

DAVID SHIPLEY

09/17/97 06:02:39 PM

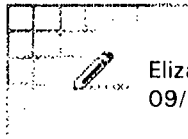
Record Type: Record

To: June Shih/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Proclamation: National Hispanic Heritage Month, 1997

----- Forwarded by David Shipley/WHO/EOP on 09/17/97 06:03 PM -----



Elizabeth R. Newman
09/12/97 05:19:43 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: Proclamation: National Hispanic Heritage Month, 1997

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 12, 1997

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH, 1997

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Throughout our history, America's promise of individual freedom and opportunity has drawn millions upon millions of immigrants from across the globe. As these newcomers arrived, they gradually wove their own traditions into the tapestry of our Nation's culture and society. The world's economy is becoming ever more interdependent and competitive, and

these changes and others brought on by the revolution in communication technologies are lowering many of the old barriers to economic, cultural, and intellectual exchange among nations. In this new global community, we benefit greatly from the contributions that Hispanic Americans bring to our economy and our society.

As the youngest and fastest-growing segment of our population, Hispanic Americans are an increasingly vital part of our economy. In the first 3 years of our Administration, more than 220,000 Hispanic-American-owned businesses were created, and in recent years the number of companies owned by Hispanic women, in particular, has grown at three times the overall rate of business growth. Our citizens with roots in South and Central America, the Caribbean, and Spain have inherited an entrepreneurial spirit and an intense work ethic that have helped energize the strongest American economy in a generation. The new head of the Small Business Administration, Aida Alvarez, is a symbol of that spirit and its importance to America. Along with Secretary of Energy Federico Peña, Under Secretary of Agriculture I. Miley Gonzales, and Ambassador Bill Richardson, the United States Representative to the United Nations, Administrator Alvarez reflects my Administration's continuing commitment to bring highly qualified Hispanic Americans into the highest levels of Government.

Our Hispanic citizens also are vital to America's success in expanding trade and developing closer ties with nations throughout the Western Hemisphere. Sharing a rich cultural and linguistic heritage with Hispanic Americans, these nations are already among our closest trading partners, and we hope to further expand our relationships with them at the Summit of the Americas next March.

The contributions of Hispanic Americans to the life of our Nation are much more than economic. Their strong commitment to family, community, and country sets a shining example for all our people. Generations of Hispanic Americans have served and sacrificed in America's Armed Forces to defend liberty and advance democracy throughout the world. And Hispanic culture continues to deeply enrich our social, intellectual, and artistic life.

To meet the challenges of the 21st century, we must create a society that offers opportunity to all Americans, requires responsibility from all Americans, and nurtures a community of all Americans. Hispanic Americans throughout our country are working to build such a society. To honor them for their

more

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dedication to this endeavor and for their many contributions to our Nation and our culture, the Congress, by Public Law 100-402, has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating September 15 through October 15 as "National Hispanic Heritage Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 1997, as National Hispanic Heritage Month. I call upon all government officials, educators, and the people of the United States to honor this observance with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, and I encourage all Americans to rededicate themselves to the pursuit of equality.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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Message Sent To: _____

Final

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS DINNER
THE WASHINGTON HILTON
WASHINGTON, DC
September 16, 1997**

Acknowledgments: VPGore; Rep. Becerra; Carmen Votaw; Hispanic Caucus Institute

I am delighted to be here with you again. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute has invited me here every year that I have been President. In five years, I have been honored to accept all five times. I am always grateful to be the recipient of Latino hospitality. You could say I truly feel that: "*Su Caucus es mi Caucus.*" [soo caucus ess mee caucus] Thank you for that. The reason for that is simple: The values at the heart of Hispanic American life -- family and faith, community and service to country -- are the values that are at the heart of American life.

Nothing proves that better than the dedicated Hispanic Americans who serve at the heart of our government. I am proud to have appointed more Hispanics to my administration than any other President. The Vice President just listed some of their names, but I want to mention just a few: Aida Alvarez; Federico Pena; Bill Richardson; Maria Echaveste; Mickey Ibarra; Janet Murguia. I also want to mention Carolyn Curiel, who I will nominate as Ambassador to Belize, and Gloria Tristani, who I have selected to serve as the newest member of the FCC. I am determined that these appointments will go forward quickly.

We will continue to work to make sure the face of the federal government reflects the face of America. Here with me tonight is my nominee for Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Bill Lee. Throughout his entire career, Bill has worked to defend and protect the civil rights of the most vulnerable among us. I thank you for your continued support of this nomination.

I also want to mention two more Hispanic American leaders. We all miss Frank Tejeda, whose service to his country -- both in Viet Nam and in the House of Representatives -- ended far too soon. And just recently I learned about the retirement of the first Hispanic elected member of Congress, Henry B. Gonzalez -- an irrepressible force and an irreplaceable legislator.

Working together with you, we have begun to prepare America for the 21st Century. I want to talk to you about the work that remains and the responsibility we have to support each other as we meet the challenges ahead.

Nearly six years ago, we started on a journey to restore the American dream to everyone willing to work for it, to make America the world's greatest force for security and freedom, and to go forward into the 21st Century as one America. Together, we set a bold new economic course of reducing the deficit by over 80%, expanding exports with 220 trade agreements, and investing in our people and their future. In the post-Cold War World, we have forged new alliances -- from Bosnia to Haiti. And we have made historic progress in our constant struggles against some of our most vexing social problems.

Today, we see the results: Unemployment remains below 5%; Hispanic American unemployment has dropped from 11.3 % in 1993 to 7.2 -- the lowest in 8 years. Inflation remains low. Home mortgage loans and small business loans are soaring: Hispanic American business has grown at three times the rate of overall business growth, with hundreds of thousands of new Hispanic American-owned businesses. Violent crime has dropped five years in a row and we've seen the largest drop in the welfare rolls in history.

All of this signals progress. But as optimistic as we have earned the right to be, we must do more to ensure that all Americans can reap the benefits of our new prosperity -- and to prepare America for the 21st Century.

First, we must expand education -- because in the 21st Century, education is the key to opportunity. And the bipartisan balanced budget I just signed into law represents the most significant investment in education in a generation. I fought hard to ensure that the budget includes a 36% increase in funding for bilingual and immigrant education. It expands Head Start, and it funds my America Reads program to give children additional help in reading after school. It will help us develop voluntary national tests in reading and math so our children learn the basic skills they need to succeed. The purpose of these tests is not to put our children down but to lift them up, and I ask you to support them. The budget also opens the doors of college to every American with the biggest increase in Pell Grant scholarships for deserving students in more than two decades, a \$1,500 HOPE Scholarship program, and a 20% tuition tax credit to pay for two years of college.

You know and I know that despite a strong work ethic and a strong tradition of personal responsibility, Hispanic Americans are the only racial or ethnic group in America that has experienced a decline in income during this period of prosperity. And one of the biggest reasons for this disparity in income is that too many young Latinos are not staying in school. The drop-out rate for Hispanic Americans is far above the rate for whites or African-Americans. Many of these young people leave school to take on the responsibility of helping their families by working. But in an increasingly global economy, responsibility means staying in school.

We must do more at every level of our education system to address the Hispanic drop-out problem. That is why I instructed Gene Sperling, the head of National Economic Council, Maria Echaveste, who heads my Office of Public Liaison, Mickey Ibarra, who heads my Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, and Education Secretary Riley to evaluate our current programs and identify actions we can take right now to help more young Latinos reach their full potential. I am pleased that Sen. Bingaman and Rep. Hinojosa [ee-no-HOE-suh] will soon introduce the National Drop Out Prevention Act of 1997, which will establish a co-ordinated national strategy to lower the drop-out rates for Hispanics and others.

