

**The original documents are located in Box 28, folder “Republican National Hispanic Assembly Meeting, 1975/12/11 (2)” of the Robert T. Hartmann Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.



# Republican National Hispanic Assembly

December 10, 1975

Hon. Gerald Ford  
President of the  
United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Cuban refugees living and working in the United States, who are trying to become U.S. residents and wish to become citizens, are having waiting periods of three and four years to obtain their desired status.

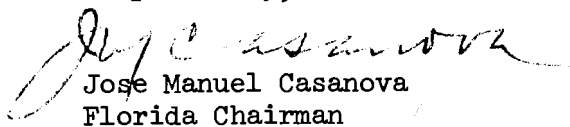
Previously, even at the peak of Cuban arrival to the United States obtaining residence status, did not entail more than a few months delay. One must assume a reduced staffing and some feet dragging by the Immigration Department as responsible.

For Cubans already living, working and paying taxes in the United States, it appears to both the best interest of the United States and of Cuban-Americans that they be absorbed at an accelerated rate into the mainstream of the American system as most desirable.

We, therefore, recommend:

1. An executive order from the President to the Immigration Department to speed up the method of processing U.S. residence applications for Cubans living in the United States with a refugee status, as well as for U.S. residents (of Cuban origin) who are seeking citizenship.
2. To promote legislation to automatically move Cuban refugees already living in the United States, to resident status with a minimum of paperwork. Also to allow their period of residence in the United States as refugees to count towards the necessary waiting period to obtain citizenship.

Respectfully,

  
Jose Manuel Casanova  
Florida Chairman



**NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**  
Fernández (Ben)

**VICE CHAIRMAN  
SOUTHEAST REGION**  
Alicia Casanova

**FLORIDA CHAIRMAN**  
José Manuel Casanova

**VICE CHAIRMEN**  
Carlos Salman  
Arturo Hevia

**SECRETARY**  
Alberto Cárdenas, Esq.

**TREASURER**  
Eloy Cepera

**VICE TREASURER**  
Eugenia Aspiza

**AUDITOR**  
Frank Díaz, Jr. C. P. A.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
Rafael Acebedo  
William Alexander  
Miguel Almeida  
Julián Almeida  
Dra. Margarita Alvarez  
Rafael Alvarez  
Franz Arango  
Luis Arrizurieta  
José Bello  
Pedra Benítez  
Pedro Bernal  
Diana Bethel  
Armando Bucelo  
Silvio de Cárdenas, Jr.  
Mike Carricarte  
Alvaro Carta  
Carlos Dascal  
Ileana Fresen  
Roberto Godoy, Esq.  
Pablo Gómez  
Ismael Hernández, M.D.  
Mario Lamar, Jr., Esq.  
Carlos Lidsky  
Evaristo Marina  
Mario Meneses  
Ramiro Rangel  
Anthony Rivas  
Enrique Tomeu

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 11, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT T. HARTMANN

FROM: GWEN ANDERSON *ga*

SUBJECT: National Republican Hispanic Assembly  
meeting, Dec. 11

After the President's arrival and opening remarks, Mr. Benjamin Fernandez, Chairman of the RNHA, called on Ray Arballo, representative of the California RNHA state chairman; Michael Carbajal, state chairman of the New York RNHA; Monte Montez, National Executive Committee member from Kansas; and Luis Terrazas, National Executive Committee member of Texas, all of whom spoke of the Hispanics in their respective states being organized, of needing high visibility appointments in their own states to add to their clout, as well as supporting Mr. Fernandez's suggestion that there be supergrade appointments with the Federal government in Washington, D.C. The President was sympathetic to their requests for appointments and suggested that Doug Bennett make available a list of vacancies.

The California representative, Mr. Arballo, also mentioned the likely Congressional candidacy of a Hispano recently elected to a water district post in Orange County, Martin Mestos (?), who would oppose Democrat Jerry Patterson in the 38th Congressional District.

Employment statistics were mentioned such as the fact that there are 555 judges appointed throughout the United States of whom only 7 are Spanish surnamed.

Reference was made to the 16 point federal program, a copy of which is being obtained.



The Florida RNHA state chairman, Jose Casanova, brought up the problem of the Immigration Department delaying granting of resident status and that Cuban refugees living and working in the U.S., who are trying to become U.S. residents and wish to become citizens, are having waiting periods of three and four years to obtain their desired status. He stated that the Immigration authorities' alleged reason for long delays was lack of adequate staff. The President expressed dismay on hearing of this situation and suggested it be looked into. (Jim Cannon will inquire as to what the facts are from the Immigration Department, per your suggestion.)

Mr. Casanova also asked about Cuba/U.S. relations, and the President clarified that situation stating there had been a setback in U.S./Cuban relations for two reasons: 1) the Cuban effort in the U.N. to force a vote on Puerto Rican independence and 2) the intervention of the Cuban government in Angola. The President said that it even appeared that Cuban military personnel had been flown in Soviet planes to Angola and that the situation represented a setback of Cuban/U.S. relations to where they were in 1961. He said there was no reason that the Cuban people and American people should not be on friendly terms and that we had endeavored to relax tensions between the Cuban government and our own, but the actions of the Cuban government had undercut the opportunities for the present time.

Mr. Fernandez said they all supported Alex Armendaris and did hope attacks unspecified by him would not jeopardize him and his position. The President indicated he had not heard anything about the situation.

Mr. Fernandez in his summary requested:

- 1) a presidential proclamation stating the Administration's commitment to full and equal participation of Hispanics in his Administration, to which the President agreed, and
- 2) an executive order to implement and facilitate the appointment of Hispanics to positions in the Administration for the remainder of this term and his next term.





In conversations following the departure of the President it appeared that Hispanics would be pleased to be placed on boards and commissions and to be appointed to such things as a member of trips abroad.

attachment



(attachment)

A couple of points were brought up prior to the President's and your arrival:

The National Executive member from Illinois, Mr. Frank Casillas, felt that Illinois Hispanics should receive some appointments before the Illinois primary which is March 16.

The entire group were called on for questions to be directed to Doug Bennett and it appeared that the primary goal of the Assembly seemed to be to receive more high level appointments for Hispanics. Doug Bennett's reply was that there were very few vacancies, but that he would suggest they prepare resumes of people of varied backgrounds and funnel them through Mr. Fernandez to him.

Mr. Henry Ramirez, National Executive Committee member from California, referred to a problem at the Pentagon in that Hispanos were being bypassed, in the military, for promotions, etc.

Jim Cannon was introduced and was questioned about contracts involving government grants not being awarded to Hispanos. Mr. Cannon said for the questioner to submit a letter to him stating specific cases and he would look into it.

Another point Mr. Cannon was questioned about was whether the State of the Union address would specifically point to the Spanish-speaking to give them visibility. Mr. Cannon replied that no one knew what was going to be in the State of the Union address at this time, but that he would bring it to the President's attention.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT T. HARTMANN

FROM: GWEN ANDERSON *GA*  
SUBJECT: Hispanic immigration request

The memorandum for information regarding the immigration problem for the Cubans will be sent to Mr. Cannon around 6:00 p.m. this evening. Mr. Parsons is out of town, and his secretary, Mary, will drop a copy of the memorandum in my office at the same time that she delivers it to Cannon. Apparently, Cannon wishes to hand deliver the memo to you.

I will, of course, bring you a copy as soon as I get it.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 15, 1975 5:30 p.m.

MEMORANDUM TO: ROBERT T. HARTMANN  
FROM: GWEN A. ANDERSON *GAA*  
RE: Cuban Alien Resident Status

Following the meeting of the Hispanic Group with the President, I forwarded Mr. Casanova's letter to Mr. James Cannon for further action and asked him to forward to you by Monday the 15th, the facts as they existed on the length of time it takes and/or the delay in Cubans attaining the status of resident alien which was the question posed in Casanova's letter.

