

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Public Liaison

Series/Staff Member: Maritza Rivera

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 14736

FolderID:

Folder Title:

United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO

Stack:

S

Row:

31

Section:

3

Shelf:

6

Position:

1



UNITED FARM WORKERS of AMERICA, AFL-CIO

National Headquarters: La Paz • P.O. Box 62 • Keene, California 93531

Telephone: (805) 822-5571 • Fax: (805) 822-6103

January 29, 1999

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing with regard to the devastating freeze that has destroyed much of California's citrus crops. It has now been more than a month since the disaster began, and the impact is continuing to spread.

Losses for the December California Citrus Freeze have now exceeded \$657 million. The freeze has nearly destroyed the entire 1999 crop and has forced over 14,000 farm workers and packing house workers into unemployment. Many predict that only a handful of workers will find jobs for the usual ten-month season. Governor Gray Davis and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have already declared disaster areas for the 8 counties most affected by the freeze. The situation for thousands of farm workers and their families in dire and is growing worse every day. Workers' immediate need is food, but they will soon need massive relief, including rental and mortgage assistance, in order to survive.

Dolores Huerta has been working continuously on this crisis as a member of Governor Gray Davis' Task Force on the Citrus Freeze and as a member of the Migrant and Seasonal Advisory Committee to the Department of Labor. We have assigned Vice President Guadalupe Martinez and several of our staff to work on the Citrus Disaster Relief full time.

In the local communities, our members under contract are forming committees to help organize disaster relief. They are focusing particularly on the smaller and under-served farm worker towns. Just last week, they coordinated the distribution of food boxes to over 400 families.

The situation for farm worker families is grave and saddening. Each day, workers creep closer and closer to total desperation, as food runs out and relief waiting lists grow longer.

We do not believe that the status of legal immigrants should be adversely impacted by a disaster that was beyond their control. For that reason, we urge you to exclude emergency disaster assistance as a factor when determining whether an applicant is receiving public assistance.

We are doing all we can locally, however, on behalf of farm workers and their families, we urge you to declare this devastating freeze a Federal Disaster. We will continue to work with your administration and Governor Gray Davis to address the needs of California's citrus workers during this critical time.

Sincerely,

Arturo S. Rodriguez, President

United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO

Con Unión se Vive Mejor

Founded by César E. Chávez (1927-1993)





UNITED FARM WORKERS of AMERICA, AFL-CIO

National Headquarters: La Paz • P.O. Box 62 • Keene, California 93531

Telephone: (805) 822-5571 • Fax: (805) 822-6103

March 10, 1999

Maritza Rivera
Associate Director for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Maritza,

I would like to thank you for the information you have sent us regarding President Clinton and Vice President Gore's FY 2000 Budget, as well as the other materials you have sent.

Please don't hesitate to send any other information which you feel may be of interest to the UFW, particularly anything dealing with guestworker legislation, immigrant, Latino or labor rights issues.

Again, thank you for your assistance in keeping us updated on events and information from the White House. *¡Que Viva La Causa!*

Sincerely,

Arturo S. Rodríguez
President

Con Unión se Vive Mejor

Founded by César E. Chávez (1927-1993)



213-381-5611
Follow up x17
w/ Ilia

As per counsels
office, a presidential
message / photo
can not be
sent.

7/14/98

presidential
photo
request

United
Farm Workers

AFL-CIO



The United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO

Fax Cover Sheet



To: Hispanic Outreach Attn: Maritza Rivera

Fax: (202) 456-6218 Phone: ()

Date: 6/25/98 Time: # Pages 4 w/cover

From: Christine Chavez Of: United Farm Workers /
Cesar Chavez Foundation
Fax: (213) 383-0772 Phone: (213) 387-1974 /
381-5611

Comments: Maritza - Enclosed please find the quote
from Hillary Clinton and 2 photos we used in the
exhibit. We would love to get the photos from
the president as well. If you could look into this
I would appreciate it. Thank you!

Confidentiality Notice:

This document transmitted herewith is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential or exempt from disclosure under applicable federal or state law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone to arrange for the return of the original document to sender.

Si Se Puede!