And we will continue to work together to make sure Congress appropriates the education investments we fought so hard to include in the budget.

The Senate's recent decision to support the Gorton Amendment that would block grant education funds to the states is a step in the wrong direction. Whatever its intent, the effect of this amendment is to shift funding away from schools that serve our neediest children. And I will not hesitate to use my veto power to prevent that hasty decision from becoming the law of the land.

The balanced budget did one more important thing: it kept the promise I made last year to restore benefits to legal immigrants. These people come to this country legally, work hard, and contribute greatly to American society -- and they should not be penalized.

The second thing we must do is expand trade. America's leadership in the global economy has been a critical element of our prosperity -- and we must build on that success. Today I sent legislation to Congress that renews the President's traditional authority to negotiate the trade deals. This legislation will help us to create jobs and expand opportunity for all Americans. It contains important provisions to protect both worker rights and the environment -- and it involves Congress every step of the way. But with 95% of the world's consumers living outside our borders, we have no choice but to compete. And walking away from this opportunity will not create a single job or clean up a single toxic waste site.

We must start by working closely with our close friends and allies in Latin America. Latin America is one of the fastest growing regions in the world. Establishing trade agreements there will help those countries help their own people -- and it will make them better democratic partners. In just a few weeks, I will travel to Latin America for a week's visit in Brazil and Argentina, and I am looking forward to working with the Hispanic Caucus to make this trip as productive as possible.

Expanding trade is critical to our economic progress -- and I will not let the

Republican leadership use the upcoming Census to undermine our efforts in this area. The "sampling" method the Census Bureau will use in 2000 is designed to count hard-to-find Americans -- like the homeless and some minorities -- not to leave them out. I want to assure you right now that every American will be counted by the Census, because every American counts.

Finally, we must preserve the bonds of community that hold us together as one America. I have said many times that we are a nation of immigrants -- a people whose strength is drawn from our diversity -- a culture immeasurably enriched by our many customs. We cannot let our differences divide us, and we cannot let our fear of those who are different drive our policies -- especially when it comes to immigration.

We must work to make sure our immigration laws are fair and humane to all. To that end, we have undertaken two special efforts. First, we are seeking to extend the legal authority that permits people to obtain permanent immigration status without having to leave the country -- often leaving their families and their jobs behind. Second, we are working to enable some Central Americans and others who have already made lives for themselves here in the United States to be considered for permanent status under the less stringent rules in place prior to the passage of the recent immigration bill.

As representatives of the fastest growing minority group in America, you know better than anyone else that we cannot afford to turn away from change -- we must embrace it. Already, Hawaii has no majority race -- and in less than 50 years, there will be no majority race in America.

As we move closer to that day, we must make sure we do not become many Americas -- fragmented and isolated from one another -- divided by our differences. I hope you will give your full support to the President's Advisory Board on Race, and to Board Member Linda Chavez-Thompson. As we approach the new millennium, we must strive to be united in our diversity, and to live up to the motto that defines us as a nation -- *e pluribus unum* -- from the many, one America.

Thank you, God bless you, and *Feliz Compleano* [feh-LEEZ KAHM-play-AHN-yo]!

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR NATIONAL HISPANIC FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS DINNER
WASHINGTON, D.C.
SEPTEMBER 23, 1997

I am very happy to be here. Let me begin by congratulating everyone who worked to make this evening such a tremendous success. Jimmy [Smits] first told me about this new foundation six months ago at the White House and I am delighted to see that his dream is quickly becoming reality.

I want to thank Jimmy and all of you -- the friends of the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts -- for recognizing the important roles you can and must play in bringing more opportunities to Hispanic performers and artists. After clearing so many professional hurdles and knocking down stereotype after stereotype to get where you are today, it might be tempting to rest on your laurels. But, as pioneers in your fields, you are doing what American pioneers have done for centuries. You are making sure that the doors you've pried open, stay open and open even wider for future generations. So I thank you for your commitment and for recognizing the responsibilities that come with success.

America's greatest strength has always been the rich diversity of our people. In ways large and small, our multiplicity of backgrounds, cultures and beliefs has touched and enriched so many aspects of our lives -- the food we eat, the books we read, the music we enjoy. These things have helped us understand and appreciate cultures that are different -- but no less American -- than our own.

What we see in movies and on TV also shape, for better or worse, how we think about everything from the high tech gadgets on Air Force One -- *for the record, there is no escape pod* -- to people of different races and backgrounds, especially those with whom we rarely come in contact in every day life.

That is why the work of this foundation is so urgent.

America will never be the best it can be unless all Americans are given the opportunity to share their talents. By working to bring more Hispanic faces, voices and talent to the stage and screen, you are not only expanding opportunities for young artists, you are also strengthening our country. You are strengthening our entertainment industry, which will only benefit from our rich, yet barely tapped pool of Hispanic talent. And you are helping Americans gain a truer image of itself, strengthening the very bridges of understanding we must have if we are to become what my husband calls "One America" in the 21st century.

On behalf of the President, I want to invite you to join in two very important, national initiatives to celebrate and find ways to make sure that our rich -- and growing -- diversity remains our greatest strength in the next millennium.

First, I want to invite each of you to take part in the President's Millennium Project. As

the world moves faster and faster, it is that much more important to remember where we come from as a people. Beginning this year and lasting until the year 2001, The Millennium Project calls upon all Americans to come together in a million different ways to honor the past and imagine the future. At the heart of this project will be efforts to preserve our culture, especially our folkways. What we have is too precious to lose.

I ask you to use your talents -- as artists, entertainers, producers and media executives -- to help celebrate, support and preserve the cultural traditions and folkways of our diverse communities. These traditions, passed down from generation to generation, are invaluable and irreplaceable. They bind us to our past, and more importantly, they bind us to each other.

As you know, the President has also challenged all Americans to begin a year-long conversation to address and perhaps finally resolve the most vexing, perplexing, and often painful issue in the history of our country -- the issue of race. In the coming century, we have an opportunity to become the world's first truly multi-racial democracy. Today, the state of Hawaii has no majority racial or ethnic group. Within the next three years, the same will be true in California. And in just fifty years, there will no majority race in America.

That is why it is so important that every one of us join this national, year-long dialogue to explore the lingering problems and limitless possibilities of our growing racial and ethnic diversity. How can we respect -- even celebrate -- our differences while embracing the many things we have in common? We must begin by speaking frankly and listening carefully to each other. It is the way we can root out the misunderstandings, disagreements and prejudices that continue to haunt our communities and divide our society by race and ethnicity.

On Thursday, the President and I will be traveling to Little Rock to help commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the integration of Central High School. We will be meeting and paying tribute to the nine students, their families, and community leaders who literally risked their lives to help our country become more just and live truer to our ideals. We know from this experience that the fight for justice is never easy, but always worth it. Today, Central High is fully integrated, and one of the top high schools in the state, if not the country. But we all know that there is much further to go on the long road toward true racial reconciliation.

As members of an industry with the power to reach and touch millions of Americans, you can play leading roles in this journey. Help us remember our common values and shared priorities, that we are a nation of immigrants, a people bound together by our faith in democracy, our love of family and of community. Together, we can make our racial diversity not the great problem, but the great promise of the 21st century.