Subsequently on Saturday I telephoned Mr. Cannon to ask him the status of that request. He commented he could not understand the "incredible urgency" of this request. I explained that the President and Mr. Hartmann were anxious to move quickly on this request for information and answers. He then stated that he had referred the matter to Mr. Dick Parsons on his staff.

I telephoned Mr. Parsons immediately (at his home) thereafter and he said there would be a delay as he would be out of town on Monday. He said he would hopefully receive the information from the Immigration Bureau on Monday. I suggested that he telephone his secretary to be sure he did have the information Monday and after conferring with her formulate a reply based on the Bureau's information and plan to get the information to Mr. Hartmann by close of business on Monday. Since nothing had arrived by 5:00 p.m., I telephoned Parsons' office and spoke with his secretary Mary Donahue and she said she was formulating something to send to Mr. Cannon who in turn would give the information to Mr. Hartmann.

I asked her to drop off a copy of the memo to Cannon at my office by 6:00 p.m.. The attached copy of the reply does not relate to the question.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 15, 1975

*Arrived  
6:30 PM  
JAN*

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. James Cannon

FROM: Mary Donahue  
Secretary to Richard Parsons

SUBJECT: Cuban Refugees Living and Working in  
the United States

You had an inquiry from Robert Hartmann via Gwendolyn Anderson about the Cuban refugee situation. The Immigration and Naturalization Service has supplied the following information:

Cuban refugees are included in the quota for the entire Western Hemisphere. A person must have lived in the United States for two years before he can make application for residence status. When he applies for residence status, the Department of State assigns him an immigrant number. When that number comes up on the immigrant list, he is notified that he can commence naturalization proceedings. Naturalization is a five-year process. The State Department is only now calling up immigrant numbers assigned in July of 1973.

On November 2, 1966, the Congress enacted the Cuban Adjustment Act. That bill provides a speeded-up process -- a so-called 30-months' roll-back provision -- for Cuban refugees. When a Cuban refugee's immigrant number comes up, he is notified that he can commence naturalization proceedings. If he had been a resident of the United States for, say, four years, he would automatically take advantage of the 30-months' roll-back provision. Instead of waiting five years from the date of commencement of naturalization proceedings, he would have to wait only 30 months to become a citizen. Thus the period of residence in the United States does count, so far as Cuban refugees are concerned, toward the necessary waiting period to obtain citizenship.

Unless Congress enacts additional legislation, there is no way to accelerate the rate of naturalization of Cuban refugees. I&NS advises that the Executive Branch cannot do anything administratively to relieve the situation.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 15, 1975 5:30 p.m.

MEMORANDUM TO: ROBERT T. HARTMANN  
FROM: GWEN A. ANDERSON *GWA*  
RE: Cuban Alien Resident Status

Following the meeting of the Hispanic Group with the President, I forwarded Mr. Casanova's letter to Mr. James Cannon for further action and asked him to forward to you by Monday the 15th, the facts as they existed on the length of time it takes and/or the delay in Cubans attaining the status of resident alien which was the question posed in Casanova's letter.

Subsequently on Saturday I telephoned Mr. Cannon to ask him the status of that request. He commented he could not understand the "incredible urgency" of this request. I explained that the President and Mr. Hartmann were anxious to move quickly on this request for information and answers. He then stated that he had referred the matter to Mr. Dick Parsons on his staff.

I telephoned Mr. Parsons immediately (at his home) thereafter and he said there would be a delay as he would be out of town on Monday. He said he would hopefully receive the information from the Immigration Bureau on Monday. I suggested that he telephone his secretary to be sure he did have the information Monday and after conferring with her formulate a reply based on the Bureau's information and plan to get the information to Mr. Hartmann by close of business on Monday. Since nothing had arrived by 5:00 p.m., I telephoned Parsons' office and spoke with his secretary Mary Donahue and she said she was formulating something to send to Mr. Cannon who in turn would give the information to Mr. Hartmann.

I asked her to drop off a copy of the memo to Cannon at my office by 6:00 p.m.. The attached copy of the reply does not relate to the question.



DSB.  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 15, 1975 5:30 p.m.

MEMORANDUM TO: ROBERT T. HARTMANN  
FROM: GWEN A. ANDERSON  
RE: Cuban Alien Resident Status

Following the meeting of the Hispanic Group with the President, I forwarded Mr. Casanova's letter to Mr. James Cannon for further action and asked him to forward to you by Monday the 15th, the facts as they existed on the length of time it takes and/or the delay in Cubans attaining the status of resident alien which was the question posed in Casanova's letter.

Subsequently on Saturday I telephoned Mr. Cannon to ask him the status of that request. He commented he could not understand the "incredible urgency" of this request. I explained that the President and Mr. Hartmann were anxious to move quickly on this request for information and answers. He then stated that he had referred the matter to Mr. Dick Parsons on his staff.

I telephoned Mr. Parsons immediately (at his home) thereafter and he said there would be a delay as he would be out of town on Monday. He said he would hopefully receive the information from the Immigration Bureau on Monday. I suggested that he telephone his secretary to be sure he did have the information Monday and after conferring with her formulate a reply based on the Bureau's information and plan to get the information to Mr. Hartmann by close of business on Monday. Since nothing had arrived by 5:00 p.m., I telephoned Parsons' office and spoke with his secretary Mary Donahue and she said she was formulating something to send to Mr. Cannon who in turn would give the information to Mr. Hartmann.

I asked her to drop off a copy of the memo to Cannon at my office by 6:00 p.m..



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 16, 1975 3:00 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT T. HARTMANN

FROM: GWEN ANDERSON *GA*

SUBJECT: Cuban refugees

I have conferred with Fernando De Baca who doesn't seem to understand the question in Mr. Casanova's letter any better than we do. I have also talked to Mary Donahue in Dick Parson's office several times today. Susan has also talked with Mary Donahue.

It has finally been determined that there is a residence status category and that there is a severe problem due to quota numbers in the processing of applications for residence status.

*Insert some version of this.*  
*Later that afternoon*  
X I met Mr. Cannon in the hallway and told him that there was a portion of the letter that had not been responded to and that it would be sent back to him. He said that he really had not looked at the memo that had been forwarded to you because he had had other matters in which he had been involved at the time. He said by all means send it back and he would take another look at it.

So you may wish to dictate a memo similar to the attached.

The question that must be addressed is why it takes so long to process the requests for residence status.





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Dec. 16 - 11:20 a.m.

Mr. Hartmann:

Pat McKee in Jim Cannon's office called re. the memo on the Cuban Refugee Program delivered this morning. She says the quotas are not quite right in the memo and they are preparing a new memo which will be coming forward shortly.

I called and gave this info. to Gwen.

Neta



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 11, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT T. HARTMANN

FROM:

GWEN ANDERSON *ga*

SUBJECT:

National Republican Hispanic Assembly  
meeting, Dec. 11

After the President's arrival and opening remarks, Mr. Benjamin Fernandez, Chairman of the RNHA, called on Ray Arballo, representative of the California RNHA state chairman; Michael Carbajal, state chairman of the New York RNHA; Monte Montez, National Executive Committee member from Kansas; and Luis Terrazas, National Executive Committee member of Texas, all of whom spoke of the Hispanos in their respective states being organized, of needing high visibility appointments in their own states to add to their clout, as well as supporting Mr. Fernandez's suggestion that there be supergrade appointments with the Federal government in Washington, D.C. The President was sympathetic to their requests for appointments and suggested that Doug Bennett make available a list of vacancies.

