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Drop-by for National Council of La Raza 7/18/90 [OA 5375]

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 18, 1990

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA

The Omni Shoreham Hotel
Washington, D.C.

1:17 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all very much. Well, thank you so much for that welcome. I'm delighted to be here, and I had a little visit in the hall with the jefes, Raul and Tony -- (laughter) -- and Rita, Patricia, gave me the warm welcome. And I rode over here with Dr. Cavazos, our Secretary of Education, who is with us, and of whom I'm very, very proud. (Applause.) And, of course, I'm delighted to see Lou Sullivan, who's doing a superb job over at HHS, a major position in our administration. (Applause.)

I shouldn't quote Larry Cavazos, but he says, you know it's a strange world. He says, here I am Secretary of Education for the United States and I just met with the Minister of Education from Mexico. The Minister from Mexico's name is Bartlett; the Secretary from the United States' name is Cavazos. So I tell you -- (laughter and applause) -- things are really moving.

But again, I'm very proud of him. And I am grateful for this opportunity to appear before this distinguished group, to greet the National Council of La Raza; and pleased to see so many distinguished leaders from America's Hispanic service, education and business communities, all gathered here in our nation's capital.

And I want to thank the person whose brilliance, foresight and tenacity made this July gathering in Washington possible. I'm talking about the man who invented air conditioning. (Laughter.) It is hotter than blazes out there. (Laughter and applause.) And I'm delighted to be here. (Applause.)

Something about me, I'll tell you. It was hotter than blazes in Houston last week. We should have known it was coming because the weatherman that we consulted was the same guy who set up our summit with Gorbachev at Malta. (Laughter.) Some of you may remember that one.

But today, I did want to drop in; I'm on my way out to California in just a little bit. (Applause.) But to welcome you to Washington, and really to tell you how important I believe and our administration believes your efforts are.

I mentioned Dr. Cavazos, and, of course, Lou Sullivan. But I also wanted to salute an old comrade of mine in Congress, now a Secretary, Manuel Lujan, from New Mexico -- (applause) -- the Secretary of the Interior. But he and Larry, outstanding Cabinet secretaries, they do represent not only the new energy, and I would say leadership, Hispanic-Americans are bringing to our country, but also two of the most important priorities: The protection and use of our natural resources, and the excellence in education -- the quest for all-across-the-board excellence in education.

And, indeed, our administration has made educational assistance for Hispanic-Americans one of the top priorities of our campaign to revive national educational excellence. And you heard

MORE

from Larry yesterday in some detail, I understand. But, look, we will seek and we will demand educational excellence for all America. And that means reforms like giving parents a choice in their children's education and educational excellence for all Americans. (Applause.)

Let me just touch -- without being redundant here and repeating what Dr. Cavazos has said -- on just a few of our most important efforts. Last December, we launched a new effort, specially designed to assist Hispanic-Americans, and developed in part with the assistance and advice that we received from many right here at this table and in this room today. They helped us develop -- you all, helped us develop this program. And I directed our Secretary of Education to form what we call the Hispanic Education Task Force. And it is aimed not only at identifying educational obstacles, but also -- and I'd say this is more a part of it -- educational opportunities.

Larry has told me that the work of the Task Force is well underway, seeking new ways to improve federal education programs that basically serve Hispanic-Americans and seeking ways to make them better. We need to focus on finding solutions.

And you, who are a proud part of the La Raza tradition, have also been one of those solutions. Efforts like Project Second Chance, the Family Reading Program -- and I wish Barbara Bush were here to -- (applause) -- I wish Barbara were here to tell you how moved she is by that effort on a nationwide basis -- and Project EXCEL; all designed to help Hispanic community organizations become effective partners with the schools. And they're already making a difference for thousands of young Americans. And, look, I view it as a national goal that this unacceptable dropout rate for Hispanic kids come down, way down below the national average. (Applause.)

I don't want to overstay my welcome. I was told to have very brief remarks, and our time today is short. And if I'm not out of the hotel by 2:00 p.m., they'll probably charge me for an extra room. (Laughter.) So another day you know. (Laughter.)

