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CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS HISPANIC AMERICANS

ECONOMY

12.3 Million New Jobs. For the first time ever, over 11 million jobs were created during a single Presidential term.

Declining unemployment. The unemployment rate for Hispanic Americans in May 1997 was 7.4%, down from 11.3% when President Clinton first took office.

Minimum wage increase. The President raised the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour --directly benefitting more than 1.6 million Hispanic American workers.

More small business assistance. Over 220,000 new Hispanic American-owned businesses were created in the first three years of the Clinton Administration. The Small Business Administration has approved more than 13,500 loans, totaling \$2.2 billion, for Hispanic American business owners, and has helped over 230,000 Hispanic Americans to receive management training and counseling from a national network of business education and assistance programs.

FIGHTING FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Diverse Administration. Appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration in history. Members of the Clinton Cabinet include three Hispanic Americans: Federico Pena, Secretary of Energy; Bill Richardson, Ambassador to the United Nations; and Aida Alvarez, Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

Senior level Administration appointments. Appointed more Hispanic Americans to senior level positions than any President in American history, including George Munoz, Assistant Secretary for Management, Treasury. Significantly, many of these appointments are outside what had been considered the "traditional" Hispanic areas of interest.

Reviewed affirmative action programs. Ordered a comprehensive review of the government's affirmative action programs which concluded that affirmative action remains an effective and important tool to expand education and economic opportunity to all Americans.

Opposed California Prop 209. Filed *amicus* briefs opposing California Proposition 209, which would prohibit state affirmative action programs.

Election fairness. Prevented election day discrimination against minority voters and voter intimidation and harassment by monitoring polling place activities in a record number of states and counties. Continued enforcement efforts to ensure that citizens who rely on Spanish have the same opportunities to participate in voting-related activities as English-speaking voters.

Expanded voting rights. The Administration argued in federal court to expand the Voting Rights Act and defended racially fair redistricting plans. The National Voter Registration Act or "Motor Voter" law has registered at least nine million new voters and made voting easier for more than 20 million Americans.

Opposed California Prop 187. Opposed California's Proposition 187, which would have made illegal immigrants ineligible for public school education at all levels and ineligible for public health care services, because of its detrimental impact on children and its threat to public health.

Home mortgage lending on the rise. Since 1993 home mortgage lending to Hispanic Americans increased nearly 48 percent.

Investigated discrimination. Authorized investigations into discrimination practices by lenders and property insurers to help end discrimination in the provision of home mortgages.

EDUCATION

Hispanic advisory commission. Established an advisory commission to oversee the improvement in education for Hispanics and to ensure that Hispanic-serving institutions will have more input regarding educational goals and issues of concern to Hispanic Americans. The Commission's report identified contributing factors impacting attainment of educational excellence, corrective policy actions, and plans for program development and funding. (Executive Order on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans)

Student Diversity Partnership Program. Partnered with Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, American Indian Science and Engineering Society and the Center for the Advancement of Hispanics in Science and Engineering Education to implement the Student Diversity Partnership Program. This program will ensure an adequate supply of diverse and qualified scientists and engineers for the 21st century.

AmeriCorps college support. Enabled 70,000 volunteers to earn money for college by serving their communities and their country in the AmeriCorps program, with Hispanic Americans comprising 15% of all participants. (National Service Act)

Bilingual education. Increased funding for the Office of Bilingual Education & Minority Languages Affairs and opposed plans to abolish bilingual education.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Tax relief for working families. Provided tax relief for 15 million working families by increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit to allow more families to qualify for tax rebates. In 1995, the EITC lifted nearly 900,000 Hispanic Americans, including almost 450,000 Hispanic children, out of poverty.

Focused health efforts. Established the Office of the Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. Helped communities develop culturally-competent systems of care for children with serious emotional disturbances through the Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Children and Families program. Negotiated agreements with hospitals and nursing homes to eliminate barriers to equal access for minorities based on language.

Increasing home ownership. Launched a program to increase the home ownership rate of Hispanic Americans in the U.S. through advertising, education and counseling programs and working with lending institutions to better serve the Hispanic community.

FIGHTING CRIME

White House Conference on Hate Crimes. President Clinton announced the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes, which will examine laws and remedies that can make a difference in preventing hate crimes, highlight solutions that are working in communities across the country, and continue the frank and open dialogue needed to build One America.

Action against hate crimes. Filed 38 hate crime cases in FY96, involving 65 defendants.

SAFE AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

Environmental justice and redevelopment. Issued an Executive Order on Environmental Justice, ensuring that low income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution. Identified pilot projects to be undertaken across the country to redevelop contaminated sites in low-income communities and turn them into useable space, creating jobs and enhancing community development.

IMMIGRATION

Naturalization. Made naturalization a top priority of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in order to continue fostering legal immigration while combating illegal immigration. Naturalized over one million individuals in 1996. The Administration continues to work to streamline and improve the naturalization process so that eligible individuals who have played by the rules can become full partners in America.

Responsible immigration reform. Worked to enact responsible immigration reform legislation by properly focusing on immigration enforcement and opposing severe reductions in legal immigration which were not consistent with pro-family, pro-worker and pro-naturalization principles.

Defended immigrant rights. The Administration defeated legislative efforts which would have significantly eroded health care for immigrants. The bipartisan agreement strengthened the sponsorship requirement while preserving the basic ability of families to reunify.

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

Democracy for Cuba. Increased efforts to promote a peaceful, democratic transition in Cuba by toughening sanctions after the brutal shoot down of U.S. civilian aircraft over international waters and signing the Helms-Burton Act to penalize those who traffic in confiscated properties in Cuba. Awarded a landmark \$500,000 grant to Freedom House to assist human rights activists in Cuba.

Support our closest neighbors. Took decisive action in assembling a financial support package for Mexico. The President's leadership prevented a prolonged financial crisis in Mexico and its spread to other Latin American countries.