The California representative, Mr. Arballo, also mentioned the likely Congressional candidacy of a Hispano recently elected to a water district post in Orange County, Martin Mestos (?), who would oppose Democrat Jerry Patterson in the 38th Congressional District.

Employment statistics were mentioned such as the fact that there are 555 judges appointed throughout the United States of whom only 7 are Spanish surnamed.

Reference was made to the 16 point federal program, a copy of which is being obtained.



The Florida RNHA state chairman, Jose Casanova, brought up the problem of the Immigration Department delaying granting of resident status and that Cuban refugees living and working in the U.S., who are trying to become U.S. residents and wish to become citizens, are having waiting periods of three and four years to obtain their desired status. He stated that the Immigration authorities' alleged reason for long delays was lack of adequate staff. The President expressed dismay on hearing of this situation and suggested it be looked into. (Jim Cannon will inquire as to what the facts are from the Immigration Department, per your suggestion.)

Mr. Casanova also asked about Cuba/U.S. relations, and the President clarified that situation stating there had been a setback in U.S./Cuban relations for two reasons: 1) the Cuban effort in the U.N. to force a vote on Puerto Rican independence and 2) the intervention of the Cuban government in Angola. The President said that it even appeared that Cuban military personnel had been flown in Soviet planes to Angola and that the situation represented a setback of Cuban/U.S. relations to where they were in 1961. He said there was no reason that the Cuban people and American people should not be on friendly terms and that we had endeavored to relax tensions between the Cuban government and our own, but the actions of the Cuban government had undercut the opportunities for the present time.

Mr. Fernandez said they all supported Alex Armendaris and did hope attacks unspecified by him would not jeopardize him and his position. The President indicated he had not heard anything about the situation.

Mr. Fernandez in his summary requested:

- 1) a presidential proclamation stating the Administration's commitment to full and equal participation of Hispanics in his Administration, to which the President agreed, and
- 2) an executive order to implement and facilitate the appointment of Hispanics to positions in the Administration for the remainder of this term and his next term.



In conversations following the departure of the President it appeared that Hispanics would be pleased to be placed on boards and commissions and to be appointed to such things as a member of trips abroad.

attachment



(attachment)

A couple of points were brought up prior to the President's and your arrival:

The National Executive member from Illinois, Mr. Frank Casillas, felt that Illinois Hispanics should receive some appointments before the Illinois primary which is March 16.

The entire group were called on for questions to be directed to Doug Bennett and it appeared that the primary goal of the Assembly seemed to be to receive more high level appointments for Hispanics. Doug Bennett's reply was that there were very few vacancies, but that he would suggest they prepare resumes of people of varied backgrounds and funnel them through Mr. Fernandez to him.

Mr. Henry Ramirez, National Executive Committee member from California, referred to a problem at the Pentagon in that Hispanos were being bypassed, in the military, for promotions, etc.

Jim Cannon was introduced and was questioned about contracts involving government grants not being awarded to Hispanos. Mr. Cannon said for the questioner to submit a letter to him stating specific cases and he would look into it.

Another point Mr. Cannon was questioned about was whether the State of the Union address would specifically point to the Spanish-speaking to give them visibility. Mr. Cannon replied that no one knew what was going to be in the State of the Union address at this time, but that he would bring it to the President's attention.



*Received by Gwen 10:30 a.m. 12/17  
But not handled by RTH.*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 16, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bob Hartmann  
FROM: Jim Cannon  
SUBJECT: Cuban Refugees



Gwen Anderson asked me to "find out what the facts are" concerning the attached letter from Jose Manuel Casanova regarding the difficulties Cuban refugees are encountering in obtaining U. S. citizenship. They are as follows:

In order to become a U. S. citizen, an alien must complete a two-step process. First he/she must obtain a Permanent Resident Alien visa. This is usually obtained by the alien in his home country before leaving for the United States. Second, he/she must reside within the United States for at least five years as a Permanent Resident Alien from the date Permanent Resident Alien status was granted.

Because of the unique situation involving Cuba, however, the process is somewhat different for Cuban refugees. They are allowed to come to the United States without a visa, in refugee status. After they have resided within the United States for at least two years, they may then make application for a Permanent Resident Alien visa. Then they must reside within the United States as a Permanent Resident Alien for not less than two and one-half years nor more than five years before being eligible for U. S. citizenship. \*

The point at which our Cuban friends are experiencing some difficulty is in obtaining a Permanent Resident Alien visa. The problem here is that the Congress has, by law, established a limitation on the number of such visas which may be granted each year to persons born in Western Hemisphere countries (which, of course, includes Cubans). The annual quota is 120,000, available

---

\* The normal period of required residency after Permanent Resident Alien status is granted is five years. However, in 1966, the Congress provided a break for Cuban refugees which would allow them to recoup up to 30 months of Nonpermanent Resident Alien status in order to speed up the process for obtaining citizenship.

on a first-come, first-serve basis. As I am sure you know, the number of Western Hemisphere aliens seeking to obtain Permanent Resident Alien visas each year far exceeds 120,000 and, as a consequence, a rather substantial waiting list has developed. In fact, I am advised that the waiting period between the time an alien makes application for a Permanent Resident Alien visa and the time at which such a visa can be granted is approximately two and one-half years.

Since the limitation on visas and the required period of residence are matters of law, there is little the Executive Branch can do to help the situation.

cc: Gwen Anderson ✓



[Ca. 12/18/75]

on his staff. I informed Mr. Cannon we wanted the information no later than Monday and then telephoned Mr. Parsons immediately (at his home) and he said there would be a delay as he would be out of town on Monday. I suggested that he arrange for his secretary to forward the information which he anticipated receiving from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). It was emphasized that the information should be available to Mr. Hartmann by close of business on Monday.

Since nothing had arrived by 5 p.m. on Monday, I telephoned Mr. Parsons' office and spoke with his secretary, Mary Donahue. She said she was formulating a memo to send to Mr. Cannon who would in turn give the information to Mr. Hartmann. At 6:30 a copy of the memo from Mr. Cannon (Tab B) arrived. The memo did not fully respond to the two requests for action on the President's behalf. The conclusion in the memo was that there was no way to accelerate the rate of naturalization of Cuban refugees unless Congress enacts additional legislation and that the INS advises that the Executive Branch cannot do anything administratively to relieve the situation.

The following morning Fernando De Baca was contacted, and I talked several times by telephone with Mary Donahue in an attempt to obtain answers to the questions that remained unanswered. These telephone conversations resulted in my memo to you of December 16 at 2:00 p.m. That memo (Tab C) provided some additional information, but concluded that the information obtained seemed vague. I recommended that we get the necessary information in writing from the INS. Later that afternoon I met Mr. Cannon in the hallway and told him that there was a portion of the letter that had not been responded to and that it would be sent back to him.

On the 17th a copy of a memo from Jim Cannon (Tab D), which was apparently intended for but not actually delivered to you, reaffirmed the general information which I had received orally, and which already had been included in my memo of December 16. However, Mr. Cannon's conclusion was that "since the limitation on visas and the required period of residence are matters of law, there is little the Executive Branch can do to help the situation."

In view of the lack of adequate explanation of the apparent problem, it is recommended that the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization Service be asked to submit suggestions on how the backlog of Cuban applications for residence status can be more expeditiously processed.





on his staff. I informed Mr. Cannon we wanted the information no later than Monday and then telephoned Mr. Parsons immediately (at his home) and he said there would be a delay as he would be out of town on Monday. I suggested that he arrange for his secretary to forward the information which he anticipated receiving from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). It was emphasized that the information should be available to Mr. Hartmann by close of business on Monday.