Let me just address briefly one of the most important priorities of our administration and this is a current subject: helping to build a better America where the doors of opportunity are open to every citizen and every child.

And I hope you know where I have stood and always stand on the civil rights matters. And the Civil Rights Commission has been reauthorized. I think that's proper. The Hate Crimes Statistics Act is now the law of the land. And I will sign another, I would say, historic piece of legislation next week. And I'm talking about the Americans with disabilities act. (Applause.)

And for the past several months, we have been working diligently to make another civil rights law a reality. And I met with many of you at the White House back May -- several of you -- Mario Moreno of MALDEF, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, you know him. Jesse Quintero of LULAC was there. Raul was there. But I told Raul that I wanted to sign the civil rights bill of 1990, and not a quota bill of 1990.

Morris Abram, a very respected American now serving as an ambassador over in Geneva, but really I think it's fair to say known as a champion of civil rights, recently wrote me about the bill that's before the Congress right now, urging me to oppose the bill as currently written. And he told me, look -- here's this quote: "All my life, even in the darkest days of segregation in Georgia I fought against the principle of color preference, then known as white supremacy." This bill, he pointed out, would "achieve precisely what the '64 Civil Rights Act stood four-square against."

And he recalled Frederick Douglass' famous statement of 1871. And here was that quote: "Equality of numbers has nothing to do with equality of attainment." And we all know quotas aren't

right. They are not fair. They divide society instead of bringing people together. And as leaders and representatives of the Hispanic-American community, I owe it to you to see that this legislation does not say to the young kids, you only fit in if you fit into a certain numbered quota. That is not the American dream.

And I gave Raul a commitment back in May that I want desperately, I want very much to sign a civil rights bill. And I did then, and I still do.

And yesterday's announcement marked only the end of a chapter, not the end of a campaign, because today I just met with some on the Republican side of the aisle. Talks are still going on. And we renew the fight for a civil rights bill that I can sign. But I want to ask for your help to make the changes. And we're talking now about legal changes -- they're relatively small -- to make the changes needed to ensure that a bill does not result in quotas that could somehow inadvertently work to the detriment of the very kids you all are trying to help. Changes needed to ensure a bill that will protect the rights of all Americans, and injure the rights of none.

From the time it was first launched in '68, your National Council, Council of La Raza, has played a unique role in helping to improve opportunities for Americans of Hispanic descent. And I think that the success -- I know sometimes you see only the problems out there, and it's proper you keep them in focus -- but I think the success of your efforts is evident in the many success stories that are represented throughout this room. And so I came over here today to salute you for the important work that you do. By working today for Hispanic-Americans, you're building a better tomorrow for all Americans.

As President of the United States, I want to do my part. I want a lead for equity. I want a lead in the field of education. And I, again, am grateful for the support I receive there. I want to take the crusades that Dr. Sullivan is involved in to get better health care out there for our people and be as of the much leadership and support for those initiatives as I possibly can.

And some of you know that with me this is more than a passing interest. And I would just say to you keep up the good work for La Raza. It inspires the American people. And I want to do my part.

Thank you all. And God bless you. Thank you very, very much. (Applause.)

END

1:36 P.M. EDT

[REDACTED]

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA / OMNI HOTEL
WEDNESDAY, JULY 18 / 1990, 1:15 P.M.

THANK YOU. THANK YOU ALL. I'M PROUD TO BE SHARING
THE STAGE WITH TWO MEMBERS OF MY CABINET TODAY:
SECRETARY OF HHS LOUIS SULLIVAN AND SECRETARY OF
EDUCATION LAURO CAVAZOS, WHO ARE DOING SUCH A
MAGNIFICENT JOB FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. AND I ALSO
WANT TO PAY MY RESPECTS TO SENATOR ORRIN HATCH AND
CONGRESSMAN ESTEBAN TORRES.

- 2 -

I'M GRATEFUL FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GREET THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA, AND PLEASED TO SEE SO MANY
DISTINGUISHED LEADERS FROM AMERICA'S HISPANIC SERVICE,
EDUCATION AND BUSINESS COMMUNITIES, GATHERED HERE IN
OUR NATION'S CAPITAL.

