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Last Updated: 04/01/2025

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 17, 1984

1984 APR 18 AM 10: 4

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
AND DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Draft Presidential Remarks:
Hispanic Coalition Leadership Luncheon

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced draft Presidential remarks and has no objection to them from a legal perspective.

cc: Richard G. Darman

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1984 APR 16 PM 7:00

April 16, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BEN ELLIOTT *Be*

SUBJECT: Hispanic Luncheon

RR DS

Attached is a draft for your Hispanic Luncheon remarks for tomorrow. The event came on our schedule late, so these remarks are being circulated simultaneously to Senior Staff.

Thank you.

(Rohrabacher/BE)
April 16, 1984
7:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HISPANIC COALITION LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON
TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1984

Buenas tardes and welcome to the White House. I am delighted to have had this chance to break bread with you. I met with many of the organizations represented today during my first weeks in office, and I had the pleasure of renewing that acquaintance at a roundtable discussion in El Paso.

A special word of congratulations to Jose Cano [Ho-zay KAH-no] and Raul Yzaguirre [Ra-OOL Ee-SAH-gee-ray] for all they've accomplished in putting this third National Hispanic Leadership Conference together.

Being a Californian, I've always appreciated our country's rich Hispanic tradition. Back when I was Governor, I remember visiting the site of a natural disaster in the Santa Barbara area. Mudslides had been playing havoc with people's homes. I came to one place and there was an elderly American man of Hispanic descent standing knee deep in mud, the ruins of what once was his living room all around him. Even amid this great catastrophe ~~he looked at me, and in all sincerity~~ ^{with characteristic dignity & courtesy he} said, "Mi casa es su casa."

I never forgot that old man. It struck me that here was an individual, amidst all his trials, having just lost so many of the things he dearly loved, who still maintained his ~~dignity~~ ^{pride} and composure enough to offer me this most traditional of Hispanic greetings. This was a tribute to his own upbringing and values.

So, let me too, say welcome. Mi casa es su casa. In the case of the White House, this really is your house.

~~James Earl Ray~~
Americans of Hispanic descent ~~can~~ be proud of the contributions they have made and are making to our way of life. The strength of your values, even in the face of discrimination and hardship, is an inspiring story of dignity and courage. The emergence of Americans of Hispanic descent in business and government proves the American dream is alive and well, if we just give it a chance.

Providing more opportunity to all our citizens, through a strong and growing economy, has been priority number one of this Administration.

Four years ago, talk about economic advancement and increasing opportunity was a cruel hoax. Economic stagnation and murderous inflation were destroying the dream of a better life. A spirit of pessimism, not in keeping with the American character, was rising, and even our leaders were throwing up their hands, complaining about a malaise.

By stopping people from being mauled by higher and higher taxes, decreasing the regulatory burden, and bringing down inflation, we've set this country back on the road to real economic growth. We've broken the grip stagnation had on our throats during the 1970's.

From the pit of pessimism, a stronger and more vital America is emerging. The gross national product was up 6 percent last year. This year's first quarter growth rate of 7.2 percent suggests the recovery is continuing at a fast clip.

In the last 16 months, 5.1 million people have found jobs, bringing employment to its highest level in our history. The unemployment rate is declining faster than anyone predicted.

Of all the job training and employment programs in the Department of Labor -- and there are many -- some of the most effective are sponsored by Hispanic organizations.

Ranking among the top in placement and cost effectiveness is the American G.I. Forum's National Veteran's Outreach Program. Similar to the G.I. Forum is the well known "SER" [rhymes with air] -- "Jobs For Progress Program." In 1982, we passed the Job Training Partnership Act to help those who need it the most to develop marketable skills. These two Hispanic organizations, both of which were helping people even before the legislation, have used this opportunity to do even more. I want you to know how much I appreciate and applaud your good citizenship.

Of course, training would be useless, unless jobs are available. And three out of four new jobs are created by small business. Well, with the recovery gaining steam, 548,000 new businesses were incorporated last year. Americans of Hispanic descent already own some 363,000 businesses, generating about \$18 billion in sales per year. The small business surge is good news to your community.