"It gives me great pleasure to be a part of this evening's tribute. Cesar Chavez and Robert Kennedy spoke out for those who labored voicelessly in our nation's fields but did not share equally in their bounty. Walking together, they awakened our social conscience and touched our hearts. They brought hope to those who were most vulnerable and inspiration to a generation. They are true American heroes."

--Hillary Rodham Clinton



06-25-98

12:19pm

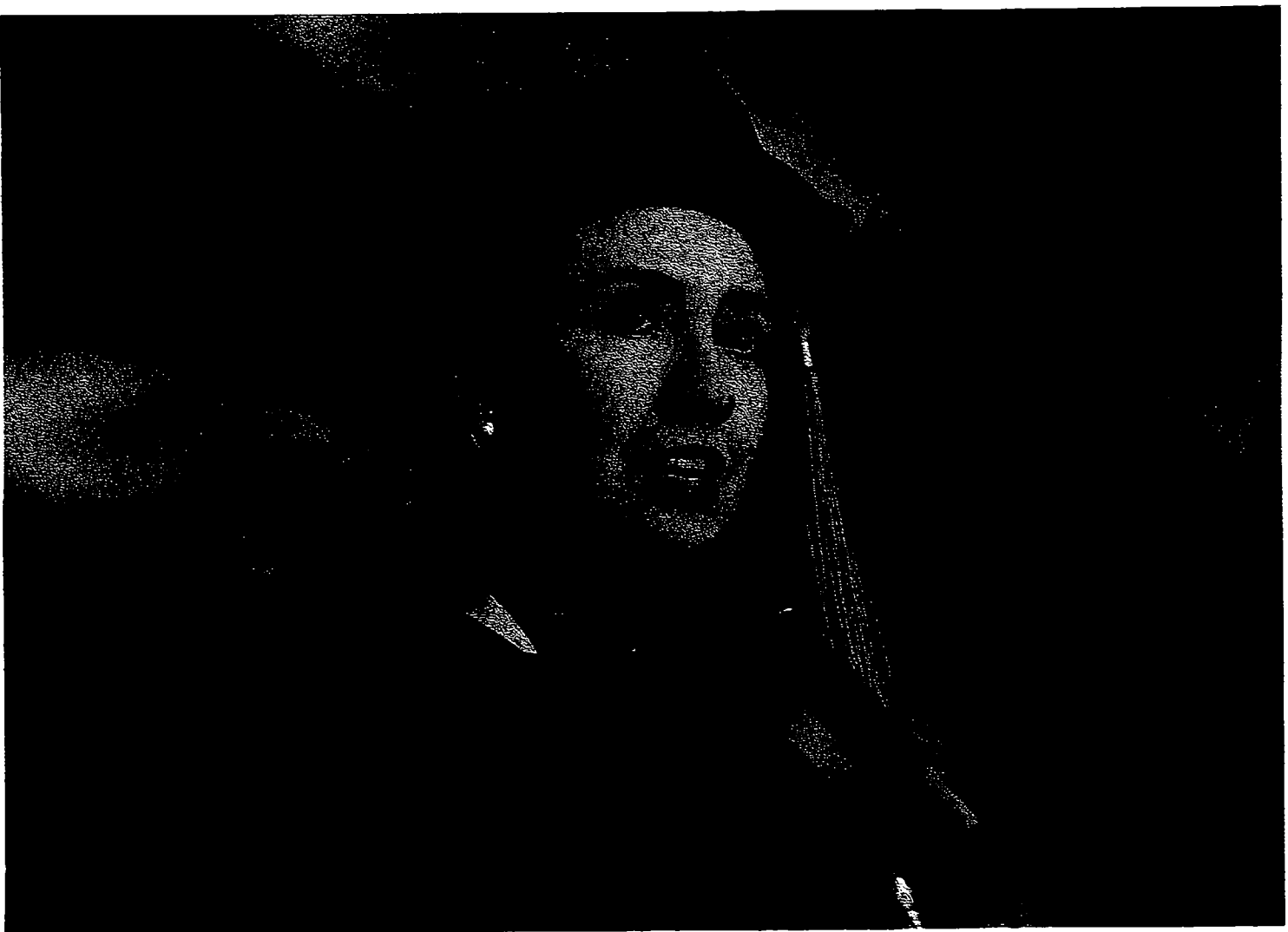
From-LOS ANGELES COUNTY FEDERATION