(AND I WANT TO THANK THE PERSON WHOSE BRILLIANCE,
FORESIGHT AND TENACITY MADE THIS JULY GATHERING IN
WASHINGTON POSSIBLE. \\ THE MAN WHO INVENTED AIR
CONDITIONING!) \\\

(IT WAS SURE HOT IN HOUSTON LAST WEEK. BUT WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WAS COMING. THE WEATHERMAN WE CONSULTED WAS THE SAME GUY WHO SET UP THE SUMMIT IN MALTA!) \\\

TODAY, WE ARE VERY PLEASED AND HONORED TO WELCOME YOU TO WASHINGTON AND TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TELL YOU JUST HOW IMPORTANT WE BELIEVE YOUR EFFORTS ARE.

I MENTIONED LAURO CAVAZOS, AND I ALSO WANT TO SALUTE MANUEL LUJAN, OUR SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.



AS OUTSTANDING CABINET SECRETARIES, THEY REPRESENT NOT ONLY THE NEW ENERGY AND LEADERSHIP HISPANIC-AMERICANS ARE BRINGING TO THIS GREAT COUNTRY -- BUT ALSO TWO OF OUR ADMINISTRATION'S MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITIES: THE PROTECTION AND USE OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES, AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION. \\\

INDEED, OUR ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR HISPANIC-AMERICANS ONE OF THE TOP PRIORITIES OF OUR CAMPAIGN TO REVIVE EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE.

**WE WILL SEEK -- WE WILL DEMAND -- EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR AMERICA. THAT MEANS REFORMS LIKE GIVING PARENTS A CHOICE IN THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION AND THAT MEANS EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR ALL AMERICANS. **

I KNOW LAURO SPOKE TO YOU YESTERDAY, BUT I'D LIKE TO TOUCH ON JUST A FEW OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT NEW EFFORTS. LAST DECEMBER, WE LAUNCHED A NEW EFFORT, SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO ASSIST HISPANIC-AMERICANS, AND DEVELOPED IN PART WITH THE ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE WE RECEIVED FROM MANY OF YOU HERE TODAY.

I DIRECTED THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION TO FORM AN HISPANIC EDUCATION TASK FORCE, AIMED AT IDENTIFYING NOT ONLY EDUCATIONAL OBSTACLES -- BUT ALSO EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

LAURO HAS TOLD ME THAT THE WORK OF THE TASK FORCE IS WELL UNDERWAY, SEEKING NEW WAYS TO IMPROVE FEDERAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT SERVE HISPANIC-AMERICANS -- AND SEEKING WAYS TO MAKE THEM BETTER. WE NEED TO FOCUS ON FINDING SOLUTIONS.

AND YOU WHO ARE PART OF THE PROUD LA RAZA TRADITION, HAVE ALSO BEEN ONE OF THOSE SOLUTIONS. EFFORTS LIKE PROJECT SECOND CHANCE, THE FAMILY READING PROGRAM, AND PROJECT EXCEL -- DESIGNED TO HELP HISPANIC COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS BECOME EFFECTIVE PARTNERS WITH SCHOOLS -- ARE ALREADY MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR THOUSANDS OF YOUNG AMERICANS. \\\

(OUR TIME TODAY IS SHORT -- IF I'M NOT OUT OF THE HOTEL BY TWO O'CLOCK, THEY CHARGE ME FOR ANOTHER DAY.) \\\


BUT LET ME ALSO ADDRESS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITIES OF MY ADMINISTRATION: HELPING TO BUILD A BETTER AMERICA WHERE THE DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY ARE OPEN TO EVERY CITIZEN AND EVERY CHILD.

I HOPE YOU KNOW WHERE I HAVE ALWAYS STOOD ON CIVIL RIGHTS. THE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION HAS BEEN REAUTHORIZED. THE HATE CRIMES STATISTICS ACT IS NOW THE LAW. AND I WILL SIGN THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT INTO LAW NEXT WEEK.

AND FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, WE HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD TO MAKE ANOTHER CIVIL RIGHTS LAW A REALITY.