I know education, the doorway to opportunity, has always been a major concern to all of you. When we arrived in Washington, educational standards had been falling for nearly 20 years. So our Administration appointed the National Commission on Excellence in Education, and we have been mobilizing support across the country to implement its recommendations. We are beginning to turn the situation around, and I am absolutely determined to provide opportunities for all

American children to develop the skills they need to compete in this society.

The immigration legislation now being debated on the Hill is also important to you, and rightfully so. I think we can all agree on the need to address this serious and growing problem and to do so in a way that ends discrimination against illegal immigrants working and living in this country. Let me assure you, I will insist that any immigration legislation passed by the Congress be applied and enforced in a way that prevents discrimination against Americans of Hispanic descent.

A rising economy and greater opportunities give us confidence. But America does not exist in a vacuum. Today, a faraway totalitarian power is committing enormous resources to change the strategic balance of the world by turning Central America into a string of anti-American, Soviet-style dictatorships. If we do not have the courage and political will to counter this power play, our friends will lose their freedom, and America's security will be threatened.

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of our commitment is countering aggression. We face one of the major challenges to democracy in our time.

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There is still time to defend freedom, but to do so we can not stand as a house divided against itself. We must recognize our common values. We must take a no-nonsense approach to protecting our vital interests. President Kennedy demonstrated this kind of determination when he said ". . . I want it clearly understood that this Government will not hesitate in meeting its primary obligations which are to the security of our Nation!"

We Americans carry a heavy burden. Free people everywhere look to us. If freedom is to survive, much depends on what we do, on our courage, and on our strength of character. This, of course, is not new.

A few weeks ago, I was honored to meet in the Roosevelt Room with 10 American heroes, Medal of Honor winners who represent the best of our country. It was a privilege to be in their company. More than any others I've met here in the White House, I felt that this was, indeed, their house. They paid for it with their courage and service, above and beyond the call of duty. Their valor kept this country free, and I was truly awed by them.

It just so happens that these American heroes, each proudly wearing his Medal of Honor around his neck, were all Americans of Hispanic descent. Yes, we are all Americans. Together, united in purpose, we can meet the challenges to our liberty. Together we can make certain that America fulfills its historic responsibilities and remains the land of opportunity and freedom God intended it to be.

I thank you for being here today. God bless you and vayan con Dios.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/16/84 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ASAP

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HISPANIC COALITION LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1984

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McFARLANE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MEESE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McMANUS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MURPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OGLESBY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FELDSTEIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SVAHN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VERSTANDIG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FULLER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WHITTLESEY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HERRINGTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTWILER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HICKEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WIRTHLIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JENKINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FISCHER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			CICCONI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			ROSEBUSH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			ELLIOTT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			FAULKNER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has gone forward to the President. Please forward any comments/edits directly to Ben Elliott AS SOON AS POSSIBLE in room 100 EOB, and send an information copy to my office.

Thank you

RESPONSE:

*Treasury
Education
Labor
Justice
Commerce
Don*

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
Ext. 2702

(Rohrabacher/BE)

April 16, 1984

7:00 p.m.

RR

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 16, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BEN ELLIOTT *Be*
SUBJECT: Hispanic Luncheon

Attached is a draft for your Hispanic Luncheon remarks for tomorrow. The event came on our schedule late, so these remarks are being circulated simultaneously to Senior Staff.

Thank you.

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April 16, 1984

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April 16, 1984
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Debate on this issue has strayed too far from reality. If we mean to oppose Communist aggression, then we cannot throw every possible roadblock in the way of helping our peace-loving friends defend themselves. We cannot ignore the consequences of

passively watching guerrillas force communist dictatorships down the throats of the people of Central America. If Central America is lost, then our own borders will be threatened -- and that is why this issue is so important to the security of our people.

There is still time to defend freedom, but to do so we can not stand as a house divided against itself. We must recognize our common values. We must take a no-nonsense approach to protecting our vital interests. President Kennedy demonstrated this kind of determination when he said ". . . I want it clearly understood that this Government will not hesitate in meeting its primary obligations which are to the security of our Nation!"

We Americans carry a heavy burden. Free people everywhere look to us. If freedom is to survive, much depends on what we do, on our courage, and on our strength of character. This, of course, is not new.

