

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Speechwriting, White House Office of:
Speech Drafts: Records, 1981-1989

Folder Title: Luncheon with Hispanic Coalition
Leadership (Rohrabacher)(Penniman) 04/17/1984 (3 of 4)

Box: 148

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Inventories, visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

Contact a reference archivist at: **reagan.library@nara.gov**

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

Last Updated: 04/01/2025

(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 I had the pleasure of renewing that acquaintance 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-raya) 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 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 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 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 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 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. I want to assure you that any immigration legislation that passes the Congress will be applied and enforced in a way that prevents discrimination against Americans of Hispanic descent.

Our rising economy and the increasing opportunity of our citizens give us every reason for confidence, 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 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 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.

Debate on this issue has strayed 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 providing 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.

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
1:00 p.m.

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

Buenas tardes and welcome to the White House. I am
I met with many of the organizations represented today during my first weeks.
delighted to have had this chance to break bread with you. *Some*
of us met last year at a roundtable discussion in El Paso. And
last year
had during the first 60 days of my presidency, the meeting and again today
as I said then, please keep in contact with my staff. Your
That meeting, The meeting, we
agreed today. It's good to see you
again. I want to encourage this
close continuing relationship.
opinions are most welcome.

A special word of congratulations to Jose Cano and Raul
Yzaguirre (Ra-ool Ee-sah-gee-rea) for all they've accomplished in
putting *this third* ~~the~~ 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 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 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 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 1983, 4 million more people found jobs, bringing 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. *[Need a transition sentence.]*

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

Ranking first in placement and cost effectiveness is the American G.I. Forum's National Veteran's Outreach Program. Second only to the G.I. Forum is the well known SER - *#* Jobs for Progress program. 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 want you to know how much I appreciate and applaud your good citizenship.

Of course, training would be useless, unless jobs are available. And 4 out of 5 new jobs are created by small business. Well, with the recovery gaining steam, 600,000 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. *WSR*

We have every reason for confidence, 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

I want to assure that we will take steps to ensure that any immigration legislation that passes the Congress will be applied and enforced in a way that strictly protects against Hispanic Americans.

I know your concerns transcend economic progress. Education is the key. This Administration has not only been dedicated to restoring the quality of education in American but also stand in full support of bilingual education. The skills training need to compete in this society.

We also have demonstrated our commitment to the fight. I know many of you have expressed concern about the immigration legislation now being debated on the Hill. I think we can all agree on the need to address this serious and growing problem. I want to assure you, we will not let any legislation that tries to solve this problem and to do so in a way that ends discrimination against illegal immigrants have been passed.

friends will lose their freedom and 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 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.

Debate on this issue has strayed a long way from reality. Too many ~~in the Congress~~ ^{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 to 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 of 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.

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 Oval Office with 11 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.

bi-lingual education
immigration

(Rohrabacher/BE)
April 16, 1984
12:00 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. 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-sah-gee-rea) for all they've accomplished in putting the National Hispanic Leadership Conference together.

Being a Californian, I've ^{always} ~~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."

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, then, in remembering that insight into Hispanic character,~~ let me 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} ~~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} ~~proving that~~ the American dream is alive and well, if we just give it a chance.

^{Providing more opportunity}
~~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 ^{not in keeping} ~~totally inconsistent~~ with the American character ^{was rising, and} ~~permeated the land~~. Even our leaders were throwing up their hands ^{complaining about} ~~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, ^{and} ~~by~~ 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 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 1983, 4 million more people found jobs, bringing 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 -- the top two are sponsored by Hispanic organizations.

Ranking first in placement and cost effectiveness is the American G.I. Forum's National Veteran's Outreach Program. Second only to the G.I. Forum is the well known SER -- jobs for progress program. 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 *how much I appreciate and applaud you* ~~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 4 out of 5 new jobs are created by small business. Well, with the recovery gaining steam, ~~600,000~~ ^{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. So The surge in small business ^{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, ^{we will lose the trust of our people} ~~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.

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 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~~
~~has strayed a long way from reality.~~
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} providing ^{skt.} 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 ~~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 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 Oval Office 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
1:00 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. Some of us met last year at a roundtable discussion in El Paso. And as I said then, please keep in contact with my staff. Your opinions are most welcome.

A special word of congratulations to Jose Cano and Raul Yzaguirre (Ra-ool Ee-sah-gee-rea) for all they've accomplished in putting the 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 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 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 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 1983, 4 million more people found jobs, bringing 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 -- the top two are sponsored by Hispanic organizations.

Ranking first in placement and cost effectiveness is the American G.I. Forum's National Veteran's Outreach Program. Second only to the G.I. Forum is the well known SER -- jobs for progress program. 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 want you to know how much I appreciate and applaud your good citizenship.

Of course, training would be useless, unless jobs are available. And 4 out of 5 new jobs are created by small business. Well, with the recovery gaining steam, 600,000 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.