I feel privileged to witness the birth of what I know will soon be an important American institution. And I wish you Godspeed in the very important work you do.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

From: Marie Therese Dominguez, Special
Assistant to the President and Associate
Director of Presidential Personnel

Date: 9-22

To: June Shih

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| ☐ For your signature | ☐ Rewrite-text | ☐ Please return call |
| ☐ Prepare reply for my signature | ☐ Rewrite-not enough information | ☐ As you requested |
| ☐ For President's signature | ☐ For your action | ☐ For your information |
| ☐ Reply directly-copy to me | ☐ For your approval | ☐ Please file |
| ☐ Please locate resume | ☐ For your comments | ☐ Set up meeting on this |
| ☐ Call me on this | ☐ To West Wing, ASAP | ☐ For Resumix |

Remarks:

Thought This might be helpful as you prepare remarks for tomorrow evening. let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Thanks.

x61904

Action Date: _____

TALKING POINTS ON LATINO APPOINTMENTS IN THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION

- The President has been working hard to follow through on his commitment to ensure that his Administration truly looks like America. Since the election, the President, Vice President and Senior White House Officials have met regularly with the Hispanic Congressional Caucus and Latino organizations to increase the number of Hispanic appointments.
- Since the 1996 election, Hispanics comprise 8% of all appointments made by President. This includes appointments at the Senate confirmed (PAS), Presidential Appointments (PA), Senior Executive Service (SES) and Schedule C levels.
- President Clinton has appointed more than double the number of Hispanics appointed during the Bush Administration.
- 12% of the President's Cabinet is Hispanic including Secretary of Energy, Federico Pena; Ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson; and Small Business Administrator Aida Alvarez.
- Hispanics presently serving as members of the Senior White House staff, include:
Maria Echaveste, Assistant to the President for Public Liaison
Mickey Ibarra, Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs
Janet Murguia, Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs
- 8% of the Hispanics appointed to the Federal bench under President Clinton are Latino. 64% of the President's judicial appointees have been rated "well qualified" (the highest qualification) by the American Bar Association -- the highest percentage achieved by any Administration since the ABA began rating judicial applicants during the Eisenhower Administration.

RECENT HISPANIC APPOINTEES INCLUDE:

Miley Gonzalez, Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics at the US Department of Agriculture

Carolyn Curiel, Ambassadorial Nominee to Belize

Victor Marrero, U.S. Representative to the Organization of American States

George Munoz, President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation

Eva Plaza, Asst. Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, US Department of Housing and Urban Development

Espiridion (Al) Borrego, Asst. Secretary for Veterans employment Training Service at the Department of Labor

Terry Garcia, Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at the U.S. Department of Commerce

Saul Ramirez, Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Jose Villarreal, Member, Board of Directors for Fannie Mae

Maria Sotomayor, Judge, to serve on the 02 Circuit, U.S. District Court

Jorge Rangel, Judge, to serve on the 05 Circuit, U.S. District Court

Carlos Moreno, Judge, to serve on the 09 CA, Central, U.S. District Court

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As members of an industry with the power to reach and touch millions of Americans, you can play leading roles in this journey. Help us remember our common values and shared priorities, that we are a nation of immigrants, a people bound together by our faith in democracy, our love of family and of community. Together, we can make our racial diversity not the great problem, but the great promise of the 21st century.

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What we see in movies and on TV also shape, for better or worse, how we think about everything from the technology on Air Force One -- *for the record, there is no escape pod* -- to people of different races and backgrounds, especially those with whom we rarely come in contact in every day life.

That is why the work of this foundation is so urgent.

America will never be the best it can be unless all Americans are given the opportunity to share their talents. By working to bring more Hispanic faces, voices and talent to the stage and screen, you are not only expanding opportunities for young artists, you are also strengthening our country. You are strengthening our entertainment industry, which will only benefit from our rich, yet barely tapped pool of Hispanic talent. And you are helping Americans gain a truer image of itself, strengthening the very bridges of understanding we must have if we are to become what my husband calls "One America" in the 21st century.

On behalf of the President, I want to invite you to join in two very important, national initiatives to celebrate and find ways to make sure that our rich -- and growing -- diversity remains our greatest strength in the next millennium.

First, I want to invite each of you to take part in the President's Millennium Project. As the world moves faster and faster, it is that much more important to remember where we come from as a people. Beginning this year and lasting until the year 2001, The Millennium Project calls upon all Americans to come together in a million different ways to honor the past and imagine the future. At the heart of this project will be efforts to preserve our culture, especially our folkways. What we have is too precious to lose.

I ask you to use your talents -- as artists, entertainers, producers and media executives -- to help celebrate, support and preserve the cultural traditions and folkways of our diverse communities. These traditions, passed down from generation to generation, are invaluable and irreplaceable. They bind us to our past, and more importantly, they bind us to each other.

As you know, the President has also challenged all Americans to begin a year-long conversation to address and perhaps finally resolve the most vexing, perplexing, and often painful issue in the history of our country -- the issue of race. In the coming century, we have an opportunity to become the world's first truly multi-racial democracy. Today, the state of Hawaii has no majority racial or ethnic group. Within the next three years, the same will be true in California. And in just fifty years, there will no majority race in America.

That is why it is so important that every one of us join this national, year-long dialogue to explore the lingering problems and limitless possibilities of our growing racial and ethnic diversity. How can we respect -- even celebrate -- our differences while embracing the many things we have in common? We must begin by speaking frankly and listening carefully to each other. It is the only way we can all root out the misunderstandings, disagreements and prejudices that continue to haunt our communities and divide our society by race and ethnicity.

On Thursday, the President and I will be traveling to Little Rock to help commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the integration of Central High School. We will be meeting and paying tribute to the nine students, their families, and community leaders who literally risked their lives to help our country become more just and live truer to our ideals. We know from this experience that fight for justice is never easy, but always worth it. Today, Central High is fully integrated, and one of the top high schools in the state, if not the country. But we all know that there is much further to go on the long road toward true racial reconciliation.

As members of an industry with the power to reach and touch millions of Americans, you can play leading roles in this journey. Help us remember our common values and shared priorities, that we are a nation of immigrants, a people bound together by our faith in democracy, our love of family and of community. Together, we can make our racial diversity not the great problem, but the great promise of the 21st century.

I feel privileged to witness the birth of what I know will soon be an important American institution. And I wish you Godspeed in the very important work you do.

###

Final

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS DINNER
THE WASHINGTON HILTON
WASHINGTON, DC
September 16, 1997**

Acknowledgments: VP Gore; Rep. Becerra; Carmen Votaw; Hispanic Caucus Institute

I am delighted to be here with you again. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute has invited me here every year that I have been President. In five years, I have been honored to accept all five times. I am always grateful to be the recipient of Latino hospitality. You could say I truly feel that: "*Su Caucus es mi Caucus*." [soo caucus ess mee caucus] Thank you for that. The reason for that is simple: The values at the heart of Hispanic American life -- family and faith, community and service to country -- are the values that are at the heart of American life.

Nothing proves that better than the dedicated Hispanic Americans who serve at the heart of our government. I am proud to have appointed more Hispanics to my administration than any other President. The Vice President just listed some of their names, but I want to mention just a few: Aida Alvarez; Federico Pena; Bill Richardson; Maria Echaveste; Mickey Ibarra; Janet Murguia. I also want to mention Carolyn Curiel, who I will nominate as Ambassador to Belize, and Gloria Tristani, who I have selected to serve as the newest member of the FCC. I am determined that these appointments will go forward quickly.