Since nothing had arrived by 5 p.m. on Monday, I telephoned Mr. Parsons' office and spoke with his secretary, Mary Donahue. She said she was formulating a memo to send to Mr. Cannon who would in turn give the information to Mr. Hartmann. At 6:30 a copy of the memo from Mr. Cannon (Tab B) arrived. The memo did not fully respond to the two requests for action on the President's behalf. The conclusion in the memo was that there was no way to accelerate the rate of naturalization of Cuban refugees unless Congress enacts additional legislation and that the INS advises that the Executive Branch cannot do anything administratively to relieve the situation.

The following morning Fernando De Baca was contacted, and I talked several times by telephone with Mary Donahue in an attempt to obtain answers to the questions that remained unanswered. These telephone conversations resulted in my memo to you of December 16 at 2:00 p.m. That memo (Tab C) provided some additional information, but concluded that the information obtained seemed vague. I recommended that we get the necessary information in writing from the INS. Later that afternoon I met Mr. Cannon in the hallway and told him that there was a portion of the letter that had not been responded to and that it would be sent back to him.

On the 17th a copy of a memo from Jim Cannon (Tab D), which was apparently intended for but not actually delivered to you, reaffirmed the general information which I had received orally, and which already had been included in my memo of December 16. However, Mr. Cannon's conclusion was that "since the limitation on visas and the required period of residence are matters of law, there is little the Executive Branch can do to help the situation."

In view of the lack of adequate explanation of the apparent problem, it is recommended that the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization Service be asked to submit suggestions on how the backlog of Cuban applications for residence status can be more expeditiously processed.



on his staff. I informed Mr. Cannon we wanted the information no later than Monday and then telephoned Mr. Parsons immediately (at his home) and he said there would be a delay as he would be out of town on Monday. I suggested that he arrange for his secretary to forward the information which he anticipated receiving from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). It was emphasized that the information should be available to Mr. Hartmann by close of business on Monday.

Since nothing had arrived by 5 p.m. on Monday, I telephoned Mr. Parsons' office and spoke with his secretary, Mary Donahue. She said she was formulating a memo to send to Mr. Cannon who would in turn give the information to Mr. Hartmann. At 6:30 a copy of the memo from Mr. Cannon (Tab B) arrived. The memo did not fully respond to the two requests for action on the President's behalf. The conclusion in the memo was that there was no way to accelerate the rate of naturalization of Cuban refugees unless Congress enacts additional legislation and that the INS advises that the Executive Branch cannot do anything administratively to relieve the situation.

The following morning Fernando De Baca was contacted, and I talked several times by telephone with Mary Donahue in an attempt to obtain answers to the questions that remained unanswered. These telephone conversations resulted in my memo to you of December 16 at 2:00 p.m. That memo (Tab C) provided some additional information, but concluded that the information obtained seemed vague. I recommended that we get the necessary information in writing from the INS. Later that afternoon I met Mr. Cannon in the hallway and told him that there was a portion of the letter that had not been responded to and that it would be sent back to him.

On the 17th a copy of a memo from Jim Cannon (Tab D), which was apparently intended for but not actually delivered to you, reaffirmed the general information which I had received orally, and which already had been included in my memo of December 16. However, Mr. Cannon's conclusion was that "since the limitation on visas and the required period of residence are matters of law, there is little the Executive Branch can do to help the situation."

In view of the lack of adequate explanation of the apparent problem, it is recommended that the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization Service be asked to submit suggestions on how the backlog of Cuban applications for residence status can be more expeditiously processed.



on his staff. I informed Mr. Cannon we wanted the information no later than Monday and then telephoned Mr. Parsons immediately (at his home) and he said there would be a delay as he would be out of town on Monday. I suggested that he arrange for his secretary to forward the information which he anticipated receiving from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). It was emphasized that the information should be available to Mr. Hartmann by close of business on Monday.

Since nothing had arrived by 5 p.m. on Monday, I telephoned Mr. Parsons' office and spoke with his secretary, Mary Donahue. She said she was formulating a memo to send to Mr. Cannon who would in turn give the information to Mr. Hartmann. At 6:30 a copy of the memo from Mr. Cannon (Tab B) arrived. The memo did not fully respond to the two requests for action on the President's behalf. The conclusion in the memo was that there was no way to accelerate the rate of naturalization of Cuban refugees unless Congress enacts additional legislation and that the INS advises that the Executive Branch cannot do anything administratively to relieve the situation.

The following morning Fernando De Baca was contacted, and I talked several times by telephone with Mary Donahue in an attempt to obtain answers to the questions that remained unanswered. These telephone conversations resulted in my memo to you of December 16 at 2:00 p.m. That memo (Tab C) provided some additional information, but concluded that the information obtained seemed vague. I recommended that we get the necessary information in writing from the INS. Later that afternoon I met Mr. Cannon in the hallway and told him that there was a portion of the letter that had not been responded to and that it would be sent back to him.

On the 17th a copy of a memo from Jim Cannon (Tab D), which was apparently intended for but not actually delivered to you, reaffirmed the general information which I had received orally, and which already had been included in my memo of December 16. However, Mr. Cannon's conclusion was that "since the limitation on visas and the required period of residence are matters of law, there is little the Executive Branch can do to help the situation."

In view of the lack of adequate explanation of the apparent problem, it is recommended that the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization Service be asked to submit suggestions on how the backlog of Cuban applications for residence status can be more expeditiously processed.





on his staff. I informed Mr. Cannon we wanted the information no later than Monday and then telephoned Mr. Parsons immediately (at his home) and he said there would be a delay as he would be out of town on Monday. I suggested that he arrange for his secretary to forward the information which he anticipated receiving from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). It was emphasized that the information should be available to Mr. Hartmann by close of business on Monday.

Since nothing had arrived by 5 p.m. on Monday, I telephoned Mr. Parsons' office and spoke with his secretary, Mary Donahue. She said she was formulating a memo to send to Mr. Cannon who would in turn give the information to Mr. Hartmann. At 6:30 a copy of the memo from Mr. Cannon (Tab B) arrived. The memo did not fully respond to the two requests for action on the President's behalf. The conclusion in the memo was that there was no way to accelerate the rate of naturalization of Cuban refugees unless Congress enacts additional legislation and that the INS advises that the Executive Branch cannot do anything administratively to relieve the situation.

The following morning Fernando De Baca was contacted, and I talked several times by telephone with Mary Donahue in an attempt to obtain answers to the questions that remained unanswered. These telephone conversations resulted in my memo to you of December 16 at 2:00 p.m. That memo (Tab C) provided some additional information, but concluded that the information obtained seemed vague. I recommended that we get the necessary information in writing from the INS. Later that afternoon I met Mr. Cannon in the hallway and told him that there was a portion of the letter that had not been responded to and that it would be sent back to him.

On the 17th a copy of a memo from Jim Cannon (Tab D), which was apparently intended for but not actually delivered to you, reaffirmed the general information which I had received orally, and which already had been included in my memo of December 16. However, Mr. Cannon's conclusion was that "since the limitation on visas and the required period of residence are matters of law, there is little the Executive Branch can do to help the situation."

In view of the lack of adequate explanation of the apparent problem, it is recommended that the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization Service be asked to submit suggestions on how the backlog of Cuban applications for residence status can be more expeditiously processed.



on his staff. I informed Mr. Cannon we wanted the information no later than Monday and then telephoned Mr. Parsons immediately (at his home) and he said there would be a delay as he would be out of town on Monday. I suggested that he arrange for his secretary to forward the information which he anticipated receiving from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). It was emphasized that the information should be available to Mr. Hartmann by close of business on Monday.