We have every reason for confidence, 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 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 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.

Debate on this issue has strayed a long way from reality. Too many in the Congress 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 to 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 of 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.

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 Oval Office with 11 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
12:00 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. Some of us met last year at a roundtable discussion in El Paso. ~~It's good to see you again.~~ ^{So,} As I said then, I ^{please} ~~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-sah-gee-rea) for all they've accomplished in putting the National Hispanic Leadership Conference together.

Being a Californian, I've ~~for a long while~~ ^{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,} ~~So, in remembering that insight into Hispanic character,~~ let me 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 ~~have every reason to~~ ^{can} 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~~ ^{proves} the American dream is alive and well, ~~if~~ ^{providing more opportunity} 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~~ ^{not in keeping} with the American character ~~permeated the land.~~ ^{was ruling, and} Even our leaders were throwing up their hands ~~claiming we were in a malaise, and~~ ^{complaining about} ~~that our problems were unsolvable.~~

By ~~getting control of spending,~~ ^{and} 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've broken the grip stagnation has had on our throats 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 1983, 4 million more people found jobs, bringing 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 -- the top two are sponsored by Hispanic organizations.

Ranking first in placement and cost effectiveness is the American G.I. Forum's National Veteran's Outreach Program. Second only to the G.I. Forum is the well known SER -- jobs for progress program. 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.~~ *how much I appreciate and applaud you*

Of course, training would be useless, unless jobs are available, ~~once the training is over~~. And 4 out of 5 new jobs are created by small business. Well, with the recovery gaining steam, 600,000 new businesses were incorporated last year. Americans of Hispanic descent already own some 363,000 businesses, generating about \$18 billion in sales per

year. ~~So~~ ^{in good news} 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.~~

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 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~~
has stayed a long way from reality.
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 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~~ 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.

IMP
L
N
W
A

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 Oval Office with 11 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
12:00 p.m.

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

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-sah-gee-rea) for all they've accomplished in putting the National Hispanic Leadership Conference together.

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."

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 in remembering that insight into Hispanic character, let me 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 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've broken the grip stagnation has had on our throats 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 1983, 4 million more people found jobs, bringing 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 -- the top two are sponsored by Hispanic organizations.

Ranking first in placement and cost effectiveness is the American G.I. Forum's National Veteran's Outreach Program. Second only to the G.I. Forum is the well known SER -- jobs for progress program. 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 4 out of 5 new jobs are created by small business. Well, with the recovery gaining steam, 600,000 new businesses were incorporated last year. Americans of Hispanic descent already own some 363,000 businesses, generating about \$18 billion in sales per

year. 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.

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 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 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 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 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 Oval Office with 11 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

12:00 p.m.

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

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-sah-gee-rea) for all they've accomplished in putting the National Hispanic Leadership Conference together.

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."

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 in remembering that insight into Hispanic character, let me 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 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've broken the grip stagnation has had on our throats 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 1983, 4 million more people found jobs, bringing 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 -- the top two are sponsored by Hispanic organizations.

Ranking first in placement and cost effectiveness is the American G.I. Forum's National Veteran's Outreach Program. Second only to the G.I. Forum is the well known SER -- jobs for progress program. 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 4 out of 5 new jobs are created by small business. Well, with the recovery gaining steam, 600,000 new businesses were incorporated last year. Americans of Hispanic descent already own some 363,000 businesses, generating about \$18 billion in sales per

year. 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.

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 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 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 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 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 Oval Office with 11 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

~~12:00 p.m.~~

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

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-sah-gee-rea) for all they've accomplished in putting the National Hispanic Leadership Conference together. In the last few years, your community has stepped into center stage as a national political and cultural force and you all are playing an important role in that process.

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."

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 in remembering that insight into Hispanic character, let me 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 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've broken the grip stagnation has had on our throats 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 1983, 4 million more people found jobs, bringing 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.

~~The Hispanic community can be proud that~~ ^{of} all the job training and employment programs in the Department of Labor -- and there are many -- the top two are sponsored by Hispanic organizations.

Ranking first in placement and cost effectiveness is the American G.I. Forum's National Veteran's Outreach Program. Second only to the G.I. Forum is the well known SER -- jobs for progress program. 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 4 out of 5 new jobs are

created by small business. Well, with the recovery gaining steam, 600,000 new businesses were incorporated last year. Americans of Hispanic descent already own some 363,000 businesses, generating about \$18 billion in sales per year. 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.

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 focus of our military assistance and other activities is aimed at countering this aggression. ↑

It never ceases to amaze me how far from reality the debate on this issue seems to be.

What we face is one of the major challenges to democracy in our time. 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 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 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 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 Oval Office with ____ 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)
April 16, 1984
9:30 a.m.

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

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-sah-gee-rea) for all they've accomplished in putting the National Hispanic Leadership Conference together. In the last few years, your community has stepped into center stage as a national political and cultural force and you all are playing an important role in that process.

