

services; fosters research and publications. Bestows Kalman Silvert Award for lifetime contribution to the study of Latin America, LASA Media awards for outstanding media coverage of Latin America, and book awards. **Founded:** 1966. **Members:** 3000. **Budget:** \$200,000. **Computerized Services:** Mailing lists. **Publications:** *Brochure*, annual. • *LASA Forum*, quarterly. Newsletter reporting on anthropology, economics, geography, political science, human rights, literature, the arts, and Spanish and Portuguese languages in Latin America. Includes research updates.

★145★

Lawyers Committee on Central America

2269 Market St., No. 189
San Francisco, CA 94114 Ph: (415)661-5559
Paul Albert, Coordinator

Description: Members of the legal community. Seeks to educate the public on the legal aspects of United States policy toward Central America. **Founded:** 1981. **Members:** 750. **Publications:** *Update*, monthly.

★146★

Letelier-Moffitt Memorial Fund for Human Rights/Institute for Policy Studies

1601 Connecticut Ave. NW, 5th Fl.
Washington, DC 20009 Ph: (202)234-9382
Robert Guiteau Jr., Coordinator

Description: Established in commemoration of Chilean exile Orlando Letelier and his coworker, Ronni Karpen Moffitt, who were assassinated in Washington, DC (allegedly by Chilean intelligence agents). Investigates and seeks to inform the public of human rights violations and state sponsored terrorism in Latin America, particularly Chile. Investigates and monitors Letelier-Moffitt trial. Conducts research programs, including Women's Project to examine the status of women in Third World countries, and Indigenous Affairs and Human Rights Project to examine the relationship between economic policy and human rights. Bestows human rights awards and grants to individuals for distinguished service in defense of human rights. Sponsors art exhibits featuring arpilleras, which are storied tapestries woven by Chilean women. **Founded:** 1976. **Members:** 4000. **Budget:** \$40,000. **Publications:** *Proceedings from Annual Ceremony*. Also publishes material on Latin American human rights policy; offers film rental service.

★147★

Los Ninos

9765 Marconi Dr., Ste. 105 Ph: (619)661-6912
San Ysidro, CA 92173 Fax: (619)661-1363
Roque Barros, Contact

Description: Works to help communities organize nutrition, family gardens, tree-planting, and school ecology programs in Tijuana and Mexicali, Mexico. Conducts research, educational, and charitable programs. Maintains library. **Founded:** 1974. **Budget:** \$500,000. **Publications:** *Border Connections*, quarterly newsletter. Also publishes *Tres Semillas Para Una Mejor Alimentation* (agricultural manual) and *Nutricion Familiar* (nutrition manual).

★148★

LULAC Foundation

400 1st St. NW, Ste. 721 Ph: (202)628-8516
Washington, DC 20001 Fax: (202)628-8518
Elva Perez, Executive Director

Description: Individuals committed to the improvement of economic, educational, health, and social conditions in America. Seeks to create an alliance between Hispanics and corporate America. Serves as a research, organization, training, and education resource on issues of importance to the U.S. Hispanic community. **Founded:** 1973. **Members:** 35. **Budget:** \$220,000. **Publications:** *The Future of Puerto Rico*, *Voices from the Americas*, *U.S. Immigration Reform*, *Immigration to the U.S. from Latin America*, *The Role of Hispanics in U.S. Foreign Policy in Latin America*, *If Not Contadora, Then What?*, and *The English Only Movement: An Agenda for Discrimination* (booklets).

★149★

LULAC National Educational Service Centers

Description: Educational corporation established by the League of United Latin American Citizens (see separate entry). Seeks to ensure

access to higher education for Hispanic students. Offers counseling program to assist students with educational counseling, career planning, and financial aid. Conducts Washington Week Seminar, a three-day educational conference for high school students designed to foster leadership development. Operates LULAC National Scholarship Fund Program. Also sponsors projects aimed at motivating students to study, learn, and explore career options. Address mail c/o Encyclopedia of Associations, Gale Research Inc. **Founded:** 1973. **Members:** 15. **Regional Groups:** 6. **State Groups:** 60.

★150★

Lutheran Coalition on Latin America

c/o Susan Birkelo
1133 N. Sacramento Ave.
Chicago, IL 60622 Ph: (312)276-2104
Susan Birkelo, Contact

Description: Groups and individuals working to increase public awareness of conditions in Latin America. Encourages awareness of Latin American problems among Lutherans and within their congregations; serves as a resource and referral organization. Maintains speakers' bureau. **Founded:** 1981. **Publications:** *LUCOLA Newsletter*, periodic.

★151★

MADRE

121 W. 27th St., Rm. 301 Ph: (212)627-0444
New York, NY 10001 Fax: (212)675-3704
Vivian Stromberg, Executive Director

Description: Project of the Women's Peace Network. Seeks to draw public attention to common needs of women and children in Central America and the U.S.; end U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean; build bonds of friendship. Operates "twinning" program wherein U.S. day care centers are paired with Nicaraguan counterparts, facilitating educational and cultural exchange. Conducts health campaign to raise funds for improved health care for women and children, including delivery of medical supplies and training workshops by midwives and health professionals. Maintains Visual and Performing Arts Peace Curriculum for elementary and secondary schools focusing on problems faced by youth in the U.S. ("Madre" is Spanish for "mother.") **Founded:** 1983. **Members:** 23,000. **Computerized Services:** PeaceNet. **Publications:** *MADRE* (in English and Spanish), quarterly newsletter. Also publishes brochures and fact sheets.

★152★

MCAP Group

89-50 164th St., Ste. 2B Ph: (718)657-6444
Jamaica, NY 11432 Fax: (718)523-2063
Sherman L. Brown, President

Description: Provides bonding, financial, technical, and management assistance to minority and small construction contractors in cities for the purpose of assisting the contractors to compete for a more equitable share of the construction industry. Services include: surety bonding program; financial and construction management; financial analysis; construction project management, including estimating, engineering, joint venture, and consortia arrangements; procurement referrals for several federally funded building programs. Sponsors conferences and workshops on matters of particular interest to minority contractors, such as bonding and nonprofit housing. Operates MCAP Bonding and Insurance Agency, a for-profit subsidiary. **Founded:** 1970. **Formerly:** (1989) Minority Contractors Assistance Project.

★153★

The Media Institute

1000 Potomac St. NW, Ste. 204
Washington, DC 20007 Ph: (202)298-7512
Patrick D. Maines, President

Description: Encourages and promotes the development of knowledge and understanding of American media and communications. Conducts research into the legal, economic, and political aspects of the media and communications industry and its role in American society. Maintains a multidirectional program of research that focuses on media performance, the role of new technologies, and communications policy issues; operates the First Amendment Center, Hispanic Media Center, Center for Media

**LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS
NATIONAL BOARD MEETING**

**Hotel Washington
15th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.**

THURSDAY, October 6

1:00pm - 5:00pm

**Registration
Hotel Washington
15th & Pennsylvania Ave.,
Washington, D. C.
202-638-5900**

2:00pm - 2:10pm

**Welcome - Ms. Ada R. Pena, LULAC Washington, D.C.
State Director**

2:20pm - 2:45pm

**Opening of LULAC National Board Meeting
Mrs. Belen Robles, National President**

**Mr. Leon Panetta, White House Chief of Staff to be
inducted as Honorary Member of LULAC
presentations by California delegation.**

2:45pm - 3:30pm

**Mr. Doug Ross, Assistant Secretary, Employment and
Training Administration, Department of Labor**

3:30pm - 4:30pm

**Mr. Jose Velasquez, Deputy Assistant to President
Clinton and Deputy Director of Political Affairs**

6:30pm - 7:00pm

**Cocktail Reception
Ballroom
Hotel Washington**

7:00pm - 10:30pm

LULAC PRESIDENTIAL DINNER

**Keynote Speaker: First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The First Lady has accepted our invitation.**

**Guest Speaker: First Lady of Puerto Rico
Mrs. Maga Rossello**

**Guests: Congressman Ed Pastor
Congresswoman Lucille Roybal Allard
Congressman Carlos Romero Bardelo**

**Guest Of Honor: Mrs. Belen B. Robles
LULAC NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Awards: COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

- 8:00am - 8:45am Continental Breakfast
Parkview Room (Meeting all day)
- 9:00am - 9:30am Attorney General Janet Reno
Presentation followed by question and answer period
- 9:30am - 10:00 Overview on the Crime Bill and the
impact on Hispanics

Ms. Clarissa Cerda, Assistant Counsel to the President,
The White House
- 10:00am - 10:30am POLICE, PUNISHMENT, PRISONS AND
PREVENTION - including Youth and Gangs

PANEL: Mr. Cesar Collantes, LULAC National
Legislative Analyst
Mr. Jose Barron
Mr. Faustino Pino
- 10:30am - 11:00am Immigration...Getting Back to the Basics.
Citizenship
LULAC involvement

PANEL: Ms. Venecia Rojas Kenah, President, LULAC
Council 11041
- 11:00am - 11:30am Ms. Blanca Maturino, Hispanic Outreach Director
Southwest Disability and Business Technical
Assistance Center on the American with Disabilities
Act
- 11:30am - 12:00pm 1994 ELECTIONS-WHAT ROLE DO WE PLAY?

Mr. Andy Hernandez, Democratic National Committee
Hispanic Voter Outreach

Mr. Richard Martinez, Administrative Assistant for
Congressman, Member, Advisory Hispanic Advisory
Committee, Republic National Committee
- 12:00pm - 1:00pm LUNCH ON YOUR OWN (Roof Top-Hotel Washington)

NATIONAL BOARD MEETING
Business Agenda

1:30pm - 6:00pm

LULAC Opening Procedures:
Pledge of Allegiance
Prayer of the League
Roll Call of Officers
Agenda Review and Adoption
Approval of Previous Minutes
(El Paso, Texas-July 3, 1994)

Correspondence and Announcements
New Charter Applications

President's Report-Belen B. Robles

Immediate Past President Report:
Mr. Jose Velez
1994 National Convention

Treasurer's Report-Mr. Manuel Villarreal
1994-95 Budget
1994 National Convention-El Paso Report

SER National Report - Pedro Viera, President

6:30pm

LNESC YOUTH DINNER or Reception
Capital Room

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

8:00am - 8:30am

Coffe/Tea/Danish-Parkview Room

8:45am - 11:45am

Meeting Reconvenes

National Legal Advisor
Mr. Rick Dovalina

National General Counsel
Judge Alberto Armendariz

Reports from National Officers:
National Youth President
National VP for Youth
National VP for Young Adults
Vice President-Southwest
Vice President-Far West
Vice President-North West
Vice President-North East
Vice President-South East
Vice President for Elderly

Report on Education Summit
Mr. Ramiro Gonzalez
State Director-Michigan

11:45am - 12:45pm

Working Lunch

12:45pm - 6:00pm

REPORTS:

LNESC - Richard Roybal
LULAC FOUNDATION - Ed Pena
Amigos de LULAC - Jose Velez

1995-LULAC NATIONAL CONVENTION
REPORT
Mr. Carlos Lopez Nieves

Special Reports
Fund Raisers

Elections/Appointments of Boards
LNESC
SER
COMMISSION ON EDUCATION
HOUSING
COMMITTEE TO REVISE CONSTITUTION

STATE DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Working Dinner (if necessary)

LOAD-DATE-MDC: April 6, 1994

Schedule Request

SM

9/1/94

____ACCEPT

____REJECT

____PENDING

TO:

Patti Solis
Assistant to the First Lady and
Director of Scheduling

FROM:

Suzanna Valdez
Associate Director
Office of Public Liaison

Joe Velasquez
Assistant to the President
Office of Political Affairs

REQUEST:

For the First Lady to serve as the keynote speaker
at the national board of directors dinner for LULAC
(League of United Latin American Citizens).

PURPOSE:

To demonstrate support for both the Latino
community and LULAC.

