in any discipline, it was necessary to survey a large body of social sciences literature, much of it in Spanish. This research was conducted at the University of California Libraries, Los Angeles and Riverside, and the Honnold Library, Claremont Colleges. Out of this reading emerged a chapter outline for the entire dissertation (Appendix A).

Research for chapters 1 and 2 yielded the following major findings:

1. Machismo as a concept and as a specific behavioral pattern is defined differently by social scientists. For example, there is the machismo of male dominance, i.e. patriarchal familial and social structures; of exaggerated masculinity and sexuality; and of personal integrity, i.e. values of bravery, honesty, and self-discipline. In other words, there is no single definition and no apparent consensus.

2. North American social scientists, particularly Anglos, use the terms macho and machismo more than Mexican and other Latin scholars to label the behavior patterns of exaggerated masculinity, male dominance, and the values of personal integrity. The use of these terms appears more frequently in fairly recent times.

3. Although the terms macho and machismo have always circulated in Mexico, it appears that they were not widely used by Mexican

and Latin scholars to denote the cult of masculinity until the 1940's and later.

No serious problems were encountered in the formulation of chapters 1 and 2. Mostly it was simply arduous. No historian has dealt meaningfully with the subject. Thus, an enormous amount of research had to be conducted in the allied fields of psychology, sociology and anthropology. Since I am an historian by training and interest, I had to ground myself more firmly in these other disciplines. For instance, most of the Mexican scholars dealing with the subject utilize an Adlerian rather than a Freudian approach. Therefore, it was necessary to master the differences between the psychology of Alfred Adler and Sigmund Freud in order to trace the evolution of Mexican thinking regarding machismo. In addition, I had to learn to carefully distinguish the authors' assessment of machismo-as-behavior as opposed to the labeling of specific actions as machismo. This required basic work in the sociological theory of labeling--a field of which I was totally unfamiliar.

CURRENT STATUS OF RESEARCH

After completing chapter 3, "Machismo In Chicano Thought," I will begin the content analysis of Spanish language newspapers. This analysis will test a series of hypotheses arrived at from chapters 1-3. I hope to start this by the first of the year.

VALUE OF SABBATICAL

The personal, community, and campus values derived from this sabbatical are intertwined. First, when the study is completed it will contribute to a growing body of literature emphasizing the

cultural variations within Chicanismo. This is in contrast to a prevalent stereotype of Chicanos as essentially all alike--a generalization overlooking differences in ethnicity, socio-economic backgrounds, cultural patterns, and regional origins.

A more immediate result of my research is that it reenforced my decision to stress variations as I teach Mexican American History. Recognition of the many facets of Chicanismo enables La Raza to better understand and appreciate each other, while, at the same time, presenting a more accurate, albeit complex, picture to the dominant society. To this end, I have reworked my History 40 course to include lectures on regional and cultural differences among the Hispano-Mexicano peoples of northern Mexico prior to 1845. I have also written new lectures tracing the varying impacts of the Anglo conquest on La Raza communities and the resulting historical differences.

In addition to stimulating a new emphasis in my course, research in Spanish strengthened my own command of the language to a point where I will eventually be able to participate in biligual instruction programs. These are crucial to La Raza students and community for two reasons: they help students attain proficiency in English so that they can succeed academically; and, equally important, they give potentially bilingual Chicanos an opportunity to become fluent in Spanish. Having spent my life in this category, I am particularly sensitive to and interested in this latter area (note: reading and writing proficiency is not synonomous with oral fluency).

Finally, researching and writing a dissertation strengthened my determination to teach students to read and write. In the past I stressed these skills by requiring essay exams--a burdensome and

frequently discouraging process for student and teacher alike. But my own academic and ethnic experiences--plus being away for awhile--renewed my resolve. Instead of being tempted or fatigued into short-answer, multiple-choice tests, I am demanding and begging even lengthier essays. To achieve this goal I have redesigned my exams. At the same time, the emphasis is on improvement, thus, individuals with educational handicaps are not eliminated because they can not write.

IDEA OUTLINE FOR DISSERTATION CHAPTERS

The Cult of Machismo In Chicano Thought: An Analysis And Interpretation Of Its Appearance In La Raza Newspapers

Part I The Literature

Chapter 1 Introduction (Literature to Paz)

Chapter 2 Mexican Machismo: A Critical Review Of the Literature Since Paz

Chapter 3 Machismo In Chicano Thought

Purpose: Review the literature regarding machismo in Chicano culture to determine the following:

1. Which Mexican models, ideas and definitions have influenced students of Chicano culture?
2. What are the main lines of inquiry and conclusions regarding machismo in Chicano culture?
3. Formulate a series of hypotheses regarding machismo in Chicano culture that can be tested through a content analysis of La Raza newspapers

Part II The Content Analysis

Chapter 4 Explanation of methodology and data bank

1. Explanation of methodology and definition of terms
2. Discussion of the newspapers: availability factors, rationale for inclusion of chosen papers and elimination of others, rationale for determining whether a paper is directed to the masses (popular press) or to a more middle-class audience, defense of newspapers as a data bank

Chapter 5 Macho Images In The Popular Press

1. Presentation of findings
2. Discussion of data
3. Conclusions re: portrayal of macho values in popular press

Chapter 6 Macho Images In Middle-Class Oriented Newspapers

Same as 1, 2, and 3 above

4. Comparison/contrast between the images presented by both groups of newspapers

Chapter 7 Dialectics Of Machismo in Mainstream United States Society

(this will deal with the John Wayne type of machismo etc. It hasn't taken shape in my mind yet.)

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SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT RELATED TO THE SABBATICAL LEAVE REPORT

OF

FRANCINE MEDEIROS - 1976-1977

At its meeting of May 31, 1978 the Salary and Leaves Committee authorized its Chairman, Mr. Bell, to review the rough draft of two chapters of Miss Medeiros' dissertation, following which the report, as revised, would be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval. On June 16, 1978, Mr. Bell reviewed the rough copy of approximately 85 pages which are intended to be a portion of Miss Medeiros' dissertation, on the subject of "The Cult of Machismo in Chicano Thought: An Analysis of Its Appearance in La Raza Newspapers."

The material reviewed includes the following:

Preface

Purpose of Study

Scope of Study

Chapter I

Introduction

Footnotes

Chapter II

Mexican Machismo: A Culture Review of the Literature

Footnotes

Bibliography

MDB/kvd

Max D. Bell
6-19-78