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Folder ID Number: 13776-006

Folder Title:
Hispanic Communities (Cancelled) [OA 8330]

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The Mexican American

Experiences

- Elton Roberts O de la Garza
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Hispanic USA

- Thomas Meyer

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(10/4/91)

Hispanic Communities - 10/16/91 - TENTATIVE

SHEREE
SANCHEZ (7845)

got pink sheet from Christina

to convene the meeting
Hispanic Education Commission

- roundtable - talking pts.

concert mtg in food. rm. mtg

10 mins.

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'90s Forecast as Decade of Increasing Latino Influence

■ **Minorities:** Rising numbers to mean more political clout, meeting is told. Gain of seats in Congress and power in presidential politics is foreseen.

By DAVE LESHER
and GEBE MARTINEZ
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

124
3/2
2/2

ANAHEIM—If the 1980s was the decade of Latinos' struggle to gain access to the halls of America's political decision-making, then the '90s will be the decade to exert power there, Latino leaders said Friday at the annual convention of the National Assn. of Latino Elect-
oral Officials.

"The struggle has been to open the rooms where the decisions are being made," Andy Hernandez, president of the Southwest Voter Registration Project, said at the largest-ever NALEO convention. "Now we're in the room, and some of us in *this* room are sitting at the table."

Latino politicians and activists from throughout the country told more than 500 delegates that the Latino community is poised for "profound change" because the upcoming reapportionment and subsequent increase in political clout will transform lifestyles for Latinos in the United States from the boardrooms to the barrios.

Based on the 1990 census results, Latinos could add 12 seats to the 10 they now hold in Congress, said Richard Martinez, executive director of the Southwest Voter Regis-

tration Project. And within five years, he said, the Latino vote could be a deciding factor in national U.S. politics.

"By 1996, California, Texas and New Mexico will be Latino swing-vote states in the [presidential] general election," Martinez said. Those states represent more than 30% of the electoral vote, so, "if everything goes right, Latinos will elect the next President of the United States," he added.

Despite the glowing predictions, however, there were warnings that substantial obstacles still hinder Latinos' ability to achieve influence.

Voter registration among Latinos is still lagging. And delegates said there is a need for a major effort to increase citizenship among Latinos living in the United States.

Henry Pachon, president of NALEO, said that in 1988, for the first time, there were more non-citizen Latinos in the United States than there were registered Latino voters, who number 4.8 million. He said the potential influence of the community is unrealized because many of its residents are discouraged from becoming citizens.

Pachon said the average Latino lives in the United States for 18 years before he or she becomes a

citizen, compared to only five years for Asian immigrants.

According to surveys, 63% of Latino immigrants say they want to become U.S. citizens but only 25% are eventually naturalized, largely because of a bureaucratic and unsympathetic process, Pachon said.

"A 50% increase in our numbers does not lead to a 50% increase in our influence," said Ruben Franco, president and general counsel of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York.

Several leaders also said the future political clout of the Latino community will depend on avoiding divisive internal struggles as well as learning to share power with other minority groups, particularly African-Americans.

Also,
The Dictionary of
Mexican-American Proverbs
by Mark Mazzer
Ref: PN6426.3.74 G63

On the Lookout for Leaders

At the Hispanic Caucus Gala, Sighting a Few Notables

By Carlos Sanchez
Washington Post Staff Writer

12A
5

The masses were gathered upstairs at a pre-dinner reception for yesterday's 14th annual Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute gala.

The VIPs met downstairs at a private reception.

It seemed an apt time to ask those people upstairs, "Where is the national Hispanic leadership?"

"I think it's still developing,"

said Jesse Trevino, a columnist from Austin, Tex. "There is no national Hispanic leadership as such."

"I don't think it's clear who the leadership is," said Jose Bermea, a Washington public relations specialist.

"Of course there are leaders. Absolutely, yes. . . . What we don't have is a lot of media coverage. We don't have a way for leaders to communicate with the community," said Raul Yzaguirre,

president of the National Council of La Raza.

If leadership was to be found, last night's sold-out gathering of 1,600 people at the Washington Hilton was the likely place.

"This is the largest gathering of Hispanic elected officials in the country," said Rep. Solomon P. Ortiz (D-Tex.), the chairman of the Hispanic Caucus.

There were also such notables

as Reps. Esteban Torres (D-Calif.), Jose Serrano (D-N.Y.) and Bill Richardson (D-N.M.), and Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan.

But even the presence of this delegation didn't impress some people attending last night's \$300-a-plate dinner.

Sonia Manzano, who plays Maria on "Sesame Street," said a dominant Hispanic political figure "may be years away. It saddens me when there are differences drawn up between Puerto Ricans and Cubans."

Manzano and junior featherweight boxing champ Jesse Benavides were both honored last night for community service work.

Also on hand were U.S. Treasurer Cathy Villapando, White House Hispanic liaison

Shiree Sanchez, Rep. Jim Moran (D-Va.), Rep. David Bonior (D-Mich.), U.S. Surgeon General Antonia Novello and Sidney Gutierrez, the first Hispanic astronaut in space.

The caucus dinner is a highlight of a week of activity marking the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month, a period between Sept. 15 and Oct. 15 when at least 11 Latin American countries observe national independence day celebrations.

The National Hispanic Heritage Presidential Tribute dinner Monday at the Washington Hilton was attended by Barbara Bush, who humored the audience of about 650 guests with that non-Hispanic speaker's favorite technique for Hispanic crowds—saying thank you in Spanish.

Earlier Mrs. Bush honored four high schools nationwide, including the local Bell Multicultural High School in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood, for contributions to Hispanic education. Former Puerto Rican governor Luis Serre, the patriarch of the statehood movement, introduced Bell Principal Maria Tukeva, who then accepted the award.

Also on Monday night, the Hispanic Heritage Awards for education, leadership and the arts were presented at the Organization of American States building.

The honorees this year included Joseph A. Fernandez, the chancellor of the New York City public school system; Margarita Esquivel, the first Hispanic woman elected judge in Florida; and Eduardo Mata, the music director of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

Earlier yesterday, the Mexican American Women's National Association held a luncheon at the Willard Intercontinental, honoring five Hispanic women as *Las Primeras*, or the First, recognized leaders in their fields.

They were Anna Caballero, a city council member from Salinas, Calif.; Victoria Corderi, a reporter with CBS Morning News; Lena Guerrero, chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission; Elma Salinas Ender, a Texas district judge; and Miriam Santos, the city treasurer of Chicago.