We will continue to work to make sure the face of the federal government reflects the face of America. Here with me tonight is my nominee for Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Bill Lee. Throughout his entire career, Bill has worked to defend and protect the civil rights of the most vulnerable among us. I thank you for your continued support of this nomination.

I also want to mention two more Hispanic American leaders. We all miss Frank Tejeda, whose service to his country -- both in Viet Nam and in the House of Representatives -- ended far too soon. And just recently I learned about the retirement of the first Hispanic elected member of Congress, Henry B. Gonzalez -- an irrepressible force and an irreplaceable legislator.

Working together with you, we have begun to prepare America for the 21st Century. I want to talk to you about the work that remains and the responsibility we have to support each other as we meet the challenges ahead.

Nearly six years ago, we started on a journey to restore the American dream to everyone willing to work for it, to make America the world's greatest force for security and freedom, and to go forward into the 21st Century as one America. Together, we set a bold new economic course of reducing the deficit by over 80%, expanding exports with 220 trade agreements, and investing in our people and their future. In the post-Cold War World, we have forged new alliances -- from Bosnia to Haiti. And we have made historic progress in our constant struggles against some of our most vexing social problems.

Today, we see the results: Unemployment remains below 5%; Hispanic American unemployment has dropped from 11.3 % in 1993 to 7.2 -- the lowest in 8 years. Inflation remains low. Home mortgage loans and small business loans are soaring: Hispanic American business has grown at three times the rate of overall business growth, with hundreds of thousands of new Hispanic American-owned businesses. Violent crime has dropped five years in a row and we've seen the largest drop in the welfare rolls in history.

All of this signals progress. But as optimistic as we have earned the right to be, we must do more to ensure that all Americans can reap the benefits of our new prosperity -- and to prepare America for the 21st Century.

First, we must expand education -- because in the 21st Century, education is the key to opportunity. And the bipartisan balanced budget I just signed into law represents the most significant investment in education in a generation. I fought hard to ensure that the budget includes a 36% increase in funding for bilingual and immigrant education. It expands Head Start, and it funds my America Reads program to give children additional help in reading after school. It will help us develop voluntary national tests in reading and math so our children learn the basic skills they need to succeed. The purpose of these tests is not to put our children down but to lift them up, and I ask you to support them. The budget also opens the doors of college to every American with the biggest increase in Pell Grant scholarships for deserving students in more than two decades, a \$1,500 HOPE Scholarship program, and a 20% tuition tax credit to pay for two years of college.

You know and I know that despite a strong work ethic and a strong tradition of personal responsibility, Hispanic Americans are the only racial or ethnic group in America that has experienced a decline in income during this period of prosperity. And one of the biggest reasons for this disparity in income is that too many young Latinos are not staying in school. The drop-out rate for Hispanic Americans is far above the rate for whites or African-Americans. Many of these young people leave school to take on the responsibility of helping their families by working. But in an increasingly global economy, responsibility means staying in school.

We must do more at every level of our education system to address the Hispanic drop-out problem. That is why I instructed Gene Sperling, the head of National Economic Council, Maria Echaveste, who heads my Office of Public Liaison, Mickey Ibarra, who heads my Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, and Education Secretary Riley to evaluate our current programs and identify actions we can take right now to help more young Latinos reach their full potential. I am pleased that Sen. Bingaman and Rep. Hinojosa [ee-no-HOE-suh] will soon introduce the National Drop Out Prevention Act of 1997, which will establish a co-ordinated national strategy to lower the drop-out rates for Hispanics and others.

And we will continue to work together to make sure Congress appropriates the education investments we fought so hard to include in the budget.

The Senate's recent decision to support the Gorton Amendment that would block grant education funds to the states is a step in the wrong direction. Whatever its intent, the effect of this amendment is to shift funding away from schools that serve our neediest children. And I will not hesitate to use my veto power to prevent that hasty decision from becoming the law of the land.

The balanced budget did one more important thing: it kept the promise I made last year to restore benefits to legal immigrants. These people come to this country legally, work hard, and contribute greatly to American society -- and they should not be penalized.

The second thing we must do is expand trade. America's leadership in the global economy has been a critical element of our prosperity -- and we must build on that success. Today I sent legislation to Congress that renews the President's traditional authority to negotiate the trade deals. This legislation will help us to create jobs and expand opportunity for all Americans. It contains important provisions to protect both worker rights and the environment -- and it involves Congress every step of the way. But with 95% of the world's consumers living outside our borders, we have no choice but to compete. And walking away from this opportunity will not create a single job or clean up a single toxic waste site.

We must start by working closely with our close friends and allies in Latin America. Latin America is one of the fastest growing regions in the world. Establishing trade agreements there will help those countries help their own people -- and it will make them better democratic partners. In just a few weeks, I will travel to Latin America for a week's visit in Brazil and Argentina, and I am looking forward to working with the Hispanic Caucus to make this trip as productive as possible.

Expanding trade is critical to our economic progress -- and I will not let the

Republican leadership use the upcoming Census to undermine our efforts in this area. The "sampling" method the Census Bureau will use in 2000 is designed to count hard-to-find Americans -- like the homeless and some minorities -- not to leave them out. I want to assure you right now that every American will be counted by the Census, because every American counts.

Finally, we must preserve the bonds of community that hold us together as one America. I have said many times that we are a nation of immigrants -- a people whose strength is drawn from our diversity -- a culture immeasurably enriched by our many customs. We cannot let our differences divide us, and we cannot let our fear of those who are different drive our policies -- especially when it comes to immigration.

We must work to make sure our immigration laws are fair and humane to all. To that end, we have undertaken two special efforts. First, we are seeking to extend the legal authority that permits people to obtain permanent immigration status without having to leave the country -- often leaving their families and their jobs behind. Second, we are working to enable some Central Americans and others who have already made lives for themselves here in the United States to be considered for permanent status under the less stringent rules in place prior to the passage of the recent immigration bill.

As representatives of the fastest growing minority group in America, you know better than anyone else that we cannot afford to turn away from change -- we must embrace it. Already, Hawaii has no majority race -- and in less than 50 years, there will be no majority race in America.

As we move closer to that day, we must make sure we do not become many Americas -- fragmented and isolated from one another -- divided by our differences. I hope you will give your full support to the President's Advisory Board on Race, and to Board Member Linda Chavez-Thompson. As we approach the new millennium, we must strive to be united in our diversity, and to live up to the motto that defines us as a nation -- *e pluribus unum* -- from the many, one America.

Thank you, God bless you, and *Feliz Compleano* [feh-LEEZ KAHM-play-AHN-yo]!



September 10, 1997

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The First Lady
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

Enclosed is the formal invitation for the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts {"Noche de Gala"} event to be held on September 23, 1997 at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC. The Foundation Dinner will be preceded by informal Hearings before the U.S. Congressional Hispanic Caucus on the status of Latinos in the entertainment industry. We expect to have several important announcements on this issue including:

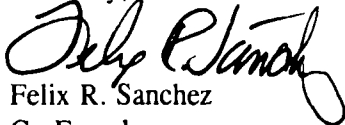
- A legislative initiative sponsored by Senator Barbara Boxer and Representative Esteban Torres to commemorate the life of actor Raul Julia with a United States medal;
- A Concurrent House-Senate Resolution sponsored by Senator Patty Murray and Representative Ed Pastor endorsing the graduate scholarship fundraising mission of the Foundation; and
- The appointment of Senator Harry Reid as head of the Democratic Senate Hispanic Task Force by Senate Minority Leader, Thomas Daschle.

