

Minority Enterprise
Development Video
Remarks

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEO REMARKS TO MED WEEK KICK OFF
November 11, 1997

Welcome to Washington for the 15th Annual celebration of National Minority Enterprise Development Week. I'm glad you will be joined by many members of my Administration, including Secretary Daley, Sec. Pena, Administrator Alvarez, who have brought outstanding leadership and vision to our efforts to increase our country's prosperity.

The American economy is the strongest in a generation, with more than 13 million new jobs, the lowest unemployment rate in 24 years, exports booming and a 92 % cut in the deficit. Since 1992, nearly one million minority owned businesses have been created, with Hispanic American businesses growing at three times the rate of overall business growth.

Minority entrepreneurs have played a vital role in our success. You have created jobs in communities where jobs are most needed, made the most of every opportunity and set a powerful example of achievement for our nation's young people.

As our world becomes smaller and our economy even more global, your success will become more central to the prosperity of our nation. Your linguistic and cultural ties abroad are an unique tool and advantage for our country, opening more doors in the international marketplace for all American business and workers.

We must attract new entrepreneurs to the marketplace and encourage existing firms to expand. We must insure that minority-owned businesses incorporate the new technologies of an rapidly changing business environment. We must continue to remove the barriers that prevent talented men and women of every racial and ethnic background from participating fully in America's economy. We must continue to level the playing field for all Americans, to mend affirmative action policies without ending them. That way we can renew the American Dream and prove that the dream is strongest when each and every one of us takes part.

Minority Enterprise Development Week is a time to gather together to honor and encourage the energy, determination and optimism of this years's national minority entrepreneur award winners. Congratulations to all of you. Please know that every day we recognize the valuable contributions that all of our minority-owned businesses have made to the social and economic fabric of our nation. On behalf of all Americans, I thank you for the hard work that you do to keep this nation strong.

I especially want to recognize
Award winners. Your efforts and contributions do not go unrecognized
and you certainly have the honor bestowed upon you by your peers.

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We must continue to remove the barriers that prevent talented men and women of every racial and ethnic background from participating fully in America's economy. We must continue to level the playing field for all Americans. By doing so we will continue to renew the American Dream and prove that the dream is strongest when each and every one of us take part.

Minority Enterprise Development Week is a time to gather together to honor and encourage the energy, determination and optimism of our nation's minority entrepreneurs and thank you for providing the goods, services and jobs that keep this nation strong. Everyday we recognize the valuable contributions you have made to the social and economic fabric of our nation. On behalf of all Americans, I thank you for all that you do.

As a nation, we must also incorporate the new technologies in our business strategies. Your presence at this year's Med Week Conference focuses on this message. We hope that each of you takes the lessons from the training provided and that you take this conference. The incorporation of new technologies makes you a more competitive business and our nation stronger global competitor.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF SPEECHWRITING

Fax: (202)456-5709
Phone: (202)456-2777

TO: Rudolfo Fuentes

Fax: 501-4698 Phone: _____

FROM: Paul Tschman

Comments: Here is a draft of the
video script. Please call 456-2777 if you
have questions - Paul Tschman

Date: _____
Number of pages (including cover): 2

Welcoming remarks on video to MED Kickoff, 11/20

names?

Good Evening. Welcome to Washington and the fifteenth annual celebration of National Minority Enterprise Development Week. I want to take this opportunity to offer congratulations to this year's National Minority Entrepreneur Award winners. I also want to express my support and appreciation to Secretary Daley and Administrator Alvarez for the fine jobs that the Minority Business Development Agency and the Small Business Administration are doing to increase prosperity in our country.

The American Economy today is the envy of the world. Since the beginning of my Administration, our economy has created over 13 million new jobs, unemployment has declined to its lowest level in decades, and our country has again become the world's leading exporter. And in this new global economy, minority-owned businesses represent a unique advantage for the United States. Behind this success lies the daily work of thousands of minority business men and women who are continuing to renew the validity of the American Dream. ~~Moreover~~, They are showing that the American Dream is strongest when all can participate.

^{1st sentence} We recognize ^{and celebrate} the contributions that minority enterprises make to the social and economic fabric of our nation. We must continue to remove barriers that prevent talented men and women of every racial and ethnic background from participating fully in America's economy. These minority entrepreneurs entered the marketplace with no guarantees of success, and their accomplishments have helped level the playing field for others who wish to follow in their footsteps. Minority Enterprise Development Week is a time to spotlight the minority men and women who provide the goods, services, and jobs that keep this Nation strong. I salute your achievements, I admire your determination, and on behalf of all Americans, I thank you.

^{But every day}
we recognize + celebrate

Almost all of this is lifted directly from last year's proclamation or from the talking points sent by Daley's office

Proclamation 6913—Minority Enterprise Development Week, 1996

August 23, 1996

By the President of the United States
of America

A Proclamation

As our Nation continues to surge forward in the competitive arena of international business, minority entrepreneurs are playing an increasingly important role. In the new global economy, minority-owned businesses represent a unique advantage for the United States; the diversity of our national business community is one of its main strengths. Behind this success lies the daily work of thousands of minority business men and women who are continuing to renew the validity of the American Dream. Moreover, they are showing that the Dream is strongest when all can participate.

These Americans have stepped forward to accept several challenges: the challenge of opening economic participation to all citizens; the challenge of overcoming the underrepresentation of minorities in business ownership and management; and the challenge of creating jobs in the communities where they are needed most. These minority entrepreneurs entered the marketplace with no guarantees of success, and their achievements have helped level the playing field for others who wish to follow in their footsteps.

Minority business leaders contribute to our country's cultural and social heritage as well as to its economic health. As business pioneers, they are valuable role models to our youth, living heroes whose hard work and self-empowerment are strong examples for others to follow. These are the people whose work we celebrate during this 14th annual observance of Minority Enterprise Development Week. This year's observance is particularly poignant. It comes just months after our Nation lost Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and a group of talented and dedicated Federal employees and American business people in a tragic plane crash during a trade mission to open commercial opportunities for American businesses in Bosnia.

Ron Brown worked hard to include minority business interests in our Nation's business

and economic development policies, and as we carry forward his legacy, it is our responsibility to ensure that all Americans can see business ownership as more than just a dream. Our future as a world economic power rests on the notion that business ownership can be attained by anyone willing to work toward that goal. Minority Enterprise Development Week is a time to spotlight the minority men and women who provide the goods, services, and jobs that keep this Nation strong. These Americans support their communities and inspire future generations. They are confident and competent people whose commercial accomplishments show them to be equal to any fair competition, whether here or abroad.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 22 through September 28, 1996, as Minority Enterprise Development Week. I call on all citizens to commemorate this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities, joining together to recognize the contributions that minority entrepreneurs make to our Nation's economy.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:43 a.m., August 26, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on August 27, and it was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

August 24, 1996

Good morning. As I speak to you today, America can look back on a week of remarkable achievement.

Together we enacted a law to ensure you can take your health insurance from job to

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encourage more people to follow their entrepreneurial spirit
We must ~~attract new entrepreneurs to the marketplace and~~ encourage existing firms to expand. We must ~~ensure that minority-owned businesses incorporate the new technologies of a rapidly changing business environment.~~ We must continue to remove the barriers that prevent talented men and women of every racial and ethnic background from participating fully in America's economy. We must ~~continue to level the playing field for all Americans, to mend affirmative action policies without ending them.~~ That way we can renew the American Dream and prove that the dream is strongest when each and every one of us takes part.