BACKGROUND:

Established in 1929, LULAC is one of the nation's
oldest and largest grass roots Hispanic organizations.
It seeks to promote full social, political, economic
and educational rights for Hispanics in the United
States.

Thursday, October 6th -- Saturday, October 8th,
LULAC will be holding a national board of
directors conference to focus on the issues that most
importantly affect the Latino community, such as
crime and health care.

LULAC has been one of the President's most
supportive groups in the Latino community
regarding health care and the importance of
universal coverage. (see attached statement)

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION:

None

DATE AND TIME:

Thursday, October 6th -- 7:30pm.

LOCATION:

Washington, D.C.
Hotel Washington
15th & Pennsylvania Avenue NE

PARTICIPANTS:

Belen Robles, LULAC President -- 1st ever female
President
LULAC National Board of Directors --
200 participants

REMARKS REQUIRED:

To be provided by speechwriters.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

Open Press



Belen B. Robles
National President

LULAC To Congress: "Stop Bickering Give Us Universal Health Coverage!"

For immediate release August 17, 1994
Information: Belen Robles, 577-0726

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) said today it supports universal health care coverage which would provide minimum impact to the poor, working women, senior citizens, and small businessmen and women. LULAC called on Congress to put aside party differences in the interest of the health and well-being of all Americans. In a letter to the House and Senate committees wrestling with health care reform, LULAC national officials outlined what it feels are the key points in an effective universal health care program and advised members of Congress that it wants to be included in the implementation, oversight and evaluation of proposed legislation.

Belen Robles, president of LULAC, the nation's oldest and largest Hispanic civil rights organization, said today in Puerto Rico that LULAC has begun a lobbying campaign with all members of Congress to inform them of the need to provide health care coverage for all Americans regardless of ability to pay, while protecting the financial viability of small businessmen and women. She noted that a key component of any legislation should be measured by provisions for preventative health care. "Because of the way our health care system is currently structured, we tend to react to catastrophic or serious illnesses and situations that in our opinion could be greatly reduced through preventative health care services," said Robles, the first ever woman to lead the more than 250,000 member organization.

"Today in the United States, there are literally millions of men, women and children (not covered by health insurance) that are living on the edge of disaster," Robles said. "Just one major injury or illness can drive an individual or family into financial ruin, causing families to be ripped apart, at a time when they need the emotional strength to survive a crisis."

-continued-

LULAC Headquarters • State National Plaza • 221 North Kansas, Suite 1211 • El Paso, Texas 79901
(915) 577-0726 • Fax (915) 577-0914

LUUAC meeting in El Paso, Texas, ratified a position that urges Congress to incorporate the following points in any final legislation:

- 100% coverage for all Americans as soon as possible, and within ten years
- Provide all Americans a choice in selecting the health care plan best suited to their situations
- Comprehensive preventative health care features
- Provide coverage for Catastrophic Illness or Injury
- Portability provisions in any health care reform
- Tax credits for 80% but not less than 50% of premiums paid by small business on employees health care coverage
- Effective Cost Containment provisions for the insured and employers
- No negative impact on Senior Citizens
- A redefinition of small business category to include businesses with up to 100 employees

"We have the greatest health care delivery system in the world today, what Congress needs to do now is to disregard partisan lines and draft the legislation that is necessary to achieve Universal health care coverage," said Robles.

Robles said the LUUAC national office is now in the process of notifying each and every individual member of Congress of the organizations interest in the on-going health care reform debate.

LUUAC, with members in 42 states, has a long history of working to insure the civil and social rights of Hispanics in the U.S. are protected.



Belen B. Robles
National President

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

Dear First Lady:

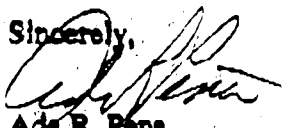
On behalf of LULAC, the nation's oldest and largest Hispanic civil rights organization, I would like to extend an invitation to you to serve as our keynote speaker at dinner on Thursday, October 6, 1994 at the Hotel Washington, in D.C. This event is the culmination of one week of meetings by our national board of directors which is comprised of Hispanics from 44 states. At the dinner we will honor Belen B. Robles, the history-making first woman national president of LULAC.

During her term Ms. Robles plans to concentrate on a variety of issues, primary Universal Care Reform and support for the Crime Bill now in Congress. Additional issues include: Immigration, Education, Domestic Policy, Economic Development, Trade, Foreign Affairs and civil rights for all Americans.

"Hispanics have contributed much to our nation's culture, history and economy, yet we are often overlooked in the corridors of power," Ms. Robles has publicly stated. "We must be visionary to ensure that the future economic, social and political well-being of our people is the best we can make it."

LULAC will be honored in having you as our Keynote Speaker because through your commitment and caring you have touched the future of our Nation.

Sincerely,


Ada R. Pena
National LULAC
Secretary for Domestic Policy

cc: Suzanne Valdez
Associate Director of Public Liaison

encl: 2



The League of United Latin American Citizens

cordially invites you to the

PRESIDENTIAL DINNER
honoring

BELEN B. ROBLES
LULAC NATIONAL PRESIDENT

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

GUEST SPEAKER: FIRST LADY OF PUERTO RICO
MAGA ROSSELLO

Thursday, October 6, 1994

Hotel Washington
15th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Black Tie Optional
\$50.00 per person

6:30-7:30 p.m. - Reception
7:30-10:30 p.m. - Dinner



LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS

All for one... One for All

National Office

El Paso, Texas 79901
(915) 577-0726 • (915) 577-0654
FAX: 577-0914

FAX SHEET

To: Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton

From: Ada R. Pena / LULAC National Office

Subject: Invitation

Fax number: (202) 456- 6244

Number of pages (including cover sheet): 5

Comments:

Thank you

Kenna Ramirez

Please call 577-0726 or 577-0654, if you have trouble receiving this fax.



833-2301

Belen B. Robles
National President

8PM

Suzanne Valdez - SM
Pub. Liaison

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

Dear First Lady:

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(During her term Ms. Robles plans to concentrate on a variety of issues, primary Universal Care Reform and support for the Crime Bill now in Congress. Additional issues include: Immigration, Education, Domestic Policy, Economic Development, Trade, Foreign Affairs and civil rights for all Americans)

issues

"Hispanics have contributed much to our nation's culture, history and economy, yet we are often overlooked in the corridors of power," Ms. Robles has publicly stated. "We must be visionary to ensure that the future economic, social and political well-being of our people is the best we can make it."

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Sincerely,

Ada R. Pena
National LULAC
Secretary for Domestic Policy

cc: Suzanne Valdez
Associate Director of Public Liaison

encl: 2



Belen B. Robles
National President

LULAC To Congress: "Stop Bickering Give Us Universal Health Coverage!"

For immediate release: August 17, 1994
Information: Belen Robles, 577-0726

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) said today it supports universal health care coverage which would provide minimum impact to the poor, working women, senior citizens, and small businessmen and women. LULAC called on Congress to put aside party differences in the interest of the health and well-being of all Americans. In a letter to the House and Senate committees wrestling with health care reform, LULAC national officials outlined what it feels are the key points in an effective universal health care program and advised members of Congress that it wants to be included in the implementation, oversight and evaluation of proposed legislation.

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"Today in the United States, there are literally millions of men, women and children (not covered by health insurance) that are living on the edge of disaster," Robles said. "Just one major injury or illness can drive an individual or family into financial ruin, causing families to be ripped apart, at a time when they need the emotional strength to survive a crisis."

-continued-

LULAC, meeting in El Paso, Texas, ratified a position that urges Congress to incorporate the following points in any final legislation:

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- Provide all Americans a choice in selecting the health care plan best suited to their situations
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- Provide coverage for Catastrophic Illness or Injury
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- Effective Cost Containment provisions for the insured and employers
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Robles said the LULAC national office is now in the process of notifying each and every individual member of Congress of the organizations interest in the on-going health care reform debate.

LULAC, with members in 42 states, has a long history of working to insure the civil and social rights of Hispanics in the U.S. are protected.



Belen B. Robles
National President

LULAC Supports Ban on Assault Weapons Rifles, Handguns OK for Hunting/Protection

For immediate release: August 18, 1994
Information: LULAC National Office,
(915) 577-0654

Belen Robles, LULAC National President, announced Thursday in Puerto Rico that the League of United Latin American Citizens supports the legislation to ban assault weapons and urges Congress to pass it.

LULAC also supports a Crime Bill that will add more resources to the law enforcement communities across the country.

"Our society has become too violent already," Robles, the first woman national president of LULAC, said. "There's no need for assault weapons."

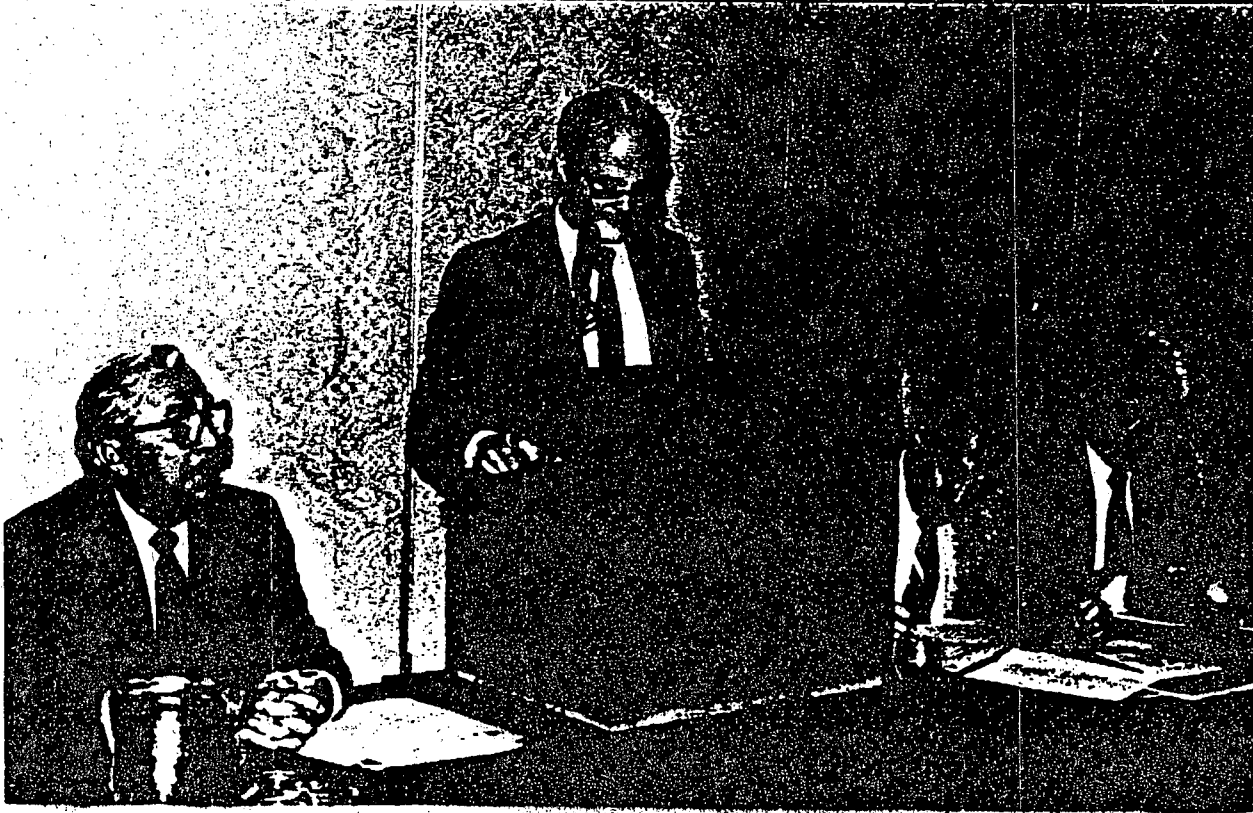
Robles said although LULAC supports a ban on assault weapons, the organization does not support a ban on handguns for protection or rifles for hunting.