Since nothing had arrived by 3 p.m. on Monday, I telephoned Mr. Parsons' office and spoke with his secretary, Mary Donahue. She said she was formulating a memo to send to Mr. Cannon who would in turn give the information to Mr. Hartmann. At 6:30 a copy of the memo from Mr. Cannon (Tab B) arrived. The memo did not fully respond to the two requests for action on the President's behalf. The conclusion in the memo was that there was no way to accelerate the rate of naturalization of Cuban refugees unless Congress enacts additional legislation and that the INS advises that the Executive Branch cannot do anything administratively to relieve the situation.

The following morning Fernando De Baca was contacted, and I talked several times by telephone with Mary Donahue in an attempt to obtain answers to the questions that remained unanswered. These telephone conversations resulted in my memo to you of December 16 at 2:00 p.m. That memo (Tab C) provided some additional information, but concluded that the information obtained seemed vague. I recommended that we get the necessary information in writing from the INS. Later that afternoon I met Mr. Cannon in the hallway and told him that there was a portion of the letter that had not been responded to and that it would be sent back to him.

On the 17th a copy of a memo from Jim Cannon (Tab D), which was apparently intended for but not actually delivered to you, reaffirmed the general information which I had received orally, and which already had been included in my memo of December 16. However, Mr. Cannon's conclusion was that "since the limitation on visas and the required period of residence are matters of law, there is little the Executive Branch can do to help the situation."

In view of the lack of adequate explanation of the apparent problem, it is recommended that the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization Service be asked to submit suggestions on how the backlog of Cuban applications for residence status can be more expeditiously processed.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT T. HARTMANN

FROM: GWEN ANDERSON *GA*

VIA: DOUG SMITH *JS*

SUBJECT: Cuban Refugees

At the meeting of the Republican National Hispanic Assembly with the President on Thursday, December 11, the attached letter (Tab A) to the President was presented by Mr. Casanova. The letter recommended the following two items:

1. An executive order from the President to the Immigration Department to speed up the method of processing U.S. residence applications for Cubans living in the United States with a refugee status, as well as for U.S. residents (of Cuban origin) who are seeking citizenship.
2. To promote legislation to automatically move Cuban refugees already living in the United States, to resident status with a minimum of paperwork. Also to allow their period of residence in the United States as refugees to count towards the necessary waiting period to obtain citizenship.



On Thursday afternoon, following your instructions, I forwarded a copy of the letter from Mr. Casanova to Mr. James Cannon, Director of the Domestic Council, requesting an answer to the questions posed in the letter.

I subsequently telephoned Mr. Cannon on Saturday morning to ask him the status of the request. He commented he could not understand the incredible urgency of this request. I explained that Counsellor Hartmann and the President were anxious to move quickly on this matter. He stated that he had referred the matter to Mr. Dick Parsons

on his staff. I informed Mr. Cannon we wanted the information no later than Monday and then telephoned Mr. Parsons immediately (at his home) and he said there would be a delay as he would be out of town on Monday. I suggested that he arrange for his secretary to forward the information which he anticipated receiving from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). It was emphasized that the information should be available to Mr. Hartmann by close of business on Monday.

Since nothing had arrived by 5 p.m. on Monday, I telephoned Mr. Parsons' office and spoke with his secretary, Mary Donahue. She said she was formulating a memo to send to Mr. Cannon who would in turn give the information to Mr. Hartmann. At 6:30 a copy of the memo from Mr. Cannon (Tab B) arrived. The memo did not fully respond to the two requests for action on the President's behalf. The conclusion in the memo was that there was no way to accelerate the rate of naturalization of Cuban refugees unless Congress enacts additional legislation and that the INS advises that the Executive Branch cannot do anything administratively to relieve the situation.

The following morning Fernando De Baca was contacted, and I talked several times by telephone with Mary Donahue in an attempt to obtain answers to the questions that remained unanswered. These telephone conversations resulted in my memo to you of December 16 at 2:00 p.m. That memo (Tab C) provided some additional information, but concluded that the information obtained seemed vague. I recommended that we get the necessary information in writing from the INS. Later that afternoon I met Mr. Cannon in the hallway and told him that there was a portion of the letter that had not been responded to and that it would be sent back to him.

On the 17th a copy of a memo from Jim Cannon (Tab D), which was apparently intended for but not actually delivered to you, reaffirmed the general information which I had received orally, and which already had been included in my memo of December 16. However, Mr. Cannon's conclusion was that "since the limitation on visas and the required period of residence are matters of law, there is little the Executive Branch can do to help the situation."

In view of the lack of adequate explanation of the apparent problem, it is recommended that the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization Service be asked to submit suggestions on how the backlog of Cuban applications for residence status can be more expeditiously processed.









# Republican National Hispanic Assembly

**NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**  
Fernández (Ben)

**VICE CHAIRMAN**  
**SOUTHEAST REGION**  
Alicia Casanova

**FLORIDA CHAIRMAN**  
José Manuel Casanova

**VICE CHAIRMEN**  
Carlos Salman  
Arturo Hevia

**SECRETARY**  
Alberto Cárdenas, Esq.

**TREASURER**  
Eloy Cepero

**VICE TREASURER**  
Eugenio Aspiazo

**AUDITOR**  
Frank Díaz, Jr. C. P. A.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
Rafael Acebedo  
William Alexander  
Miguel Almeida  
Julian Almeida  
Dra. Margarita Alvarez  
Rafael Alvarez  
Franz Arango  
Luis Arrizurieta  
José Bello  
Pedro Benítez  
Pedro Bernal  
Diano Bethel  
Armando Bucelo  
Silvio de Cárdenas, Jr.  
Mike Corricorte  
Alvora Carta  
Carlos Dascal  
Ileana Fresen  
Roberto Godoy, Esq.  
Pablo Gómez  
Ismael Hernández, M.D.  
Mario Lomar, Jr., Esq.  
Carlos Lidsky  
Evaristo Marina  
Mario Meneses  
Ramiro Rangel  
Anthony Rivas  
Enrique Tomeu

December 10, 1975

Hon. Gerald Ford  
President of the  
United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Cuban refugees living and working in the United States, who are trying to become U.S. residents and wish to become citizens, are having waiting periods of three and four years to obtain their desired status.

Previously, even at the peak of Cuban arrival to the United States obtaining residence status, did not entail more than a few months delay. One must assume a reduced staffing and some feet dragging by the Immigration Department as responsible.

For Cubans already living, working and paying taxes in the United States, it appears to both the best interest of the United States and of Cuban-Americans that they be absorbed at an accelerated rate into the mainstream of the American system as most desirable.

We, therefore, recommend:

1. An executive order from the President to the Immigration Department to speed up the method of processing U.S. residence applications for Cubans living in the United States with a refugee status, as well as for U.S. residents (of Cuban origin) who are seeking citizenship.
2. To promote legislation to automatically move Cuban refugees already living in the United States, to resident status with a minimum of paperwork. Also to allow their period of residence in the United States as refugees to count towards the necessary waiting period to obtain citizenship.

Respectfully,

*Jose Manuel Casanova*  
Jose Manuel Casanova  
Florida Chairman

*Alicia L. Casanova*  
Alicia L. Casanova  
Florida

*Send to  
Casanova  
for action  
per ETH reg  
12-11-75  
/JL*





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 16, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR : ROBERT T. HARTMANN  
FROM : JIM CANNON  
SUBJECT : Cuban Refugees

Attached is a memorandum drafted by Richard Parsons, who is out of town, which may answer the questions you had about the Cuban Refugee program.

If you need more information, please let me know.