I MET WITH MANY OF YOU AT THE WHITE HOUSE IN MAY -- LEADERS LIKE MARIO MORENO OF MALDEF ((MEXICAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND)), JESS QUINTERO OF LULAC ((LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS)), AND YOUR OWN RAUL YZAGUIRRE [EE-ZA-GEAR-RAY]. BUT I TOLD RAUL THAT I WANTED TO SIGN THE "CIVIL RIGHTS BILL OF 1990" -- NOT THE "QUOTA BILL OF 1990."

MORRIS ABRAM, WHO MANY OF YOU KNOW AS A CHAMPION OF CIVIL RIGHTS, RECENTLY WROTE ME ABOUT THIS BILL, URGING ME TO OPPOSE THE BILL AS IT IS CURRENTLY WRITTEN. HE TOLD ME, "ALL MY LIFE, EVEN IN THE DARKEST DAYS OF SEGREGATION IN GEORGIA I FOUGHT AGAINST THE PRINCIPLE OF COLOR PREFERENCE, THEN KNOWN AS WHITE SUPREMACY." THIS BILL, HE POINTED OUT, WOULD "ACHIEVE PRECISELY WHAT THE 1964 CIVIL RIGHTS ACT STOOD FOUR-SQUARE AGAINST."



HE RECALLED FREDERICK DOUGLASS' FAMOUS STATEMENT OF 1871: "EQUALITY OF NUMBERS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH EQUALITY OF ATTAINMENT." WE ALL KNOW QUOTAS AREN'T RIGHT. THEY'RE NOT FAIR. THEY DIVIDE SOCIETY INSTEAD OF BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER.

I DID GIVE RAUL A COMMITMENT BACK IN MAY. I WANT TO SIGN A NEW CIVIL RIGHTS BILL. \\ I DID THEN. \\ AND I DO NOW. \\ YESTERDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT MARKED ONLY THE END OF A CHAPTER -- NOT THE END OF A CAMPAIGN.

- 13 -

WE RENEW THE FIGHT FOR A CIVIL RIGHTS BILL TODAY. I NEED YOUR HELP -- TO MAKE THE CHANGES NEEDED TO ENSURE A BILL THAT DOES NOT RESULT IN QUOTAS \\ -- CHANGES NEEDED TO ENSURE A BILL THAT WILL PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF ALL AMERICANS, AND INJURE THE RIGHTS OF NONE.

FROM THE TIME IT WAS FIRST LAUNCHED IN 1968, THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA HAS PLAYED A UNIQUE ROLE IN WORKING TO IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICANS OF HISPANIC DESCENT.

- 14 -

THE SUCCESS OF YOUR EFFORTS IS EVIDENT IN THE MANY SUCCESS STORIES REPRESENTED THROUGHOUT THIS ROOM. AND SO I'M HERE TO SALUTE YOU FOR THE IMPORTANT WORK YOU DO. BY WORKING TODAY FOR HISPANIC-AMERICANS -- YOU'RE BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW FOR ALL AMERICANS. ///

THANK YOU. AND GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 16, 1990

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *W*
FROM: EDWARD E. McNALLY *EM*
SUBJECT: BRIEF REMARKS FOR NAT'L. COUNCIL OF LA RAZA

I. SUMMARY

Attached are draft remarks for Wednesday's appearance at the annual convention of the National Council of La Raza, an umbrella organization of Hispanic community organizations.

II. DISCUSSION

On Wednesday, July 18, at noon, you will drop by La Raza's convention at the Omni Shoreham Hotel to speak to an audience of about 1,000.

This draft (6 minutes, on cards) cites the Administration's action to create a Hispanic Education Task Force. Also, there is a call for the House of Representatives to restore parts of your anti-crime initiative that were deleted by the Senate.

McNally/Simon
July 11, 1990
Draft One (B:LA-RAZA)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROP-BY FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA
OMNI HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D.C.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1990, 11:45 A.M.

Thank you. Thank you all. I'm grateful for this opportunity to greet the National Council of La Raza, and pleased to see so many distinguished leaders from America's Hispanic service, education and business communities, gathered here in our Nation's capital.