Tomorrow night, designers Adolfo and Carolina Herrera will be honored at a gala and fashion show.

Last night's master of ceremonies, comedian George Lopez, proved that there is room for more leadership in the entertainment field. He drew mediocre response to a number of oddly placed ethnic jokes. And in fact he was upstaged by the Rev. Don Lippert of Washington's Sacred Heart Church, who said before beginning the evening's invocation, "This is the first time I've ever been warmed up for a prayer."

Hispanics come with many voices

By ROGER E. HERNANDEZ

When I arrived in this country, in the mid-1960s, America didn't worry about Hispanics. The big issues were the black civil rights movement, Vietnam and those crazy college kids. The Hispanic population was relatively small and did not compete for attention.

Today, with that population at well over 20 million, Hispanics have become central in the great debate about ethnicity.

Trouble is, the term *Hispanic* is often misused. Advertisers, government, political activists and the media throw the word around as if it described a homogeneous, united community. But a recent nationwide survey among Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans and Anglos showed a more complex reality.

The survey, organized by four Hispanic scholars from universities across the country, found substantial differences among the three Hispanic groups, especially when it comes to political beliefs. Politicians who dream of rounding up "the Hispanic vote" will not find the survey encouraging. The differences were sometimes traceable to country of origin, sometimes to social class. Among the findings:

Overall, Puerto Ricans were the most supportive of a strong government role in providing a minimum income, jobs and housing. Mexicans were next, followed by Cubans and Anglos. Ironically, at the other end of the scale, the percentage of Mexicans and Cubans who believed it is up to individuals to provide for themselves was larger than the percentage of Anglos who believed the same thing. And when education and income were factored in, Mexicans and Cubans tended to agree with Anglos of the same social class. This suggests that at least when it comes to opinions about government services, social class counts for more than ethnicity.

Cubans were the least likely of the three Hispanic groups to believe they face discrimination. For instance, 52.1 percent of Cubans thought they encountered "a lot" or "some" bigotry, compared to 65 percent of Puerto Ricans and 75.7 percent of Mexicans.

The relative lack of Cuban concern about discrimination (just 20.5 percent agreed there was "a lot" of bigotry) is probably due to the fact the community focuses more on Cuba and communism than on U.S. domestic issues: An overwhelming 62.5 percent of Cubans chose communists as the most disliked group. No others were as universally disliked by anyone else. The

KKK, the most disliked group among Mexicans, Puerto Ricans and Anglos, received about a third of the vote from each community.

Among Anglos, second place went to Nazis. Among Puerto Ricans and Mexicans, it was gays. Interestingly, USEnglish — the organization that wants to make English the official language — was cited by tiny percentages. Just 3.2 percent of Puerto Ricans, 24 percent of Mexicans and 1 percent of Cubans saw it as their biggest enemy.

One finding contradicts the popular belief that Hispanics perceive the government as an agent of discrimination. For instance, 10.6 percent of

A study found substantial differences among three Hispanic groups.

Puerto Ricans, 15.3 percent of Mexicans and 27.9 percent of Cubans said their trust in government was "high," compared to just 1.1 percent of Anglos.

The survey also pointed out the lack of communication among the different Hispanic communities. Few people in each group reported "a lot of contact" with Hispanics in the other two groups. It's a reminder that most Mexicans live in California and the Southwest, most Puerto Ricans in the Northeast, and most Cubans in South Florida.

Hispanics overwhelmingly prefer to identify themselves by their national origin rather than by a pan-ethnic label like *Hispanic* or *Latino*. Mexicans were the most likely to choose the broader tag. But it was the first choice of just 306 out of 1,546 Mexicans surveyed.

Still, the survey showed there indeed exists a consciousness about being "Hispanic." By and large, each of the three groups acknowledged significant political differences among them. But all three agreed there also exists a shared culture. And 73.5 percent of Cubans, 72.4 percent of Mexicans and 67.3 percent of Puerto Ricans said Hispanics were "very similar" or "somewhat similar."

One lesson out of all this is that there are more differences among Hispanics than a lot of people think. Another is that, despite these differences, there is indeed such a thing as a Hispanic. The trick is finding out just what that means.

Roger E. Hernandez is a syndicated columnist.

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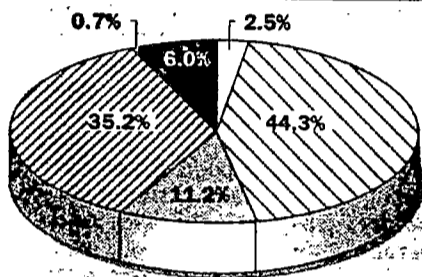
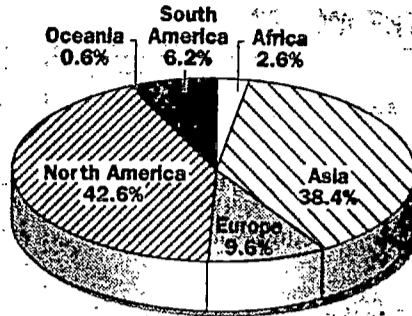
NEW AMERICANS: WHERE THEY COME FROM 124

A REGIONAL TALLY

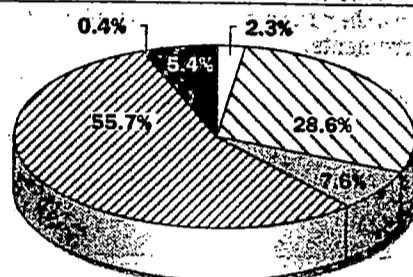
Here is a tally of the immigrants legally admitted to the United States in the past decade, by region in selected years. The jump in immigration at the end of the decade is largely due to a U.S. law granting amnesty to qualified illegal aliens.