LULAC Business Council

The LULAC Business Council is a new forum for the nation's majority and Hispanic business communities to work together to improve the economic, educational and social environment of Hispanics in America. Representing a diversity of industry type and geographical location, the LULAC Business Council provides advice and funding to LULAC and to the LULAC Foundation.

A major responsibility of the LULAC Business Council is to assist with the planning and conduct of LULAC's fund raising efforts. Functioning through a committee system, the Council also helps with the annual Hispanic Business Conference, with member recruitment, and with the development of a Personal Economics Workshop for low income Hispanics.

The LULAC Business Council is co-chaired by a corporate CEO and a Hispanic CEO, and each company on the council is represented by a senior executive. Staff liaison with the Council is furnished by the LULAC Foundation's Executive Director.



Copyright 1985 The Times Mirror Company
Los Angeles Times

June 29, 1985, Saturday, Orange County Edition

SECTION: Metro; Part 2; Page 1; Column 1; Metro Desk

LENGTH: 1181 words

HEADLINE: IRVINE WOMAN AIMS AT HIGH LATINO POST

BYLINE: By DAVID REYES, Times Staff Writer

BODY:

Anita Del Rio from Irvine first turned heads when she became the first Latina to win state office within the national League of United Latin American Citizens.

Now, Del Rio, 44, a mother of four employed as a manager for an Orange County program to help disadvantaged residents, may become the first woman to be elected president of LULAC, the nation's largest and oldest Latino organization.

To do that, however, she must defeat Oscar Moran, 40, a San Antonio insurance analyst, who is waging a fierce campaign that has highlighted the 56th Annual LULAC Convention being held in Anaheim. The election is Sunday.

Founded in 1929 in Texas, the 110,000-member league has been closely associated with civil-rights causes.

"I'm not running as a woman candidate," Del Rio said in an interview Wednesday. "I'm running on my qualifications."

Stresses Finances

Moran said he is emphasizing in his campaign that he is the right individual to rekindle ties with corporate America and "quickly erase" the League's budget deficit, estimated at \$200,000 to \$300,000. LULAC's annual budget is \$500,000.

A top priority for Moran, he said, is to ensure that the league remains at the top of Latino organizations and that it not "take a back seat" on any national issues.

Del Rio campaign buttons, hats with catchy "Oscar in 85" slogans, posters, and intense hotel-corridor politicking have marked the campaign. Both have mobilized dozens of supporters.

Both candidates, although well-known inside the organization, do not have

national recognition. Some high-ranking league members question whether either candidate is prepared to represent the League at meetings with congressional leaders, Reagan Administration officials or foreign heads of state.

In recent years, League members stirred interest when they traveled to Mexico, Spain and Cuba, and dealt with Central American policy by opening talks with foreign dignitaries on such issues as immigration and economic development.

Created Some Anger

While Del Rio supporters are hoping to tap the League's 52% female majority, Del Rio angered some feminists for not pushing harder for an annual Latino women's conference and for advocating a more "traditional" women's role.

However, Clara Nava, Santa Ana LULAC council president, said that Del Rio "possesses the assertiveness and aggressiveness that is needed for this top position."

Del Rio said she received a bachelor's degree in social ecology at UC Irvine, a master's in education at Pepperdine University and a doctorate in public administration from the University of Beverly Hills.

The doctorate, which Del Rio continually emphasizes, is a sore point with some league members, who make light of the fact that Del Rio's degree is not from a major university.

"When I found out, I thought it was very amusing," said Chacha Lopez, a Moran supporter from Port Lavaca, Tex.

Del Rio now scoffs at her critics and, in reference to the degree, insists that she's "proud of it."

Although the League race is non-partisan, Del Rio said she is a Democrat, while Moran is a Republican.

Issues Important

Whoever wins, his or her success in office will depend significantly on the league's ability to organize and rally supporters around issues -- an ability that league officials admit has been limited in recent years.

Although league supporters often note that about 14.6 million Latinos live in the United States -- about 6.4% of the total population -- no Latino organization has successfully had a large-scale voter registration effort in recent years.

The fierce battle has occurred at a time when the league seems to have lost steam. "We're at a plateau," said Tony Bonilla, a former national president and member of a prominent Texas family involved in league activities.

Others noted a "slim" convention agenda with very few elected officials -- often an indicator of an organization's clout -- scheduled to speak. Significantly absent are San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros and farm-labor leader Cesar Chavez, who decided not to attend because of pickets protesting contributions to the group from the Adolph Coors Co.

One of the principal scheduled speakers, Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.), sponsor of immigration legislation that has drawn harsh criticism from the Latino community, had to cancel his appearance because of what an aide characterized as business in Washington.

Outgoing president Mario G. Obledo, former California health and welfare secretary, acknowledged that despite attempts to improve the progress of Latinos, "serious problems" still plague the Latino community.

The median income for those of Spanish origin in 1983 was \$16,956, compared to \$25,757 for whites. The Latino high school dropout rate is 45%, compared to 17% for Anglos.

Education Priority

Del Rio said the league needs to place a high priority on education.

If elected, she hopes to encourage a task force of highly educated Latinos who have achieved success to serve as "super role models" to help motivate youth.

Moran, who said the league's neglect of education has been "glaring," said he would push for a task force for "very serious" fact-finding in various states with high dropout rates, including California.

"California is one of the states we have targeted," he said, adding he would not rule out fighting for equalization of school funding at the school district level.

About 100 members of the Coalition for Visas and Rights, a group that champions the causes of undocumented workers, staged a brief protest Friday in front of the Anaheim Marriott, where the convention is taking place. The twin targets of the picket were Simpson and the Adolph Coors Co., one of the corporate sponsors of the convention.

Carmen Lima of Los Angeles, the coalition's leader, said Coors had traditionally discriminated against minorities and "especially Hispanics."

"We support LULAC, but we disagree with Coors participation in the convention," she said.

Lima also said the group opposed Simpson's immigration bill as discriminatory against undocumented workers, who he said pay taxes and make a significant contribution to the American economy.

But Ruben Bonilla, a Corpus Christi, Tex., attorney and former LULAC president, blamed Simpson's cancellation on convention organizers, and said the speech had been scheduled at an inconvenient time.

"You can't blame Simpson, you have to blame us," Bonilla said. "It's no surprise he didn't show up. I would have been more surprised if he had appeared."

-- Times staff writer Ray Perez contributed to the preparation of this story. -----

GRAPHIC: Photo, Anita Del Rio hopes to become the first woman to head LULAC. ; Photo, Mario Obledo -- "Serious problems" still plague the Latino community despite past efforts to solve its problems. DEBORA ROBINSON; Photo, Ruben Bonilla -- "It's no surprise" that Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.) canceled his scheduled appearance as a speaker. MARK BOSTER / Los Angeles Times; Photo, Oscar Moran -- LULAC's ties with corporate American should be rekindled to "quickly erase" the league's budget deficit. CLIFF OTTO / Los Angeles Times

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Proprietary to the United Press International 1988

November 22, 1988, Tuesday, BC cycle

SECTION: Regional News

DISTRIBUTION: California

LENGTH: 348 words

BYLINE: By KEN FLYNN

DATELINE: EL PASO, Texas

BODY:

A law suit challenging the constitutionality of the employer sanctions provisions of the new immigration reform law was heralded Tuesday by the state director of League of United Latin American Citizens.

The suit was filed in a federal court in Los Angeles Tuesday by representatives of the American Friends Service Committee, said John Garcia of LULAC and Carlos Spector, a lawyer representing the Quaker group.

The Texas LULAC director said Hispanics in the United States have opposed the employer sanctions provisions of the law from the outset. He said the law discriminates against anyone who looks Hispanic and makes every employer "an agent of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service."

Spector said the suit seeks to bar the U.S. government from requiring the Quaker organization from complying with the provisions of the new law.

"It makes no sense for religious organizations to help the homeless and the destitute, disregarding race, color, creed or origin on one hand and then be forced to turn people away from the door because they don't have proper documentation," Spector said.

Under employers sanctions the employer has the obligation to inquire about the immigration status of potential employees under penalty of fine or imprisonment.

The suit contends the law violates their religious rights under the first amendment to the Constitution, the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other customary international law, Spector said.

American Friends Service Committee chairman Stephen G. Cary of Haverford, Pa., one of the plaintiffs, said, in a prepared statement, "The AFSC was founded on religious beliefs that have led it to programs for relief of hunger and homelessness and the providing of assistance, including legal services to undocumented immigrants and refugees in the United States.

"Compliance with the law would require AFSC to become an agent in exclusion of the people its religion compels it to serve."

Spector said a number of other religious denominations in the United States are supporting the law suit.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Proprietary to the United Press International 1986

January 9, 1986, Thursday, BC cycle

ADVANCED-DATE: January 7, 1986, Tuesday, BC cycle

SECTION: Regional News

DISTRIBUTION: Colorado, Texas

LENGTH: 763 words

HEADLINE: LULAC campaigns against U.S. English movement

BYLINE: By RENEE HAINES

DATELINE: SAN ANTONIO

BODY:

The nation's largest Hispanic organization has begun a quiet campaign against the U.S. English movement, believing it to be one more slur on a fast-growing minority and a threat to efforts to avoid polarization.

"All of us recognize English as the spoken language in the United States, and we don't need laws to make that official. What is especially disturbing to us is that this so-called U.S. English movement -- while it proposes to merely officially declare English as the official language - predominantly has been proposed where significant Hispanic communities exist," Oscar Moran of San Antonio, national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens, said.

"We're glad to say most communities have turned that down as nothing more than a piece of legislation without merit," he said.

Last month, LULAC began distributing to congressmen and the media the first of a set of position papers outlining its arguments against the proposed ordinances creeping up in cities from Florida to California.

"We don't have an axe to grind. We're not being emotional. We just want the community to have a perspective on both viewpoints," Moran said. "We've always thought the best kind of preventive medicine is to have an informed public out there."

Efforts to restrict the use of minority languages is not new to a country with such a vast number of immigrants.

But the implication that there is some movement afoot to make Spanish or Chinese

or any other tongue the dominant language is what especially concerns LULAC, Moran said.

"It tends to have a polarizing effect. People who are not really versed on the subject, by mere statements, might tend to think this country is facing some sort of threat," he said.

Such thinking also implies minority groups do not recognize the need to speak and write in English, he said.

"The current anti-Spanish trend," states the LULAC position paper, "assumes incorrectly that Hispanic-Americans do not recognize that fluency in English and intimate association with the majority culture and its value mean economic and political success in their country. They do."

Efforts to restrict the public use of Spanish have "added insult to the historical injury of Hispanics," the position paper states, dating back to the prejudice and displacement at the annexation of what once were large areas of Mexico to the lingering discrimination in employment and education.

The paper points out that more than 70 percent of the U.S. Hispanic population was born in this country, while millions more have resided within U.S. borders for generations.

Moran said he was concerned the proposals have "the potential to snowball," with one potential victim the country's bilingual education programs "that have worked very well where they are funded right."

The U.S. English movement and bilingual education are not related issues, he said.

"We have already seen some confusion, people confusing bilingual education and the U.S. English movement. There is a tendency to read an article on U.S. English and lump the two," he said.

"In the absence of viable information and clarity on the issue, you will find some confusion," he said.

English-only efforts are galvanizing Hispanic communities to defend their language and their culture.

"It is a consensus in the Hispanic community. We are concerned," Moran said.

Pressure to conform to the dominant culture and language of North America has resulted in a deterioration of the Spanish language, "which should be preserved as an ancestral legacy," LULAC contends.

"The argument for an English monolingual society fails to address the real causes of illiteracy and social isolation in Spanish-language communities, and instead makes the issue an ethnic and linguistic one. But more importantly, it ignores the reality that North and South Americans inhabit the same hemisphere, and that contact between our peoples will only increase in the future," the position paper states.