(And I want to thank the person whose brilliance, foresight and tenacity made this July gathering in Washington possible. \\ **The man who invented air conditioning!**) \\\

(It was sure hot in Houston last week. But we should have known it was coming. The weatherman we consulted was the same guy who set up the summit in Malta!) \\\

Today, we are very pleased and honored to welcome you to Washington and to have this opportunity to tell you just how important we believe your efforts are.

And in saluting you, I also want to salute two outstanding Hispanic leaders -- Manuel Lujau and Lauro Cavazos who, as outstanding Cabinet secretaries, represent not only the new energy and leadership Hispanic-Americans are bringing to this great country -- but also two of our Administration's most important priorities: **The protection and use of our natural resources, and excellence in education.** \\\

Indeed, our Administration has made educational assistance for Hispanic-Americans one of the top priorities of our campaign

to revive educational excellence. We will seek -- we will demand -- educational excellence for America. That means reforms like giving parents a choice in their children's education and that means educational excellence for all Americans. \\\

I know Lauro spoke to you yesterday, but I'd like to touch on just a few of our most important new efforts. Last December, we launched a new effort, specially designed to assist Hispanic-Americans, and developed in part with the assistance and advice we received from many of you here today. I directed the Secretary of Education to form an Hispanic Education Task Force, aimed at identifying not only educational obstacles -- but also educational opportunities.

Lauro has told me that the work of the Task Force is well underway, seeking new ways to improve federal education programs that serve Hispanic-Americans -- and seeking ways to make them better. We need to focus on finding solutions.

And you who are part of the proud La Raza tradition, have also been one of those solutions. Efforts like Project Second Chance, the Family Reading Program, and Project EXCEL -- designed to help Hispanic community organizations become effective partners with schools -- are already making a difference for thousands of young Americans. \\\

(Our time today is short -- If I'm not out of the hotel by one o'clock, they charge me for another day.) \\\

But I wanted to mention one other effort that is of intense interest to Hispanic-Americans -- and to all decent Americans

concerned not only with equality of opportunity -- but also with quality of life.

14 months ago I stood before the U.S. Capitol and announced America's determination to "Take Back The Streets."

The process that began on that day has now produced a crime bill that cleared the Senate last week. There are still some improvements to be worked out in the House -- improvements needed to stop the endless abuse of the appeals process, to limit the size of gun magazines, and to ensure that evidence gathered by good cops acting in good faith isn't barred by technicalities that let bad people go free. In this effort, too, we're calling for support from you and those you represent. \\\

From the time it was first launched in 1968, the National Council of La Raza has played a unique role in working to improve opportunities for Americans of Hispanic descent. The success of your efforts is evident in the many success stories represented throughout this room. And so I'm here to salute you for the important work you do. By working today for Hispanic-Americans -- you're building a better tomorrow for all Americans. \\\

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

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

90 JUL 17 All : 38

DATE: 7/17/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ---

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 16, 1990

1990 JUL 16 PM 7:03

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OMNI HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D.C.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1990, 11:45 A.M.

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~~outstanding Cabinet secretaries, represent not only the new~~
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to revive educational excellence. We will seek -- we will demand -- educational excellence for America. That means reforms like giving parents a choice in their children's education and that means educational excellence for all Americans. \\\

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

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~~Confidential~~
LA RAZA ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you. Thank you all. I'm proud to be sharing the stage with two members of my cabinet today: Secretary of HHS Louis Sullivan and Secretary of Education Lauro Cavazos. And I also want to pay my respects to Senator Orrin Hatch and Congressman Esteban Torres.

Change time to 1:15

, who are doing such a magnificent job for the American people.

Changes — as noted on
next page — have been
approved by C.W.
— E.M.H.

DRAFT INSERT: DROP-BY FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA
OMNI HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D.C.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1990, 1:15 P.M.

Finally, let me also address one of the most important priorities of my Administration: helping to build a better America where the doors of opportunity are open to every citizen and every child.

You know where I have always stood on civil rights. The Civil Rights Commission has been reauthorized. The Hate Crimes Statistics Act is now the law. And I will sign the Americans with Disabilities Act into law next week.