Decade total
(In thousands) 7,338 immigrants

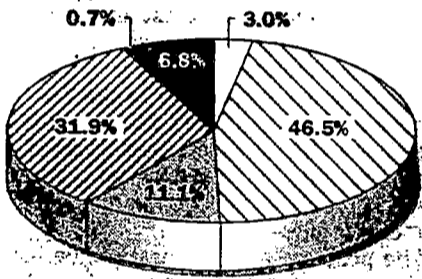
Africa	192
Asia	2,817
Europe	706
North America	3,125
Oceania	42
South America	456



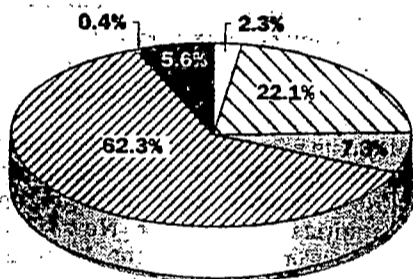
1981
Total: 597,000 immigrants



1989
Total: 1.091 million immigrants



1985
Total: 570,000 immigrants



1990
Total: 1.536 million immigrants

TOP 15 COUNTRIES

Mexico	1,653,250
Philippines	495,271
Vietnam	401,419
China and Taiwan	388,698
S. Korea	338,872
India	281,841
Dominican Republic	251,803
El Salvador	214,574
Jamaica	213,805
Iran	154,857
Cuba	148,449
Laos	145,714
British	142,123
Haiti	140,153
Colombia	124,438

Most immigrants who entered the United States between 1981 and 1990 came from these countries:

D.C.'s Hispanics Look to Themselves for Help

Even as It Presses Dixon for Aid, the Community Is Uniting to Find Solutions to Its Problems

By Christine Spolar
and Rene Sanchez
Washington Post Staff Writers

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A group of Hispanic church leaders is pooling money and resources to set up a rehabilitation program to help the alcoholics who hang out in the streets and parks in Mount Pleasant.

Hispanic high school students are learning business skills. And faculty and students of Gordon Adult Education Center walk the streets of Adams-Morgan and Mount Pleasant, discussing with residents a citizen's rights and responsibilities.

Last week, the Hispanic community, through the D.C. Latino Civil Rights Task Force, released a report demanding that Mayor Sharon Pratt-Dixon devote much more government attention to its needs.

But no matter what official Washington does to help, the community whose frustration erupted in three days of disturbances in May appears to be developing greater political unity and acumen. And it is expanding its own social programs to fit its urgent agenda.

"The riots ignited a fire in the belly of many of us," said task force member Jorge Rivera, a 34-year-old Chilean who has lived in the United States for 15 years.

"The riot brought down the walls" between nationalities, between longtime and newer residents and between those inside and outside the political mainstream, he said.

"We are trying massive education in the community," said Sonia Gutierrez, the principal at Gordon, which has 2,400 students. "We want to promote self-sufficiency, but we really need the city's help too."

The Hispanic agenda will be sharply defined during the next months, likely through legal skirmishes, as leaders make their case to get their fair share, which they estimate at 10 percent, of resources from the D.C. government.

Already, in one sign of their readiness to fight, the leaders have built a strong alliance with the powerful Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights. Six large Washington law firms are providing free legal assistance and research to the Hispanic community on housing, education and employment.

The firms also are expected to serve as a legal watchdog on the city as it considers the 56 policy recommendations the task force unveiled Friday.

"This is an important development in the evolution of this community's leadership," said Roderic Boggs, who directs the civil rights lawyers committee. "They're much better organized now, and they're clearly seeking to maintain a permanent organization."

How and whether the Hispanics—the fastest-growing ethnic

group in the District, whose number is estimated at 65,000—could coalesce were two of many uncertainties in the turbulent days after the shooting of a Salvadoran immigrant by a D.C. police officer on Mount Pleasant Street.

Hispanic leaders walked out of a meeting with city officials when D.C. Council member Frank Smith Jr. (D-Ward 1) said it was difficult to make progress in the Hispanic community because it included so many races and nationalities.

But since then, there has been scant internal bickering in a community that once teemed with disputes among residents from diverse

Hispanic cultures, such as those found in Cuba, El Salvador and Puerto Rico.

"People are definitely working together more," said Maria Tukeva, principal of Bell Multicultural High School. "It's not like it was in the past—one little group here, one little group there, with conflicting aims."

At Bell, the flagship school for the city's Hispanic students, there are other signs this fall of a drive to empowerment: The faculty has a new entrepreneurship program for students to create their own businesses in fields such as painting, carpentry, craft-making and fashion design.

Many of the students need money to support their families, but often cannot find jobs because they are undocumented and lack the necessary education. The businesses will be supervised by the school, with profits shared by all the students who work.

The May disturbances led the Rev. Roberto Hodgson to call for a cleanup of the most basic kind: Nearly every Saturday since, he and other Hispanic church leaders have picked up trash in neighborhood parks.

The minister of the First Church of the Nazarene and other church leaders now want to get the alcoholics off the street and help them.

"I know the names of most of the alcoholics there, and we are more aware of looking for resources and working with them," he said.

The Hispanics are not working alone.

A community coalition of African American, Hispanic and white residents has been meeting weekly since the disturbances to discuss problems in Mount Pleasant, the most ethnically diverse neighborhood in the city with a population evenly divided among the three groups.

The meetings are attended regularly by Advisory Neighborhood Commission members, schoolteachers, retired government workers and residents.

"At first, everybody was faulting each other," said Calvin Rolark, a community newspaper publisher and president of the United Black Fund, who formed the coalition. "But what this has done has helped communication. It was an unfortunate incident, but it made us look at ourselves and learn to communicate."

The city's Hispanics are not depending on talk alone to bring change. They've heard similar rhetoric before.

In 1988, a task force assembled by the school system to study the crises in public education for Hispanics here issued a damning report against the city. Few of its proposals have been adopted.

The current task force report asks Dixon to give 10 percent of city jobs, contracts and services to Hispanic residents, finance Hispanic organizations and deliver better services. Asking for more at a time of less, during the city's budget crisis and a recession, is a difficult task.

Others who have battled the Dixon administration over cuts—advocates for the homeless, housing proponents, employment agencies—have not fared well.

The Hispanics, in one sense, are hoping the memory of the spring disturbances will lift their concerns to the top of the heap of those struggling to get attention.

That struggle is made more difficult, activists say, because only about 5,000 Hispanics in the city are registered voters. They intend to expand that number to have more political clout and representation.

Task force member Beatriz Otero is seen as the bright hope for a community that wants to see a Hispanic run for higher office, perhaps school board, next year.

Otero, who declines to discuss the prospect of a campaign, said some political presence is needed now that the rules of the political game have changed with the administration.

"If we don't start playing ball in the right places," she said, "we are not going to be heard."

create the world's largest regional trading bloc, with 360 million consumers and \$6 trillion in annual output, according to U.S. trade officials.