On the corporate side we have also developed several important partnerships including major scholarship funding, internships and apprenticeships by the following corporations:

- Time Warner Inc.;
- Disney/ABC, Inc.; and
- Discovery Networks US.

As you know, Jimmy Smits, Sonia Braga and Esai Morales will be hosting the Gala. We are looking forward to your attendance in support of this very needed and worthy endeavor.

Sincerely,


Felix R. Sanchez
Co-Founder

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR NATIONAL HISPANIC FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS DINNER
WASHINGTON, D.C.
SEPTEMBER 23, 1997

I am very happy to be here. Let me begin by congratulating everyone who worked to make this evening such a tremendous success. Jimmy [Smits] first told me about this new foundation six months ago at the White House and I am delighted to see that his dream is quickly becoming reality.

I want to thank Jimmy and all of you -- the friends of the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts -- for recognizing the important roles you can and must play in bringing more opportunities to Hispanic performers and artists. After clearing so many professional hurdles and knocking down stereotype after stereotype to get where you are today, it might be tempting to rest on your laurels. But, as pioneers in your fields, you are doing what American pioneers have done for centuries. You are making sure that the doors you've pried open, stay open and open even wider for future generations. So I thank you for your commitment and for recognizing the responsibilities that come with success.

America's greatest strength has always been the rich diversity of our people. In ways large and small, our multiplicity of backgrounds, cultures and beliefs has touched and enriched so many aspects of our lives -- the food we eat, the books we read, the music we enjoy. These things have helped us understand and appreciate cultures that are different -- but no less American -- than our own.

What we see in movies and on TV also shape, for better or worse, how we think about everything from the technology on Air Force One -- *for the record, there is no escape pod* -- to people of different races and backgrounds, especially those with whom we rarely come in contact in every day life.

That is why the work of this foundation is so urgent.

America will never be the best it can be unless all Americans are given the opportunity to share their talents. By working to bring more Hispanic faces, voices and talent to the stage and screen, you are not only expanding opportunities for young artists, you are also strengthening our country. You are strengthening our entertainment industry, which will only benefit from our rich, yet barely tapped pool of Hispanic talent. And you are helping Americans gain a truer image of itself, strengthening the very bridges of tolerance and understanding we must have if we are to become what my husband calls "One America" in the 21st century.

On behalf of the President, I want to invite you to join in two very important, national initiatives to celebrate and find ways to make sure that our rich -- and growing -- diversity remains our greatest strength in the next millennium.

First, I want to invite each of you to take part in the President's Millennium Project. As

the world moves faster and faster, it is that much more important to remember where we come from as a people. Beginning this year and lasting until the year 2001, The Millennium Project calls upon all Americans to come together in a million different ways to honor the past and imagine the future. At the heart of this project will be efforts to preserve our culture, especially our folkways. What we have is too precious to lose.

I ask you to use your talents, as artists, entertainers, producers and media moguls to help celebrate, support and preserve the cultural traditions and folkways of your own communities. These traditions, passed down from generation to generation, are invaluable and irreplaceable. They bind us to our past, and more importantly, they bind us to each other.

As you know, the President has also challenged all Americans to begin a year-long conversation to address and perhaps finally resolve the most vexing, perplexing, and often painful issue in the history of our country -- the issue of race. In the coming century, we have an opportunity to become the world's first truly multi-racial democracy. Today, the state of Hawaii has no majority racial or ethnic group. Within the next three years, the same will be true in California. And in just fifty years, there will no majority race in America.

That is why everyone of us must become part of this national, year-long dialogue to explore how we can respect -- even celebrate -- our differences while embracing the many things we have in common. We must speak frankly and listen carefully to each other so that we can all root out the misunderstandings, disagreements and prejudices that continue to haunt our communities and divide our society by race and ethnicity. As members of the entertainment industry with the power to reach and touch millions of Americans, you can play leading roles in this effort. Help us remember our common values and shared priorities, that we are a nation of immigrants, a people of diverse beliefs, cultures and customs who are bound together by our faith in democracy, our love of family and community. Together, we can make sure our racial diversity becomes not the great problem, but the great promise of the 21st century.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR NATIONAL HISPANIC FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS DINNER
WASHINGTON, D.C.
SEPTEMBER 23, 1997

I am delighted to be able to join you tonight. Let me begin by congratulating everyone who worked to make this evening such a tremendous success. Jimmy [Smits] first told me about this new foundation six months ago at the White House and I am very happy to see that his dream is quickly becoming reality.

I want to thank Jimmy and all of you -- the friends of the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts -- for recognizing the important roles you can and must play in bringing more opportunities to Hispanic artists. After clearing so many professional hurdles and knocking down stereotype after stereotype to get where you are today, it might be tempting to rest on your laurels. But, as pioneers in your fields, you are doing what American pioneers have done for centuries. You are making sure that the doors you've pried open, stay open and open even wider for future generations. So I thank you for your commitment and for recognizing the responsibilities that come with success.

America's greatest strength has always been the rich diversity of our people. In ways large and small, our multiplicity of backgrounds, cultures and beliefs has touched and enriched so many aspects of our lives -- the food we eat, the books we read, the music we enjoy. These things have helped us understand and appreciate cultures that are different -- but no less American -- than our own.

What we see in movies and on TV often shape, for better or worse, how we think about everything from the technology on Air Force One -- no, there is no escape pod -- to the experiences of people of different races and backgrounds. That is why the work of this foundation is so urgent. By working to bring more Hispanic faces, voices and talent to the stage and screen, you are not only expanding opportunities for young artists, you are also strengthening America. You are strengthening our entertainment industry -- by bringing the talents of more Hispanics. And you are strengthening

America -- and Americans -- will never get a full appreciation of our rich diversity, unless all Americans are given the opportunity to share their talents

Tonight, on behalf of the President, I want to invite you to join in two very important initiatives to

Stewardship of our traditions has always been important. But that mission takes on special urgency as we approach the millennium. It is for this reason that the President has launched a Millennium Project. Beginning this year and lasting until the year 2001, Americans will come together in a million different ways to honor the past and imagine the future. At the heart of this project will be efforts to preserve our culture, especially our folkways. What we have is too precious to lose.

Enable to enjoy the talents of all Americans.

only way we are going to keep the arts a vital part

All us feel deeply that the arts and humanities are essential to nourishing the American mind and spirit. We all share in the belief that the arts and humanities are not a luxury, but a necessary part of life. And we are all committed to supporting the individuals and institutions that enrich our nation's cultural life through the arts and humanities.

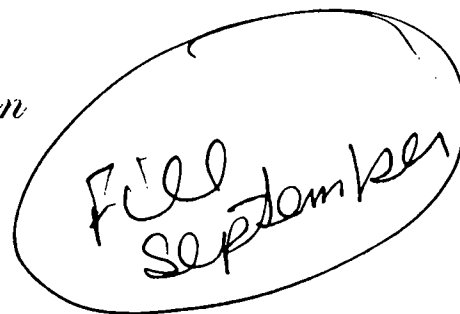
looks like America. Break the stereotype.

In times of great change and uncertainty, it is easy for soe

m among us to forget our common values and shared priorities. But however great the challenges we face, let us not forget that we are a nation of immigrants, a people of diverse beliefs, cultures and customs who are bound together by

Cultural oasis

Patti



June 20, 1997

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

As I mentioned during our March visit at the White House, I have been working to found the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts in Washington, D.C. The Foundation's mission is to encourage participation, reward excellence, and generate opportunities for Hispanics in the entertainment industry. It is a cause that is close to my heart, and I hope that you and the President will give your support, and if possible your participation, to this effort.