And for the past several months, we have been working hard to make another civil rights law a reality. I met with many of you at the White House in May -- leaders like Mario Moreno of MALDEF ((Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund)), Jess Quintero of LULAC ((League of United Latin American Citizens)), and your own Raul Yzaguirre [EE-za-gee-ray]. But I told Raul that I wanted to sign the "Civil Rights Bill of 1990" -- not the "Quota Bill of 1990." Quotas aren't right. Quotas aren't fair. And quotas aren't the American way.

And I gave Raul my word on something else, too. I want to sign a new civil rights bill. \\ I did then. \\ And I do now. \\ You have my word on it.

Yesterday's announcement marked only the end of a chapter -- not the end of a campaign. We renew the fight for a civil rights bill today. A bill that will protect the rights of all Americans -- and injure the rights of none.

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[[INSERT ON PAGE THREE -- BEFORE THE LAST TWO PARAGRAPHS]]

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

90 JUL 16 A8:41

DATE: 07/13/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00pm Monday 07/16

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROP-BY FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA (07/11 draft one)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, 07/16, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

McNally/Simon
July 11, 1990
Draft One (B:LARAZA)

1990 JUL 12 6:55
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROP-BY FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA
OMNI HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D.C.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1990, 11:45 A.M.

Thank you. Thank you all. I'm grateful for this opportunity to greet the National Council of La Raza, and pleased to see so many distinguished leaders from America's Hispanic service, education and business communities, gathered here in our Nation's capital.

(And I want to thank the person whose brilliance, foresight and tenacity made this July gathering in Washington possible. \\ **The man who invented air conditioning!**) \\\

(It was sure hot in Houston last week. But we should have known it was coming. The weatherman we consulted was the same guy who set up the summit in Malta!) \\\

(The problem in Houston was sunburn. In Malta, it was sea-sickness. Instead of turning red -- people were turning green.)

Today, we are very pleased and honored to welcome you to Washington and to have this opportunity to tell you just how important we believe your efforts are.

And in saluting you, I also want to salute two of America's most outstanding Hispanic leaders -- ^{Manoel Lujan and Lauro Cavazos} ~~who, also happen to be two of America's most outstanding Cabinet secretaries. Of course, I'm talking about Manual Lujan and Lauro Cavazos.~~ \\ They represent not only the new energy and leadership Hispanic-Americans are bringing to this great country -- but also two of our Administration's most important priorities: **The protection and**

Choice in their
Children's education

2

use of our natural resources, and excellence in education. \\\

Indeed, we ~~are particularly fortunate to have the services~~
of Dr. Cavazos at the Department of Education, ~~because my~~ *our*
Administration has made educational assistance for Hispanic-
Americans one of the top priorities of our campaign to revive
educational excellence. We will seek -- we will demand --
That means reforms like giving parents a
educational excellence for America. ~~++~~ and that means educational
excellence for all Americans. \\\

I know Lauro spoke to you yesterday, but I'd like to touch
on just a few of our most important new efforts. Last December,
we launched a new ~~initiative~~ *effort*, specially designed to assist
Hispanic-Americans, and developed in part with the assistance and
advice we received from many of you here today. I directed the
Secretary of Education to form an Hispanic Education Task Force,
aimed at identifying not only educational obstacles -- but also
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Lauro has told me that the work of the Task Force is well
underway, seeking new ways to ~~assess the~~ *improve* federal ~~programs~~ *education* that
serve Hispanic-Americans -- and seeking ways to make them better.
We need to focus on finding solutions.

And you who are part of the proud La Raza tradition, have
also been ~~a part of the~~ *one of those* solutions. Efforts like Project Second
Chance, the Family Reading Program, and Project EXCEL -- designed
to help Hispanic community organizations become effective
partners with schools -- are already making a difference for
thousands of young Americans. \\\

(Our time today is short -- If I'm not out of the hotel by

1:00, they charge me for another day.) \\\

But I wanted to mention one other effort that is of intense interest to Hispanic-Americans -- and to all decent Americans concerned not only with equality of opportunity -- but also with quality of life.

14 months ago I stood before the U.S. Capitol and announced America's determination to "Take Back The Streets."