"Legislating an official language in the name of unity and integration won't make Hispanics feel 'more American,' nor will it inspire rapid assimilation."

Moran said future position papers will delve into the backgrounds of U.S. English backers.

The first set already have enjoyed full play on the editorial pages of some newspapers, Moran said.

"I'm glad to say it's met a very favorable response," he said. "We've purposely gone the written route, putting it down in black and white versus having press conferences where you can be misquoted," he said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Proprietary to the United Press International 1986

September 24, 1986, Wednesday, AM cycle

SECTION: Regional News

DISTRIBUTION: New Mexico, Texas

LENGTH: 312 words

DATELINE: EL PASO, Texas

BODY:

Hispanic leaders are taking issue with remarks attributed to the prime minister of Japan regarding the intelligence level of American minorities.

Attorney John Garcia, district director of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) called the remarks by Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone that minorities lower the intelligence level of the United States as "absurd."

The Japanese prime minister reportedly commented at a news conference Tuesday that "because there are blacks, Puerto Ricans and Mexicans in America (the intellectual level) is far lower when seen from the average." Garcia said Nakasone's comments were "insensitive." Blacks and Hispanics throughout the United States are demanding an apology.

Nakasone denied Wednesday that he belittled minorities but said their presence has been a hindrance to progress in the United States.

Garcia said Nakasone lacks an understanding of the historical participation of Hispanics in U.S. culture. "Hispanics have been the backbone of those who built this nation," he said.

The LULAC leader acknowledged the need for Hispanics to develop educationally.

"We Hispanics are stigmatized by our skin color, language and culture," Garcia said.

Hispanics are undereducated and must work to "elevate their community," he said.

Garcia said racial discrimination slows the educational development of Hispanics and blacks. He said remarks such as those attributed to Nakasone are harmful to Hispanic efforts to overcome educational gaps.

In a separate action, LULAC, joined by El Concilio de El Paso, an umbrella group of Hispanic organizations, successfully convinced members of City Council Tuesday to officially oppose passage of the new Simpson-Mazzoli-Rodino immigration reform bill on grounds the employer sanction portion of the measure would discourage employers from hiring Hispanics.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Copyright 1985 States News Service
States News Service

April 4, 1985, Thursday

LENGTH: 1467 words

BYLINE: By Jacquelyn Swearingen, States News Service

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Joseph Trevino doesn't go down to the new Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Washington mall very often.

"The couple of times I visited the Vietnam memorial, it's a very sad experience because of what we lost there -- so much talent and energy," said the Vietnam veteran and new executive director of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

Visits to the monument remind Trevino how many of the names on the stark black wall are Hispanic.

The San Antonio native also broods over the Hispanic veterans who found only unemployment and jail sentences when they returned from Southeast Asia. "They have given so much," he said. "I think it would be unjust not to try to resolve the problems that confront them."

Indeed, throughout Trevino's discussion of his plans for LULAC the theme of freeing Hispanics from poverty and discrimination so that their talents will not go to waste appears.

"We need to be able to contribute in times of peace as well as times of war," Trevino said. "That contribution doesn't have to be viewed as obstructionist. We don't want to be just nay-sayers but we want to educate the population of the country at large about the status of Hispanics in the country."

Previously LULAC's director of legislation, Trevino moved to his new position as head of the nation's oldest Hispanic civil rights organization last month. He comes to LULAC's helm at a time when the problem of immigration reform looms again, when social programs are being eliminated from the federal budget, and when Central America is torn by civil war.

It is also a time when Trevino must convince LULAC members and Washington politicians that he is firmly in control of LULAC's agenda. Last month the former

executive director Arnold Torres resigned. During his six years with LULAC Torres turned it into the most powerful ethnic lobbying organization in town, say some admirers. Others say Torres' high handedness made it impossible in the end for LULAC to have real clout on Capital Hill.

"Joe has the advantage of being a lawyer," said Richard Fajardo, an attorney with the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund in Washington. "He's not as flamboyant or colorful. He may not draw the press that Arnold did but he will not draw the criticism."

Colleagues in other Hispanic civil rights groups agree that Trevino is a good choice to lead LULAC.

Trevino traces the roots of his public leadership back to the days when he was the cadet commander of the ROTC unit at Thomas Edison High School in San Antonio. His first contact with LULAC came through his parents' involvement in the San Antonio chapter.

Although Trevino was born in San Antonio in 1950, he and his family resided in his father's native town of Sabinas in Coahuila, Mexico at the time. The Trevinos moved to Eagle Pass, Texas in 1958 and then returned to San Antonio in 1961.

Trevino spent a typical childhood shepharding his younger siblings through San Antonio's parochial schools and selling newspaper subscriptions for pocket money. After trying to work full time as well as attend San Antonio College, Trevino left after one semester.

In 1969 the Army drafted him. In his three-year military stint, Trevino spent a year in Vietnam's northernmost base, Dong Ha.

Afterwards Trevino enrolled at California State College at Northridge as a psychology major and plunged into work with Los Angeles' Hispanic community. With his future wife, Deborah, he counseled newly arrived undocumented immigrants. Under an experimental program at the University of California at Los Angeles, he helped bring together 35 youth gangs to sign a peace treaty that forestalled gang deaths for six months.

"After serving as an interpreter for many people who were not English fluent in small claims court and with the Internal Revenue Service, I came to the conclusion that a legal counselor is not unlike a psychological counselor," said Trevino. "You have to deal with the aspects of a person's life experience."

So in 1980 Trevino and his wife moved to Washington to attend Antioch Law School, an institution known for its liberal interpretation and hands-on approach to learning the law.

In 1982, an Immigration and Naturalization Service program, called "Operation Jobs," brought Trevino in contact with the fears of the community of undocumented workers in his Washington neighborhood. Frightened that the INS would deport illegal aliens upon discovery, the immigrants moved underground, Trevino said.

"I was very troubled by their fear because the Constitution says we all have rights regardless of our status here," Trevino says.

Trevino's efforts on behalf of the undocumented workers brought him to the attention of Arnold Torres. Trevino spent his law school internship at LULAC and later became LULAC's legislative director, lobbying congressmen to accept LULAC's position on immigration reform and social programs.

"People who advocate civil rights issues are somewhat like Sisyphus," Trevino mused, referring to the legendary king of Corinth who was condemned to roll a stone to the top of the mountain only to have it roll back down again.

Not all of LULAC's battles have been futile, however. Last year Trevino and LULAC members spent most of their time on Capital Hill battling the sweeping immigration reform proposed by Sen. Alan K. Simpson, R-Wyo., and Romano Mazzoli, D-Kentucky.

LULAC and other Hispanic groups opposed the act because they argued the bill's sanctions against employers who hired illegal aliens would foster discrimination against all Hispanics as well, Trevino said. The bill failed in the final moments of the last session of Congress.

Trevino said a bill that legalizes the status of all immigrants who arrived in America before a specific time would be the fairest solution to the nation's growing underclass of undocumented workers. LULAC is currently working on it's own immigration proposal, Trevino said.

"We're not a single-issue organization," Trevino said. "While immigration will certainly be at the forefront of our concerns there are others that are equally important."

Among those concerns Trevino places veterans assistance near the top of the list. Few Hispanics are in leadership positions in the military and its civilian work force compared to their overall representation, Trevino said.

"We Hispanics have the highest number of medal of honor winners of any ethnic group in the country," he said. "That's something to be very proud of. But I would be even prouder if I could say we have generals and admirals, and (high ranking) civilian employees."

"Given that we have been so loyal each and every time our country has called, why do they not see fit to promote us in times of peace?" Trevino asked.

Trevino envisions bringing the issue of discrimination before congressional subcommittees and asking that field hearings be held in San Antonio.

LULAC has been criticized in the past for ignoring the needs of poor Hispanic-American citizens. "In the early 1960's LULAC took a lot of criticism from activists for being middle class," said Charles Kamasaki, the director of policy analysis for La Raza, another Hispanic lobbying and educational group. "Now it has a lot more social conscience."

Trevino remains a supporter of federal urban and social welfare programs. Stressing that many of the cities with large Hispanic populations still need large sums for public works projects, Trevino points to the shanty towns on the east and west sides of San Antonio whose streets are still in disrepair.

For Trevino the issues in the Central American conflict resemble some of the problems in U.S. Hispanic communities.

"We are close to what the people in Central America are experiencing," Trevino said. "Many of our communities are impoverished communities in the United States. Many of our people are victims of abuse by excessive use of force by police officers."

On study trips to Latin American Trevino has met with Cuban leader Fidel Castro in Havana and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega in Managua.

The visits have left him convinced that the United States has the best system of government in the world. But that does not stop Trevino from criticizing what he calls the U.S. emphasis on military solutions in Central America.

While Trevino will say that "the present situation in El Salvador is not conducive to life," he is reluctant to give to sanctuary movement his public endorsement since transporting and sheltering illegal aliens is against the law.

The solution Trevino proposes is to offer sanctuary to the refugees until the situation in El Salvador is resolved.

Trevino sees LULAC as the organization that knits together the interests of these Central American citizens with those whose origins are Cuban and Mexican.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Proprietary to the United Press International 1984

February 15, 1984, Wednesday, BC cycle

ADVANCED-DATE: February 14, 1984, Tuesday, BC cycle

SECTION: Regional News

DISTRIBUTION: Arizona-Nevada

LENGTH: 565 words

HEADLINE: Texas Today;
Hispanic organization celebrates 50th anniversary

BYLINE: By KEN FLYNN

DATELINE: EL PASO, Texas

BODY:

A Texas Hispanic organization that pioneered women's rights will celebrate its 50th anniversary this week, with a special dinner honoring the club's first president.

Amada C. Maesse Valdez said she was a young woman in 1934 when she took over the reins of El Paso, Texas Ladies Council 9 of the League of United Latin American Citizens after a year-long struggle to keep the group from becoming "just another men's auxiliary."

Members of LULAC from throughout West Texas and southern New Mexico will honor Mrs. Valdez at a formal dinner Friday at the Airport Holiday Inn in El Paso, it was announced by Amalia Santos, president. Carolina Dick, a past president, will serve as chairman of the event.

"It was very difficult in those days (the 1930s) for women to be active in anything or to have a voice or mind of their own," Mrs. Valdez recalled. "In those days, the woman's place was supposed to be in the home. Thank God, all that is changed now."

LULAC historians said Ladies LULAC Council 9 was the first independent Hispanic women's organization in the league and perhaps in the entire United States.

"We had to fight to get members in those days" Mrs. Valdez said. "There were some men who did not want women to take part in the organization. They didn't want us to be independent."

LULAC, the largest and oldest Hispanic organization in the United States, was founded in Corpus Christi in 1929, officials said. The organization spread rapidly throughout Texas, New Mexico and Arizona as Mexican Americans banded together to fight discrimination, Mrs. Valdez said.

Prior to 1933 there were some LULAC women's councils but they were in the category of auxiliaries, "or second-class councils," Mrs. Valdez said. El Paso, Texas Ladies LULAC Council 9 changed all that.

The determined El Paso women attended the organization's national convention in Del Rio, Texas in May of 1933 and convinced members of El Paso LULAC Council 8 to sponsor an amendment to the organization's constitution to give women equal rights in the league.

The amendment was hotly debated, according to organizational records, but the El Paso women won and Ladies LULAC Council 9 was duly installed on Feb. 22, 1934.

Mrs. Valdez was sworn in as first president in 1934 and has been an active member ever since.

Three years later the El Paso women, joined by other LULAC members from New Mexico, fought again for women's equality and succeeded in electing Alicia D. Montemayor of Laredo, Texas as second vice president general of the league.

In 1938, for the first time in LULAC history, a women's group became the co-sponsor of a national convention. It was Ladies LULAC Council 9 of El Paso.

Mrs. Valdez served as the organization's president for four different terms and has been active in the club's civic and charitable projects.