I salute this congratulate
Minority Enterprise Development Week is a time to ~~gather together to honor and encourage the energy, determination and optimism of this years's national minority entrepreneur award winners.~~ *and I salute you* Congratulations to all of you. Please know that every day we recognize the valuable contributions that all of our minority-owned businesses have made to the social and economic fabric of our nation. On behalf of all Americans, I thank you for the hard work that you do to keep this nation strong.

take steps in advising of the future

**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION**

**Subcommittee Hearing on
"Protecting Religious Freedom After *Boerne v. Flores*"**

**Monday, July 14, 1997
2141 Rayburn House Office Building
10:00 a.m.**

WITNESS LIST

PANEL I

Charles W. Colson, Prison Fellowship Ministries

Oliver Thomas, Special Counsel, National Council of Churches

Marc Stern, Director, Legal Department, American Jewish Congress

Mark Chopko, General Counsel, U.S. Catholic Conference

PANEL II

Douglas Laycock, Associate Dean for Research, University of Texas Law School

Jeff Sutton, Solicitor, State of Ohio

Thomas Berg, Associate Professor of Law, Cumberland Law School, Samford University



Judiciary Homepage

1. Find out when it will be shown.

Good evening or Good Afternoon

2. Find Past Presidential welcome.

Letter? (Pres. Messages) or Video?

ASK MEID

3. ~~Website Website~~

Find language on minority businesses

from POTUS Hispanic Caucus Speech

+ other Race Speeches.

Schedule Proposal for the President

97 NOV 12 4:2:33

____ Accept

____ Regret

____ Pending

TO:

Stephanie Street
Deputy Assistant to the President and
Director of Scheduling

FROM:

Thurgood Marshall, Jr. TM
Secretary to the Cabinet

REQUEST:

The President tape two video recorded messages:
(1) welcoming MED Week participants, and
(2) congratulating the national minority business award winners.

PURPOSE:

MED Week offers the Administration an excellent forum to promote the importance of diverse business alliances in creating jobs and promoting economic progress and social harmony in America. As the President continues the dialogue on race, MED Week is an excellent opportunity to show how America's competitive adversity is contingent upon the full participation of all segments of the U.S. population. His participation underscores the Administration's commitment to the continued development of diversity in the American business community.

MED Week is the largest Federal advocacy effort for fostering the importance of minority business development to America's economic progress and growth. MED Week is cosponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

BACKGROUND:

The National MED Week Conference has been a tradition since 1983.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION:

This is the fifth year that President Clinton has proclaimed a national week in recognition of the contributions of this underutilized sector of the U.S. economy. The White House has traditionally supported this event for the last fourteen years. In prior years, the Vice President has

represented the Clinton Administration. We strongly encourage the President's participation.

DATES AND TIME:

(1) Videotaped welcome message to be played during the Opening Kick-off Reception on Thursday, November 20, 1997 @ 7:00 p.m.

(2) Videotaped congratulatory message to be played during the MED Week Awards Ceremony, Saturday, November 22 @ 6:30 p.m.

DURATION:

(1) 1-2 minutes

(2) 1-2 minutes

LOCATION:

All events will be held at the Sheraton Washington Hotel, 2660 Woodley Road, N.W.

PARTICIPANTS:

The presentation of video statements by the President during the Kick-off Reception and the National MED Week Awards Ceremony underscores the Administration's commitment to the minority business community. Specifically, these awards will include: (i) MBDA's National Male and Female Entrepreneurs of the Year Awards; (ii) SBA's National Small Business Person of the Year Award and SBA's National 8(a) Graduate of the Year Award; and (iii) exemplary corporate recognition.

OUTLINE OF EVENTS:

Videotaped welcome message will be played during the Kick-off Ceremony, Thursday, November 20, 1997 @ 7:00 p.m.

Videotaped message congratulating the award winners will be played during the MED week Awards Ceremony, Saturday, November 22, 1997 @ 6:00 p.m.

REMARKS REQUIRED:

Talking points will be prepared and provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce prior to the recording for White House clearance and approval.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

MED Week is a major news media event for underscoring the importance of continuing a Federal minority business program. MED Week will be covered by national and local print and electronic media. Specifically, *USA Today*, *Black Enterprise*, *Hispanic Magazine*, *BET* and *Univision* have confirmed their participation.

MED Week is an excellent vehicle for the President to promote racial harmony, integration and economic progress in a diverse America; and to recognize the outstanding contributions of select men and women who exemplify how diversity in American business can foster racial harmony and economic progress

RECOMMENDED BY:

**William M. Daley
Secretary of Commerce**

**OPENING REMARKS MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT WEEK
KICKOFF CEREMONY**

- **GOOD MORNING/AFTERNOON. WELCOME TO WASHINGTON AND WELCOME TO THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT WEEK.**
- **I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL MINORITY ENTREPRENEUR AWARD WINNERS.**
- **I ALSO WANT TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT AND APPRECIATION TO SECRETARY DALEY AND ADMINISTRATOR ALVAREZ FOR THE FINE JOBS THAT THE MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION ARE DOING FOR THE ECONOMIC WELL BEING OF OUR COUNTRY.**
- **THE AMERICAN ECONOMY TODAY IS THE ENVY OF THE WORLD. SINCE THE BEGINNING OF MY ADMINISTRATION, OUR ECONOMY HAS CREATED ^{OVER} ~~NEARLY~~ 13 MILLION NEW JOBS, UNEMPLOYMENT HAS DECLINED TO ITS LOWEST LEVEL IN ALMOST THIRTY YEARS, AND OUR COUNTRY HAS ONCE AGAIN BECOME THE WORLD'S LEADING EXPORTER.**
- **MINORITY ENTREPRENEURS HAVE PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN THIS SUCCESS STORY. WITH THEIR FAITH IN OUR FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM, THEIR DETERMINATION TO OVERCOME BARRIERS TO SUCCESS, THEIR WILLINGNESS TO WORK LONG AND HARD AND TO MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY, THEY EPITOMIZE THE**

AMERICAN CAN-DO SPIRIT. THEY CREATE JOBS IN COMMUNITIES WHERE JOBS ARE MOST NEEDED, AND THEY SET A POWERFUL EXAMPLE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING TO MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR LIVES.

- **IN THE YEARS AHEAD, THESE MINORITY BUSINESS MEN AND BUSINESS WOMEN WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TO OUR NATION'S COMPETITIVE EDGE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY, WHICH WILL OFFER GREAT REWARDS TO THOSE WHO TRULY UNDERSTAND LIFE BEYOND OUR BORDERS. BECAUSE OF THEIR RACIAL, LINGUISTIC, AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY, MINORITY ENTREPRENEURS ARE UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THIS DYNAMIC INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE.**
- **RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT MINORITY ENTERPRISES MAKE TO THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FABRIC OF OUR NATION, WE MUST CONTINUE TO REMOVE BARRIERS THAT PREVENT TALENTED MEN AND WOMEN OF EVERY RACIAL AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND FROM PARTICIPATING FULLY IN AMERICA'S ECONOMIC MAINSTREAM.**
- **WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP, GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY MUST INSURE THAT MINORITY-OWNED FIRMS HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO CAPITAL, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, NEW MARKETS, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH. WE MUST ATTRACT NEW ENTREPRENEURS TO THE MARKETPLACE AND ENCOURAGE EXISTING FIRMS TO EXPAND. BY DOING SO, WE CAN ENSURE THAT AMERICA'S PROMISE WILL CONTINUE TO SHINE BRIGHTLY FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE.**