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

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

90 JUL 16 P5:35



DATE: 07/13/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00pm Monday 07/16

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROP-BY FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA (07/11 draft one)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, 07/16, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE: *No comment*

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

McNally/Simon
July 11, 1990
Draft One (B:LARAZA)

1990 JUL 13
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use of our natural resources, and excellence in education. \\\

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

#

Chris -

USIA-TV is planning to
broadcast La Raza remarks
to all of Latin America.
Could they get a copy as soon
as it is reconciled?

Thank you,

María

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

90 JUL 16 P4:43



DATE: 07/13/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00pm Monday 07/16

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROP-BY FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA
(07/11 draft one)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:
Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, 07/16, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

No Comment
7/16/90

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

90 JUL 16 P5: 58



DATE: 07/13/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00pm Monday 07/16

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROP-BY FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA
(07/11 draft one)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, 07/16, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

*Minor comments
JD*

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

McNally/Simon
July 11, 1990
Draft One (B:LARAZA)

1990 JUL 13 6:55
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROP-BY FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA
OMNI HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D.C.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1990, 11:45 A.M.

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use of our natural resources, and excellence in education. \\\

Indeed, ~~we are particularly fortunate to have the services of Dr. Cavazos at the Department of Education, because my~~ *own* Administration has made educational assistance for Hispanic-Americans one of the top priorities of our campaign to revive educational excellence. We will seek -- we will demand -- educational excellence for America -- and that means educational excellence for all Americans. \\\

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

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 16, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: JIM PINKERTON

SUBJECT: National Council of La Raza Draft

We recognize that these remarks have to be kept brief, but in light of recent media attention to choice in education -- especially as it pertains to minorities (see attached William Raspberry column) -- we suggest adding a passing mention of this important reform, if space permits. Page 2, para. 2, line 5 suggests a possible place, e.g.:

"We will seek -- we will demand -- educational excellence and educational reform for American~~s~~. That means reforms like giving parents a choice in their children's education -- and it means educational excellence for all Americans."

###

00 JUL 16 P 4: 25

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 07/13/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00pm Monday 07/16

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROP-BY FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA
(07/11 draft one)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, 07/16, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

*See Comments. Thanks.
Holly Williamson
7-16-90*

80 JUL 16 4:18 PM '90

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

FYI - Secretary Cavazos may accompany the President.

McNally/Simon
July 11, 1990
Draft One (B:LARAZA)

1990 JUL 13
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ~~DROP-BY~~ FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA
OMNI HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D.C.
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✓
(Interior)
Please see 3 attached inserts on Secretary Lujan & his accomplishments with the Hispanic community.

use of our natural resources, and excellence in education. \\\

Indeed, we are particularly fortunate to have the services of Dr. Cavazos at the Department of Education, because my Administration has made educational assistance for Hispanic-Americans one of the top priorities of our campaign to revive educational excellence. We will seek -- we will demand -- educational excellence for America -- and that means educational excellence for all Americans. \\\

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VOCA - It is not an "initiative" yet.

Lauro has told me that the work of the Task Force is well underway, seeking new ways to ^{improve} ~~assess~~ the federal ^{education} programs that serve Hispanic-Americans, ~~and seeking ways to make them better~~. ^{See Insert below.*}

VOCA + Dept of Education
The task force is not considering ways to assess federal programs.

And you who are part of the proud La Raza tradition, have also been a part of the solution. Efforts like Project Second Chance, the Family Reading Program, and Project EXCEL -- designed to help Hispanic community organizations become effective partners with schools -- are already making a difference for thousands of young Americans. \\\

(Our time today is short -- If I'm not out of the hotel by

* Add one more sentence to that paragraph: (per Dept. of Ed.)

"We need to keep ~~our~~ our focus on finding solutions." ~~rather than a repeated study of the problem~~
(Ed. says that such a sentence emphasizes the Pres' charge to the task force to suggest strategies for action rather than for a repeated study of the problem. This insert will evoke a positive response from the Hispanic community, who want a viable, action-oriented federal strategy.)