A few weeks ago, I was honored to meet in the Roosevelt Room with 10 American heroes, Medal of Honor winners who represent the best of our country. It was a privilege to be in their company. More than any others I've met here in the White House, I felt that this was, indeed, their house. They paid for it with their courage and service, above and beyond the call of duty. Their valor kept this country free, and I was truly awed by them.

It just so happens that these American heroes, each proudly wearing his Medal of Honor around his neck, were all Americans of Hispanic descent. Yes, we are all Americans. Together, united in purpose, we can meet the challenges to our liberty. Together we can make certain that America fulfills its historic

responsibilities and remains the land of opportunity and freedom
God intended it to be.

I thank you for being here today. God bless you and vayan
con Dios.

(Rohrabacher/BE)
April 16, 1984
6:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HISPANIC COALITION LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON
TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1984

Buenas tardes and welcome to the White House. I am delighted to have had this chance to break bread with you. I met with many of the organizations represented today during my first weeks in office, and I had the pleasure of renewing that acquaintance at a roundtable discussion in El Paso.

A special word of congratulations to Jose Cano [Ho-zay KA-no] and Raul Yzaguirre (Ra-OOL Ee-SAH-gee-ray) for all they've accomplished in putting this third National Hispanic Leadership Conference together.

Being a Californian, I've always appreciated our country's rich Hispanic tradition. Back when I was Governor, I remember visiting the site of a natural disaster in the Santa Barbara area. Mudslides had been playing havoc with people's homes. I came to one place and there was an elderly American man of Hispanic descent standing knee deep in mud, the ruins of what once was his living room all around him. Even amid this great catastrophe he looked at me, and in all sincerity said, "Mi casa es su casa."

I never forgot that old man. It struck me that here was an individual, amidst all his trials, having just lost so many of the things he dearly loved, who still maintained his dignity and composure enough to offer me this most traditional of Hispanic greetings. This was a tribute to his own upbringing and values.

So, let me too, say welcome. Mi casa es su casa. In the case of the White House, this really is your House.

Americans of Hispanic descent can be proud of the contributions they have made and are making to our way of life. The strength of your values, even in the face of discrimination and hardship, is an inspiring story of dignity and courage. The emergence of Americans of Hispanic descent in business and government proves the American dream is alive and well, if we just give it a chance.

Providing more opportunity to all our citizens, through a strong and growing economy, has been priority number one of this Administration.

Four years ago, talk about economic advancement and increasing opportunity was a cruel hoax. Economic stagnation and murderous inflation were destroying the dream of a better life. A spirit of pessimism, not in keeping with the American character was rising, and even our leaders were throwing up their hands complaining about a malaise.

By stopping people from being mauled by higher and higher taxes, decreasing the regulatory burden, and bringing down inflation, we've set this country back on the road to real economic growth. We've broken the grip stagnation had on our throats during the 1970's.

From the pit of pessimism, a stronger and more vital America is emerging. The gross national product was up 6 percent last year. This year's first quarter growth rate of 7.2 percent suggests the recovery is continuing at a fast clip.

In the last 16 months, 5.1 million people have found jobs, bringing employment to its highest level in our history. The unemployment rate is declining faster than anyone predicted.

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(Noonan)
April 16, 1984
6:30 p.m.

KT pre-change

PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: WEYERHAEUSER
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1984

Thank you very much. It's good to be here, to get out of Washington. I'm always happy to be in a place where they wear hardhats, because it means I'm around people who work hard for a living. I may bring a few of these back and hand them out to the Congress. And I may keep a few for my staff.

I want to thank Dick McLean for the tour of your facilities here. It was very informed, very comprehensive. I wish we could take him to China with us. The best thing he showed us is how hard you work and what you're accomplishing. It put me in mind of Will Rogers, who once said, "One-third of the people in the U.S. promote -- the other two-thirds provide." It's nice to be around the providers.

X I want to say a few words about the importance of what you're doing. All of us forget sometimes that the particular job we are going is part of a larger picture, a bigger effort. But I want you to know you're part of something that is having a real impact on the American economy.