- **AS WE OBSERVE MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT WEEK, LET US HONOR THE ENERGY, DETERMINATION, AND OPTIMISM OF OUR NATION'S MINORITY ENTREPRENEURS, WHOSE HARD WORK HAS DONE SO MUCH TO HELP KEEP AMERICA STRONG, PROSPEROUS AND FULL OF HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.**
- **THANK YOU.**

TALKING POINTS FOR AWARDS CEREMONY

- **CONGRATULATIONS ON A SUCCESSFUL MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT WEEK CONFERENCE. THIS ADMINISTRATION – IN LARGE PART THROUGH THE LEADERSHIP OF SECRETARY WILLIAM DALEY AND ADMINSTRATOR AIDA ALVAREZ – IS A STRONG PROPONENT OF THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENTOF MINORITY AND SMALL BUSINESSES.**
- **SMALL AND MINORITY BUSINESSES ARE THE STRONGEST GENERATORS OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICAS ECONOMY. THE STRENGTH OF AMERICAN COMMUNITIES AND THIS NATION IS BASED ON THE HEALTH OF THE MINORITY AND SMALL BUSINESSES.**
- **THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINSTRATION, MINORITY ENTREPRENEURS WILL CONTINUE TO EFFECTIVELY SERVE THE DIVERSE AMERICAN MARKETS AND WILL INCREASINGLY CONTINUE TO COMPETE IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS.**
- **I UNDERSTAND THAT TONIGHT IS A SPECIAL NIGHT FOR A SERIES OF INDIVIDUALS THAT MED WEEK '97 IS RECOGNIZING. I WANT TO CONGRATULATE ALL OF MBDA'S AND SBA'S NATIONAL & REGIONAL AWARDS WINNERS.**
- **IN PARTICULAR, I WANT TO EXTEND A SPECIFIC COMMENDATIONS TO:**

1. **MBDA'S NATIONAL FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR –**

Ms. Belinda Guadarrama, President of GC MicroCorporation Inc.

2. MBDA'S NATIONAL MALE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR –

Mr. Charles Duval, President of BETA Industries LTD.,

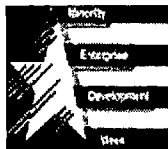
3. SBA'S 8(A) GRADUATE OF THE YEAR –

**Mr. Mamon Powers, Sr., Chairman, Mr. Mamom Powers, Jr., and
Claude Engles Powers, Powers and Sons Construction, Inc.**

**4. SBA'S NATIONAL MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS PERSONS OF THE
YEAR – Dr. Tai-Dan Hsu of Pacific Western Technologies and
DeBorah Thigpen Waller of D. Thigpen and Associates, Inc.**

- **THESE WINNERS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND TRULY REPRESENT
THE QUALITY OF MINORITY BUSINESSES PRESENT ACROSS THE
NATION.**
- **I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS TO MS. LOIDA
LEWIS, CHAIRPERSON AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF T.L.C.
BEATRICE INTERNATIONAL, FOR RECEIVING THE RONALD H. BROWN
LEADERSHIP AWARD. TLC BEATRICE HAS LONG BEEN A PIONEER IN
THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA AND CERTAINLY REPRESENTS THE
QUALITY OF COMPANY THAT RON BROWN PROMOTED THROUGHOUT
HIS TENURE.**

- I UNDERSTAND THAT MY FRIENDS ALMA BROWN AND ROBERT JOHNSON ARE WITH YOU TODAY TO PRESENT THE RONALD H. BROWN AWARD. THEIR PRESENCE AND CONTINUED SERVICE TO THIS NATION IS A TRIBUTE TO VISION OF OUR FORMER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.
- I AM SORRY THAT I AM UNABLE TO BE A PART OF THIS SPECIAL NIGHT BUT I HAD COMMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN AN APEC CONFERENCE IN VANCOUVER, CANADA. NEVERTHELESS, I WANTED TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE THE WINNERS OF TONIGHTS MED WEEK CELEBRATION.
- FINALLY, I WANT TO EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MED WEEK COMMITTEE, THE MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND ALL THE CORPORATE SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS IMPORTANT EVENT A REALITY.
- HAVE A GOOD NIGHT AND FESTIVE CELEBRATION.



MED WEEK 1997

Minority Enterprise Development Week (MED Week) has been designated by Presidential Proclamation since 1983 to recognize and promote the achievements of the Nation's minority-owned businesses.

The 15th annual conference in observance of MED Week '97 will be held November 20-22, 1997. The U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) are joint sponsors of this national event to be held in Washington, D.C., at the Sheraton Washington Hotel. This year's conference will introduce a new focus on the technology that is critical to the successful management and profitability of today's businesses. Our objective is to create a forum where minority business owners, corporate and government executives, purchasing representatives and other minority business advocates can network to develop strong business links as they prepare for the new century. Come hear key business and political leaders as they share vital information.

"Creating Minority Business Strategies for the Next Millennium" - the theme for this year's national MED Week conference - presents a challenge to our constituencies. This year's conference will:

- ☐ Celebrate the accomplishments of successful minority entrepreneurs;
- ☐ Provide forums for intense national dialogue on minority business issues;
- ☐ Provide training on accessing and utilizing the Internet for business opportunities;
- ☐ Communicate success stories of MBDA and SBA program re-inventions and
- ☐ Create private and public sector business opportunities for the minority entrepreneur.

Events planned for this year's national observance will provide attendees with opportunities to develop contacts for new and increased levels of business, expand their network of business associates, and learn more about those issues affecting today's challenging business environment.

MAKE PLANS TODAY TO JOIN US AT THIS IMPORTANT CONFERENCE!

YOU CAN REGISTER VIA THE WORLD-WIDE WEB
(<http://www.medweek.gov>) or by calling 1-800-224-4884

Home

12TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE (RIVERSIDE, CA.)

October 31, 1997 Friday

ALL ZONES

SECTION: BUSINESS; Pg. D03

LENGTH: 406 words

HEADLINE: Rialto business owner given SBA honor

BYLINE: Jared O. Wadley, The Press-Enterprise

BODY:

Twenty years after he was fired from a janitorial job, Byron L. Rogan of Riverside has come full circle.

Rogan, who moonlighted while serving in the U.S. Navy, lost his job in 1977 because he did not complete his work and that of three other employees who who didn't show up that day.

"I was going to be as far away as I possibly could," Rogan said about janitorial work.

Now, Rogan, 47, owns a successful business in a field he once despised.

The owner of Rogan Building Services Inc. in Rialto was chosen the 1997 Minority Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration's Santa Ana district office.

The award is based on a company's growth and financial standing. Rogan is eligible for the national Minority Enterprise Development award, which will be announced in mid-November.

Sandy Sutton, director for the SBA's Santa Ana office, said Rogan was one of about six nominees. The district office serves Riverside, San Bernardino and Orange counties.

Rogan started the company in 1986 as the sole operator, with one account. He now employs 175 and has 30 accounts.

Sales over the last five years have increased nearly sixfold to \$ 3 million last year. Success, he said, is giving customers service "above and beyond what they're paying for" and treating employees fairly.

"It has to be a win-win situation for customers, as well as us," said Rogan, who runs the company with his wife, Anne. His son, Myron, works in the company's operations department.

Rogan had worked in research and development at the former Hughes Aircraft Co. in Fullerton. Aspiring to own a business, Rogan

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE (RIVERSIDE, CA.) October 31, 1997 Friday

said he realized janitorial work required minimal start-up capital.

Rogan used several hundred dollars of his savings to start the business, but had to find work. He landed contracts at automotive dealerships in Southern California.

Another boon for his company occurred in 1992. Rogan received financial assistance in the SBA's Section 8(a) program, which helps small disadvantaged companies become competitive with special access to federal procurement opportunities.