In the days when Texas had a poll tax, Mrs. Valdez and members of Council 9 were active in registering Hispanics to vote. Under her leadership, the organization won awards for their work in voter registration, which is still one of the group's main projects.

During World War II, Mrs. Valdez served on committees that helped Hispanic families with men in the service in writing and translating letters. In El Paso she has been honored on several occasions for her work in providing needy children with shoes and for her work with the elderly.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

The Associated Press

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June 17, 1979, Sunday, AM cycle

SECTION: Domestic News

LENGTH: 414 words

BYLINE: By MICHAEL O'CONNOR, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: HOUSTON

BODY:

For the first time, the decision of who runs the nation's largest Mexican-American affairs organization apparently will rest in the hands of women.

Dolores Guererro, director of women's activities for the League of United Latin American Citizens, estimated Saturday that when registration is finished for Sunday's leadership vote, 70 percent of the 750 delegates to the organization's convention here would be women.

However, Texas LULAC Director Ruben Bonilla estimated the delegates probably are split evenly between the sexes.

"I would say Mrs. Guerrero's estimate is on the high side," he said.

He said the credentials committee will make a final report on the total number of delegates Sunday morning, but he said it would not be broken down as to sex.

"Women don't vote in a bloc anyway," Bonilla said. "They have a caucus. They have very legitimate needs in our society. But they vote on the basis of qualifications of specific candidates."

However, Bonilla agreed that for an organization that began with men only, "women's membership is increasing at a faster rate than male membership, especially in the last four or five years."

LULAC was founded 50 years ago and there wasn't a female member.

Before Mrs. Guererro made her estimate, the potential influence of women was evident.

The group's first symposium on Hispanic women caused a crowd to pack into the hotel ballroom where other convention meetings had drawn far fewer delegates.

"The symposium was a victory for the Hispanic woman," Mrs. Guerrerro said. "There are things that need to be said for Hispanic women throughout the country, and we have to take the initiative."

Mrs. Guerrerro said Hispanic women are just now coming into their own in the business and political worlds because of the strong family tradition in the Mexican-American culture that had kept them in the home.

"When I graduated from high school, you either got married right away, or you got a job until you got married," she said. "It was unheard of for a Hispanic woman to leave her children in a day-care center so she could pursue a career."

"Now we are putting the children into those centers and moving into the professional ranks," she said. "But most Hispanic women haven't had the kind of leadership training available to Anglo women."

"Our women are interested in moving up, but they haven't had the guts come forward, express their problems and ask how they can do it," she said.

"We have to be more aggressive."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Memorandum to Liz Bowyer

From: Ruby Shamir

Date: 10/4/94

Subj: LULAC

JS The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) was established in 1929 in Corpus Christi, TX and the organization spread over America's southwest. The organization began as solely male. Now, however, women make up over 50% of their membership. LULAC seeks to strengthen the bond between Hispanics and corporate America. LULAC promotes civil rights of Hispanic Americans and takes strong position on a number of issues:

-LULAC is opposed to the U.S. English movement which would make English the official language of the U.S.

-LULAC ~~is~~ strongly promotes education in the Hispanic community. LULAC established the National Education Services Centers. NESC is an educational corporation which seeks to insure access to higher education for Hispanic students. NESC offers counseling, career planning and financial aid. It also operates the LULAC National Scholarship Fund Program.

-LULAC does not take political positions but admits that most Hispanic voters support Democratic tickets. LULAC has led many voter registration campaigns in the days of the poll tax and the organization continues these projects in heavily Hispanic communities.

-LULAC has generally been opposed to many immigration bills which they view as discriminatory against undocumented workers [specifically a 1985 Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.) and Romano Mazzoli (D-KY) bill].

-Veterans assistance is a major LULAC issue. LULAC believes that Hispanics have served the country well in times of war and should be duly compensated.

Sometimes LULAC's behavior appears to run in opposition to its cause. In 1985 a LULAC convention was held which was sponsored in part by the Adolph Coors company. This convention was protested by many who claim that the Coors Company has been notoriously discriminatory to Hispanics. Additionally, in its past LULAC was criticized for focusing primarily on the Hispanic middle class. Recently, it has shifted its agenda to serving lower class Hispanics, specifically by pushing education programs. Its leaders still tend to be middle and upper class.

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September 16, 1994, FRIDAY, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: LOCAL, Pg. A23, HOUTEX PROMO

LENGTH: 442 words

HEADLINE: LONG ROAD FOR LULAC LEADER

BYLINE: TESSIE BORDEN, THE HOUSTON POST STAFF

BODY:

Belen Robles was elected national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens on July 2, but she's been running for the post since 1970.

"I've always considered myself a maverick, in this and in my job," said Robles, 56.

Robles, who on Wednesday made her friend Dolores Guerrero's Washington Avenue restaurant her base of operations, is in town to help LULAC's Houston Council No. 60 mark its 60th anniversary.

She will speak tonight at the council's celebration starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Medallion Hotel.

Robles said she first ran for the yearly post in 1970, but at that time it was too soon for the membership to consider having a woman president. She ran again in 1976, when the group held its national convention in California and she thought a more progressive attitude might prevail. It was not to be that time, either.

Through the years, other women have also run for the job, and Robles became friends with them. She said Anita Del Rio, a former candidate from California, gave her a lot of personal support.

She said the women of LULAC, which has 210,000 members nationwide, also supported her this time, something that had not happened before.

"In the past, women were reluctant to vote for a woman president," she said. "The last time I ran, about 50 percent of the women's membership did not vote for me."

Robles says she plans to run things "somewhat differently than a man would" and has been working on appointing a cabinet to help her set policy for the organization. Guerrero is the secretary for commerce and trade.

Goals:

Robles plans to concentrate on two areas she considers important for the organization: education and civil rights.

① She has been working on appointing an education committee that will hold an "education summit" in Chicago in late fall. She wants the committee to develop a five-year plan to improve Hispanics' dismal percentages in education: Only 48 percent finish high school, only 10 percent finish college, and only about 1 percent get a post-graduate degree.

② She also wants to appoint a civil rights commission to develop an "activists' manual" to be distributed to the local councils that will provide guidelines on how to protest civil rights violations in the public and private sectors.

Robles began working in 1971 for the U.S. Customs Service as one of only five women inspectors. She is now chief inspector for the cargo facility in El Paso.

At the same time, she has raised three children, one of whom lives in Houston. Alongside her is her husband of 40 years, Ramiro Robles.

"It seems as if we were married just yesterday," she said.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO Jerry Click / The Houston Post, New LULAC president Belen Robles says she will concentrate on education and civil rights.

LOAD-DATE-MDC: September 17, 1994

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THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

September 16, 1994, Friday, HOME FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 28A

LENGTH: 407 words

HEADLINE: LULAC launches program;
Hispanic economic gain is effort's target

BYLINE: Sylvia Martinez, Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

BODY:

On the day before Mexican Independence Day, LULAC launched an economic development program that officials said is designed to help Hispanics gain economic independence.

"The civil rights issue of the '90s and of the year 2000 and beyond is economic empowerment," LULAC regional director Hector Flores said Thursday at a news conference at City Hall.

LULAC officials, who complained that the city's minority contracting program is unfair to Hispanics, said they decided to try to help, rather than throwing rocks.

So they created the "Dallas Si Campaign" to help Hispanic-owned businesses obtain city contracts.

"This is not an adversarial campaign, this is an awareness campaign," said David Cruz, chairman of the newly formed project.

"Hispanics are not being treated fairly when it comes to business opportunities in Dallas."

The goal of the program is to increase the number and size of city contracts awarded to Hispanic-owned businesses and educate them about the city's minority contracting opportunities.

Officials with the League of United Latin American Citizens have complained that the city's minority contracting goals for Hispanics are too low because they are based on the number of businesses within the city's limits.

However, the law specifies that the city can only count businesses within the city to set its goals. To count businesses outside the city's corporate limits would require

minority
contracts

a change in legislation, city officials said.

Jiroko Rosales, director of the city's Office of Minority Business Opportunity, defended the city's program, saying that it is "working for what it was designed to do."

Still, she commended LULAC's campaign.

"If the effort is going to result in increasing people's awareness that there is a city program . . . that's a positive thing," she said.

City Council member Chris Luna said he thought it was appropriate that the program be launched just before Diez y Seis de Septiembre celebrations. The holiday commemorates the day in 1810 when Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla called his followers to rebel against the Spanish.

"As we remember our heritage and our past, clearly the kind of independence we're looking for now is economic independence," he said. "LULAC has stepped up to the plate, much like Father Hidalgo did, and is ringing that bell to educate and to mobilize the masses and saying now is the time to make sure that we have our economic independence."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Hector Flores. ; LOCATION: League of United Latin American Citizens.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: September 17, 1994

July 9, 1994, Saturday, 2 STAR Edition

SECTION: A; Lori Rodriguez; Pg. 25

LENGTH: 810 words

HEADLINE: LULAC turning Puerto Rican

BYLINE: LORI RODRIGUEZ; Staff

BODY:

AT THE tail end of the League of United Latin American Citizens convention in El Paso, Johnny Mata, district director of the Houston LULAC, scurried around the stage, consulting anxiously with leaders and scribbling on paper.

Mata was wording and rewording a resolution condemning what experts believe is flawed research that minimizes the contributions of immigrants to this country and maximizes the drain. It is an important issue, one that Mata has tried to counter at the local level for months and among several resolutions scheduled to be voted on by the delegates before they departed.

He should have given it up. After the acrimonious election of a new national president that began at 8 a.m. and dragged on till 9 p.m, it wasn't that no one had the will to consider serious issues, it was that there was no one left to consider anything.

The resolutions, whatever they would have been, that customarily close LULAC's conventions were lost in the winds of an election that consumed all energies. No real business got conducted save the election. No lofty issues got addressed. No serious attempts were made to tackle the critical problems confronting Latinos.

"This is nothing here," Mata had said, earlier that day amid the disheartening maneuvering.

"The most significant thing you will see is when the election is over and members leave the convention prepared to leave the conflict behind them and work together to carry out the resolutions that are passed.

"It's not this that matters," Mata had said staunchly.

"Because leaders come and go. Organizations have to remain."

Puerto Ricans controlled election

But in what form? And to what end?

On the cover of the official convention booklet that listed the agenda was a color photograph featuring the sun-drenched coast of Puerto Rico and carrying the headline: LULAC Puerto Rico Salutes El Paso! LULAC, 66th Annual Convention, June 26-July 1, 1995, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

On the far bottom, in much smaller, much less distinct type, was the subhead: 1994, LULAC Making History On the Border. This, presumably, offered up lest delegates forget where they were -- this year.

In the four-year national presidency of Jose Velez, the Las Vegas casino promoter indicted in a massive scheme to smuggle illegal immigrants, the Puerto Rican influence on LULAC has multiplied. Velez, a multimillionaire born in Nicaragua of a Puerto Rican father, was himself an anomaly in this most venerable of Mexican-American groups.

At the convention this year, 120 out of 604 voting delegates were from Puerto Rico, more than the entire Texas delegation. In the end, they controlled the election, wearing their specially printed T-shirts, chattering in their uniquely accented Spanish, hanging almost exclusively together, voting as a solid bloc and intimidating at least a few of the more modest, more retiring, Mexican-Americans.

Puerto Ricans are, after all, a very different breed of Hispanics. Beyond style, their focus on pet issues like international politics, statehood for their commonwealth and minority procurement contracts for their businessmen, raise fears among more traditional LULAC members that the group will stray too far from its original civil rights mission.

"We faced some of the same issues with Puerto Ricans in the National Hispanic Chamber of Commerce," says Marcos Rincon, former president of the chamber and a member of Dallas LULAC Council 100.

"The Puerto Ricans tend to have deeper pockets than most Mexican-Americans so more of them can afford to travel long distances to these conferences. They also are a majority in their own country so they're aggressive. They're used to making demands, getting their own way and rolling over anything and anyone else that stands in their way.