This big ship you're loading will make its way to China. Up until only a few years ago, China's biggest trading partner was the Soviet Union -- and after that some of the other communist states. But our trade with China has increased steadily -- and now the U.S. is China's fourth largest trading partner.

X second largest. We're Japan's second largest trading partner. And Korea's

This has meant a great deal to the United States. It's brought new money into this country -- it gives a boost to our balance of payments -- and it creates new jobs here at home. We are showing the people of Asia, through the quality of American goods and the reliability of American trading practices, that America is a good partner to have in business. This had made, and is making, a contribution to the peace and prosperity of the world.

This is my last official stop in the States before we go to China. Nancy and I will go down to the ranch this afternoon, and from there we will go on a journey that will take us to Beijing and Shanghai. I want you to know I will be talking with the leaders of China about how to further expand trade with that country. We want to make trade easier with all the Asian nations and open up new possibilities for business cooperation abroad.

And let me tell you if I get to see any new houses or ships made from American lumber, I'll be proud to tell them I met the boys in Tacoma who loaded the ships.

Of all the job training and employment programs in the Department of Labor -- and there are many -- some of the most effective are sponsored by Hispanic organizations.

Ranking among the top in placement and cost effectiveness is the American G.I. Forum's National Veteran's Outreach Program. Similar to the G.I. Forum is the well known "SER" [rhymes with air] -- "Jobs For Progress Program." In 1982, we passed the Job Training Partnership Act to help those who need it the most to develop marketable skills. These two Hispanic organizations, both of which were helping people even before the legislation, have used this opportunity to do even more. I want you to know how much I appreciate and applaud your good citizenship.

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follows for nearly 20 years. So

I know education, the doorway to opportunity, has always been a major concern to all of you. *Our Administration appointed*

the National Commission on Excellence in Education, and we have been mobilizing
support across the country to implement its recommendations. We are beginning to take
in America, we support bilingual education that provides all the interaction
children the skills they need to compete in this society.
around, and
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The immigration legislation now being debated on the Hill is also important to you, and rightfully so. I think we can all agree on the need to address this serious and growing problem and to do so in a way that ends discrimination against illegal

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(Rohrabacher/BE)

April 16, 1984

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I know education, the doorway to opportunity, has always been a major concern to all of you. Consistent with our Administration's dedication to restoring the quality of education in America, we support bilingual education that provides all children the skills they need to compete in this society.

The immigration legislation now being debated on the Hill is also important to you, and rightfully so. I think we can all agree on the need to address this serious and growing problem and to do so in a way that ends discrimination against illegal

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(Rohrabacher/BE)
April 16, 1984
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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HISPANIC COALITION LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON
TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1984

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A rising economy and greater opportunities give us confidence. But America does not exist in a vacuum. Today, a faraway totalitarian power is committing enormous resources to changing the strategic balance of the world by turning Central America into a string of anti-American, Soviet-style dictatorships. If we do not have the courage and political will to counter this power play, our friends will lose their freedom, and America's security will be threatened.

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(Rohrabacher/BE)
April 16, 1984
12:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HISPANIC COALITION LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON
TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1984

~~(BWAY - how tar-dos)~~

Buenas tardes. Welcome to the White House. I am delighted to have had this chance to break bread with you. Some of us met last year at a roundtable discussion in El Paso. It's good to see you again. As I said then, I encourage you to keep in direct contact with my staff. Your input and opinions are most welcome.

A special word of congratulations to Jose Cano and Raul Yzaguirre (Ra-^{ool} Ee-^{raza}sah-gee-~~ra~~) for all they've accomplished in putting the National Hispanic Leadership Conference together. (Ho-zay KA-no) X

Being a Californian, I've for a long while appreciated our country's rich Hispanic tradition.

Back when I was Governor, I remember visiting the site of a natural disaster in the Santa Barbara area. Mudslides had been playing havoc with people's homes. I came to one place and there was an elderly American man of Hispanic descent standing knee deep in mud, the ruins of what once was his living room all around him. Even amid this great catastrophe he looked at me and in all sincerity said, "Mi casa es su casa."

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So in remembering that insight into Hispanic character, let me extend to you that same greeting: welcome. Mi casa X

es su casa. In the case of the White House, this really is your House.