Rogan said the industry is "growing by leaps and bounds," but the word "janitor" still has a negative connotation. As president of the Pacific Association of Building Service Contractors, a state organization with 100 members, Rogan said he hopes to improve the industry's image.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 01, 1997

8TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1997 The Providence Journal Company
The Providence Journal-Bulletin

November 4, 1997, Tuesday, ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: BUSINESS TUESDAY, Pg. 1E

LENGTH: 584 words

HEADLINE: Small business opportunities for all Gilbane executive says women, minorities need mentors

BYLINE: LYNN ARDITI; Journal-Bulletin Staff Writer

DATELINE: PROVIDENCE

BODY:

Paul J. Choquette Jr., the top executive of Gilbane Building Co., yesterday told a group of business people and bankers that some efforts to increase minority- and women-owned small businesses are not working.

The number of businesses certified in Rhode Island as minority- or women-owned has grown nearly 300 percent since 1990, he said, and that's something to celebrate. But the "bad news" is that about one out of every two of them failed.

"So some things are working and some things are not," Choquette told a group of about 175 gathered at the Providence Marriott. "We all must recognize and be realistic that we have some major challenges ahead of us."

Choquette's comments came during a breakfast meeting that marked the kick-off of Minority Enterprise Development Week. The annual event brings together minority and women business leaders from around the state to attend workshops and share ideas.

Choquette came out firmly against set-asides or quotas as a way to improve participation by women and minority firms, saying they amount to "exclusionary" policies. And he called for a national standard to make it clear whether or not they are permissible.

One way minority- and women-owned businesses can improve their chances of success is by finding "mentors" to help them develop the skills and contacts to be competitive. And he called on the major contractors to reach out to these firms to build those mentoring relationships.

Choquette also cautioned companies looking to boost their awards of contracts to minority- and women-owned businesses not to "set them up for failure" by giving them work they aren't ready to take on.

For example, he said, the \$ 430-million Providence Place mall is a huge and complicated construction project that will require many firms with a high level of expertise to do the job. About \$ 100 million of the contracts are "of necessity" large bids for work such as structural steel and concrete. And that means there will be "minimal opportunity" for some of the smaller firms.

Providence Journal-Bulletin, November 4, 1997

Still, the mall developer and the Black Contractors Association of Rhode Island have agreed to a goal of 10 percent minority and 10 percent women contractors. "These are ambitious numbers," Choquette said.

So far, the mall project has achieved an 11.6 percent rate of participation by certified minority- and women-owned firms, he said. And of that, 8.25 percent has gone to African-American firms.

The results of those efforts will be closely watched by the minority business community.

Marcellus Sharpe, owner of C.C. Business Corp., a Providence company that provides courier, janitorial and security services, said improving minority participation is "everyone's responsibility."

Sharpe, a former factory worker who started his own business 11 years ago, said he agrees with Choquette that minority firms have to learn the ropes and become more competitive. But often, minority firms are at a disadvantage because unlike many small Rhode Island businesses they don't have the financial support of a family business. So even the firms that do all the right things, he said, still find "barriers."

Minority Enterprise Development Week, which runs through Saturday, is sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration; the Rhode Island SBA Advisory Council; Ocean State Business Forum; Aston St. John Associates, Inc.; Textron Corporation and Providence College.

For information on this week's schedule, call the SBA at (401) 528-4065.

LOAD-DATE: November 5, 1997

1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1997 The Salt Lake Tribune
The Salt Lake Tribune

November 12, 1997, Wednesday

SECTION: Business; Pg. B5

LENGTH: 487 words

HEADLINE: Hard Work Helps S.L. Artist Earn Minority Small-Business Award

BYLINE: JODI RAVE THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

BODY:

As a child, Sam Guevara worked hard before sunrise helping his mother turn tortillas, which were later delivered to Mexican restaurants.

Guevara, 49, still rises and goes to work before the sun. Only today the Salt Lake City artist turns out graphic designs. The countless times he has been in his art studio before 6 a.m. have paid off.

Guevara, the co-owner of Art House Graphic Studio at 182 S. 600 East, recently was selected as the 1997 Utah Minority Small Business Person of the Year by the Multi-Ethnic Business Committee of the Salt Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.

The award was presented to him Tuesday at the Salt Palace as part of Minority Enterprise Development Week, which is sponsored by the Salt Lake Chamber and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Multi-Ethnic award recipients are chosen based on community involvement, success and growth of company and length of time in business, said Maria Sweeten Pace, director of business development for the Salt Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.

Sweeten Pace said Guevara stood apart from other award nominees because he has been in business for 23 years. One of his largest clients is the national insurance company Ascensus. Other clients include Cream O'Weber Dairy Inc., CarMerica Tires & Service and Watt Homes.

Guevara's second business, The First Gift, which he started in 1988, helped him clinch the award.

The First Gift, an incense company, sells incense packages of "gold," frankincense and myrrh for the holidays. The company employs people from the Columbus Community Center, a Salt Lake City work center for the mentally and physically challenged.

Guevara said he is pleased with the award, which was established as part of Minority Enterprise Development Week in 1983. "I'm happy when the chamber of commerce recognizes any small business."

He described the role of a small businessman as a lonely, tough job. "Your whole world rotates around your business."

The Salt Lake Tribune, November 12, 1997

Guevara began Art House in his basement after the printing company where he had worked for six years refused to hire him as a graphic artist for lack of experience.

"I decided I better do my own thing," recalls Guevara.

The first four years of his new business were the hardest, recalls Guevara. "The threats in starting out are the questions of: 'Will there be enough cash flow?' and 'Will there be enough new work?' " Guevara said.

Today, the money and work are there. The fruits of Guevara's labor have paid for a "six tres" low-rider, a white '63 Chevrolet Impala, which he likes to cruise in on the weekend.

Art House now has three employees, including Guevara's wife, Rebecca, who also is a co-owner.

Guevara said he prefers to keep the company small to avoid becoming only an administrator. He prefers to remain an artist.

"Everyone thinks size means success," Guevara said. "I feel it is more about being happy at what you are doing."

GRAPHIC: Ryan Galbraith/The Salt Lake Tribune

Salt Lake graphic artist Sam Guevara is the Utah Minority Small Business Person of the Year.

LOAD-DATE: November 12, 1997

Schedule of Events

A. White House Ceremony:

Traditional White House Lawn Reception / Dinner celebrating accomplishments and contributions of minority entrepreneurs, MBDA and SBA. Attended by the President, Vice President and Cabinet Officials. Award presentation to National Award winners and general reception for key minority business leaders.

B. Minority Business Summit: A National Dialogue on Minority Business Opportunities and Challenges:

Two 3 hour meetings that will discuss substantive issues facing minority business. The event will focus on four pre-defined issues and will create a strategy for accessing business opportunities in the new millennium. General issues of consideration are:

1. Federal Procurement Opportunities in a Post-Adarand Environment.

A. Department of Justice Report

2. Accessing Private Sector Procurement: Best Practices

A. NMSDC, Jackson Initiative, Hispanic, Corporate Representative

3. Emerging International Markets for the Minority Entrepreneur

A. International Trade Administration, MBDA & SBA International Trade Initiative, Inter-American Development Bank.

4. Opportunities in the Communications Industry

A. NTIA, FCC

National MED Week '97

"Creating Minority Business Strategies for the Next Millennium"

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will commemorate the fifteenth annual national observance of Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week, which is designated by Presidential Proclamation during the week of September 21-27, 1997. Regional MED Week events will be held throughout the country during the month of September. The National MED Week '97 Conference will take place at the SHERATON WASHINGTON HOTEL, 2660 Woodley Road, N.W., Washington, D.C., beginning Thursday, November 20 through Saturday, November 22.