+2133830772

T-870

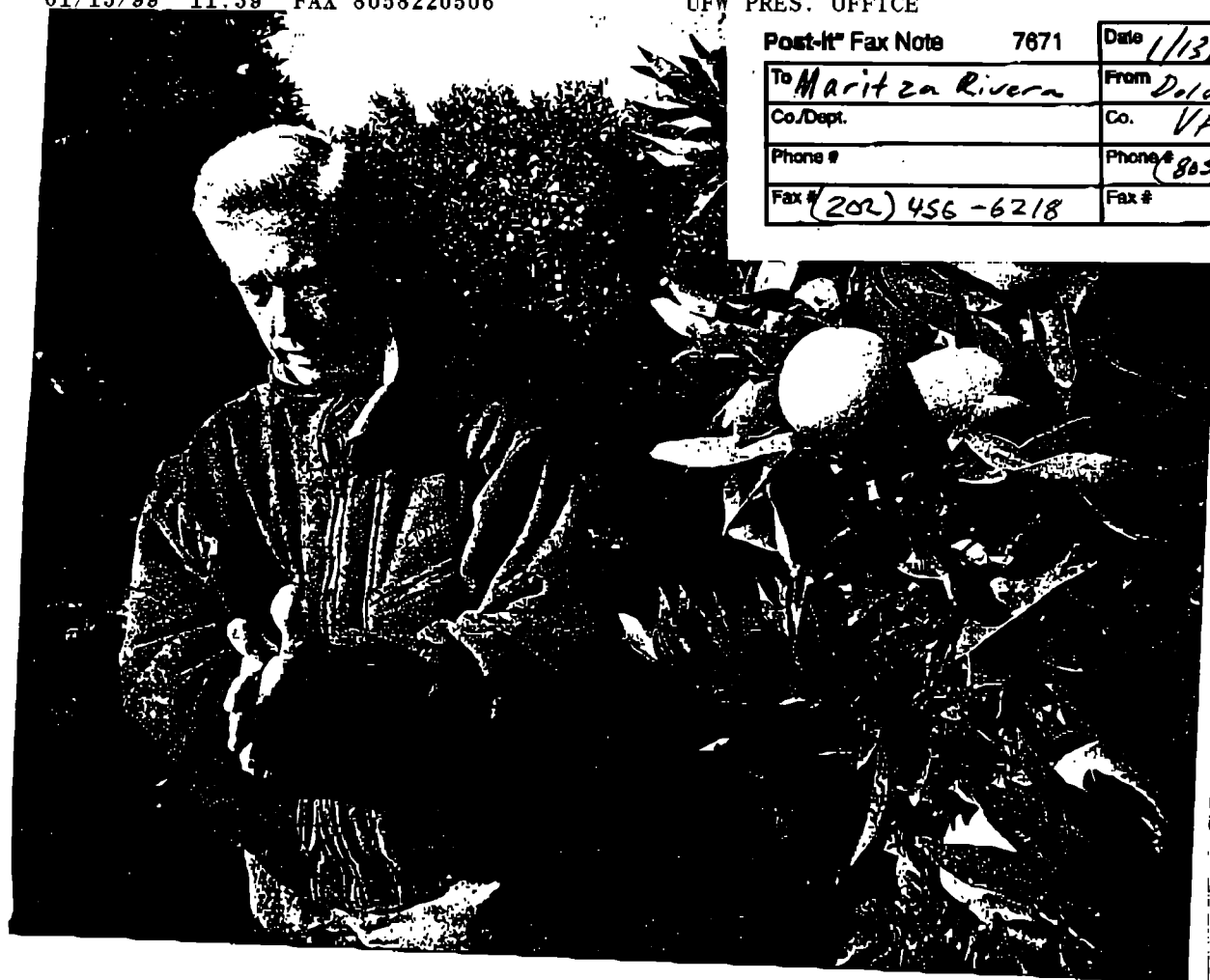
P. 04/04

F-902



Post-It Fax Note 7671

Date	1/13/99	pages	3
To	Maritza Rivera		
From	Dolores Huerta		
Co./Dept.	Co. VFW		
Phone #	Phone # (805) 822-5571 ext 12		
Fax #	Fax # (202) 456-6218		



Gov. Gray Davis inspects a damaged orange grove in Clovis on Tuesday during a tour of the area. AP

DAVIS: Waiting period for jobless benefits waived

Continued from A1

"I'm convinced we're going to get substantial assistance from the federal government," he said.