As you know, succeeding as a Hispanic artist in American mainstream entertainment is a tremendous challenge. Yet, as unfair as this situation may be, it is its consequences that concern me the most: that our community, despite its contribution and size, is still astoundingly misrepresented in the performing arts, while our children grow up with virtually no positive role models, bombarded instead by mostly stereotypical and negative images of their culture.

The fight to bring equality and respect to our community, as to any minority, has already accomplished significant improvements. Corporate and political America have finally realized the potential power of a group of consumers and voters that is 20 million strong. It is time for the entertainment industry to do the same.

The National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts was established to address this issue by raising awareness, promoting solutions, and generating opportunities for aspiring Hispanic artists and entertainment professionals. To fulfill its mission, the Foundation will offer scholarships and grants toward graduate studies at accredited colleges and universities, and will create and expand opportunities for existing artists and professionals.

The National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts will combine the clout and commitment of Hispanic celebrities with the power of political and social leaders. The Foundation will raise its operating funds through a yearly black-tie fundraising event, in Washington, D.C., which I will host. The gala will take place in September during Hispanic Heritage month. We would love to have you attend the cocktail reception on June 25, 1997 to formally announce the

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
June 20, 1997
Page Two

Foundation's establishment. The event will take place from 6-8 p.m., at the L.B.J. room, S-211 of The Capitol.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the Foundation is chaired by Mr. Felix Sanchez and Mr. Rene Rodriguez, both leaders of our community. Mr. Sanchez, an attorney, has lived in Washington for 15 years, during which time he has worked continuously with our political leaders to defend our interests and promote Hispanic participation at the highest levels of government. Mr. Rodriguez, an attorney from Corpus Christi, also has a solid track record on behalf of our community. Much of his work has focused on helping our children stay in school and out of gangs, and he has personally funded several programs in this area.

Your support, and that of the President, would send a powerful signal to our community and to the entertainment industry that we are at the dawn of a new era of Hispanic participation in the arts. We would be delighted for you to be the honorary chair of the Foundation dinner in September and of course, we would love to have you at the reception on Wednesday, June 25. For further information about the National Foundation for the Arts and its mission, you may call me or Felix Sanchez at 202/625-8330.

Gracias,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jimmy Smits". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jimmy Smits

**National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts
Georgetown Place
1101 30th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20007
202/625-8330 telephone
202/965-5252 fax
76654.1011@Compuserve.Com**

Facsimile Transmission

TO: Patti Solis Doyle **DATE:** Wednesday, August 06, 1997
FROM: Felix Sanchez **FAX:** 202/456-5340
PAGES: 4

MESSAGE:

Attached is the draft of the invitation for the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts. Please let me know if we can go forward.

Thanks.

[INVITES/PANEL 1]

1997 Advisory Board

<i>Ruben Blades</i>	<i>Ricardo Montalban</i>
<i>Buffy and William Cafritz</i>	<i>Esai Morales</i>
<i>Esther Coopersmith</i>	<i>Fiona Niven</i>
<i>Bill Cosby</i>	<i>Rosie O'Donnell</i>
<i>Wanda De Jesus</i>	<i>Arturo Sandoval</i>
<i>Giselle Fernandez</i>	<i>Charlie Sheen</i>
<i>Andy Garcia</i>	<i>Martin Sheen</i>
<i>Jackie Guerra</i>	<i>George Stephanopoulos</i>
<i>Ethel Kennedy</i>	<i>Lix Torres</i>
<i>Sharon Lawrence</i>	<i>Jack Valenti</i>
<i>Jennifer Lopez</i>	<i>Luis Valdez</i>
<i>Salma Hayek</i>	<i>Jonja Braga</i>

And

<i>The Honorable Xavier Becerra</i>	<i>The Honorable Trent Lott</i>
<i>The Honorable Barbara Boxer</i>	<i>The Honorable John McCain</i>
<i>The Honorable Henry Cisneros</i>	<i>The Honorable Solomon Ortiz</i>
<i>The Honorable Tom Daschle</i>	<i>The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard</i>
<i>The Honorable Estaban Torres</i>	<i>The Honorable Nydia Velazquez</i>
<i>The Honorable Donna E. Shalala</i>	

[INVITES/PANEL 2]
The National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts

Cordially invites you to a

"Noche de Gala"

honoring

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

*The Mayflower Hotel
1127 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC*

Black Tie

*7 O'clock dinner
The Grand Ballroom*

*6 O'clock cocktails
The East Room*

*RJVP (202) 625-8330
Valet parking available*

[INVITE/PANEL 3]

Special Guest

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Master of Ceremonies

Jimmy Smits

and

Jennifer Lopez

Esai Morales

Dinner Patron

League of United Latin American Citizens

Dinner Committee

Belen Robles, Dinner chair

Buffy Caputo

Mary Alice Cisneros

Esther Coopersmith

Ethel Kennedy

Jose Villareal

Honored Guests

The Honorable Henry Cisneros

The Honorable Tom Duschle

President

Senate Minority Leader

Univision Network

The Honorable John McCain

Chairman

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

MEMORANDUM FOR JUNE SHIH

From: Michael O'Mary
Date: Sept. 18, 1997
Re: Hispanic Foundation for the Arts

I understand from David that you are going to write the speech for the Hispanic Foundation for the Arts Dinner. This event will take place next Tuesday, the 23rd of September. The evening event, which Mrs. Clinton will attend, is the culmination of a day long series of activities highlighting the need for more hispanic and latino participation in the arts. The events that will take place in the morning are outlined in an attached letter that was sent to Mrs. Clinton.

The National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts is a relatively new organization. Mrs. Clinton was first introduced to this organization on March 7, 1997, when Jimmy Smits and Felix Sanchez came to the White House to discuss the lack of hispanics in the arts. (I think that it was a private meeting, as there is no briefing in the binders.) The organization was formally annouced in June on the hill. It is the only national organization of its kind.

Yesterday I spoke with Felix Sanchez, the co-founder and co-chair of the organization. He said that the mission of the organization is to combine and develop partnerships between the organization and corporations in order to provide opportunities for hispanics interested in the arts. The partnerships would involve opening up internship and apprenticeship programs that would recruit from the hispanic community. ABC, Disney, Time Warner, and the Discovery Channel are all announcing the formation of partnerships with NHFA during the activities which will take place in the morning.

Mr. Sanchez said that although hispanics make up 10% of the national population, they represent only 1% of the writers, actors, directors, etc. involved in the production of popular culture. He believes that the lack of positive hispanic role models on the screen has a negative effect on hispanic youth.

Mrs. Clinton should thank Jimmy Smits for his leadership on this issue. (See attached letter from Mr. Smits) Other supporters are outlined in the attached invitation.

Mrs. Clinton should speak for approximately 4-5 minutes. She will be speaking towards the end of the program, but the exact scenario hasn't been worked out.

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Prepared Remarks
Hispanic Reception
South Lawn
May 28, 1996

Thank you for coming and bringing warmth to such a chilly day. This is a truly historic occasion. There has never been this large a gathering of Hispanic leaders at the People's House in the history of our nation. But there has never been an Administration that has enjoyed the contributions of so many high-ranking Latinos. They have been making a difference since the first day.