National MED Week '97 provides a forum for the discussion of major issues affecting the growth and development of minority business enterprises (MBEs). Business forums will provide valuable information concerning programs and business opportunities and will cover legislation, regulations and other policies which impact MBEs. MED Week allows for the exchange of information leading to new business opportunities. Major corporations and government agencies will have key representatives available to share information on the goods and services they procure and how MBEs can obtain contract opportunities. The National MED Week Conference also provides an opportunity to recognize the outstanding contributions made by minority entrepreneurs and the public and corporate sectors in support of minority business development.

THIS YEAR, THE NATIONAL MED WEEK SESSIONS

WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE VIA THE WORLD WIDE WEB!

Highlights of National MED Week '97 will include:

- ❑ MINORITY BUSINESS SUMMITS featuring prominent government, corporate and minority business leaders;
- ❑ CORPORATE AND GOVERNMENT MARKETPLACE where representatives of major corporations and government entities will provide contractual information;
- ❑ MINORITY BUSINESS TRADE FAIR where MBEs will showcase their products and services;
- ❑ AWARDS CEREMONY in honor of national award recipients, minority business advocates and exemplary corporations; and
- ❑ NETWORKING FORUMS AND RECEPTIONS AND MUCH MORE!

Be sure to register early!

MED Week Registration: TEL: 1(800) 224-4884; (703) 941-9082

E-mail Address: medweek@smartek.com

Hotel Reservations: TEL: (202) 328-2000

**Airline Carrier -- American Airlines: TEL: 1(800) 433-1790; Star File:
03N7UD**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE SMALL BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION**

Minority Business Development Agency

Welcome to MBDA



A Message from Acting Director Courtland Cox

"Welcome to the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA). As we enter the 21st century MBDA is preparing to meet the ever changing needs of the minority business community..." [MORE](#)

New

Register with Phoenix

[Click Here](#) to register your minority business with MBDA! Qualified participants in this program will be matched with business opportunities as they develop.



15th Annual MEDWeek Conference (November 20-22)

"Creating Minority Business Strategies for the Next Millennium"

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will commemorate the 15th annual national observance of Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week, which is designated by Presidential Proclamation during the week of September 21-27, 1997. [MORE](#)

[MEDWeek Calender of Events!](#)

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MISSION

THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created by Congress in 1953 to help America's entrepreneurs form successful small enterprises. Today, SBA's program offices in every state offer financing, training and advocacy for small firms. These programs are delivered by SBA offices in every state, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. In addition, the SBA works with thousands of lending, educational and training institutions nationwide.

WHY ARE SMALL BUSINESSES IMPORTANT?

Small businesses are the backbone of the American economy. They create two of every three new jobs, produce 39% of the gross national product, and invent more than half the nation's technological innovation. Our 20 million small companies provide dynamic opportunities for all Americans.

CAN SBA HELP ME?

If your business is independently owned and operated, not dominant within its field, and falls within size standards met by the SBA, we can help you.



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WEBMASTER

Last Modified: 9-22-97

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 13, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION GALA

Union Station

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you very much. Congresswoman Waters, every time you get up to speak I'm always all ears. When you introduce me I'm certainly all ears, I'm never quite sure what you're going to say --(laughter) -- but I'm absolutely sure you will say what you think.

Maxine Waters is my kind of public official. I've been to her district several times with her. She knows the people in the street, the people on the corners. She cares about the people that other people forget. Her district is the first one where I met young men who had been in gangs, who were walking the streets with her to save the lives of other young people. That's the kind of thing she's done, and America owes Maxine Waters a debt of gratitude and I thank her. (Applause.)

I want to congratulate Congressman Clyburn and LeBaron Taylor and all of you who are responsible for this event tonight. I was glad to be here, too, with Congressman Gephardt, and with all the distinguished members of the audience. I see Kweisi Mfume there and Mrs. King and Mayor Barry, Dr. Height. Reverend Jackson, I'm always glad to see you. And I think I speak for many of us here when we say that you and your family and your mother are in our prayers, sir, God bless you. And thank you for the magnificent job you did leading, along with Secretary Slater, the American delegation to the African Economic Summit in Zimbabwe. (Applause.)

Let me also congratulate the award winners -- Major Owens and Eva Clayton, Bill Lucy and Danny Bakewell, Laura Murphy and William Brooks, Myrlie Evers-Williams, Coretta Scott King, the late Dr. Betty Shabazz and my good friend, the chairman of our Racial Reconciliation Advisory Board, Dr. John Hope Franklin.

And, finally, let me say one other word of introduction. One of your members is not here tonight because he had to go home to dedicate his new cathedral. But I want to wish Congressman Floyd Flake well as he leaves the United States Congress and goes home to

his mission, where his heart is. (Applause.) Floyd Flake in his church has helped to start 11 businesses, employing hundreds of people in inner city neighborhoods who would not have jobs otherwise. That's the sort of partnership I'd like to see us make with African American churches all across the United States of America, so everybody who wants a job has one. So, even though he's going home, I want him to be a model that all of us here in Washington can continue to follow.

I want to say one serious thing. If you don't remember anything else tonight, remember this one sentence: I am profoundly grateful to the Congressional Black Caucus for making a dream of a lifetime come true -- I am the opening act for James Brown. (Applause.) In one of James Brown's songs he says, "I don't want nobody to give me nothing. Just open up the door, I'll get it myself." I think that's the motto of the CBC. And for four and half years we've been working together to open up those doors.

Today we see the results: unemployment below 5 percent, lowest African American unemployment in 24 years; 13 million new jobs, family incomes up, African American family income is up \$3,000 in three years; the lowest poverty rate among African Americans ever recorded; violent crime down five years in a row, record drops in welfare. That is the progress that I could not have possibly made if it had not been for the support of the Congressional Black Caucus, and I thank you very much for that. (Applause.)

- 1 -

MORE

And let me say that progress should spur us on, for there is still too much poverty, still too much lack of economic and educational opportunity. There is still too much discrimination. There is too much to do. And I come here today to say that, down to the last day of my presidency I will be there with you, working with you, fighting for a tomorrow that we can all share together.

I also want to thank the members of my administration who are here. Many have been noticed, but I'd like to say a special word of thanks to all the African Americans who work in the White House. And to Bob Nash, Goody Marshall, Ben Johnson, Minyon Moore, Terry Edmonds, Ann Walker, Tracy Thornton and Andy Blocker -- I know they're here -- there may be more. But I want to thank them for helping me to be a better President.

I also want to thank the CBC for its strong support of the man who will be the next Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Bill Lee. He's here tonight and I thank you for sticking by him. (Applause.) For much of his career, Bill Lee's been a civil rights lawyer with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. He was not born into a position of leadership; instead, he's a Chinese American who worked his way out of poverty in Harlem to become a national leader in the fight for social justice. We need your support to ensure his confirmation. He will do a magnificent job.

I also want to ask your support for the man whom I nominated this week to

be the next Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary of Health, Dr. David Satcher. (Applause.)

Finally, let me say, as the Congress comes back after its recess, I ask for your support to get from this Congress the money that was promised for the priorities we fought so hard for in the balanced budget agreement: the largest increase in aid to education since 1965, the biggest increase opening the doors of college to all -- and aid to college -- since 1945, and the biggest increase in health care for poor people and children since 1965. Now we've got to make good on the promises of that agreement. And I need your help to do that.