Davis said he should know by early next week what kind of help is on the way, but did not immediately know how much California would be eligible for, saying it would probably depend on final damage tallies.

A federal disaster area declaration would clear the way for special unemployment benefits and emergency loans to farmers, small business owners, and home renters and owners.

Davis reminded farmers and farm workers that help already is available at the state level, and announced steps he initiated Tuesday to further ease their recovery.

At the request of Health Services Secretary Grantland Johnson, Davis signed an executive order waiving the seven-day waiting period for unemployment benefits for workers affected by the freeze. The waiver is usually contingent upon a declaration as a federal disaster area.

Preliminary reports show about 3,200 workers have applied for state unemployment insurance because of the freeze, a number that the Davis administration expects to sharply increase.

The governor also announced he is opening up the state's business expansion fund — appropriated for disaster purposes — to farmers and other small business owners. The \$590,000 in the account will allow the state to leverage up to \$7.2 million in loans, he said.

Davis has put Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante in charge of an emergency response team that will update him at least twice a day on the problems and any bottlenecks in the flow of aid.

Upon his arrival, Davis got a firsthand look at some of the damage, walking into a lemon grove for a demonstration by Shawn Stevenson, who helps oversee the 1,360 acres of the Harlan Ranch.

The Harlans, who are still blowing wind machines to try to raise the temperature in their fields, expect a total

loss to their lemon crop but are still trying to salvage some of their oranges.

The ranch usually employs about 80 to 100 farmhands during the winter harvest season, Stevenson said.

"For those people, it's going to be a real tough year for them," he said.

Davis met briefly with some of those displaced farm workers, telling them about the seven-day waiver and the small business loan program.

"We're having trouble," Lupe Coronado, a 52-year-old packinghouse sorter, told the governor.

"There's a lot of help out there, but it's not enough."

Later in the day, the Clinton administration announced additional assistance.

The U.S. Labor Department will issue a \$1.7 million grant to three organizations in four of the neediest counties. It will be used to provide seasonal and migrant workers with vouchers for food, temporary shelter, medical care, clothing, gasoline and minor car repairs.

Davis views valley's citrus freeze damage

► The governor said his No. 1 priority is to press Washington for federal disaster relief.

By CHRISTINE HANLEY

The Associated Press

CLOVIS — In his first trip outside the capital since taking office, Gov. Gray Davis visited the Central Valley on Tuesday to assure farmers and farm workers he was doing everything he could to cushion the blow of last month's citrus freeze.

"We're trying to move on all fronts, federal, state and philanthropic ... to respond to this disaster," Davis said during a news conference staged inside a barn at the family-owned Harlan Ranch.

Still, he acknowledged, "no matter how much assistance we can provide them, there's going to be some kind of loss."

The four-day freeze in late Decem-

INSIDE

Some relief comes in. / B1

ber has caused damages estimated at \$634 million and climbing. Packing houses have shut down and thousands of workers are out of jobs. Six counties have been declared disaster areas by either outgoing Gov. Pete Wilson or Davis.

Standing in front of towering haystacks and behind buckets of oranges and lemons, the normally well-coiffed and sharply dressed Davis looked more like a farmer, wearing boots, jeans and a green fleece pullover.

Davis, who was elected despite weak support from the farm community, outlined other initiatives he has taken since his Jan. 4 inauguration. He said his priority is to press Washington for federal disaster relief.

Please turn to DAVIS / A3

**UNITED FARM WORKERS of AMERICA, AFL-CIO****National Headquarters: La Paz • P.O. Box 62 • Keene, California 93531****Telephone: (805) 822-5571 • Fax: (805) 822-6103**

Ms. Maritza Rivera
Latino Liaison
White House
Washington, D. C.

January 13, 1999

Dear Maritza:

Enclosed are the latest press clipping on the citrus freeze disaster which reports Governor Grey Davis' visit to the citrus areas yesterday.