President Bush and the negotiators of the free-trade agreement—U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills and her Mexican counterparts—are expected to promote the pact when they appear this week in Chicago at the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's 12th annual convention. About 2,500 Hispanic entrepreneurs from the U.S. and Mexico will discuss free trade and other business-related issues at the four-day conference that opens Wednesday in the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Businessmen such as Augie Fabela are exploring the possibilities of trade with Mexico. He is chairman of Plexsys Corp., a telecommunications firm, and chief executive of TDF Corp., a family-owned computer consulting company based in Naperville.

"The free-trade agreement will help things along," Fabela said. "It will be much easier to attract clients and capture markets from the tariff point of view."

Recently, Fabela flew to Mexico City and met with clients interested in buying a cellular telephone system developed for rural areas, a transaction worth about \$10 million, he said.

He also plans to approach American Telephone & Telegraph Co. and Amoco Corp. and offer to develop their software in Mexico, Fabela said. He estimates that his company could save those potential clients considerable labor costs. A Mexican engineer probably would be paid about \$25,000 as opposed to \$45,000 for an engineer in the U.S., he said.

George Munoz, former president of the Chicago Board of Education and now an international trade attorney, also visited Mexico recently. The Mexican government asked him to present a seminar in Toluca on how Mexicans can do business in the Midwest. At the convention in Chicago, Munoz will hold a meeting at which he will try to match about 50 businessmen from both sides of the border interested in forming partnerships.

"Mexican businesses are looking for an outlet to get to the U.S. Hispanic business community," Munoz said. "They [Hispanic Americans] are good prospects for getting a distributor or someone to be their representative."

Alphonse Gonzales recently created Buena Vista Enterprises Corp., an economic development firm. He is close to forming a partnership with a major American shoemaker to build a factory in Mexico worth millions of dollars, he said.

"There are tremendous resources available in Mexico," Gonzales said. "We can get a high-quality product at hopefully a more competitive price."

Other business experts paint a dark picture of opportunities for Hispanic Americans under the proposed free-trade agreement.

Most Hispanic firms are too young, inexperienced and lacking in capital to take advantage of an international market.

"The impact will be marginal because in reality Latino companies in the United States are in a level of development that doesn't allow them to make joint ventures in Mexico," said D. Lorenzo Padron, an assistant vice president in the commercial loan department of the Banco Popular de Puerto Rico in Logan Square.

Though the number of Hispanic-owned firms in the U.S. rose dramatically according to the census survey, it partly reflects the Latino population's 53 percent increase in the last decade. Hispanics make up 9 percent of the nation's population and are its second fastest-growing ethnic group after Asian and Pacific Islanders, according to the 1990 census.

But while their numbers have risen, the economic power of Hispanic firms still is relatively feeble. Hispanic-owned firms accounted for 3 percent of all American firms by 1987, but they generated only 1 percent of gross receipts, according to the bureau's survey.

The growth in Hispanic businesses may be partly a result of increasing unemployment among Latinos, said David Torres, associate professor of management at the University of Illinois College of Business Administration. As more Latinos get laid off, they start their own businesses, he said. "Even though we have a drastic increase in self-employment, it doesn't mean that self-employment is echoing the fact that we're becoming truly competitive," he said.

Torres stipulated that only a handful of firms, those that can find a niche or have enough capital or expertise to form joint ventures, will profit from liberalized trade with Mexico. In addition, only a few Latinos, those in management positions in large corporations, may benefit.

"The free-trade agreement will provide opportunity for bilingual people and people who can understand both cultures," he said. "For Mexican-Americans or Latino workers, this would introduce a new opportunity for advancement."

But others shed a more positive light on Hispanic potential growth. "There is more sophis-

tication among entrepreneurs and there are more financial institutions serving Hispanics," said Padron, also president of the Latin American Chamber of Commerce. More Latinos are taking advantage of programs that favor minority enterprises with contracts and low-interest loans, Padron adds.

Many Hispanic entrepreneurs want these types of loan and/or set-aside programs written into the free-trade pact. Businessmen such as Gonzales and other members of the Mexican American Chamber of Commerce of Illinois Inc. are lobbying government officials here and in Mexico to adopt an affirmative action plan that would give preference in Mexico to Mexican-American companies in terms of contracts, joint ventures and other financial arrangements.

"If the Chryslers and the GMs of the world will benefit, it means more business for them," he said. "More business for them should mean more business for us. First of all, because we're consumers and it makes good business sense to want to do business with high-quality Hispanic companies."

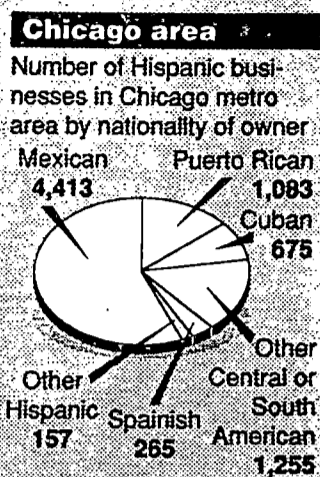
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Hispanic businesses in the U.S.

Hispanic-owned firms in the U.S. have increased from 233,975 in 1982 to 422,373 in 1987. Figures are based on the most recent survey by the U.S. Census Bureau of minority-owned businesses.

Types	
Major industry groups, in thousands of Hispanic-owned firms in 1987	
Business services	59.9
Special trade contractors	46.3
Miscellaneous retail	31.7
Trucking and warehousing	17.3
Health services	16.3
Eating and drinking places	14.0

Locations	
Metro areas with largest numbers of Hispanic-owned firms, in thousands	
Los Angeles-Long Beach	56.6
Miami-Hialeah	47.7
New York	23.0
Houston	15.9
San Antonio	15.2
San Diego	10.3
Riverside-San Bernardino, Calif.	10.1
Anaheim-Santa Ana, Calif.	9.6
El Paso	8.2
Chicago	7.8



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Chicago Tribune/David Jahntz

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Hispanics seek piece of the pact

By Constanza Montana

George Loera was fired from his automobile sales management job about six years ago. His wife was pregnant, and he had only about \$5,000 in the bank.

"We lived off our savings," said Loera, 40, a former high school football player. "I didn't draw a penny for 11 months. It was a scary situation. I decided this is a good enough reason to start my own business."

Loera's wife drained her \$15,000 pension fund and invested it in her husband's enterprise, a consulting firm helping other companies prepare bids for municipal contracts.