Finally, let me say that as we approach a new millennium, we must decide that we can never be what we ought to be unless we get there together. I was, just the other day, at American University in Washington. There are students from 140 different national and ethnic groups at American University. We don't have time for or room for discrimination. And we can no longer ignore the unfinished business of our past. We cannot continue to grow economically as long as there's a single soul in this country who needs a good quality education who can't get it and who is denied access to a job for which he or she is plainly qualified. We cannot do that.

And we have to decide, as a country, that we can't afford our past baggage or our present blinders -- we've got to embrace a future in which we're all going forward together. Look around this room tonight -- you are the future of America. Your children and grandchildren are the future of America. And we are going to have the most exciting future that this country has ever had if we just make up our mind to make sure everybody has a chance to walk through that door together. (Applause.)

I ask for your support for Dr. John Hope Franklin and Judy Winston. I thank you for the National Town Hall Meeting on Race Relations in the New Millennium that you held. I ask you to remember this: Everybody who gets to serve in Congress, certainly someone who gets to serve as President, has had a chance -- all those folks -- we've had our chance to live our dreams; but there's still a lot of people our age that were denied that chance. There are huge numbers of people our parents' age who never had that chance. We should promise that there will be no one our children's age who will be denied that chance to walk through the door of their dreams. That is our mission and I promise to pursue it with you hand in hand until my last day as your President.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 9, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN SATELLITE FEED TO
~~BLACK ENTERPRISE MAGAZINE 25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA~~

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Earl. I'm delighted to be with you, and I appreciate your introduction. It is I who should be thanking you tonight, and many of those who are there with you for your incredible effort over so many years, and especially for you invaluable input and support on the affirmative action policy.

I also want to say hello to my Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown. I'm glad you applauded him. He certainly is one of the finest Secretaries of Commerce this country ever had. He has done more to promote jobs and businesses for all Americans than anybody has in a long time. (Applause.)

I want to say hello to Dr. Earl Richardson, the President of Morgan State; to Tom Labrecque of Chase Manhattan Bank. Thank you for being here and for your work. (Applause.) Reverend Jackson, I'm sorry I missed your prayer. I need it more than anybody who's there. I'm sorry I missed it. (Laughter.)

To Mayor Schmoke and Governor Wilder, I enjoyed being with you a few days ago. And to my longtime friend, Maynard Jackson, and to all the Graves family and all my friends who are gathered there tonight to honor your achievements, Earl, I want to send my best wishes.

I also know that I speak for all of you when we offer our best wishes to someone who had planned to be with you tonight -- our prayers and best wishes are with David Dinkins. We wish him well and we know he's going to be all right. (Applause.)

Earl, I want to add my congratulations to you and to Black Enterprise for 25 years of leadership in African American business. This evening celebrates initiative, achievement and opportunity. Initiative has always been the American genius, and, Earl, you have set a singular example of that kind of genius. And because of your example, countless African Americans have been empowered to take advantage of opportunity to achieve. A life of accomplishment has exponential impact, and you, Earl Graves, have proved that.

A quarter century ago, you and Black Enterprise began to fill a large void for African Americans who needed a source for

information, encouragement, and guidance, to become entrepreneurs and to succeed in business. And over the years Black Enterprise helped dreams to become reality. I know it will continue to do so for more African Americans for many, many more years to come.

It's fitting that this anniversary is being celebrated with another important initiative by Earl Graves, and that is to build up business education at one of our nation's finest historically black universities, Morgan State. That's an investment that will pay great dividends for the next generation and beyond, and I hope one that will encourage others to follow Earl's lead and to do their part to help expand opportunities in business and education for African Americans. When we do that, all of America benefits.

I declared the last week in September Minority Enterprise Development Week to call attention to an important avenue to economic empowerment in America. But the fact is we should be celebrating and promoting business growth in minority communities every day of the year. This business growth is essential for our continued prosperity, and it's the right way to create wealth, to encourage self-sufficiency, to generate jobs and to build our people up, and to build our communities up.

Our administration is working hard to strengthen all our nation's businesses. We've opened new domestic and international markets, due in no small part to the hard work of Ron Brown and all those at the Commerce Department who have helped to expand the opportunities for American businesses. We've reduced the cost of borrowing for business start-ups and for expansions. While the Small Business Administration has cut its budget by 40 percent, it has doubled its loan output and increased its loan output to minority businesses and women by almost 80 percent.

Now, all this is making an impact. Overall, new businesses are growing as never before. And since 1992, nearly 100,000 new African American businesses have been created in the United States. (Applause.) By 1997, according to the Census Bureau, there will be 717,000 African American businesses in America, the result of the largest increase in any five-year period. That's an accomplishment to be proud of, and I would tell you that if we get another four years to work on the economy, the number may be bigger than that. (Applause.)

Last month, as Earl said, I reaffirmed America's need for affirmative action, including set-asides for minority business owners and federal contract procurement. I did it because I believe our country still needs this tool to address the limits of opportunity which still exist in our society, based on gender and race. I did it because I believe we'll be stronger if every American has a chance to live up to his or her God-given abilities.

We must have a mission, a national mission at the end of this century to restore the American dream of opportunity, and the American value of responsibility. We must have a mission to do this together. We've got a big decision to make about whether we're going forward together, or not. Whether we like it or not, we're all in the future together. We are a national family, whether we like it or not, and we're going forward, like a good family, together, or if we squabble and get divided and get side-tracked, we'll be held back, like a not very good family, together.

We are a part of America's greater national community. All of you have to be part of that mission. I am committed to doing everything I can to be a good partnership -- to build a good partnership with you, to move our country forward.

We've come a good ways in the 25 years since Black Enterprise was born, but there is still a lot to be done. Too many people still don't have the chance to reach their God-given potential, and affirmative action is just one part of a larger strategy to expand opportunities for all Americans, in education and business and all our workplaces. That larger strategy has to begin with Head Start for poor children. It has to include lower costs and better, more available college loans for the children of working families as well as poor families. It has to improve the adequate job training for people when they lose their jobs or when they're underemployed. It has to include creating business opportunities where none existed before.

~~That's what our empowerment zones are for. That's what the community development financial institutions are for. That's what stronger enforcement of the Community Reinvestment Act is for.~~ We have to invest in our cities and the people who live there. We have to invest in our rural areas and the people who live there. We have to invest in our workers and in our working families.

That's why I believe we need a real family values agenda, which includes raising the minimum wage; targeting tax relief to the raising of children and the educating of children; protecting Medicare for our seniors; and protecting the right of people to keep their own health insurance if they change jobs or someone in the family gets sick.

We can balance the budget, and we should. Progressives, minorities, Democrats, those of us who care about public investment, we don't have a stake in a permanent government deficit. That just gives more and more money every year to the people who hold the debt, and less and less to the people who need the investment. But we have to balance this budget in a way that allows us to grow together, without gutting our

responsibilities to our parents in health care; without gutting our responsibilities to our children in education; without undermining our responsibilities to maintain a social safety net and provide for a clean environment and a healthy and safe environment as well.

We have to follow the right kind of strategy to balance the budget, grow the economy, and help all Americans, together -- only when we work together can we restore economic opportunity, solve our social problems, compete and win in the global economy of the 21st century. Only when we do it together.

We do not have a person to waste. That is the big decision that all of us have to face. Captains of industry, leaders in education, mentors to a new generation -- that's what many of you are. You have a big role in this strategy for America's future. Every time you help a young person get an education, help someone get started in business, provide an example by being a successful person yourself who took on the challenge and responsibility of entrepreneurship, and made it -- every time you do one of those things you're making a difference and helping to move us forward.