But tonight we especially celebrate the work of Hispanics in every field all across our great nation, from the grass roots on up. Everyday, you are making a difference in business, education, religious life, law enforcement and in the lives of millions of children in communities everywhere.

Hispanics are an anchor in our American family. And as family, we welcome you to your house, the White House: *Bienvenidos a la Casa Blanca* [bee-EHN' vay-NEED-dohs ah lah Casablanca].

And now, I'd like to introduce the man is working everyday to keep our family together, growing smarter and stronger, the President of the United States, Bill Clinton.

5TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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Los Angeles Times

July 5, 1997, Saturday, Home Edition

SECTION: Calendar; Part F; Page 2; Entertainment Desk

LENGTH: 441 words

HEADLINE: HISPANIC ARTS FOUNDATION HAS FULL WORKLOAD AHEAD;
ENTERTAINMENT: THE GROUP, FOUNDED BY JIMMY SMITS, AIMS TO INCREASE VISIBILITY
AND IMPROVE THE IMAGE OF LATINOS IN THE INDUSTRY THROUGH LOBBYING AND
SCHOLARSHIPS.

BYLINE: DINA BASS, TIMES STAFF WRITER

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

The Macarena was more than just a dance to Felix Sanchez. To the head of the new National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts, it's proof that the entertainment industry needs to pay more attention to the Latino community.

The dance's popularity--as well as the box-office success of the Mexican film "Like Water for Chocolate"--shows that a cross-section of Americans are interested in Latino-oriented entertainment, which in turn breeds familiarity and positive cultural exchange, Sanchez says.

Enter the foundation, which aims to increase the number and visibility of Latinos in the entertainment industry through lobbying efforts and college scholarships.

The group is the brainchild of "NYPD Blue" star Jimmy Smits, who recently announced its creation at a Washington news conference, where he was joined by fellow actor Esai Morales and members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

One of the foundation's first steps has been to join forces with the caucus' Arts Task Force to send a joint request to entertainment executives, asking that they participate in informal hearings that will explore ways to expand opportunities for Latinos in the industry. The hearings are scheduled for mid-September on Capitol Hill.

Sanchez said one topic at the hearings will be a recent study by the National Council of La Raza, a Washington-based Latino advocacy group, that found Latinos account for only 1% of television characters and 2.5% of film characters.

The hearings also will focus on the type of roles Latinos get. Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Los Angeles), a caucus member, complained that if most Latinos continue to portray "negative stereotypes on TV and in the movies, then society continues to have a perception that we are all gangsters and crooks. . . . If we get more Latinos into positions in the industry then they can demystify these stereotypes."

Los Angeles Times, July 5, 1997

For now, the foundation is operating on a small budget--\$ 15,000--donated by Texas lawyer Rene Rodriguez. And Sanchez, president of a Washington government and public relations firm, is running it on a volunteer basis.

But several key figures have pledged support, and plans for an annual budget and permanent staff will take shape after a black-tie dinner in September that will also raise money for the foundation's scholarship program.

Hillary Rodham Clinton has agreed to chair the event, which will coincide with Hispanic Heritage Month, Sanchez said.

Actors Bill Cosby, Andy Garcia, Charlie Sheen and Martin Sheen and former Clinton aide George Stephanopolous, among others, have volunteered to serve on the foundation's advisory council, he added.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: July 5, 1997

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS TO LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS (LULAC)
WASHINGTON, DC
OCTOBER 6, 1994

[Acknowledgements: Congresswoman Roybal-Allard, who will introduce you; Belen Robles, newly elected President of LULAC; and First Lady "Maga" Rossello [Ro-say-yo] of Puerto Rico]

Thank you for inviting me to join you this evening. And thank you even more for the spirit and support you have lent the Clinton Administration as we work together to solve some of the most pressing issues of the day.

For nearly 70 years, LULAC has been a voice of progress not only for Hispanics, but for all Americans who care about fairness, opportunity, and compassion. Nearly every significant social crusade of the last half century bears your stamp: voting rights, the expansion of educational opportunities, fair housing, civil rights, to name a few.

Although the President couldn't be here to tell you this in person, he is particularly grateful for your energetic support of health care reform over the last 20 months. You have always understood the importance of health care reform for children, families, and for ourselves collectively as a nation. Rest assured, we will succeed with reform and we will make sure that every one among us has access to comprehensive health care coverage that can never be taken away.

As we look ahead to a new century, we see a world as complicated and as challenging as ever. But we also see the extraordinary promise of Americans and America in facing the new challenges that await us.

My husband ran for the Presidency because he believes that by investing in our greatest resource -- our people -- we can build a world of peace and prosperity in which all Americans have the opportunity to fulfill their God-given potential.

To do that, we must make diversity our strength, not our burden. We must unite, not divide. We must restore the values that you, the leaders of LULAC, so firmly uphold -- family, community, self-reliance, and responsibility.

And we need only look to the founders of LULAC for inspiration. When Ben Garza was 15, his father died. So he had to quit high school and work to help support his mother and six siblings. He worked as a waiter in a restaurant and saved enough money to put the other kids through school. Ben kept working, and

kept saving, and soon he had enough to invest in the restaurant and become a partner. Eventually he became one of the leading businessmen in Corpus Christi.

Some years after he helped found LULAC, he came to Washington -- this was more than a half century ago -- to protest immigration policies. Even with all of his personal success, which was built on years of hard work and determination, he never lost sight of his responsibilities to the larger community.

Today Belen Robles and all of you are entrusted with helping LULAC carry forward that rich legacy. And I'd like to congratulate Belen for the vision and commitment she brings to this important position. And I'd also like to thank all the members of LULAC, all of the individuals and local councils, who together keep alive the hopes and dreams that prompted the founding of this organization in the first place.

The lesson we learn from LULAC's history, and the lesson we learn from any march for social progress, is that one must never give up the good fight. Think of the court battle LULAC waged in the early 1950s to ensure that Hispanics could sit on juries in Texas (*Hernandez v Texas*). Or the fight for school desegregation in Orange County in the 1940s that served as one of the precursors to *Brown v Board* and helped tear down demeaning racial stereotypes. These were not always popular crusades. Often they met extraordinary resistance from the status quo. But through patience and hard work, progress was made and justice prevailed.

Think of the LULAC women who, year after year, held *tamaladas* [tah-mah-LAH-das -- a Texas version of a bake sale, where tamales are sold instead of cookies] to raise money for scholarships for promising young students.

Think of the labor and dedication that went into creating and sustaining the SER [pronounced serr, the verb "to be" in Spanish] program that has helped 150,000 men and women with job training and counseling.

These are efforts worth making because they make a difference in the lives of hard-working, responsible citizens who are part of the rich social fabric of our nation. They are efforts worth making because, not only do they define us as individuals, they define us as a society and as a people.

I saw some statistics recently that showed that the largest population group among Hispanics is children under the age of 5. I saw another statistic that showed that Hispanic children are twice as likely to be living in poverty as non-Hispanic children. These statistics should sound an alarm bell in all of us, calling us to action and reminding us why we can never give up the march progress and change -- whether it is economic renewal, health

care reform, welfare reform, crime legislation, voting rights, fair housing, or an expansion of Head Start.

The President's agenda envisions government as a partner for people and for communities that need a boost to do better -- much the way your local councils give people the tools they need to take responsibility for their lives and move ahead.