Attachment

cc: Gwen Anderson



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. James Cannon

FROM: Mary Donahue *Mary D.*  
Secretary to Richard Parsons

SUBJECT: Cuban Refugees Living and Working in  
the United States

You had an inquiry from Robert Hartmann via Gwendolyn Anderson about the Cuban refugee situation. The Immigration and Naturalization Service has supplied the following information:

Cuban refugees are included in the quota for the entire Western Hemisphere. A person must have lived in the United States for two years before he can make application for residence status. When he applies for residence status, the Department of State assigns him an immigrant number. When that number comes up on the immigrant list, he is notified that he can commence naturalization proceedings. Naturalization is a five-year process. The State Department is only now calling up immigrant numbers assigned in July of 1973.

On November 2, 1966, the Congress enacted the Cuban Adjustment Act. That bill provides a speeded-up process -- a so-called 30-months' roll-back provision -- for Cuban refugees. When a Cuban refugee's immigrant number comes up, he is notified that he can commence naturalization proceedings. If he had been a resident of the United States for, say, four years, he would automatically take advantage of the 30-months' roll-back provision. Instead of waiting five years from the date of commencement of naturalization proceedings, he would have to wait only 30 months to become a citizen. Thus the period of residence in the United States does count, so far as Cuban refugees are concerned, toward the necessary waiting period to obtain citizenship.

Unless Congress enacts additional legislation, there is no way to accelerate the rate of naturalization of Cuban refugees. I&NS advises that the Executive Branch cannot do anything administratively to relieve the situation.





THE WHITE HOUSE-----

WASHINGTON

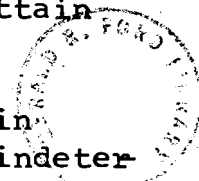
December 16, 1975 2:00 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT T. HARTMANN

VIA: DOUG SMITH *AS*  
FROM: GWEN ANDERSON *GA*  
SUBJECT: Cuban refugees

The following information has been gathered today from the Domestic Council:

1. The Domestic Council's contact at the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) says the President cannot issue an Executive Order to speed up the method of processing U.S. residence applications for Cubans who are seeking citizenship. Only the Congress, by enacting special legislation, could do this.
2. The Congress has already enacted the Cuban Adjustment Act which has a 30 month roll back provision permitting a Cuban refugee who wishes to become a U.S. citizen to apply 30 months of the period he has lived in the U.S. under alien status to the 5 year waiting period for citizenship which dates from the time of the processing of his application for resident status. In other words if a Cuban had been here for 2½ years and then applied for citizenship, he could take advantage of the 30 month roll back provision and would only have to wait 2½ more years from the date of acceptance of his application for resident status until the date he could attain citizenship status. Individuals from no other country enjoy that 2½ year, or 30 month, speed up process to attain citizenship.
3. The delay to which Mr. Casanova apparently refers in his letter is not this 5 year waiting period, but the indeterminate length of time an immigrant must wait from the time he makes his application for resident status until the State



Department processes that application. It is not until the application for resident status is processed and the resident status is granted that the 5 year waiting period in order to attain citizenship commences.

4. An immigrant who wishes to apply for U.S. citizenship must reside in the United States for two years before he can apply for resident status and thus begin the naturalization process.

5. Applications for resident status are processed in turn by the State Department, and in accordance with the quota limitations imposed by law. The Cuban quota is included in the quota for the western hemisphere which is limited to 120,000 individuals per year. There are presently 72,000 Cubans waiting on the immigrant list for their applications for resident status to be called up for processing. Apparently there is a specific quota number for Cuba, and the State Department processes only 19,000 applications from Cuban citizens each year. At the present time the State Department is only processing applications for resident status made in July 1973.

This information seems vague, and I cannot guarantee that it is entirely reliable. I would recommend that we get information in writing from the INS.







*Received by Gwen 10:30 a.m. 12/17  
But not received by RTH.*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 16, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bob Hartmann  
FROM: Jim Cannon  
SUBJECT: Cuban Refugees

Gwen Anderson asked me to "find out what the facts are" concerning the attached letter from Jose Manuel Casanova regarding the difficulties Cuban refugees are encountering in obtaining U. S. citizenship. They are as follows:

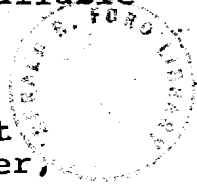
In order to become a U. S. citizen, an alien must complete a two-step process. First he/she must obtain a Permanent Resident Alien visa. This is usually obtained by the alien in his home country before leaving for the United States. Second, he/she must reside within the United States for at least five years as a Permanent Resident Alien from the date Permanent Resident Alien status was granted.

Because of the unique situation involving Cuba, however, the process is somewhat different for Cuban refugees. They are allowed to come to the United States without a visa, in refugee status. After they have resided within the United States for at least two years, they may then make application for a Permanent Resident Alien visa. Then they must reside within the United States as a Permanent Resident Alien for not less than two and one-half years nor more than five years before being eligible for U. S. citizenship. \*

The point at which our Cuban friends are experiencing some difficulty is in obtaining a Permanent Resident Alien visa. The problem here is that the Congress has, by law, established a limitation on the number of such visas which may be granted each year to persons born in Western Hemisphere countries (which, of course, includes Cubans). The annual quota is 120,000, available

---

\* The normal period of required residency after Permanent Resident Alien status is granted is five years. However, in 1966, the Congress provided a break for Cuban refugees which would allow them to recoup up to 30 months of Nonpermanent Resident Alien status in order to speed up the process for obtaining citizenship.



on a first-come, first-serve basis. As I am sure you know, the number of Western Hemisphere aliens seeking to obtain Permanent Resident Alien visas each year far exceeds 120,000 and, as a consequence, a rather substantial waiting list has developed. In fact, I am advised that the waiting period between the time an alien makes application for a Permanent Resident Alien visa and the time at which such a visa can be granted is approximately two and one-half years.

Since the limitation on visas and the required period of residence are matters of law, there is little the Executive Branch can do to help the situation.

cc: Gwen Anderson ✓



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



Nota:

Please note copies of the  
attached two letters were sent  
as following:

4 copies to Gwen Anderson  
1 copy to Benton L. Becker,  
Attorney at Law

These were sent at Mr. Smith's  
instruction.

regards,

Jan

December 20, 1975

Dear Mr. Casanova:

The President has asked me to respond to your letter of December 10 concerning Cuban refugees. He asked that I express his concern over the problems you raised in the Republican National Hispanic Assembly meeting on December 11. The President has requested the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to submit recommendations on how the backlog of Cuban applications for resident status can be more expeditiously processed.

I asked Gwen Anderson of my staff to telephone you recently to express the President's interest in finding a resolution to this problem. My office will keep after it until we find the proper course of action.

President Ford was glad to have the opportunity of meeting with you and the other representatives of the Republican National Hispanic Assembly, and he sends his warm regards.

Sincerely,

ROBERT T. HARTMANN  
Counsellor to the President

Mr. Jose Manuel Casanova  
Chairman  
Florida Republican Hispanic Assembly  
7500 Southwest 82nd Court  
Miami, Florida 33143

RTH:GAA:em



*Chairman  
of Fla Rep  
Assembly*

Dear Mr. Casanova:

*Mr. Jose V Casanova  
Manuel  
7500 SW 82<sup>nd</sup> Crt  
Miami Fla*


The President has asked me to respond to your letter of December 10 concerning Cuban refugees. He asked that I express his concern over the problems you <sup>*raised*</sup> ~~enumerated~~ in the Republican National Hispanic Assembly meeting on December 11. The President has requested the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to submit recommendations on how the backlog of Cuban applications for resident status can be more expeditiously processed.

I <sup>*asked*</sup> ~~know that~~ Gwen Anderson of my staff <sup>*to*</sup> telephoned you recently to express the President's interest in finding a resolution to this problem. My office will <sup>*keep after it*</sup> ~~be in contact with you~~ <sup>*until we find the proper course of action*</sup> ~~in the near future concerning these questions.~~ x

President Ford was <sup>*glad*</sup> ~~pleased~~ to have the opportunity of meeting with you and the other representatives of the Republican National Hispanic Assembly, and sends his

~~With the President's~~ warm regards.