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."

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 in remembering that insight into Hispanic character, let me extend to you that same greeting: welcome. Mi casa es su casa. In the case of the White House, this really is your House.

This is one of the few executive mansions in the world that is open to its citizens; tens of thousands of them, of every complexion and ethnic background, troop through this House each year. I see them here and it reconfirms to me something so fundamental about our country.

We Americans have no one culture, no one race or religion, that binds us together. Instead, we represent a conglomerate of people, good and decent people, from all over the world who came here to better their lives and the lives of their families, and to live together in freedom. It is our commitment to freedom that binds us as a Nation.

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.

I could go through a litany of success stories of Hispanic men and women, who with hard work and strong values have made their mark. All of us know people like my friend Hector Barreto

(Bar-aye-toe) who came here 25 years ago. As a struggling immigrant, he dug potatoes for 80 cents an hour. From those humble beginnings, he built several successful businesses and eventually became the President of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, an organization that does much to help men and women in your community get started and succeed in the world of small business.

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. Our senior citizens helplessly watched as the value of their savings eroded. Poor and middle class working people saw their real wages and their standard of living begin to shrink.

I know there are many shades of opinion represented here today, but let us agree that we could not have gone on the way we were. The policies of tax, spend, and inflate took us to the edge of economic disaster. Inflation had been running at double-digit levels for 2 years straight. Long-range investment and planning were useless. Capital was flowing into non-productive inflation hedges, instead of job-creating investment. 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.

Let me note something I've learned here in Washington. It takes a while to enact an Administration's program and then a while longer for that program to take effect. Thus the economy, during the first 2 years of anyone's presidency, reflects the taxing and spending policies of the prior administration.

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've broken the grip stagnation has had on our throats 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. Compare that to the negative growth rate of 0.8 percent in 1980. After falling in the 2 years before we took office, productivity was up 3.2 percent last year. Putting us on the road to an even better tomorrow, venture capital, which rose only \$1 billion in 1980, shot up \$4 billion last year.

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

Unemployment is a painful curse for far too many Americans. We didn't think temporary make-work jobs were the answer. Our program was designed to attack the root causes of stagnation so that once it had a chance to work, our program would create a lasting non-inflationary recovery.

~~Making the job even tougher, our country was also facing heavy structural unemployment, which was eliminating certain jobs forever.~~ ^{has been} The Hispanic community can be proud that of all the job training and employment programs in the Department of Labor -- and there are many -- the top two are sponsored by Hispanic organizations.

Ranking first in placement and cost effectiveness is the American G.I. Forum's National Veteran's Outreach Program. Second only to the G.I. Forum is the well known SER -- jobs for progress program. 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 4 out of 5 new jobs are created by small business. Well, with the recovery gaining steam, 600,000 new businesses were incorporated last year. Americans of Hispanic descent already own some 363,000 businesses, generating about \$18 billion in sales per

year. 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 this our security with which we must come to grips or our children will pay dearly for our irresponsibility. For decades, America has ignored our neighbors to the South, focusing instead on Europe and Asia. We can no longer afford to involve ourselves in faraway places while paying little attention to those close to home.

Today, a far away 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. The evidence of this is overwhelming. The Soviet Union has shipped massive amounts of military hardware into this region. 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.

A prominent bipartisan commission studied the situation thoroughly and came up with the unanimous conclusion that a major threat exists and that we should commit ourselves to helping our fellow Americans who are now under siege with economic and military assistance.

We have made an ambitious economic effort in that region. ^{the} ~~and an expanding aid program~~
The Caribbean Basin Initiative, which opens up vast new commercial opportunities for the people of Central America and the Caribbean, is a major step forward. ^{and extend it} ~~Our aid programs will also help.~~

But economic assistance, as much as some people on Capitol Hill would like to think otherwise, will not overcome the military threat. ^{-- with the full support of its Cuban and Soviet allies --} Nicaragua is arming, supplying, and directing an insurgency operation in El Salvador. ^{they succeed} ~~If we let the Sandanistas -- who've established a dictatorship in their own country -- and their Cuban and Soviet sponsors succeed in overthrowing the government of El Salvador, it will set the course for the rest of Central America. The focus of our military assistance and other activities is aimed at countering this aggression.~~

It never ceases to amaze me how far from reality the debate on this issue seems to be. The insurgents in El Salvador, wreaking havoc and destruction, trying to overthrow a government struggling to establish a democratic society, are pictured as local guerrillas. The Contras in Nicaragua -- the vast majority of whom want democracy and for the most part are refugees from Sandanista repression -- are pictured as a gang of Somoza thugs.

News coverage often refers to them as the C.I.A.'s secret army, yet never are the the El Salvadoran insurgents referred to as the Soviet Union's, or Cuba's, or Nicaragua's secret army.

What we face is one of the major challenges to democracy in our time. 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 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 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 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 Oval Office with ____ 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.