Americans of Hispanic descent have every reason to be proud of the many contributions they have made and are making to our way of life. The strength of your basic values, even in the face of discrimination and hardship, is an inspiring story of dignity and courage. The current emergence of Americans of Hispanic descent in business and government is proving that the American dream is alive and well, if we just give it a chance.

Maximizing the opportunity available to all our citizens, through a strong and growing economy, has been priority number one of this Administration.

Four years ago, talk about economic advancement and increasing opportunity was a cruel hoax. Economic stagnation and murderous inflation were destroying the dream of a better life for all Americans. A spirit of pessimism totally inconsistent with the American character permeated the land. Even our leaders were throwing up their hands claiming we were in a malaise and that our problems were unsolvable.

By getting control of spending, by keeping people from being mauled by higher and higher taxes, by decreasing the regulatory burden, by bringing down inflation, we've set this country back on the road to real economic growth. ~~We have broken the grip~~

~~stagnation has had on our throats for the last 5 years.~~

OK { From the pit of pessimism, a stronger and more vital America is emerging. The Gross National Product was up 6 percent last

GNP Stats. 1st 1/4 flash

year. This year's first quarter growth rate of 7.2 percent suggests the recovery is continuing at a fast clip.

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In 1983, ~~4 million~~ more people found jobs, bringing

total emp.
@ rec.
level

employment to its highest level in our history. The unemployment rate is declining faster than anyone predicted.

~~In the Hispanic community, unemployment has dropped almost an entire percent just since the beginning of this year.~~

Of all the job training and employment programs in the Department of Labor -- and there are many -- ~~among the most effective~~ the top two are sponsored by Hispanic organizations.

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Ranking ~~first~~ ^{among the top} in placement and cost effectiveness is the American G.I. Forum's National Veteran's Outreach Program.

~~Similar to~~ ^{second only} to the G.I. Forum is the well known SER -- "jobs for progress program." ^{in 1982,} Last year, we passed the Job Training

Partnership Act to help those who need it the most to develop marketable skills. These two Hispanic organizations, both of which were helping people even before the legislation, have used this opportunity to do even more. I just want all of you to know that I am fully aware of this example of good citizenship and heartily applaud it.

Of course, training would be useless, unless jobs are available once the training is over. (And ~~3~~ ³ out of ~~4~~ ⁴ new jobs are created by small business.) Well, with the recovery gaining steam, ~~500,000~~ ^{548,000} new businesses were incorporated last year.

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year. So the surge in small business stemming from this recovery is particularly significant to your community.

We've turned the economy around and with it we've turned around the pessimism of 4 years ago. Social commentators are now talking about the future in glowing terms. John Naisbitt, for example, futurist and author of "Megatrends," is saying that "1984 has arrived just in time to witness an explosion of bottom-up entrepreneurialism and the dawn of an era that may offer our best hope yet . . ."

We have every reason for confidence, but our country does not exist in a vacuum. There is an external threat looming to our security

Today, a faraway totalitarian power is committing enormous resources to changing the strategic balance of the world by turning Central America into a string of anti-American, Soviet-style dictatorships. If we do not have the courage and political will to counter this power play, no one anywhere in the world will -- or should they -- trust us. This is a matter of the freedom of the people of Central America and the security of the United States.

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But economic assistance, as much as some people on Capitol Hill would like to think otherwise, will not overcome the military threat. Nicaragua -- with the full support of its Cuban and Soviet allies -- is arming, supplying, and directing an insurgency operation in El Salvador. If they succeed, it will set

⑤

the course for the rest of Central America. The focus of our military assistance and other activities is aimed at countering this aggression. What we face is one of the major challenges to democracy in our time.

It never ceases to amaze me how far from reality the debate on this issue seems to be. Too many in the Congress are playing political games and it is time to get serious. No longer can we accept the hypocrisy of those who claim to oppose Communist aggression, but throw every possible roadblock in the way ~~to~~ of ^{with} providing our friends the means of defending themselves. No longer can we accept the tortured logic of those who explode in righteous indignation, spotlighting even the small infractions of our friends, while ignoring the ~~butchery and destruction~~ ^{mayhem wrought by} of those who would force communist dictatorships down the throats of the people of Central America. If our efforts in the Second World War had been hampered by the same obstructionism now found in the Halls of Congress, the enemy would no doubt have triumphed. If Central America is lost, and our borders are threatened from the South, the American people will judge for themselves who is responsible.