1:00, they charge me for another day.) \\\

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

#

Insert for page # 1 - Lujan :

Insert for La Raza Speech

- A
- o Already, Secretary Lujan has taken great strides in establishing aggressive federal programs. He is ensuring that all groups in society are represented in the Federal workplace, and all workers are embraced as significant members of the Interior team.
- B
- o Last month, Manuel directed Interior's most comprehensive EEO conference ever. He discussed the partnerships that Interior is forming with minority groups and colleges -- including a memorandum of understanding with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. Interior and HACU are working to attract the best job candidates and establish effective equal opportunity guidelines for the future.
- C
- o Interior also signed a recent agreement with New Mexico Highlands University -- another partner in our efforts to reach out to all members of society who share in our commitment to parity and fairness in the Federal workplace.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

90 JUL 16 All: 01

DATE: 07/13/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00pm Monday 07/16

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROP-BY FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA (07/11 draft one)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, 07/16, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

OK S.R.

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

McNally/Simon
July 11, 1990
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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROP-BY FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA
OMNI HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D.C.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1990, 11:45 A.M.

Thank you. Thank you all. I'm grateful for this opportunity to greet the National Council of La Raza, and pleased to see so many distinguished leaders from America's Hispanic service, education and business communities, gathered here in our Nation's capital.

(And I want to thank the person whose brilliance, foresight and tenacity made this July gathering in Washington possible. \\ **The man who invented air conditioning!** \\ \\

(It was sure hot in Houston last week. But we should have known it was coming. The weatherman we consulted was the same guy who set up the summit in Malta!) \\ \\

(The problem in Houston was sunburn. In Malta, it was sea-sickness. Instead of turning red -- people were turning green.)

Today, we are very pleased and honored to welcome you to Washington and to have this opportunity to tell you just how important we believe your efforts are.

And in saluting you, I also want to salute two of America's most outstanding Hispanic leaders -- who also happen to be two of America's most outstanding Cabinet secretaries. Of course, I'm talking about Manual Lujan and Lauro Cavazos. \\ They represent not only the new energy and leadership Hispanic-Americans are bringing to this great country -- but also two of our Administration's most important priorities: **The protection and**

**use of our natural resources, and excellence in education. **

Indeed, we are particularly fortunate to have the services of Dr. Cavazos at the Department of Education, because my Administration has made educational assistance for Hispanic-Americans one of the top priorities of our campaign to revive educational excellence. **We will seek -- we will demand -- educational excellence for America -- and that means educational excellence for all Americans. **

I know Lauro spoke to you yesterday, but I'd like to touch on just a few of our most important new efforts. Last December, we launched a new initiative, specially designed to assist Hispanic-Americans, and developed in part with the assistance and advice we received from many of you here today. **I directed the Secretary of Education to form an Hispanic Education Task Force, aimed at identifying not only educational obstacles -- but also educational opportunities.**

Lauro has told me that the work of the Task Force is well underway, seeking new ways to assess the federal programs that serve Hispanic-Americans -- and seeking ways to make them better.

And you who are part of the proud La Raza tradition, have also been a part of the solution. Efforts like Project Second Chance, the Family Reading Program, and Project EXCEL -- designed to help Hispanic community organizations become effective partners with schools -- are already making a difference for thousands of young Americans. \\\

(Our time today is short -- If I'm not out of the hotel by

1:00, they charge me for another day.) \\\

But I wanted to mention one other effort that is of intense interest to Hispanic-Americans -- and to all decent Americans concerned not only with equality of opportunity -- but also with quality of life.

14 months ago I stood before the U.S. Capitol and announced America's determination to "Take Back The Streets."

The process that began on that day has now produced a crime bill that cleared the Senate last week. There are still some improvements to be worked out in the House -- improvements needed to stop the endless abuse of the appeals process, to limit the size of gun magazines, and to ensure that evidence gathered by good cops acting in good faith isn't barred by technicalities that let bad people go free. In this effort, too, we're calling for support from you and those you represent. \\\

From the time it was first launched in 1968, the National Council of La Raza has played a unique role in working to improve opportunities for Americans of Hispanic descent. The success of your efforts is evident in the many success stories represented throughout this room. And so I'm here to salute you for the important work you do. By working today for Hispanic-Americans -- you're building a better tomorrow for all Americans. \\\

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

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