I am also enclosing a letter to Alexis Herman from the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Employment and Training Advisory Committee of which I am a member asking for the DOL to ask for additional funds. Ten to fourteen thousand citrus pickers and packing shed workers will be out of work for the entire year. In addition to emergency funds, some type of public workers employment will be necessary to assist these families and communities.

The amounts listed in the enclosed list of disaster funds allocations by DOL were already disbursed. There was 1.8 million left which I believe Vice President Gore has already announced that will be made available.

If you can get any information on what Department of Agriculture or any other sources for relief can be available, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Dolores Huerta
Secretary Treasurer

Con Unión se Vive Mejor

Founded by César E. Chávez (1927-1993)





UNITED FARM WORKERS of AMERICA, AFL-CIO

National Headquarters: La Paz • P.O. Box 62 • Keene, California 93531

Telephone: 805-822-5571 • Fax: 805-822-6103

July 16, 1998

President William Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Copy sent via Fax: (202) 456-2461

Original sent via US Mail

8/19/98 Spoke w/ Juan Mayra

for surrogate: VPOTUS or
they would like: Secy Herman, etc.
Secy Interior.
Secy HHS

8/28/98 → Maria suggested Jerry Palast
(labour)
Clandette Wilcox
21948 892
or Ida Castro
Bill Jan Lee

Dear Mr. President:

We take considerable pride in announcing that the Fourteenth Constitutional Convention of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO will convene in the Exhibit Hall of the Fresno Convention Center in Fresno, California at 8:00 am on Saturday, September 5, 1998 and remain in session until business is concluded on Sunday, September 6, 1998.

With the theme, *Realizing César's Dream*, we prepare to celebrate our last Constitutional Convention of the century. César E. Chávez built a union of *campesinos* or farm workers because he believed that justice and dignity could be attained when people worked together toward these common goals. César dreamed that through their efforts *campesinos* could live dignified lives in a socially and economically just community. In the past 35 years, with sacrifice and courage, the organized efforts of the *campesinos* in California, Arizona, Texas, Florida and Washington State have brought us closer to César's dream. However, the struggle is far from over.

It is predicted that in the 21st Century Latinos will become the largest ethnic group in the United States. This presents us with both new challenges and opportunities. The opportunity lies in that Latino workers are, compared to other immigrant groups, more likely to join unions. The challenge lies in expanding our abilities to become more diverse so that we may provide the needed leadership and influence on issues that matter to the larger Latino community. We believe that the Latino community's need for César's dream of justice and dignity for all people is greater now than ever before in our history. We need to be more courageous and more unified than ever before so that we may keep realizing César's dream.

The United Farm Workers of America and I believe that the Speaker Committee must be commensurate with the scope of the event. Since the passing of César, you have honored his life and legacy with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. We believe that you, more than anyone, understand why we must keep realizing Cesar's dream. For this reason, we humbly ask that you speak at the 14th Constitutional Convention of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO. We hope you will join us in celebrating the solidarity that will allow us to face the challenges of the new millennium.

This promises to be a highly successful and memorable event, and we hope you will choose to be a part of it. Please respond as soon as possible to (805) 822-5571 extension 108 in order to make the appropriate schedule arrangements.

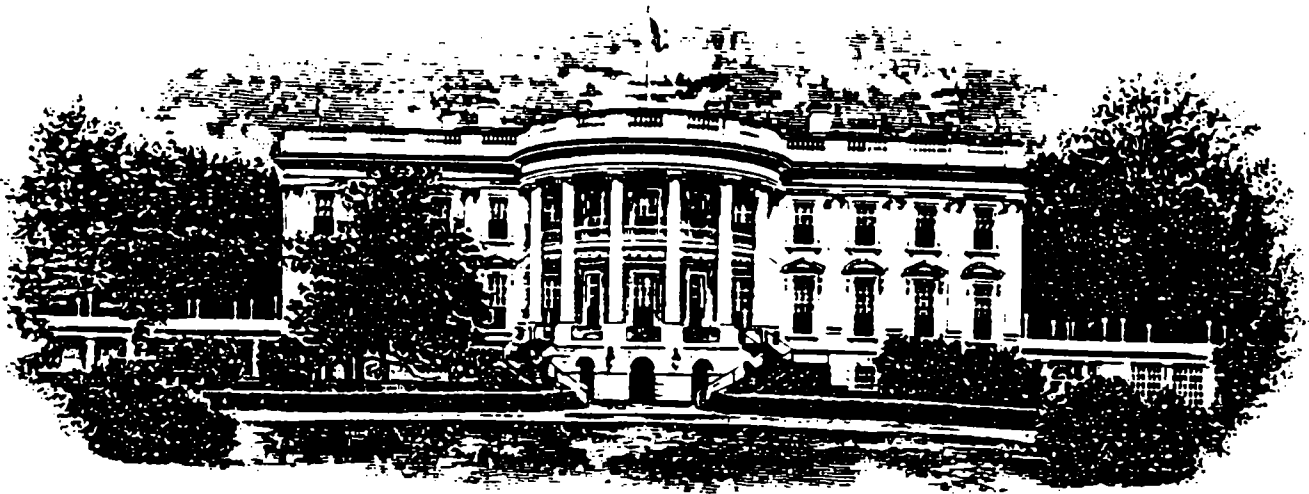
We thank you in advance for your participation and support.