There is still time to avoid a crisis, but to do so we can not stand as a house divided against itself. We must recognize our common values. We must take a no-nonsense approach to protecting our vital interests. President Kennedy demonstrated this kind of determination when he said "I . . . I want it clearly understood that this government will not hesitate in meeting its primary obligations which are to the security of our Nation!"

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3.27.84

Roosevelt Room

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I thank you for being here today. God bless you and vayan con dios.

Lt. Linda Garcia

Jose Salgado
x7510

Calvin Martin

Allen
Spicer
x7560

John
Herrington

(Rohrabacher/BE)
April 16, 1984
4:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HISPANIC COALITION LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON
TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1984

Buenas tardes and welcome to the White House. I am delighted to have had this chance to break bread with you. I met with many of the organizations represented today during my first weeks in office. ^{And} I had the pleasure of renewing that acquaintance ^{for} at a roundtable discussion in El Paso. ~~It's good to see you~~
~~again.~~

A special word of congratulations to Jose Cano [Ho-zay KA-no] and Raul Yzaguirre (Ra-OOL Ee-sah-gee-ray) for all they've accomplished in putting this third National Hispanic Leadership Conference together.

Being a Californian, I've always appreciated our country's rich Hispanic tradition. Back when I was Governor, I remember visiting the site of a natural disaster in the Santa Barbara area. Mudslides had been playing havoc with people's homes. I came to one place and there was an elderly American man of Hispanic descent standing knee deep in mud, the ruins of what once was his living room all around him. Even amid this great catastrophe he looked at me and in all sincerity said, "Mi casa es su casa."

I never forgot that old man. It struck me that here was an individual, amidst all his trials, having just lost so many of the things he dearly loved, who still maintained his dignity and composure enough to offer me this most traditional of Hispanic greetings. This was a tribute to his own upbringing and values.

So, please, let me ^{for, say} ~~extend to you that same greeting:~~

Welcome. Mi casa es su casa. In the case of the White House, this really is your House.

Americans of Hispanic descent can be proud of the contributions they have made and are making to our way of life. The strength of your values, even in the face of discrimination and hardship, is an inspiring story of dignity and courage. The emergence of Americans of Hispanic descent in business and government proves the American dream is alive and well, if we just give it a chance.

Providing more opportunity to all our citizens, through a strong and growing economy, has been priority number one of this Administration.

Four years ago, talk about economic advancement and increasing opportunity was a cruel hoax. Economic stagnation and murderous inflation were destroying the dream of a better life. A spirit of pessimism not in keeping with the American character was rising, and even our leaders were throwing up their hands complaining about a malaise.

By ^{stopping} ~~keeping~~ people from being mauled by higher and higher taxes, decreasing the regulatory burden, and bringing down inflation, we've set this country back on the road to real economic growth. We've broken the grip stagnation ~~has~~ had on our throats ^{during the 1970's} ~~for the last 5 years.~~

From the pit of pessimism, a stronger and more vital America is emerging. The gross national product was up 6 percent last

year. This year's first quarter growth rate of 7.2 percent suggests the recovery is continuing at a fast clip.

In the last 16 months, 5.1 million more people found jobs, bringing employment to its highest level in our history. The unemployment rate is declining faster than anyone predicted.

Of all the job training and employment programs in the Department of Labor -- and there are many -- some of the most effective are sponsored by Hispanic organizations.

Ranking among the top in placement and cost effectiveness is the American G.I. Forum's National Veteran's Outreach Program. Similar to the G.I. Forum is the well known SER [rhymes with air] -- "Jobs For Progress Program." In 1982, we passed the Job Training Partnership Act to help those who need it the most to develop marketable skills. These two Hispanic organizations, both of which were helping people even before the legislation, have used this opportunity to do even more. I want you to know how much I appreciate and applaud your good citizenship.