Today, Loera's company, Chicago United Industries Ltd., a distributor of municipal equipment, has sales of about \$5 million and is the nation's second fastest growing Latino-owned firm, according to Hispanic Business magazine.

Loera's company is among the 422,373 Latino-owned businesses counted in a recently released U.S. Census Bureau survey of the 1982 to 1987 period. As a group, their receipts more than doubled in the five years, to \$24.7 billion.

The same study showed that the number of Latino enterprises grew by more than 80 percent, including 9,636 startups in Illinois, in the period. If one takes into account the alleged undercount of more than 67,000 Latino firms, Hispanics would rank first among minority entrepreneurs, said John A. Dodds, chief of the Census Bureau's enterprise statistics branch.



Photo for the Tribune by Lisa Genesen

Hispanic businessman Augie Fabela (standing) talks with a worker at AT&T Bell Labs in Naperville.

Many Latinos such as Loera see the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement as a potential avenue for growth. They claim their Spanish-language skills, knowledge of Mexican culture and relationships in both countries will make them a natural match for American and Mexican companies seeking to form joint ven-

tures. Other Hispanic entrepreneurs are not so optimistic. They argue that only large corporations with experience in international markets will benefit, squeezing out smaller undercapitalized Hispanic firms.

The free-trade pact linking the U.S., Canada and Mexico would

THE HOSTAGE WATCH
When Will the Others Go Free?

Newsweek

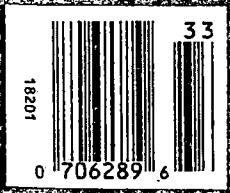
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Halcion

It's the Most
Widely Prescribed
Sleeping Pill
in the World.
But Is It Safe?



Caes



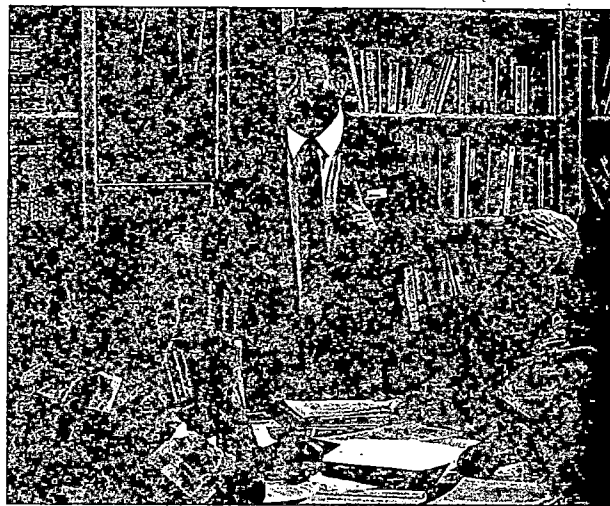
Falling Further Behind

A generation of Hispanics isn't making the grade

Once they were migrant workers. Now, having had some college, they hold white-collar jobs in Austin, Texas. But their 18-year-old daughter is not pursuing the American dream. She dropped out of school three years ago and has no plans to return. Like many other second- and third-generation Hispanic-Americans, her mobility is strictly downward.

For other immigrant groups, America has been a land of opportunity, with each successive generation climbing higher on the educational ladder. For many Hispanics, it's just the opposite. In one of two recent studies conducted at the University of Texas at Austin, Frank D. Bean and Jorge Chapa found that the longer Mexican-American families are in the United States, the lower their children's educational level will sink. There are differences among various Hispanic ethnic groups: Cubans do best, Mexican-Americans do the worst. But according to the Census Bureau, Hispanics as a group are now nearly three times more likely to drop out of school than either blacks or whites: by the age of 17, almost one in five Hispanics has dropped out, compared with roughly one in 16 blacks and one in 15 whites. In a report last year, the National Council of La Raza, a Washington-based public-policy group, declared that Hispanics "are the least educated major population in the United States." By the year 2000, Hispanics will account for 10 percent of the nation's labor force.

Researchers are trying to find out why so many Hispanic youngsters leave school. Since 1988, Toni Falbo of UT at Austin and Harriett Romo of Southwest Texas State University have been tracking 100 Mexican-American teenagers (among them the 18-year-old mentioned above). All the youngsters were labeled "high risk" by their school district. As of last June, 40 percent had dropped out; Falbo predicts that an additional 20 percent will have quit by the time school starts next month.



JANICE RUBIN

School services: Gilbert-Cougar with staff and students

A Report Card Full of Failure

Of all American immigrant groups, Hispanics have what is probably the least successful record in school:

- Hispanics enter school later and leave school earlier. They're less likely to attend nursery school or kindergarten and more likely to drop out by the age of 17.
- At each grade level a larger percentage of Hispanic children than white or black children are enrolled below grade level.
- Hispanics have the highest school dropout rates of any major nationality or ethnic group—about 43%.
- Among Hispanics 25 and older, only 9.9% have completed college, compared with 21.9% of other Americans.

SOURCE: National Council of La Raza; Current Population Surveys

For most Mexican-Americans and other Hispanics, poverty is the single greatest obstacle to schoolwork. "Kids are dealing with severe social and economic problems that take their mind off school," Romo says. Teens drop out and go to work to put food on the family table. "Many students have conflicting roles," says Denise De La Rosa, a senior education policy analyst with La Raza. "They are trying to be students, but often they have to work to help their parents out."

Richard Farias, executive director of the Houston-based Association for the Advancement of Mexican-Americans, says

that too often, teachers and counselors encourage Hispanics and other minority kids to find jobs or go to vocational school when they fall behind. Says Farias: "I've had more than one kid say that they've been told by teachers, 'You're not going to make it. You might as well drop out.'"

No one knows exactly why Hispanics aren't more upwardly mobile, but Bean speculates that first-generation parents are often the most highly motivated because they made the choice to leave their homeland. They push themselves and their children to do well, Bean says. The second generation, though often better educated than the first, loses that drive after getting stuck on welfare or in low-paying jobs. They are more likely to give up and unlikely to push their own children as hard.

New initiatives: To combat the discouraging trend, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus last month introduced legislation that would, among other things, establish early-intervention programs for elementary-school students and grant scholarships to college students who would teach in disadvantaged areas. In addition, a number of alternative high schools have been established for students in predominantly Hispanic communities. In Houston, for example, the private George I. Sanchez High School boasts a graduation rate of 95 percent of the senior class. The key, says principal Mark Gilbert-Cougar, is that in addition to a standard curriculum, the school provides social services that deal with unstable homes, drug and alcohol abuse, and teen parenthood.