Awareness of clout needed

"It's not so much that Mexican-Americans have a minority mentality but that they have been slow to realize their potential clout and are caught unprepared. It's not

even so much that Puerto Ricans are ruthless but that they come into these groups well-organized, with a definite agenda, ready to spot the weakness and seize the opportunity. "

It is in their nature, says a longtime leader in one of the oldest LULAC councils in Texas who privately worries the Puerto

Ricans will take over the traditionally Mexican-American group.

"The Puerto Ricans are good for LULAC in a way, they bring in so much energy and enthusiasm and we need that. But we have to watch them. We wouldn't want them to take over our group," says the leader, who has been a member of the 65-year-old LULAC for decades.

"LULAC has meant too much to Mexican-Americans in Texas. It has been too big a part of us for way too long.

"We can't let it slip out of our hands now. "

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: July 11, 1994

*friction between
Puerto Ricans & Mexican Americans
in LULAC*

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GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

July 2, 1994, Saturday

LENGTH: 323 words

HEADLINE: LULAC ELECTS FIRST FEMALE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

BYLINE: RAMON RENTERIA; El Paso Times

DATELINE: EL PASO, Texas

BODY:

Belen Robles of El Paso emerged Saturday as the first woman to be elected president of the League of United Latin American Citizens in an emotionally charged election decided by six votes.

Robles, a U.S. Customs Service employee, is the first woman elected national president in LULAC's 65-year history.

"Now we can get down to business, Robles said.

She survived a scathing campaign against Texas state LULAC director Rosa Rosales of San Antonio.

Robles promised she'll move quickly to give LULAC a stronger presence in Washington, D.C., and influence policy at every level that affects Hispanics. She plans to appoint an advisory cabinet soon and consider re-opening a LULAC lobbying office in the nation's capital.

The election pitted Robles, a 35-veteran in LULAC politics, against Rosales, an outspoken activist who often accused Robles of not being forceful enough in articulating LULAC's national agenda while campaigning. Robles had twice before lost to male opponents in unsuccessful bids to lead the nation's oldest and best-known Hispanic civil rights organization.

Rosales started celebrating before the official tallies were announced only to discover minutes later that she had lost the race. She conceded defeat and said later she does not plan to ask for a recount.

"It was a hard fight, but I'm ready to go forward and work for my community," Rosales said. "The challenge for the new administration is to take an active and strong positive role in the issues of the Latino agenda."

Immediate past national President Jose Velez listed the official count as 337 votes for Robles and 331 for Rosales.

Robles pulled in strong support from present and past national LULAC leaders as well as Puerto Rico's 120 voting delegates.

"She will fight for the poor and the needy in the United States," Carlos Lopez of the Puerto Rican delegation said.

Puerto Rico is host of next year's LULAC national convention.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: July 12, 1994

July 2, 1994, Saturday, 2 STAR Edition

SECTION: A; Lori Rodriguez; Pg. 29

LENGTH: 823 words

HEADLINE: LULAC scandal scares leaders

BYLINE: LORI RODRIGUEZ; Staff

DATELINE: EL PASO

BODY:

EL PASO -- President Bill Clinton was asked to come to the 66th annual convention of the League of United Latin American Citizens but he did not. Gov. Ann Richards was asked to come but she also did not. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros, ditto. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, ditto. National Drug Czar Lee P. Brown, ditto.

Even Jose Velez, the outgoing national president of the venerable civil rights organization, failed to make the official opening ceremonies Wednesday. Ditto for a Friday luncheon honoring LULAC women. Ditto for a Friday breakfast of the league's pride and joy scholarship program for Hispanic students, the National Educational Services Centers, Inc. Ditto, in fact, for many of the hoi polloi events that have dotted the week-long convention.

But then Velez not only has plenty of reason to be conspicuous by his absence, he may well be the single most overriding reason why so many big-names stayed away.

Controversy
In what has been a crushingly public embarrassment to the long-lived, long-respected organization birthed in Texas, Velez and three others were indicted April 5 on federal charges of collecting millions of dollars in a scheme to smuggle Asians and Hispanics into the United States. Velez's son, Peter, has already pleaded guilty to charges he assisted in the \$ 5.6 million scheme to provide more than 5,600 immigrants with fake documents.

Indictments cost LULAC dearly

This has been no quiet scandal, either. From the moment Velez was elected four

years ago as an ostensible reform candidate who would mend the fractured organization, accusations have swirled around the former carnival operator turned casino promoter turned LULAC national leader. That he fabricated his educational background a la former Railroad Commissioner Lena Guerrero. That he used a hunk of his reputed \$ 10 million fortune to buy the election four years ago. And yes, that he was bilking illegal immigrants in

the scheme that ultimately led to what Immigration and Naturalization Service officials describe as the largest investigation in the agency's history.

There are even whispers, not so quiet among the more vocal members, that Velez used the organization's Amigos de LULAC program to assist some of the immigrants he provided with fraudulent documents in settling into their new, illegal lives here. Even whispers, not so kind among the more disenchanted members, that Velez will even mount a move to get LULAC to help him pay his legal fees.

"Is it any wonder that the major national leadership chooses to stay away en masse," says Ruben Bonilla, the longtime LULAC member who served as national president during the group's most glittering years.

"Not only does it speak to Velez's total inability to be taken seriously but, the hard truth is, it may also be unwise for a national official to be photographed next to an indicted leader of Velez's ilk. It looks bad. Very bad. " There is no question LULAC has suffered mightily. A legal fight is raging between the LULAC national office and a California LULAC council that publishes an organizational newspaper for members. Another fight has been instigated by Velez against former national treasurer Rafael Acosta over LULAC financial records. And even the election of a new president scheduled for today has dissolved into a struggle between the Texas state director, Rosa Rosales, who is billed as the reform candidate and is backed by anti-Velez forces, and a member of the LULAC national board, Belen Robles, who is described as a Velez intimate and is backed by many of his supporters.

Reign of terror ends; hope blooms

In short, if the organization Velez took over four years ago was fractured before, it is shattered today. But there is hope.

There is the rank-and-file. There is every member of every LULAC council in every local community in almost every state who, at this convention each year, justly celebrate all the good works they quietly do all year: The scholarships they provide to needy students, the assistance they give senior citizens, the job training they provide for aspiring Hispanics, the multitude of programs that the bedrock upon which LULAC's reputation has rested.

"There is disappointment here. There is disarray. But there is cautious optimism because this is the end of the Velez reign of terror. And regardless of which candidate to succeed him wins, the new president has got to be better than the old," says Bonilla, who has endorsed Rosales.

"I, for one, am greatly impressed by the stamina of the grass roots who are here. There is a die-hard mentality. An unyielding. A tenacity. A yearning for a new administration, a new organization, a new day.

"Now the only question is whether, like in Humpty Dumpty, all the king's men can put the organization together again. "

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: July 4, 1994

July 2, 1994, Saturday, 2 STAR Edition

SECTION: A; Pg. 29

LENGTH: 557 words

HEADLINE: LULAC voters making history electing leader;
1st woman to be president

BYLINE: LORI RODRIGUEZ; Staff

DATELINE: EL PASO

BODY:

EL PASO — Two longtime leaders of the League of United Latin American Citizens are poised to make history today when one of them becomes the first woman elected national president of the 65-year-old civil rights organization.

And regardless of which candidate wins, say LULAC members, a new day is clearly dawning.

"It's high-time for a woman to lead LULAC," said Rafael Acosta, Houston Metro board member and president of Houston LULAC Council 88. "They deserve to have their turn, now and in the years to come."

The campaign for the LULAC presidency has pitted Texas state director Rosa Rosales of San Antonio against LULAC national board member Belen Robles of El Paso.

While both promise a new national direction for the venerable organization that began in Texas, each will be hard-pressed to mend the internal discord that has wracked LULAC for much of the last decade.

"Whichever candidate winds up winning, she cannot afford to go it alone from there," said Ruben Bonilla, a past-president of LULAC who formally endorsed Rosales at a Friday news conference.

Bonilla said whichever candidate wins, "she will need all the strength of the grassroots members. She will need a collective band of leadership."

The Corpus Christi attorney went on to say: "I, for one, have promised Rosa Rosales to do my part by assisting her in any way she asks."

Among the problems facing the new president are healing wounds left by Jose Velez, the outgoing president.

A Las Vegas millionaire, Velez was elected four years ago amid charges he bought the election by paying for several hundred new Filipino members to attend the annual convention of the traditionally Mexican-American group and to vote for him.

On April 5, in what many LULAC members consider a public humiliation for the group, Velez was indicted by a federal grand jury in Las Vegas.

He faces charges of conspiring with three Taiwanese businessmen, reputed to be members of the Asian organized crime group known as the Four Seas Triad, to smuggle Asians and Hispanics into the United States.

Velez' son, Peter, already has pleaded guilty to charges he aided in the \$ 5.6 million scheme to provide more than 5,600 immigrants with fraudulent documents.

While LULAC has not been charged in the case, some applicants were processed through the office Velez ran for the organization in Las Vegas.

"The organization has been like the proverbial headless horseman," Bonilla said.

"And that has taken such a heavy toll that the battle cry for this convention must be, 'let LULAC live. '"

Not surprisingly, the infighting fanned by Velez has spilled over into the election, with Rosales billing herself as the reform candidates.

She is supported by anti-Velez members, such as Bonilla and Acosta, while Robles is backed by Velez allies.

The site of the convention, which originally was scheduled for Kansas City, was changed to El Paso by the national board.

The move has been denounced by Rosales supporters as a move by Robles forces to give her a voting advantage in her hometown.

Robles and Velez are members of the national board.

LULAC, which claims 100,000 members, is one of the most visible advocates for Hispanic issues in the nation.

About 6,000 delegates and guests are attending the convention.

GRAPHIC: Mugs: 1. Rafael Acosta; 2. Ruben Bonilla

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: July 4, 1994

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June 28, 1994, Tuesday, 2 STAR Edition

SECTION: A; Pg. 13

LENGTH: 673 words

HEADLINE: Attorney general demands payback;
LULAC asked to return settlement

BYLINE: ROSS RAMSEY, Houston Chronicle Austin Bureau; Staff

DATELINE: AUSTIN

BODY:

AUSTIN -- Attorney General Dan Morales is demanding that lawyers for a major Hispanic civil rights group return more than \$ 400,000 they were paid when they took Texas to court over the way it elects judges.

The attorney general's office wrote six lawyers who represented the League of United Latin American Citizens in its fight against judicial elections and threatened to sue them if they didn't return in 10 days the \$ 410,383 they received from the state.

The lawyers said the state agreed that they would return the fees paid by the state if LULAC was "not successful at the conclusion" of the case.

Morales, the state's first Hispanic attorney general, demanded the fees be returned because the case ended with the Texas system unaltered.

"I'm not sending them a check, I can tell you that," William Garrett of Dallas said. He is one of six lawyers who received the letter from Morales' office threatening a lawsuit if he didn't return \$ 135,000 -- his share of the total.

"I don't know where in the hell they'd find the money," Garrett said. "You can't get blood out of a turnip. "

LULAC sued the state, arguing that the state's system of electing judges at large, instead of from small defined geographic districts unfairly discriminated against minorities.

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed with part of LULAC's argument, ruling that judicial elections are subject to the Voting Rights Act, which is designed to ensure

elections are fair to minorities, and ordered the case back to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

That's where LULAC claimed victory.

But the 5th Circuit then ruled against LULAC on another critical point. It said the Texas system of electing jurists does not violate the Voting Rights Act.

Based on the state's win at the 5th Circuit, Morales wants the LULAC lawyers to return the fees paid to them by the state.

"I think it's very straightforward," First Assistant Attorney General Jorge Vega said. "The state won that case. "

But Garrett and others indicated the state would have to have won on all points to get a refund. "We won on a very important point," Garrett said.