Of course, training would be useless, unless jobs are available. And 3 out of 4 new jobs are created by small business. Well, with the recovery gaining steam, 548,000 new businesses were incorporated last year. Americans of Hispanic descent already own some 363,000 businesses, generating about \$18 billion in sales per year. The small business surge is good news to your community.

I know education, the doorway to opportunity, has always been a major concern to your community. Consistent with our Administration's dedication to restoring the quality of education

in America, ^{we} ~~is our full~~ support ~~of~~ bilingual education that provides all children the skills they need to compete in this society.

The immigration legislation now being debated on the Hill is ^{important to you and rightfully so.} ~~also of special interest.~~ I think we can all agree on the need to address this serious and growing problem and to do so in a way that ends discrimination against illegal immigrants working and living in this country. ^(Let me assure you, I will insist) ~~I want to assure you that any~~ immigration legislation ^{by the} ~~that passed the~~ Congress ~~will~~ be applied and enforced in a way that prevents discrimination against Americans of Hispanic descent.

^A ~~Our~~ rising economy and ^{greater opportunities} ~~the increasing opportunity of our~~ ~~citizens~~ give us ~~every reason for~~ confidence, ^B ~~but our country~~ does not exist in a vacuum. Today, a faraway totalitarian power is committing enormous resources to changing the strategic balance of the world by turning Central America into a string of anti-American, Soviet-style dictatorships. If we do not have the courage and political will to counter this power play, our friends will lose their freedom and ^{America's} ~~our~~ security will be threatened.

We have made an ambitious economic effort in that region with the Caribbean Basin Initiative and an expanding aid program.

But economic assistance, as much as some people on Capitol Hill would like to think otherwise, will not overcome the military threat. Nicaragua -- with the full support of its Cuban and Soviet allies -- is arming, supplying, and directing an insurgency operation in El Salvador. If they succeed, it will

set the course for the rest of Central America. ^{The United States has a belief policy: Support democracy, effective institutions, economic and social development} ~~The focus of our efforts commitment is~~ military assistance and other activities ~~is aimed at~~ countering ^{the} aggression. ^{What we face is} one of the major challenges to democracy in our time.

Debate on this issue has strayed ^{too far} a long way from reality. ~~Too many people are playing political games. No longer can we accept the hypocrisy of those who claim to oppose Communist aggression, but throw every possible roadblock in the way of helping our friends with the means of defending themselves. No longer can we accept the tortured logic of those who, explode in righteous indignation, spotlighting even the small infractions of our friends, while ignoring the mayhem wrought by those who would force communist dictatorships down the throats of the people of Central America. If Central America is lost, and our borders are threatened from the south, the American people will judge for themselves who is responsible.~~ ^{we mean cannot then we cannot} ^{we cannot continue to ignore the consequences of such a policy, particularly taking} ^{to} ^{are} ^{than own} ^{that is what this issue is so to} ^{so important to the security of our people.}

There is still time to avoid a crisis, but to do so we can not stand as a house divided against itself. We must recognize our common values. We must take a no-nonsense approach to protecting our vital interests. President Kennedy demonstrated this kind of determination when he said ". . . I want it clearly understood that this Government will not hesitate in meeting its primary obligations which are to the security of our Nation!"

We Americans carry a heavy burden. Free people everywhere look to us. If freedom is to survive, much depends on what we do; on our courage and on our strength of character. This, of course, is not new.

A few weeks ago, I was honored to meet in the Roosevelt Room with 10 American heroes, Medal of Honor winners who represent the best of our country. It was a privilege to be in their company. More than any others I've met here in the White House, I felt that this was, indeed, their House. They paid for it with their courage and service above and beyond the call of duty. Their valor kept this country free, and I was truly awed by them.

It just so happens that these American heroes, each proudly wearing his Medal of Honor around his neck, were all Americans of Hispanic descent. Yes, we are all Americans. Together, united in purpose, we can meet the challenges to our liberty. Together we can make certain that America fulfills its historic responsibilities and remains the land of opportunity and freedom God intended it to be.

I thank you for being here today. God bless you and vayan con dios.

(Rohrabacher/BE)
April 16, 1984
4:00 p.m.

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