The formula works for teens like Denise Ayala, 17, who dropped out when she got pregnant in seventh grade. Now the mother of three children under 4 years old, Denise came to Sanchez when the school helped her get day care. There was lots of one-on-one counseling, she says, and after a while, Sanchez began to feel like "family." When Denise talks about school, she speaks with the fervor of a convert. "I need to better my life," she says. "I need to provide for my children and myself. The only way I can do that is by getting an education." She's well on her way after graduating this June. Her next stop: the University of Houston.

BARBARA KANTROWITZ with
 LOURDES ROSADO in Houston

Mar. 18 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

The Czech and Slovak-American Enterprise Fund may make loans, grants, and equity investments, in addition to sponsoring technical assistance, training, and other measures designed to foster the growth of a private business in all sectors of the Czechoslovak economy. As the President said in announcing this initiative during his visit to Prague last November, the Fund will "help unleash the creativity and drive of the Czech and Slovak peoples" as they build a free market economy and stable democratic rule.

Remarks at a White House Briefing for the National Leadership of the Hispanic Alliance for Free Trade
March 19, 1991

Thank you for that warm welcome, and welcome to the White House. I'm delighted to see our traveling Secretary of Commerce, Bob Mosbacher, just back from Kuwait, looking good—a little jet lag on him. [Laughter] But he's doing an outstanding job over there at Commerce. And also on my left over here, Carla Hills, who is our Trade Representative—Ambassador Hills, working very, very hard on the subject that I want to talk to you today about, hard and effectively. And, of course, Dr. Boskin, I assume you know—that I rely very heavily on him on all matters economic. So you have our first team here. And that includes Barbara Bush. And I think it's very appropriate that Mexico's able Ambassador, Ambassador Petricioli, be with us. Welcome, sir.

But I haven't done the personal name check, but I am told that the people gathered here span 50 States, from California to New York to Florida—I don't know why they left out Texas. [Laughter] Hometown heroes who are here to really—to put it in perspective, to help lead us into the 21st century. That also brings to mind, obviously, another group of heroes—the heroes that we see on television almost every night now, in those very emotional scenes of people coming home, stepping off the planes and into the history books—the cou-

rageous men and women of Operation Desert Storm.

But thinking of them, and looking around at this gathering of friends, I can't help but think of the incredible contributions that Hispanic-Americans have made to the defense of this country, in peacetime and in war, 38 Congressional Medals of Honor. I think of heroes like Captain Rivera, Manuel Rivera, who grew up in the South Bronx and became an accomplished Marine pilot. One of the first to fall in the air war over the Gulf. And he had dreams of becoming an astronaut. And today he has taken his place in the stars, so that we might find a better way on Earth.

The coalition triumph in the Gulf serves to remind us how much the world continues to look to the United States of America for leadership. And it reminded us also that we are a great nation, capable of great things at home and abroad. As I said in my recent address to the joint session of the United States Congress, the real way to honor the sacrifice of our troops is to roll up our sleeves and for me, the rest of us in the White House to work with the Congress to help build a better America, a better world, a better tomorrow.

We've gathered here today to seize an historic opportunity to do just exactly that. Earlier this month, I sent up to the Congress our request for an extension of the Fast Track procedures for implementing new trade agreements. It's a simple concept. For the better part of this century, this nation has recognized that trade agreements require a special kind of cooperation between Congress and the executive branch. Through Fast Track authority, Congress has made sure that the President went to the table equipped with the same bargaining powers as his counterpart: the ability to ensure that an agreement reached overseas would be the agreement voted upon at home.

Many of you know what it's like to run a business. And you understand how critical it is to have this simple authority to reach across the table and shake hands on a deal.

No one's asking for carte blanche. We still have to bring back the best agreement possible—bring it back to the "home office," if you will—back to Congress for a vote. But

at least Fast Track gives us the authority to get the deal in writing—so that it can be presented to Congress for an up or down vote. I can assure the Congress again today that, knowing our able Trade Ambassador, we're not going to make a bad deal. We're not going to bring back a deal to the Congress that they're going to have to turn down.

We need an extension of this Fast Track authority right now to pursue critical new trade initiatives of unprecedented promise, like the Uruguay round—we've got to complete that successfully; the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, that means so much in our hemisphere; and the North American free trade agreement. Fast Track authority gives us the chance to negotiate agreements that help everyone concerned.

And as with every good business deal—everybody wins. A vote against the extension of the Fast Track authority would cut off the chance to negotiate any new agreements. Simply put, a vote against Fast Track is a vote against trade, against ourselves, against our neighbors. And if we do not move forward—a fast track—then we're going to face a dead end, in my view.

In order to sustain the expansion of exports and of economic growth, we must continue our efforts to open up these world markets. Ambassador Hills is working, as I said, very hard to achieve success in the Uruguay round—to open up markets to U.S. goods and services worldwide. The free-trade talks with Mexico and Canada and our Enterprise for the Americas Initiatives are designed to strengthen U.S. ties with our neighbors to the south.

Relations—and most of you in this room know this—relations between the United States of America and Mexico have never been better. Mexico has a bold new President, Carlos Salinas. And he's reformed that economy dramatically—almost miraculously. And he's extended the hand of friendship to the United States of America, and I've been proud on your behalf to reach out and shake that hand.

But I want to pledge to you today that I will do my part to build on that friendship and work to create an even closer partnership between nations. Fair and free trade between our countries will help Mexico. But in my view, these important steps are

in the best interest of the United States of America. They'll help us as well. Our ties with Mexico, let's face it—and everyone here knows it—go well beyond the bounds of commerce. We share cultures, heritages, families. And we—millions of Americans—trace their roots to Latin America. The genius and the vitality of the Latin culture have added new sparkle to our lives, our culture, our great country.

We want to do our best to continue cultivating that genius and that vitality. Here, Hispanic businessmen and businesswomen are a critical American resource. You've been at the forefront of our trade, many in this room, right there in the forefront of the trade with not just Mexico but with Latin America. You speak the language; you understand the culture. And it's your determination, ingenuity, and vision that have driven you to create businesses that fuel our economy and enrich our lives.

And that's why we need your help. That's why I'm delighted that you accepted this invitation to come to the White House today. We need your help. There's a lot of Members of the United States Congress that don't understand the importance of Fast Track authority yet. We need you to tell them that you buck the Fast Track—to clear the way for the Uruguay round, the Enterprise for the Americas and, indeed, the North American free trade zone—obviously, free trade agreement that obviously has Mexico as a vital part of it.