Sincerely,

  
*[Signature]*  
ROBERT T. HARTMANN  
Counsellor to the President

December 20, 1975

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

It has been brought to the President's attention that there is considerable delay in processing the applications of Cuban refugees for permanent resident alien status. Preliminary investigations indicate there is a backlog of over 70,000 applications.

Would you please review the matter and report to me your findings together with your recommendations on how the backlog of Cuban applications for resident status can be more expeditiously processed. I would appreciate receiving your recommendations by January 15.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and personal attention to this inquiry.

Sincerely,

ROBERT T. HARTMANN  
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Edward H. Levi  
Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
9th and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20530

RTH:GAA:em



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 20, 1975

*Atty Gen*  
Dear Mr. Commissioner:

It has been brought to the President's attention that there is considerable delay in processing the applications of Cuban refugees for permanent resident alien status. Preliminary investigations indicate there is a backlog of over 70,000 applications.

Would you please review the matter and report to me your findings together with your recommendations on how the backlog of Cuban applications for resident status can be more expeditiously processed. I would appreciate receiving your recommendations by January 15.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and personal attention to this inquiry.

Sincerely,

*Bob*  
*Robert T. Hartmann*

ROBERT T. HARTMANN  
Counsellor to the President

*Levi*  
The Honorable Leonard F. Chapman, Jr.  
Commissioner  
Immigration and Naturalization Service  
425 I Street  
Washington, D. C. 20536



*How?*  
*Leonard F. Chapman Jr*  
*Corn*  
*Immy + Nell Surber*  
*425 I St*  
*W DC 20536*

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

It has been brought to the President's attention that there is considerable delay in processing the applications of Cuban refugees for permanent resident alien status. Preliminary investigations indicate there is a backlog of over 70,000 applications.

*W*ould you please review the matter and report to me your findings together with your recommendations on how the backlog of Cuban applications for resident status can be more expeditiously processed. I would appreciate receiving your recommendations by January 15.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and *personal* prompt *attention to inquiry x*  
~~handling of this matter~~

Sincerely,

ROBERT T. HARTMANN  
Counsellor to the President *RTH*

RTH:GAA:

*RECEIVED*



**CRAMER, HABER & BECKER**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

475 L'ENFANT PLAZA, S. W.

SUITE 4100

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20024

(202) 554-1100

TELEX ITT 440048

WILLIAM C. CRAMER  
RICHARD M. HABER  
BENTON L. BECKER  
EDMUND PENDLETON  
ANTHONY J. McMAHON  
ARTHUR R. AMDUR  
MICHAEL A. MILWEE

CRAMER & MATTHEWS

ONE BISCAYNE TOWER, SUITE 2626

TWO BISCAYNE BOULEVARD, SOUTH

MIAMI, FLORIDA 33131

(305) 358-0980

BRADHAM, LYLE, SKIPPER & CRAMER

609 FIRST AVENUE NORTH

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA 33701

(813) 895-1991

OF COUNSEL

CHARLES W. SANDMAN, JR.

F. LAWRENCE MATTHEWS

KENNETH MICHAEL ROBINSON

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Robert T. Hartmann

FROM: Benton L. Becker *BLB*

DATE: January 19, 1976

RE: CUBAN REFUGEES

By letter dated December 10, 1975, Mr. Jose Manuel Casanova, Florida Chairman, Republican National Hispanic Assembly, inquired of the President the reasons for, and exploration of possible solutions to, the inordinate delay Cuban refugees residing in the United States are subject to before obtaining resident alien status and/or United States citizenship.

By memorandum dated December 18, 1975, to you from Gwen Anderson, Ms. Anderson recounts the opinion of the White House staff regarding this matter, wherein Ms. Anderson quoted a memorandum from Mr. Connor which stated:

"There was no way to accelerate the rate of naturalization of Cuban refugees unless Congress enacts additional legislation . . ."

At your direction, and working closely with Ms. Anderson, I undertook to explore this matter further



Following my review of your limited office file on the subject, I concluded that, with the exception of Ms. Anderson, the White House staff members offering opinions on this subject did not fully grasp the problem propounded in the Casanova letter and, as a result of same, their responses were either too narrowly based or missed the point entirely. Accordingly, I undertook to review the existing law, to interview associates of mine employed at the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and to evaluate any pending legislation on this subject.

As a result of that exercise, I have concluded that, in fact, something indeed can be done.

To focus this matter in the proper light, the following outline represents six steps that must occur before a Cuban refugee becomes a United States citizen:

- 1) Parolee enters the United States.

Under the law, technically Cuban refugees are referred to as parolees. They are allowed to enter the United States without a visa.

- 2) The parolee must reside continuously in the United States for a period of two years, in the status of parolee.

Review of the Casanova letter and inquiry into the further steps outlined herein leads me to conclude, irrevocably, that this two-year waiting period is not the inordinate delay complained of by Mr. Casanova.

- 3) After residing in the United States for two years, the parolee applies for an "adjustment of status".



MEMORANDUM

Page 3

When this application is made, two federal agencies interact with respect to the parolee's application. They are the Department of State and the Justice Department (INS). The State Department issues a visa and INS issues a change of status from "parolee" to "resident alien". By federal legislation, INS is limited annually in its "award" of resident alien status to Western Hemisphere aliens in the amount of 120,000 per year.

- 4) When State and INS have acted, the parolee becomes a "Resident Agent".
- 5) Assuming the time span between steps 1 and 4 has been two and a half years or more, the resident alien may immediately apply for citizenship.

As almost all of the White House staff memos point out, this two-and-a-half-year period constitutes a legislative exception to Cuban refugees, whereas the normal waiting period for all other Western Hemisphere aliens is five years (Act of November 2, 1966, P.L. 89-732, 80 STAT 1161).

- 6) The resident alien becomes a citizen.

In practice, the time frame between steps 3 and 4 may take as many as ten years. It is that bottleneck to which Mr. Casanova justifiably complains.

A suggested method to alleviate this delay would be to have the President direct the Secretary of State to terminate the State Department's present practice of issuing visas to refugees on a "first-come, first-served" basis. It has been suggested that the State Department segregate from its awaiting visa file those individuals of Cuban extraction and to thereafter, on priority bases to Cubans, grant visas ahead of other Western Hemisphere refugees, all of whom,



MEMORANDUM

Page 4

unlike the Cubans, are immigrating from a non-Communist State. As a practical matter, once the visa is issued by State, INS merely performs a ministerial function in granting resident alien status.

Notwithstanding the temporary expeditious treatment this would provide, the United States would still be limited in the total amount of annual visas and/or resident agent status it could grant to Western Hemisphere refugees to 120,000 annually. However, that too, can be readily resolved.

Currently pending in the Congress is H.R. 8195 (copy of the Bill attached) which, if passed into law, would remove the 120,000 limitation applying to immigrants from the Western Hemisphere. H.R. 8195 would remove the distinction between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres and allow a total of 300,000 visas and/or resident agent statuses to be granted annually to the Western Hemisphere residents. The Bill has been endorsed by the Attorney General and INS.

Proponents of the Bill maintain that its passage would significantly reduce the proliferated influx of thousands of illegal aliens into the United States. This would be accomplished, quite simply, by providing the legislative mechanism of increasing the number of available applications and, thereby, decrease the necessity of illegal immigration. The proponents further maintain that passage would alleviate



MEMORANDUM

Page 5

U.S. hostility felt by Western Hemisphere aliens desirous of immigrating to the U.S., but frustrated by the "closed club" policy of our immigration laws.