The other lawyers involved include Rolando Rios, a Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress from San Antonio, who was paid a total of \$ 162,000 in legal fees. He's no more willing to return the money than Garrett. "Our position is that we won at the U.S. Supreme Court," Rios said.

The six lawyers might sue Morales before he sues them, making two arguments in favor of letting them keep the fees granted them by U.S. District Judge Lucius Bunton Jr. in 1990 and 1991.

First, they won part of the case. Second, Morales might have waited too long to demand reimbursement, according to Jose Garza, a San Antonio voting rights attorney who was not involved in the case.

"The federal courts have clear timelines on these things, and that's long past," he said.

Garza criticized Morales' decision to demand the money back.

He said the attorney general is trying to outmaneuver his political opponent, Don Wittig, R-Houston. "I think he wants to show that he's more Republican than the Republicans, that he's more fiscally conservative than his opponent," Garza said. "They figure the Mexican-American vote has nowhere else to go. "

Before the so-called "judicial redistricting case" finally went to the 5th Circuit Court, Morales and state lawmakers worked out a plan for single-member judicial districts in some of the state's most populous counties, including Harris County.

One legislator who's been closely involved in judicial redistricting, Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, said he hasn't looked into the legal issues in the fee fight, but is

sympathetic with the LULAC lawyers.

"In truth, they have been doing the Lord's work as civil rights advocates on a shoestring budget," he said. "It just strikes me as really tragic if we cannot find a way to compensate these fine attorneys for at least some of their work. "

GRAPHIC: Mug: Dan Morales

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: June 29, 1994

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June 26, 1994, Sunday, 2 STAR Edition

SECTION: A; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 1971 words

HEADLINE: Fretting over "fratricide";
LULAC loyalists yearn for the days gone by

BYLINE: LORI RODRIGUEZ; Staff

DATELINE: CORPUS CHRISTI

BODY:

CORPUS CHRISTI -- Adorning the walls of Ruben Bonilla's sprawling law firm here are rows and rows of faces. Portraits of Cesar Chavez and John F. Kennedy, prominent and poignant. Jesse Jackson, on the stump. A rotunda full of legislators. Then there are the LULAC years.

From behind a thousand podiums with a thousand long since silenced mikes, Bonilla smiles out from photos with a galaxy of greats. Those were the glory years. As a member on the move, a leader on the rise and finally, as the passionate national president from Texas, Bonilla and his battalion of earnest Hispanics through the late 1970s and 1980s for the first time propelled the League of United Latin American Citizens into the national headlines.

Only today, four years after he was squeezed out of the leadership ranks of LULAC in one of the ruthless purges that have racked the organization through the last decade, is Bonilla's private sanctum here free of most memorabilia. There are the obligatory presidential photos, all signed. But mainly, there is family: the wife, the parents and the children who now are the pride and preoccupation of the still young, still charismatic man whose LULAC role has been reduced to membership.

"A fraternal disintegration is eroding LULAC today that I find deeply saddening," says Bonilla, on the eve of the national convention that begins this week in El Paso, 65 years after the venerable group sprang from the mother Councils 1 and 2 here and in San Antonio.

"People have been stripped of their memberships because they spoke out. Other members have been subjected to a great deal of contempt and humiliation. Entire chapters have been disavowed.

Lawsuits have been rampant, setting members against members, consuming our precious energies and resources.

"I call it fratricide, and it is fracturing us from within. "

Not the least of LULAC's woes has been its current national president Jose Velez, the carnival operator turned casino promoter turned multimillionaire who, even before he was elected in a gritty power struggle four years ago, had been accused of everything from buying his election to having links with the Mafia.

At least some of the smoke seems to have been born of fire.

After the largest investigation in the history of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Velez and three Taiwanese businessmen reputed to be members of the Four Seas Triad, an Asian organized crime group, on April 5 were indicted by a federal grand jury in Las Vegas of collecting millions of dollars in a scheme to smuggle Asians and Hispanics into the United States illegally.

Applicants allegedly were charged \$ 250 to \$ 3,500 for the service. One fee was \$ 45,000. Velez's son, Peter, already has pleaded guilty to charges he assisted in the \$ 5.6 million scam to provide more than 5,600 immigrants with fake documents. And while LULAC has not been charged, some applicants were processed through its Las Vegas office, which Velez ran.

Not a pretty picture, say LULAC stalwarts who have watched helplessly as the granddaddy of Hispanic organizations -- which once led the charge for parity in juries, schools, housing, the workplace and the political system -- has been in an embarrassingly public free-fall. Some have jumped ship, at least in terms of attending national conventions.

Ruben Sandoval, the former special counsel from San Antonio who led LULAC legal fights as diverse as the Jose Campos Torres police brutality case in Houston and the single-member redistricting wars in Texas, noted that the circus is in San Antonio:

"I had a choice between Barnum & Bailey and the convention in El Paso. And between one circus and another, I opted to stay with the local one.

"LULAC's gone from a result-oriented organization of activists to a banquet-oriented bunch of blow-hards and do-nothings. They have their luncheons, banquets and press conferences to highlight issues. But we don't need to highlight them. We live them," says Sandoval. "

"They talk about being the oldest and largest Hispanic civil rights organization. What a joke. That membership has never been over 3,000 to 5,000 people. Then they pass their resolutions. What a shame. Those resolutions are never followed up.

""The fact is that unless and until there is a complete revamping of the leadership at the top, LULAC has no future. "

If Sandoval was a single disgruntled member, it would be par for the course of any group. But LULAC loyalists like Rafael Acosta, the Metropolitan Transit Authority board member who just completed a run for county judge, has been hard-pressed to remain resolute.

""The real strength of LULAC has always been at its local councils. But even then, they should have direction from the national office, and that has not been the case," says Acosta, owner of the popular Merida Mexican Restaurants here.

""Instead of the national office directing the news, the national office is making the news and in a highly negative fashion. "

Acosta has not abandoned the ailing group. A former national vice president with enduring LULAC roots, he still leads Council 88. But he concedes LULAC problems are critical.

""In the absence of national direction, the local councils have been forced to carry the whole load by themselves. That they have done as well as they have is a tribute to their energy and persistence. "

But in terms of having a national president with actual goals, objections and vision, LULAC has simply done without for years, he says bluntly.

""What issues have you seen the national LULAC address in the last six months, the last year, the last two years. Give me one issue," says Acosta.

""We've already lost a lot of ground to other Hispanic organizations. Like the National Council of La Raza, some people are saying that it's stronger now than we are, and we are the oldest. And MALDEF, some are saying that it's gotten better than we are, and we started MALDEF. It's all about clout, and we must regain it. "

In Houston, for more than the last decade, LULAC has been most visible in the single person of Johnny Mata, the indefatigable district director who may not be everywhere at once. It just seems that way.

On this day, not half over, Mata reported to work at the Gulf Coast Community Services Association, squeezed in an interview with a TV crew and soon will speak to the graduates of an adult education course. Hispanics are pouring into the eastside Latino Learning Center, where LULAC maintains its district office.

Children are everywhere. Mata is in his element.

""This isn't the first time LULAC has gone through crisis.

We're no different from any other organizations, from the NAACP to the Republican Party," he says stoutly.

""But we're on the verge of putting a lot of the problems behind us. Litigation is being resolved. We're looking forward to electing new leadership. And our strength and visibility at all levels is increasing. "

Ever the good soldier, Mata points to the LULAC successes that continue to thrive, in Houston and elsewhere. There is Project SER, the national job training program that funnels Hispanics into the workplace. And there are the LULAC Educational Service Centers that provide counseling and scholarship funds to needy, college-bound students.

LULAC, which long ago sparked the national Head Start program with its audacious Schools of the 400 aimed at Hispanic students, still operates a Head Start in Waco. Project Amistad programs in El Paso and other locales help Hispanic seniors. And longtime LULAC leaders have moved up, like state Sen. Carlos Truan and U.S. District Judge James DeAnda.

""The point is that the lifespan of every organization is like a roller coaster. It goes up and down in the sense of controversy or prosperity. But with the will, perseverance and commitment of the members, the organizations survive," says Mata.

""So will LULAC. It doesn't matter the level of crisis.

Because just like with all those soldiers who landed on Normandy, when a leader falls or dies, there are other people in the back to pick up the banner. "

Wretched national presidents have wracked LULAC before. An administration led by Jose Benitez brought LULAC to the brink of financial ruin. Another administration led by Jose Garcia de Lara touched off a series of purges called the de Lara reign of terror.

But here is where the flag analogy falls apart: Although Tony Bonilla from San Antonio and his brother, Ruben from Corpus Christi, emerged to pick up the pieces after Benitez, after de Lara, Velez was elected. And while Mata and Acosta both are looking to a new national president come Saturday's election as a part of the answer, the odds-on favorite, Rosa Rosales of San Antonio, also has her detractors.

""She made the rounds of the banquets and press conferences as Texas state director, too," says Sandoval. ""But beyond that, what? " Rosales, a feisty labor organizer with the National Association of Government Employees, vehemently defends her record, reeling off

the issues she has dealt with: discrimination in the workplace, equity in higher education and the continuing fight for human rights.

"It's true LULAC needs some very positive and very aggressive leadership but we are going to get that. Our future looks very bright," says Rosales.

But it is a sign of the ennui afflicting LULAC, of the wistful yearning for its heyday, that rumbles of a "Draft Bonilla for National President" movement have emanated from the ranks.

Only Bonilla can restore LULAC to its might, says former national vice president Ray Gano of Phoenix, in a letter to the members:

"Ruben will make us proud of LULAC and place it back on top where it belongs.

But in this cradle of Mexican-American activism, as Bonilla still dispatches clients, secretaries and paralegals with the practiced ease of a natural leader, he is at once proud his record inspires trust and honest about the chances for the draft.

"If I was guilty of anything during my years of leading LULAC, I was guilty of attempting to utilize the media to bring visibility to the problems that saddled the Hispanic community beyond comprehension," says Bonilla.

"And you can't do it in a vacuum, you can't do it in private rooms, you can't do it by boasting of ties to the Mafia, you can't do it by bilking illegal immigrants. You have to do it by community relations, by getting your message out in urban areas, by seeking new members wherever you can find them, by always expanding the network," says Bonilla.

"Velez has failed in that, miserably. We've been through a terrible period of upheaval. I call it the Dark Ages of LULAC."

The organization still can be rebuilt, Bonilla believes.

"But it will take tremendous drive and organization. I'm afraid the new president will spend at least the first year just trying to heal the wounds of litigation. And a lot of that is still going on."

Bonilla still plans to attend the convention, for the camaraderie, for the friendships, for the debt he says he still owes LULAC.

"But president again? I have not encouraged it. But I don't rule that out, either. I still feel very young and energetic. I still feel I could do a better job than anyone else in the post. I still feel I could bring more imagination, vision, devotion and resources to the office.

"But then I have to get back to reality. I have four children, and a very heavy, very demanding law practice. I would find it very difficult to leave that for either the fame or the infamy of the LULAC presidency.

"To this day, I'm not sure which it is. "

GRAPHIC: Photo: 1. LULAC's former president, Ruben Bonilla (color); Mug: 2. Jose Velez (b/w, p. 24); 1. Reba Graham/Special to Chronicle

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: Profile

LOAD-DATE-MDC: June 29, 1994

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May 21, 1994, Saturday, 2 STAR Edition

SECTION: A; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 470 words

HEADLINE: 1929 Jackie 1994;
First lady won friends here in '63;
Mrs. Kennedy gave speech in Spanish

BYLINE: STEFANIE ASIN; Staff

BODY:

Jacqueline Kennedy was radiant as she arrived at the packed ballroom in the old Rice Hotel the night before her husband was killed.

And while few remember the short speech she made to Houston's League of United Latin American Citizens, they do remember how she gave it.

"She made her speech in Spanish. It seemed like it came from the heart," said David Adame, one of the many Hispanic leaders at the LULAC party on Nov. 21, 1963. "I think she did a beautiful job. She was very happy and gave me the impression she was sincere throughout." She and President Kennedy were pressed for time that night as they headed for a dinner at the Sam Houston Coliseum to honor U.S. Rep. Albert Thomas. But Mrs. Kennedy made the time.