A North American free trade area would unite 360 million consumers; a total output of \$6 trillion. And by boosting economic prosperity in Mexico, Canada, and the United States, it will help us move forward on issues that concern all of us. Issues such as drugs and education, immigration, and the environment.

Let me just take that environment for a second—one example. Country by country around the world, the people of the more developed nations enjoy cleaner rivers, purer air, better health, longer lives than their less developed counterparts. Development and prosperity mean less pollution, not more. In *this* way, the good you do today can mean *good* news not only for the people of your *hometowns* but also for the people of your *homelands*. Everybody wins.

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Every nation has much to gain from a new era of open doors and open minds and open trade: a future of sustained economic growth, lasting regional stability, lower prices and greater choices for consumers. More jobs—not less—more jobs will come out of these agreements—and an improved standard of living for our people and, yes, for our neighbors.

Today is an auspicious day to launch this effort. For today in California the swallows return to Capistrano. And it's a harbinger of spring. You can tell from my hay fever; we've got it right here. [Laughter] A time of change, new growth, and new beginnings. And across the continent from the Yukon to the Yucatan, you can be a part—all of you—of this vision for the new world. A community of nations, prosperous and free, the cornerstone of the world's first fully democratic hemisphere. Think of that. We're on the verge of that right here.

And yes, many challenges remain. Of course they do. Obstacles remain. But you can make a difference. You can encourage support for these bold new initiatives. And you can encourage Congress to act to provide new markets, new jobs, new business opportunities for all Americans.

I understand the buses are parked outside. And I think it's time to jump-start this effort. And it's time to charge up the hill, strike down the barriers, and open up trade. So, there's a lot of excitement in the world. The recent events in the Gulf have kind of obscured the changes in Eastern Europe. And I think for a while they've obscured the fantastic moves towards democracy in this hemisphere. But now we're getting back in focus. We've won that war, and now what we've got to do is extend opportunities for all Americans.

I take enormous personal pride in the fact that our relations with Mexico and countries to the south have never been better. And I can pledge to each and every one of you that I'm going to do my level best as President, as long as I am privileged to live in this house, to continue to improve relations with these countries. But now I'm asking for your help. And I will take this opportunity to look over at those cameras and ask the Congress of the United States to give us the authority that we need to move things forward.

Thank you. And God bless the United States of America.

Note: The President spoke at 2:02 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his opening remarks, he referred to Michael J. Boskin, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Remarks to the Points of Light Foundation

March 19, 1991

I know you've had a full day, but let me, belatedly, give you a very warm welcome to the White House and say that it's a pleasure to come over here to join this briefing of the Points of Light Foundation. I'm pleased to serve as honorary chairman. And, of course, the directors, many here today—and I am indebted to each and every one of you who are taking these leadership roles.

Let me just begin by a few words of thanks and praise. Those gathered here today and the many other media executives all across the country whom you represent have done so much for so many years to shine the bright floodlight of recognition on those in our communities reaching out to help those in need. And if, as they say, a nation is what it honors, in many places in America you've helped make us understand that our nation is one that admires those who serve the needs of others.

By recognizing and honoring these otherwise unsung heroes and heroines who each day in a quiet and selfless way confront drug abuse and illiteracy, hunger, and homelessness, and do what they can to defeat them, you are showing all of America that every social problem is being solved somewhere and that every one of us can play a role in solving the problems. Everyone can be a Point of Light.

The Points of Light that I understand you have heard from today are part of real and gripping stories in America that really are making life better. They're taking on difficult problems and conquering them. And I'm even more convinced today than I have ever been that Points of Light are a critical

Week Ending Friday, September 27, 1991

Remarks at the Annual National Convention of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Chicago, Illinois

September 20, 1991

Thank you very much. And I really want to thank you for that warm reception here. First, may I salute two Secretaries of my Cabinet, Secretary Lujan, who many of you have known over the years, is with us today; and also Secretary Sam Skinner, who just came in with us from California, a son of Chicago in a sense, and doing a great job as Secretary of Transportation.

May I also thank the Governor of the State, Jim Edgar; and the mayor of this great city, Mayor Daley, for greeting me at the airport here and welcoming us to Illinois and to Chicago. And this is, as I view it, certainly not a partisan gathering, and I think their both showing up together, side-by-side, was a manifestation of that. *[Laughter]*

But may I thank José, José Niño, who just introduced me, your very able president; Gabe Aguirre, the outgoing chairman. And thank you all, ladies and gentleman, for, once again, that very warm welcome. Let me congratulate my fellow Texan, Delia Reyes, your newly elected chair. And warmest greetings to the many dignitaries that are here.

I'm here a little later than originally scheduled. Would you believe we experienced a slight flight delay? *[Laughter]* I know it happens all the time. We had to circle the city while Michael Jordan practiced takeoffs and landings out here. *[Laughter]* And there's a second reason, too, if I may be candid. I know you've just heard Jack Kemp speak, and I thought you'd want to catch your breath for a little bit. *[Laughter]*

If you're still feeling winded, it's my fault. It goes back to our first Cabinet meeting, and I asked Jack, "Can't you generate, can't

you work up a little more enthusiasm?" And you saw it today. But he's doing a great job for us as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. His concept, our concept, of tenant management and home ownership offers really hope to millions. But then, Jack and all our administration believe in the greatest and most visionary of American ideals, the ideal of real equality, ensuring that people can go as far as their abilities and their hard work will take them.

Five centuries ago, men crossed the great ocean and brought Hispanic America into being. Ever since then, we have called the combination of European and American peoples on these vast lands not a new territory, not a new colony, not a new settlement. We've called it a new world.

Hispanic America arose out of risk and romance. Several forces fed its growth: transoceanic trade, the movement and mingling of peoples, the grand enterprise of discovery and development. On September 20, this very date, but in 1519, Magellan and his party set sail from Spain to sail around the globe. Next month we begin a year of commemoration leading to the 500th anniversary of Columbus' daring journey.

We must not think of these achievements as somehow antique and irrelevant. Frontiers don't close when men settle the wilderness, when they build cities and factories and schools. Subtle but braver adventures confront advanced civilizations: the adventures of creating families, educating children, knowing that no matter how hard or how comfortable our circumstances, we must make our world better. In the life of the Americas, in our mission of discovery and development, 1492 was only yesterday.