I want you to think about what's at stake. Here in Washington, the old debate about what was liberal or conservative is really not what's going on. You know, I have cut the deficit more, reduced the size of government more, eliminated more governmental regulations and governmental programs than my two Republican predecessors. I've also invested more in education, expanded trade, tried to help poor areas and minority businesses, tried to empower families with things like family and medical leave and affordable college loans and national service. Things that have traditionally been called liberal. I'm trying to move people from welfare to work, but only if they can support their children and help them to grow up and be successful.

We've got to do things in a different way. But the debate we're having here is the most profound debate we've had in a hundred years. And every one of you has got to make up your mind to be a part of it because the old conservative things that I just mentioned, they're hardly on the radar screen here.

We're debating here with a new generation of so-called conservatives who, I think, have some radical ideas. They believe that, except for defense, any tax cut -- any tax cut -- is better than any government program. They believe that some of the things we'd like to do through government are nice enough, but not worth imposing any -- any -- requirement or sacrifice or contribution on Americans who aren't going to directly benefit. They believe in a future that really would unleash us all from each other, minimize our responsibilities to each other, and run the risk of giving us a country with a whole lot of wealthy people, but vastly more poor and a declining middle class.

I believe in a high-opportunity, high-growth future where we grow the middle class and shrink the under class, where we support entrepreneurs, but we also believe that we have an obligation to help everybody make the most of their own lives. And to do it, we need strong neighborhoods with safe streets, and good health care systems, and good schools, and clean environments. And we need a commitment to help people through education and through efforts to deal with our very difficult and thorny social problems.

In other words, I believe we really are a family. I think we have certain obligations to one another that we have a responsibility to fulfill. And I don't believe any of us are going to be the kind of people we want to be, and I don't think our children will have the kind of future we want them to have, unless we make up our mind that there are some things we have to do together.

If you look at the 21st century, and you say, what's it going to be like -- there will be a global economy, information will speed around the world quickly, goods will cross national borders, the world will get smaller -- you have to say that the United States, because of the strength of our economic system, and because we are the most diverse, big, rich country on Earth -- racially, religiously, ethnically -- that we're in better shape for the 21st century than any other great country; that our best days are still ahead of us. But we have to answer the debate now going on in Washington properly for that to be true.

We haven't had a debate like this since the Industrial Revolution changed America, and Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson had to answer questions like, how are we going to keep a private economy but have real competition in things like oil and steel. They had to ask questions like, how are we going to let people work but stop these 9- and 10-year-old kids from working 10 hours a day, six days a week, in coal mines and factories. We reached the right kind of decisions then, and we preserved the free enterprise system, and broadened freedom and opportunity throughout the 20th century steadily. We even survived the Great Depression and conquered the oppressors in World War II because of the power of our country.

Well, now we're moving into a dramatically different kind of economy. The way we work and live is changing dramatically. And we are literally having the debates again in Washington that we had a hundred years ago. You have got to be a part of that. You know that believing that we work together and grow together is not inconsistent with believing in enterprise and individual effort and personal responsibility and hard work. You know that.

~~That is the lesson America must emblazon in its heart and~~

~~its mind if the 21st century is going to be our golden age. I think it will be because of people like Earl Graves, because of efforts like Black Enterprise, because of all the African American entrepreneurs who have made a difference in our nation, knowing that whenever they succeed, they're helping us all to come closer together, closer to the dream of equal opportunity for all Americans, without which we will never, never have the progress we all want and need for our children in the next century.~~

Thank you, Earl. Thank you all, and God bless you.
(Applause.)

END

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 16, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

Washington Hilton Hotel
Washington, D.C.

8:15 P.M. EDT

Thank you very much. Thank you for the wonderful welcome you have given to the Vice President and me. Thank you, Javier. Thank you, Carmen, Carolina. To the members of Congress who are here, members of the Hispanic Caucus Institute, members of our administration -- all those who were introduced by the Vice President. I'd also like to acknowledge the presence here of the general chairman of our political party, the Democratic Party, Governor Roy Romer of Colorado. Welcome, Governor Romer.

Javier pointed out that I have been here all five years I have been President. I come because I have a good time. I like it. I know that here I will see the future of America, the vitality, the energy, the commitment, the passion necessary to make this country what it ought to be. But I have been here five times. I mean, those of us who are linguistically challenged -- always learn a few phrases -- you know, *su voto es sus votos*; *mi casa es su casa*. Now I can say, *su caucus es micaucus*.

I come here because when I leave here I feel more alive, I feel more committed, I feel new energy, and I like what I see. I thank the members of Congress for their service. I thank the Hispanics who have served in our administration more than in any other in the past; the members of the Cabinet who are here -- Secretary Pena, Ambassador Richardson, Aida Alvarez. To all those in the White House -- Maria Eschevesta, Mickey Ibarra, Janet Murguia, and others. To my speechwriter, Carolyn Curiel, who I will soon nominate to be Ambassador to Belize. Gloria Tristani, who I have just elected to serve as the newest member of the Federal Communications Commission.

There is also another person who I want to acknowledge who will have a lot to do with seeing that the face of the federal government and the policies of the federal government reflect the face and the heart of America. And here with me tonight is my nominee for Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Bill Lee. And I'd like to ask him to be recognized.

He grew up a Chinese American in New York, has spent a lot of his life working for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. He has worked to defend and protect the civil rights of the most vulnerable among us. And I thank you for your continued support for his nomination.

I'd also like to mention two people who aren't here tonight. We all miss Frank Tejeda whose career ended far too soon, as did his remarkable life. But I want to say again how much I enjoyed working with him and how much I miss him. And I'd also like to say a very special word of appreciation and good wishes to the first Hispanic American elected to the United States Congress, Henry B. Gonzalez. He has been an irrepressible force for progress. He is an irreplaceable legislator. It has been my great honor to know him for 25 years, long before I ever dreamed I'd be here, and I'm quite sure long before he ever dreamed I would be here. But we wish him well, and we'll miss him.

Together, we have begun to prepare our beloved country for the 21st century. Tonight, I want to take just a few moments of your time to talk about the work ahead and the responsibility we have to support each other in that work. It's been nearly six years now since I announced my candidacy for President. Many of you started with me, almost all of you finished with me, and we have begun a journey -- to restore the American Dream to everyone willing to work for it, to make America the world's greatest force for peace and freedom well into the next century and to go forward into that new century in spite of all of our diversity as one America.

We began with a bold, new economic course which reduced our deficit 80 percent before the recent budget passed -- for all of you who voted for that, I hope that you're out there clapping to yourselves, because you deserve it. We expanded our exports with over 200 trade agreements. We invested in our people and their future. We took on the tough social problems at home and the tough foreign policy problems around the world.

Today, the American people are reaping the results of these last years of effort. Unemployment below 5 percent, Hispanic unemployment dropping from over 11 percent to about 7 percent, a drop of over 35 percent. Record rates of small business growth with Hispanic American businesses growing at three times the rate of overall business growth, and hundreds of thousands of new Latino homes in this country.

Violent crime has dropped five years in a row. We've had the largest drop in welfare rolls in history. All this signals progress. We should be optimistic, we should be hopeful, we should be confident. But we all know we have more to do before every one of our people, every one of your people and every one of the American people will be prepared to do well in the 21st century.

The first thing we have to do is to continue to expand and improve educational opportunity. I am proud that the budget I just signed represents the largest single increased investment in education since 1965. I fought hard to ensure that it included a 36 percent increase in funding for bilingual and immigrant education. To see that it expands Head Start, it funds our America Reads program to mobilize up to 1 million volunteer

tutors to make sure our children can read well at an early age. It will help us to develop voluntary tests in reading and math, to help children learn the basic skills they need to succeed. Not to put them down, but to lift them up.