And we are making progress:

THE ECONOMY Deficit reduction; tax relief for working families; trade; creation of 4.2 million jobs in 19 months

CRIME (LULAC was very supportive of the Crime Bill)

EDUCATION Goals 2000; School to Work; Loan Reform; Head Start expansion; AmeriCorps (in Texas alone, the community service program has helped immunize 100,000 more children in the first year it was in place)

ENSURING BASIC RIGHTS Motor Voter Bill; the Administration argued in federal court to expand the interpretation of the Voting Rights Act; the President authorized a nationwide investigation of discrimination by financial institutions in the area of home mortgages

* The President is making "Naturalization" a top priority of the INS to ensure the continuation of legal immigration while combatting illegal immigration.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Whether your parents or grandparents or great grandparents came from Mexico, Puerto Rico, South or Central America, the Caribbean, the Iberian Peninsula or any other region, many of you probably were raised believing in the American Dream. It's an ideal that we all want to pass on to our children with some degree of credibility. We want our children to believe that their futures can be rewarding, productive, and secure. And that's why the President's agenda focuses so heavily on giving our children the right start in life.

He believes that we cannot afford to waste a single person in this country, particularly not a child. That's why, with nearly 10 million American children currently lacking health insurance, he believes so firmly in the need for health care reform that will make sure that all children have immunizations and well-baby exams.

It's why he believes in a world-class education system that begins in pre-school and continues through high school, college, job training, and beyond. It's why he believes in tough crime

*we don't
have anymore
page...*

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS TO THE NEW YORK STATE PUERTO RICAN/HISPANIC TASK FORCE
ALBANY, NEW YORK
MARCH 9, 1996**

It is a great privilege to join all of you here in Albany this evening. On behalf of the President, I would like to thank the members of the New York Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force for your leadership in addressing the critical social and economic issues facing your community -- and our entire nation. Thanks, as well, to the Hispanic Federation of New York for their work in helping put this conference together.

Nothing is more gratifying to me than being part of an event that reflects the great potential and promise of our young people. Seeing so many young men and women here who are interested in pursuing careers in public service -- who appreciate the importance of the legislative process and are eager to involve themselves in government -- gives me great hope about the future of our country.

And I am hopeful. I'm hopeful because, whatever challenges and uncertainties we face, we also are blessed with unprecedented opportunities.

As the President often says, we live in an Age of Possibility, as all of you have shown in your capacities as elected officials, business leaders, educators, parents, and members of the community. You are proof that anything is possible for those willing to take responsibility and work hard to seize the opportunities before them.

Because of your efforts -- and the partnerships you have created within the Puerto Rican and Hispanic community -- we see more Hispanic faces in classrooms -- not just faces of students but of teachers. We see more Hispanic television news anchors, authors, doctors, lawyers and lawmakers. [JOKE: We even see salsa overtaking catsup. Now that's not a trend, that's real cultural evolution.]

The Puerto Rican/Hispanic community has a vital role to play in strengthening our nation. Think about our most cherished American values: love of family, faith, work and country. These are deeply rooted in Hispanic culture.

But for those of us who want to preserve our basic values and commitments, much work lies ahead. We cannot just be a nation that talks about family values. We must be a nation that values families. And we cannot buy into the false debate about who is

responsible for ensuring the well-being of our children, families and communities.

Building a stronger America is not an either/or proposition. It is not up to parents alone. Or government alone. Or the business community alone. Or our religious institutions alone. Or our schools alone.

Responsibility begins at home. But it doesn't end there. All of us must exert some leadership. And all of us must work together, pooling our ideas and resources and experiences, so that we can get the job done.

Last month I visited an elementary school in one of the poorest areas of the San Fernando Valley. About 90 percent of the students were Hispanic. The school had gone through some very bad times. But parents, local businesses, teachers, and school administrators were determined to turn the school around. And they did. Today, it is a charter school. There are computers in the classrooms; kids wear uniforms; parents volunteer as tutors and hall monitors. And the school is the pride and joy of the community.

As the President said in his State of the Union address, nothing is more important than how we raise and love our children. And while nothing can replace the attention, encouragement and discipline of a parent, there is much we can do as a society to support families and cherish our young.

One of the most important roles government can play is in bolstering the economic security of families, particularly of hard-working parents who are struggling to bring up healthy, productive children. Only government can raise the minimum wage. And we must demand that it be raised because \$4.25 an hour is simply not enough for a family to live on.

Only government could restore more than \$77 million in illegally withheld wages to workers in low-wage industries, many of whom are Hispanic. That is what the Wage and Hour Division of the Labor Department, headed by Maria Echeveste, did between 1993 and 1995.

Only government can give tax credits to working parents who are on the edge of poverty, and that is why the President is fighting so hard to protect the Earned Income Tax Credit.

The Family and Medical Leave Act. The Brady Bill and the Assault Weapons Ban. Clean air. Safe water. These are examples of government acting in ways that support and strengthen children and families. We cannot retreat on these historic commitments.

And there is one more road to empowerment -- to borrow the

title of your conference -- that we must never abandon: education. We cannot bring our schools or our nation into the 21st century if Hispanic students don't come with us. Far too few Hispanic students are finishing elementary and secondary school and going on to get a college degree. It's not good for them and it's not good for us.

The President is determined to change that. He has worked to increase the opportunity for higher education by increasing Pell Grants and making college loans easier and cheaper to get. He has recommended an expansion of work-study, which would greatly benefit hard-working Hispanic students.

And now, for the first time, through the White House Initiative on Excellence in Education for Hispanics, there is a coordinated federal effort to identify problems and begin findings solutions.

I want to commend the Hispanic community for leadership in this area as well.

A few weeks ago in Washington I had the opportunity to speak to the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund Dinner. For 20 years the Fund has brought hope and opportunity to young men and women across our nation, enabling them to fulfill their dreams of becoming teachers, doctors, lawyers, business leaders and public servants.

It has succeeded because leaders from throughout the Hispanic community joined together to ensure that Hispanic children were not denied the chance to grow and excel as students. And I'm proud to say that some of the Fund's scholarship winners are now highly valued members of the Clinton Administration.

Let me also say a word about living in a multi-lingual society. My daughter has studied Spanish in school. She has studied Islamic history. Her father and I are thrilled that she is being prepared to compete and thrive in a complex and diverse world. English is the official language of the United States. But that does not mean that we force people to give up other languages. Knowing more than one language is an asset. And it's one we need as we seek stronger alliances and greater trade opportunities with our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere.

Finally, let me reiterate the President's belief that legal immigration is a source of strength for our nation. The Clinton Administration is trying to reform the immigration process to make it smoother for legal immigrants. You may know that the President was especially moved by the patriotism of thousands of immigrants, many of them Hispanic, who served during the Persian Gulf conflict. Despite their commitment to defend America, they

were not allowed to become Americans, and some were even threatened with deportation. The President changed that by ordering that the naturalization process be expedited. And many of those patriotic soldiers are Americans today.

In times of great change and uncertainty, it is easy for some among us to forget our common values and shared priorities. But however great the challenges we face, let us not forget that we are a nation of immigrants, a people of diverse beliefs, cultures, and customs who are bound together by our common faith in democracy, our commitment to our children and our hope for the future.

This country has survived and thrived for more than two centuries because those who came before us were willing to take risks for a better life. They believed there was a better future waiting. And they rose to every challenge that came along.

You, too, are rising to the challenge. You are engaging people in our civic life whose engagement we need, and you are giving them a voice they have not always had.

Thank you for the important work you do every day -- in your homes, in your communities, and on behalf of all Americans. You are the future.

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