How true this is in the case of commerce. Voyagers charted the trade routes of the Americas centuries ago, but we've only now begun to explore their full potential.

Your convention theme sings with this spirit: "Launching New Partnerships."

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Sept. 20 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

America's more than 400,000 Hispanic-owned firms provide new jobs and generate new wealth. In 1987, the latest date for these statistics, our Hispanic-owned businesses pumped nearly \$25 billion into our economy and created half a million jobs.

You believe in yourselves, in your abilities, your determination, your excellence. Because you believe in yourselves, you helped our administration get congressional approval to extend our Fast Track procedures for trade negotiations. Armed with that powerful tool—and as you heard this morning from an able team from three countries—we are negotiating a North American free trade agreement.

I might say that Mexico, under President Salinas, has been a powerful leader and ally. And I would also say that relationships between Mexico and the United States have never in history been better. And that is in the best interests of the United States of America. When we complete that accord, and I'm confident we will, we'll build a free trade zone that ranges from the Yukon to the Yucatan, "a market of 360, get the figure, 360 million consumers and a present annual output of \$6 trillion.

When we seal the free trade agreement, Hispanic-owned firms in the United States will enjoy strong natural advantages. Bonds of family, language, understanding the culture, already cherished in the families represented here today, all of these will gain value as business assets.

Because you believe in yourselves, you also have supported our Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, aiming to establish a network of expanded trade, investment, and cooperation from Hudson Bay to the Straits of Magellan.

The North American free trade agreement and the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative incorporate the great lesson of our age: trade and enterprise can build wealth and preserve freedom. Protectionism and Government control only create poverty and backwardness, and yes, a denial of freedom.

Consider the case of Mexico. Since 1986, when Mexico joined the GATT and dropped tariff rates from 100 percent, 100 percent, to little more than 10 percent, U.S. exports to Mexico have more than doubled. Exports of automobiles and auto parts have

quadrupled. Exports of iron and steel, which were running a \$12-million deficit just 4 years ago, now are achieving a \$300-million surplus. And this rise in exports created almost 300,000 jobs in the United States. Each additional \$1 billion in exports will translate into nearly 20,000 American jobs.

But these reforms, it's not a one-way street, these reforms have helped Mexico, a classic win-win situation, if you will. Fidel Velazquez Sanchez, the head of the Mexican Labor Confederation, recognizes that increased trade will create new jobs, indeed, new industries in Mexico, and he strongly supports the trade agreement.

What's good for Hispanic America will be good for the United States. And with open trade, by the year 2000, United States firms will be doing a robust business with dynamic economy of 100 million Mexican consumers.

The prospects seem equally exciting south of Mexico, too. We've heard a lot about the Mexican free trade agreement. We've heard about the negotiations. They are our friendly neighbors on the border, and we ought to—parenthetically I might say, we should never just take those friends for granted, whether it be to our north or to our south. We are blessed by peaceful borders. But we're already advancing creative plans now to reduce debt, boost investment, and increase trade. We've now signed framework trade liberalization agreements involving 28 countries in the hemisphere. So, it's not just Mexico. But we need your help.

Congress still has failed to give us debt reduction authority and funding and to give us the ability to contribute to the Multilateral Investment Fund. This would help stimulate investment and build stable democracies within our hemisphere. So please, speak out in support of the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative. And join me in urging Congress to pass the legislation to put it into full effect. Enterprise for the Americas is not a slogan. It will strengthen democracy and freedom in those friendly countries south of the Rio Grande, and it will be good for American exports, and that means it will be good for American jobs.

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and I discuss these enormous problems that Mayor Daley confronts in his excellent way every day, or Jim Edgar, the Governor of this State, confronts in his very effective way as Governor, the more we contemplate those problems and the more I look at this great country of ours that I'm privileged to lead at this point in history, and I must say it's a very exciting point, the more Barbara and I conclude that family is absolutely essential to our success. We have got to stay involved, we have got to stay fundamentally involved. And when I speak to this group, it's almost like preaching to the choir because I think if you exemplify one of the prime values and principles that this group and, indeed, Hispanic American culture all across our country exemplifies, is love of family and its faith and its conviction about our great country, the freest and fairest on the face of the Earth.

So, thank you very much for letting me come by and visit this highly successful convention. And let me tell you that it's a great joy to be back with you again. And may God bless our great country. Thank you very very much.

Note: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan, Jr.; Secretary of Transportation Samuel K. Skinner; Governor James Edgar of Illinois; Richard M. Daley, mayor of Chicago; José Niño, president and chief executive officer of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Gabriel E. Aguirre, former chairman of the board of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Delia Reyes, chairman; Michael Jordan, member of the Chicago Bulls basketball team; Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Jack Kemp; President Salinas de Gortari of Mexico; Fidel Velazquez Sanchez, union leader of the Mexican Labor Confederation; José E. Martinez, Director of the Trade and Development Program; President Fidel Castro Ruz of Cuba; and Andrés Bande, CEO of Ameritech International. These remarks were not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 6337—National Hispanic Heritage Month, 1991

September 20, 1991

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

When we speak of our Hispanic heritage, we speak of more than one particular set of customs and traditions. Indeed, the Hispanic American heritage can be traced back to many different lands—to places as far-flung as Cuba, Mexico, Spain, and Peru. Nevertheless, Americans of Spanish and Latin American descent share a great sense of pride in the deep cultural and historical ties that exist between them.

Rich and varied, the Hispanic American heritage is as old as the story of America itself. Daring Spanish navigators who explored the New World nearly half a millennium ago were the first Europeans to establish settlements in what is now United States territory. In fact, by 1565—almost half a century before British colonists landed at Jamestown—the Spanish had established a permanent settlement at Saint Augustine, Florida. Traders and missionaries followed in the wake of explorers such as Coronado, Ponce de León, and Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, helping to open the American Southwest to further settlement and development.

Making use of the land's resources through farming, ranching, and mining, Spanish peoples shaped much of the Western frontier. Thriving communities took root around many Spanish missions, and today cities such as San Diego, Los Angeles, San Antonio, and Santa Fe continue to bear evidence of their celebrated past. However, over the years, Hispanic Americans have made vital contributions in communities across the country and in virtually every field of endeavor.

Today Hispanic Americans are our Nation's fastest growing minority. The number of Hispanics in this country grew by 53 percent during the past decade, up from 14.6 million to 22.4 million. This means that Hispanics now constitute about 9 percent of our population.

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