"She was a radiant, beautiful, sophisticated lady with charisma that touched everyone," Alfred Hernandez, 77, said Friday. "Like most of us, I admired her very much."

The first lady mingled with the crowd, speaking Spanish to LULAC members. She was a "friend" to Hispanics, he said, because she recognized their heritage.

"She was special to us because she spoke our language and she spoke it fluently," said Hernandez. "Let me tell you, Hispanics are in mourning today because of what happened last night."

Hernandez, a former national president of LULAC, was surprised to see the first couple at the function. But it was not a surprise for all LULAC members, some of whom worked for months to get them to drop by.

They were supposed to stay only four or five minutes at the LULAC function, but tarried for 19, said Adame, who at the time was second in command behind the state

LULAC director. They also were supposed to stay a safe distance from the crowd -- at the urging of Secret Service agents -- but both were mobbed at the door, where they shook hands with nearly everyone.

Adame also was impressed with the first lady's command of Spanish.

Thinking about her death Friday, Adame searched his files at home and found a LULAC newsletter written one week after her visit.

In it was the transcript of what she said that night.

"I am very happy to be here in Texas, especially to be here with you and to see this noble tradition in Spanish. This tradition was established over 100 years ago before the state of Massachusetts was recognized, where my husband was born," she said.

"It is a tradition that is very strong and vigorous. You all work for Texas and for the United States. Thank you. " Adame said now, 31 years later, he is unsure what tradition she was referring to. He thinks it might have been their celebration that night.

The impact of her Houston visit was even greater because of what happened the next day, Hernandez said. "It was something you don't forget very easily. "

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: Obituary; Biography

LOAD-DATE-MDC: May 23, 1994

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April 8, 1994, Friday, 2 STAR Edition

SECTION: A; Pg. 25

LENGTH: 462 words

HEADLINE: San Antonio activist eyes LULAC post

BYLINE: San Antonio Express-News

DATeline: SAN ANTONIO

BODY:

SAN ANTONIO — A San Antonio labor organizer plans to run for president of a major Latino citizens' group after the indictment of the organization's leader.

"I have been getting a lot of calls saying I should go for the presidency," said Rosa Rosales, Texas state director of the League of United Latin American Citizens, or LULAC.

LULAC President Jose Velez and three Taiwanese were indicted Tuesday in Las Vegas on federal charges of conspiring to create and supply false documents so thousands of illegal immigrants could remain in the United States.

The indictment said immigrants were each charged as much as \$ 45,000 for fraudulent documents provided by the alleged Taiwanese conspirators Bill Tzeng, Simon Chang and Al Feng.

According to the indictment, Velez carried out his part of the alleged conspiracy through his Las Vegas immigration consulting firm, Velez & Sons Inc

LULAC, a leading national Hispanic civil rights organization, was not accused of any wrongdoing.

Rosales was elected to her third, one-year term as state director last May.

"I'll seek a fourth term in June at the state convention in Laredo," said Rosales, a labor organizer with the National Association of Government Employees in San Antonio.

Rosales will seek the presidency in July at the national convention in El Paso. Velez is serving the final year of a four-year term.

"I can say (Velez) has done OK as national president," said Rosales, involved with LULAC since 1978. "The indictment at this time is on his business and his sons, not on LULAC. It will be as strong as ever. "

Ruben Sandoval, a San Antonio lawyer who has been involved in factional fights among local LULAC members, called the indictment of Velez "a day of celebration. "

"The government is doing LULAC a service to remove him," Sandoval said. "He perpetuated fraud on the organization. "

Velez could not be reached for comment.

The alleged conspiracy, which ran from March 1988 to about January 1991, sought to misuse the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.

The act authorized immigrants living in the United States illegally since before Jan. 1, 1982, to apply for amnesty as a step toward becoming legal U.S. residents.

Under the law, immigrants who performed seasonal agricultural work for specified periods also could file another type of legalization application.

At the height of the alleged conspiracy, Velez reportedly received as much as \$ 50,000 a day for his work.

Velez and his fellow alleged conspirators are accused of obtaining blank envelopes, bearing Mexican postage and backdated Mexican postmarks, which were then addressed to unqualified immigrants to serve as fictitious evidence of longtime U.S. residency.

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Abuse of Amnesty Program Is Alleged

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BYLINE: Pierre Thomas, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

The president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), one of the nation's largest Latino organizations, was indicted yesterday in connection with an alleged amnesty scam involving thousands of illegal immigrants.

Federal prosecutors charged that Jose Velez conspired along with three Taiwanese immigration consultants to "create and supply" false documents and statements to federal immigration officials "so that applicants who were not legally entitled to reside and to work in the [United States] could fraudulently obtain the right to do so."

The 17-count indictment obtained by Kathryn E. Landreth, the U.S. attorney in Las Vegas, charges that the conspirators "recruited large numbers of unqualified aliens and brought them to Las Vegas, sometimes by the busload" from March 1988 to January 1991. Many of the recruits were wealthy Taiwanese citizens, who were sometimes charged fees as high as \$ 45,000 per application, the indictment says.

Edward Marshall, attorney for Velez, declined comment, saying he had not yet seen the indictment.

Prosecutors say the alleged scam involves abuse of the Immigration Reform and Control Act, which went into effect in 1986. Under the act, illegal immigrants could file applications to legalize their status. Immigrants who had been in continuous illegal status before 1982 were allowed to file amnesty applications, as were undocumented aliens who performed at least 90 days of seasonal agricultural work during 12-month periods from 1984 through 1986.

Certain organizations were designated to file amnesty applications. One of them was LULAC-Nevada, where Velez was state director.

Justice Department officials charged that Velez, through his immigration consulting business, Velez and Sons Inc., "processed thousands of false legalization applications." LULAC has not been accused of any wrongdoing.

Velez and the conspirators allegedly falsely claimed that applicants had done the required agricultural work and provided documentation or statements showing that the illegal immigrants had lived in the country since before 1982, though they had not.

The indictment is part of an ongoing series of immigration fraud investigations conducted by the INS and the Internal Revenue Service.

In January, federal officials charged Billy Tzeng and Simon Chang, two Taiwanese citizens, with five counts of filing false statements to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Those five counts were incorporated into yesterday's superseding indictment, which was expanded to include Velez and Al Feng, another Taiwan citizen. In a separate case, also filed yesterday, a company competing against Velez was charged with similar offenses.

In that case, Diana Hernandez and three codefendants were charged with alleged abuses of the amnesty law.

If convicted on all counts, Velez and Feng face a maximum penalty of 60 years in prison and a fine of \$ 3 million. Tzeng and Chang face a maximum sentence of 85 years imprisonment and a fine totaling \$ 4.2 million.

LULAC is one of the country's largest and oldest grass-roots Hispanic organizations. It seeks to promote full social, political, economic and educational rights for Hispanics in the United States. It encourages voter registration and offers employment and training programs. Last night, officials at the organization's Nevada headquarters were scrambling to find out exactly what Velez had been charged with. Officials said they would not issue a statement until they had further information about the charges.

Velez, who was born in Managua, Nicaragua, has been the subject of attention since 1990, when he was elected president of LULAC in a disputed election at the organization's national convention in Albuquerque, according to published reports.

For years, INS officials have charged that the amnesty program has been overwhelmed by thousands of false applications. In 1990, INS began more closely scrutinizing firms and immigration attorneys that had been charging thousands of dollars to assist applicants in filing applications.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I remember once hearing a story about Ben Garza and his role in founding LULAC many years ago. When he was 15 his father died. So he had to quit high school and work to help support his mother and six siblings. He worked as a waiter in a restaurant and saved enough money to put the other kids through school. Ben kept

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I saw some statistics recently that showed that the largest population group among Hispanics is children under the age of 5. I saw another statistic that showed that Hispanic children are twice as likely to be living in poverty as non-Hispanic children. Taken together, those statistics offer a somewhat gloomy forecast for the future of Hispanic children in America.

They also serve as a reminder that we must never give up pushing for progress and change -- whether it is economic renewal, health care reform, welfare reform, crime legislation, voting rights, fair housing, or an expansion of Head Start.

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

And we are making progress:

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

CRIME (LULAC was very supportive of the Crime Bill)

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

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

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

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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

He believes that we cannot afford to waste a single person in this country, particularly not a child. That's why, with nearly 10 million American children currently lacking health insurance, he believes so firmly in the need for health care reform that will make sure that all children have immunizations and well-baby exams. It's why he believes in a world-class education system that begins in pre-school and continues through high school, and college, and job training, and beyond. It's why

he believes in tough crime measures that will enable children to enjoy their childhoods without fear of violence and guns in their neighborhoods and schools.

While we are making progress, we must remember that government alone cannot solve all of our problems. We must rely on individuals to take more responsibility. We must rely on organizations such as yours to continue to exercise leadership, as you have for so many years.

And we must be patient. We are tackling complex problems. There is no panacea. But the march is worth making because the future depends on our commitment to restoring the American Dream for the generations that follow us.

In the last few weeks, many people have asked me whether I'm going to continue to work for health care reform. And my answer is always the same. I'm a product of privilege. I'm the product of good health, a good education, a secure family. Why would anyone in my position give up the chance to extend those opportunities to Americans who aren't so fortunate?

My message is one that is reflected throughout LULAC's history. We must always strive to move forward, however difficult the road, and however long the journey may be.

I'm reminded that during the campaign some of our Hispanic supporters used to have signs that said: "Adelante [ah-deh-lahn-teh] con Clinton." [Let's move forward with Clinton]

As we look to the future, I'd like to amend that to say: "Adelante con ustedes" [oo-steh-des -- with you]. "Adelante, nosotros [together]."

Thank you very much.

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TO: Lissa
FROM: Kathy
DATE: 9-29-94
RE: HRC/LULAC

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS (LULAC)

210,000 members nationwide (another source: over 100,000)

Nation's largest and oldest grass-roots Hispanic organization (65 years old)

Led the charge for parity in juries, schools, housing, the workplace and the political system

The real strength of LULAC has always been at its local councils

LULAC projects:

- Project SER, the national job training program that funnels Hispanics into the workplace
- LULAC Educational Service Centers that provide counseling and scholarship funds to needy, college-bound students
- Project Amistad programs help Hispanic seniors

LULAC's "issues":

- economic empowerment
- immigration
- education
- domestic policy
- economic development
- trade
- foreign affairs
- civil rights for all Americans

LULAC's president, Belen Robles:

- first woman national president of LULAC
- two major areas she considers important for the org. are education and civil rights

- 1) wants to appoint an education committee that will develop a five year plan to improve Hispanics' dismal percentages in education: only 48% finish high school, only 10% finish college, and only about 1% get a post-graduate degree
- 2) wants to appoint a civil rights commission to develop an "activists' manual" to be distributed to the local councils that will provide guidelines on how to protest civil rights violations in the public and private sectors

LULAC and health care:

- supports universal health care coverage
- Robles believes in the importance of preventative health care
- "Because of the way our health care system is currently

structured, we tend to react to catastrophic or serious illnesses and situations that in our opinion could be greatly reduced through preventative health care services," said Robles.

LULAC and the Clinton administration goals:

- supports universal health care coverage
- supports crime bill
- supports assault weapon ban

Friction between Puerto Ricans and Mexican Americans within the organization.

Former president, Jose Velez, in serious trouble:

- involved in the largest investigation in the history of the INS
- indicted by a federal grand jury in Las Vegas, faces charges of conspiring with three Taiwanese businessmen, reputed to be members of the Asian organized crime group known as the Four Seas Traid, to smuggle Asians and Hispanics into the U.S.
- Velez's son, Peter, already has pleaded guilty to charges he aided in the \$5.6 million scheme to provide more than 5,600 immigrants with fraudulent documents