Yours truly,

Arturo S. Rodriguez
President, UFW

NO NON - UFW GRAPHICS

Founded by César E. Chavez (1927-1993)



FAX TRANSMISSION

Maritza Rivera
Office of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, DC 20502
(202)456-2930 phone
(202)456-6218 fax

Date: 8/17/98

To: Lisa Levin

Total Pages: 2

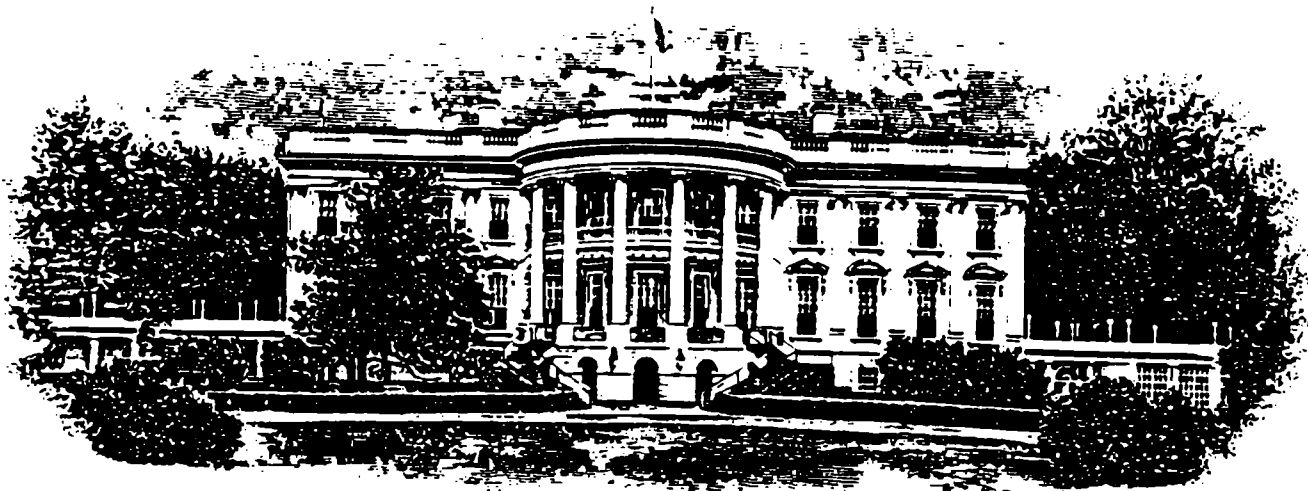
Subject:

Fax: 66 704

Comments:

Lisa, Maria Echaveste is very interested in getting a Surrogate for this event. Would it be possible to try to find someone. If you have questions please feel free to call me 66659.

Please call (202) 456-2930 if there are problems with this transmission.



FAX TRANSMISSION

Maritza Rivera
Office of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, DC 20502
(202)456-2930 phone
(202)456-6218 fax

Date: 8/28/98

To: Claudette

Total Pages: 2

Subject:

Fax: 219-5288

Comments:

As per our conversation here is the information. I have not let the organization know that I am looking into her schedule but if you could check with her and see if she would be interested + it fits in her schedule then I can let them know she is available + see if they would like her to speak. Please feel free to contact me with questions.

Please call (202) 456-2930 if there are problems with this transmission.