It also opens the doors of college to all Americans for the first time in history with the biggest increase in support for people going to college since the G.I. Bill passed 50 years ago. There's the largest increase in Pell Grants in more than two decades, a \$1,500 HOPE Scholarship tax credit to open the doors of the first two years of college to all Americans, and further tax credits for all higher education for people of all ages, because we know we have to have a system of lifetime learning in America, and we should support that for people of all ages.

Despite a strong work ethic and falling unemployment, however, despite exploding numbers of new Hispanic-owned businesses, Hispanic family income is not yet rising. And one of the biggest reasons for this disparity in income is that too many young Latinos continue to drop out of school. The dropout rate for Hispanic American remains far above the rates for whites or African Americans. Many of these young people leave school for responsible reasons - to begin to help their families by working. But, increasingly, in a global economy, we must teach our children that responsibility means staying in school and going the whole route.

We have organized an intense effort in the White House to address the dropout problem of Hispanic American students. I instructed Gene Sperling, the head of the National Economic Council, Maria Echaveste, who heads our Office of Public Liaison, Mickey Ibarra, who heads our Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, and our Education Secretary, Dick Riley, to evaluate all of our current programs and identify what more we can do right now to help young Latinos reach their potential.

I am pleased that Senator Bingaman and Representative Hinojosa will soon introduce the National Dropout Prevention Act of 1997 to establish a coordinated national strategy for lower dropout rates for Hispanics and others who should have their dropout rates lower. I want to ask you to help us with this. We need your support.

Let me also say, in the context of education, that balanced budget agreement just set a framework for the next two years. Every single year we have to make sure that the congressional appropriations are faithful to the agreement. And I ask your support in helping us and helping the members of Congress make sure that those investments are there.

And in that connection, let me tell you, I at least, and I think most of you, are quite concerned by the recent, very narrow decision in the Senate to support the Gorton amendment that would block-grant virtually all federal education funds to the states. That's a step in the wrong direction, because whatever its intent, the effect of the amendment is to shift funds away from the schools that serve our neediest children. And unless we can persuade them to change, I will not hesitate to use my veto power to prevent that hasty decision from becoming the law of the land.

Let me also say that that budget did one more thing that I want to emphasize -- it did a

lot of good things, including providing health insurance for up to 5 million American children, many of whom will be Hispanic children and the children of hard-working people who work all day every day, but can't get health insurance at work. It also kept a promise I made last year to restore benefits to legal immigrants who come to this country legally, work hard, and contribute to our society. And I thank the members of Congress who are here who made that possible.

The second thing we have to do is to sell more of our goods and services around the world. We have 4 percent of the world's population, 20 percent of the world's income, 96 percent of the world's consumers live somewhere else. The growing developing economies are growing at three times the rate of our European and other traditional trading partners. We have no choice but to compete for those new markets.

Indeed, 70 percent of our export growth this year comes from our neighbors -- Canada to the north, and all the other neighbors are to our south; Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, South America -- 70 percent of our growth is there. Now, the legislation I sent to Congress today to renew the President's traditional authority to negotiate trade agreements, to open markets to our products and create good jobs, contains important provisions that will enable me to negotiate to protect both worker rights and the environment. And it will involve Congress every step of the way.

But I say again, it is in our interest to open these markets. Week after week, I read of these European leaders going to South America, saying, America doesn't care about Latin America; Europe cares about Latin America. America is sitting up there sitting on its gain. We want you to be allied with Europe.

I say, they are our friends; I have worked hard to establish a good relationship, and I think we should go forward with fair, balanced trading agreements that will help our economy and help our relations.

I want to say a special word of thanks to Congressman Becerra and his allies in the Hispanic Caucus for the contributions that they made when I last went to Latin America several months ago, when I went to Mexico and Central America and to the Caribbean. Congressman Becerra and Congressman Reyes went with me -- Congressman Romero-Barcelo joined us in the Caribbean.

In a few weeks, I'll be going for a week's visit in Brazil and Argentina and Venezuela, and I'm looking forward to working with you, Congressman Becerra and with the Caucus to make this productive for America, as well. Thank you very much.

Let me make one other comment now about the last thing that I think we have to do. Our journey into tomorrow is about more than economics. It's about the kind of people we are and how we relate to each other. It's about whether we can really learn to not only tolerate each other, not even just to respect each other, but to celebrate the fact that people who are so different share this land together and want to share its future together and deserve to share its future together because we are bound together by common values --by faith and family and work and

community and service to country.

Now, in order to do that, we have to face some facts. The first fact is that we still have some unfinished business in this country, some discrimination that we have not resolved -- it still exists. The second fact is that all those people that want to get rid of affirmative action carry a heavier burden than they have yet borne to show about what they were going to do to replace it, to guarantee everybody has an equal opportunity.

The third thing we have to do is to treat each other respectfully and honestly in all of our dealings, particularly in putting together our political system. So in that connection, let me just make one comment more about the census coming up in 2000 and the whole issue of sampling. My sole goal is to have the most accurate count of Americans. I have no other political agenda. I have never been involved in this in any way, shape or form. Every expert who has reviewed the census process, including a recent report from the National Science Foundation, said that the sampling method the Census Bureau proposes to use in the year 2000 is designed to count hard-to-find Americans, including the homeless and some minorities, not to leave them out. We are not interested in counting people who do not live here and do not exist, but we want to make sure, finally, that everybody who is here is counted in the census of the American people in the year 2000.

If we're going to be one America, we have to make sure our immigration laws are fair and humane to all. To that effort, we have undertaken two initiatives I want to mention briefly. First, we're seeking to extend the legal authority that permits people to obtain permanent immigration status without having to leave our country, often leaving their families and their jobs behind. And, second, we're 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 less stringent rules in place prior to the passage of the recent immigration bill.

But the most important thing we can do is to really make up our minds that we're going to share the future together. The reason that I organized this national conversation on race for the next year and had an advisory board constituted, including Linda Chavez-Thompson, who is well-known to many of you, is that it bothers me that so few Americans have really thought about what this country is going to be like in 20 or 30 or 40 years.

Within five years, our largest state, California, will have no majority race. Hawaii already has no majority race. Hispanic Americans are the fastest-growing American minority, but within a matter of decades, we'll all be members of some racial or ethnic minority.

Now, people have said for years -- maybe for over 200 years, maybe going all the way back to the beginning -- that America is not a place, a nation that is about a particular religious creed or a particular race or even a particular place; America is just a set of ideas. We are about to find out. We are about to find out.

And so I say to all of you, when I come here and I feel your energy, your spirit, your

patriotism, your dreams, your affection for each other and for your country, that is what I want every American to feel. And that's what I want you to be able to feel about every other American. And we have a heavy responsibility here. No other great democracy like ours has ever been so diverse, and yet people living together so closely. No one has ever tried to do this. We are trying to do this against the backdrop of reading in the last several years about all of the problems, from the Middle East to Bosnia, to Northern Ireland, to Africa, to you name it.

We say to the bottom of our soul, we don't believe in any of that. We don't seek, any of us, to lift ourselves up by putting someone else down. We are simply trying to create a country where everybody's responsible, has opportunity, where we're drawn together more closely every day, and where we're still trying to promote what we believe in around the world.

You, as the fastest growing group of America, have a special responsibility to make sure that message pierces the mind and heart of every one of your fellow citizens, because if it does, we'll take care of the economics, we'll take care of the other work we have to do. If we can get our hearts right and our heads straight about how we're going to do this together, we will get to the next century with this country still the greatest nation in human history.

Thank you and God bless you.

END

8:33 P.M. EDT