H.R. 8195 ~~does~~ not restrict itself to Cuba, yet, if passed into law and if the State Department procedure outlined in this memorandum was changed, the complaint voiced by Mr. Casanova would be greatly mitigated. Preferential State Department treatment to Cuban refugees may not be fairly criticized, as a legislative precedent, for such treatment already exists (two and a half v. five years, referred to as step 5 herein).

As indicated earlier, the Administration could suggest that its new State Department visa policy is humanly motivated to encourage, where legally possible, the removal of U.S. immigration restrictions for immigrants from Communist States.



94TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 8195

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 1975

Mr. BADILLO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

### A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to remove the distinction between Eastern and Western Hemisphere immigrants, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3 *That this Act may be cited as the Immigration Equaliza-*  
4 *tion Act of 1975"*

5 SEC. 2. Section 201 (a) of the Immigration and Na-  
6 tionality Act is amended—

7 (1) by striking out in clause (i) of such subsec-  
8 tion "45,000" and inserting in lieu thereof "75,000";  
9 and

10 (2) by striking out in clause (ii) of such subsec-  
11 tion "170,000" and inserting in lieu thereof "300,000".



1 SEC. 3. (a) Section 101 (a) (27) of the Immigration  
2 and Nationality Act is amended by striking out subpara-  
3 graph (A) thereof and renumbering subparagraphs (B),  
4 (C), (D), and (E) as (A), (B), (C), and (D),  
5 respectively.

6 (b) Section 211 (b) of the Immigration and Nationality  
7 Act is amended by striking out "section 101 (a) (27) (B)"  
8 and inserting in lieu thereof "section 101 (a) (27) (A)".

9 SEC. 4. Section 212 (a) of the Immigration and Na-  
10 tionality Act is amended—

11 (1) by striking out in paragraph (14) "to special  
12 immigrants as defined in section 101 (a) (27) (A)"  
13 (other than the parents, spouses, or children of United  
14 States citizens or of aliens lawfully admitted to the  
15 United States for permanent residence,"; and

16 (2) by striking out in paragraph (24) "section  
17 101 (a) (27) (A) and (B)" and inserting in lieu  
18 thereof "section 101 (a) (27) (A)".

19 SEC. 5. Section 241 (a) (10) of the Immigration and  
20 Nationality Act is amended by striking out "(other than  
21 an alien who is a native-born citizen of any of the countries  
22 enumerated in section 101 (a) (27) (B)" and inserting in  
23 lieu thereof "(other than an alien described in section  
24 101 (a) (27) (A)".



1 SEC. 6. Section 244 (d) of the Immigration and Nation-  
2 ality Act is amended by striking out "is entitled to a special  
3 immigrant classification under section 101 (a) (27) (A),  
4 or".

5 SEC. 7. Section 245 (c) of the Immigration and Nation-  
6 ality Act is repealed.

7 SEC. 8. Section 349 (a) (1) of the Immigration and  
8 Nationality Act is amended by striking out "section 101 (a)  
9 (27) (E)" and inserting in lieu thereof "section 101 (a)  
10 (27) (D)".

11 SEC. 9. Section 21 (e) of the Act entitled "An Act to  
12 amend the Immigration and Nationality Act, and for other  
13 purposes", approved October 3, 1965, Public Law 89-236  
14 (79 Stat. 921), is repealed.

15 SEC. 10. Each special immigrant, as that term was  
16 defined in section 101 (a) (27) (A) of the Immigration and  
17 Nationality Act immediately prior to the date of enactment  
18 of this Act, who had a priority date as such an immigrant  
19 immediately prior to such date of enactment, shall be allotted  
20 a visa according to the most preferential class for which such  
21 immigrant files a visa petition and to which he is entitled  
22 under section 203 (a) of the Immigration and Nationality  
23 Act. Upon according such class to that special immigrant,  
24 the date of the filing of his visa petition shall be considered  
25 to be the priority date he had as such a special immigrant.





1 SEC. 11. Title I of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
2 is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new  
3 section:

4 "IMMIGRATION STUDY

5 "SEC. 107. The Immigration and Nationalization Serv-  
6 ice is hereby authorized to conduct a study of perspective  
7 immigration patterns into the United States of America  
8 from other countries of the world.

9 "The Immigration and Nationalization Service is to  
10 report to Congress on its findings by December 31, 1976."



**CRAMER, HABER & BECKER**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

475 L'ENFANT PLAZA, S. W.

SUITE 4100

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20024

(202) 554-1100

TELEX ITT 440048

WILLIAM C. CRAMER  
RICHARD M. HABER  
BENTON L. BECKER  
EDMUND PENDLETON  
ANTHONY J. McMAHON  
ARTHUR R. AMDUR  
MICHAEL A. MILWEE

CRAMER & MATTHEWS

ONE BISCAYNE TOWER, SUITE 2628

TWO BISCAYNE BOULEVARD, SOUTH

MIAMI, FLORIDA 33131

(305) 558-0980

BRADHAM, LYLE, SKIPPER & CRAMER

600 FIRST AVENUE NORTH

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA 33701

(813) 898-1991

OF COUNSEL

CHARLES W. SANDMAN, JR.

P. LAWRENCE MATTHEWS

KENNETH MICHAEL ROBINSON

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Robert T. Hartmann

FROM: Benton L. Becker *BLB*

DATE: January 19, 1976

RE: CUBAN REFUGEES

By letter dated December 10, 1975, Mr. Jose Manuel Casanova, Florida Chairman, Republican National Hispanic Assembly, inquired of the President the reasons for, and exploration of possible solutions to, the inordinate delay Cuban refugees residing in the United States are subject to before obtaining resident alien status and/or United States citizenship.

By memorandum dated December 18, 1975, to you from Gwen Anderson, Ms. Anderson recounts the opinion of the White House staff regarding this matter, wherein Ms. Anderson quoted a memorandum from Mr. Connor which stated:

"There was no way to accelerate the rate of naturalization of Cuban refugees unless Congress enacts additional legislation . . ."

At your direction, and working closely with Ms. Anderson, I undertook to explore this matter further.



Following my review of your limited office file on the subject, I concluded that, with the exception of Ms. Anderson, the White House staff members offering opinions on this subject did not fully grasp the problem propounded in the Casanova letter and, as a result of same, their responses were either too narrowly based or missed the point entirely. Accordingly, I undertook to review the existing law, to interview associates of mine employed at the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and to evaluate any pending legislation on this subject.

As a result of that exercise, I have concluded that, in fact, something indeed can be done.

To focus this matter in the proper light, the following outline represents six steps that must occur before a Cuban refugee becomes a United States citizen:

- 1) Parolee enters the United States.

Under the law, technically Cuban refugees are referred to as parolees. They are allowed to enter the United States without a visa.

- 2) The parolee must reside continuously in the United States for a period of two years, in the status of parolee.

Review of the Casanova letter and inquiry into the further steps outlined herein leads me to conclude, irrevocably, that this two-year waiting period is not the inordinate delay complained of by Mr. Casanova.

- 3) After residing in the United States for two years, the parolee applies for an "adjustment of status".



MEMORANDUM

Page 3

When this application is made, two federal agencies interact with respect to the parolee's application. They are the Department of State and the Justice Department (INS). The State Department issues a visa and INS issues a change of status from "parolee" to "resident alien". By federal legislation, INS is limited annually in its "award" of resident alien status to Western Hemisphere aliens in the amount of 120,000 per year.

- 4) When State and INS have acted, the parolee becomes a "Resident Agent".
- 5) Assuming the time span between steps 1 and 4 has been two and a half years or more, the resident alien may immediately apply for citizenship.

As almost all of the White House staff memos point out, this two-and-a-half-year period constitutes a legislative exception to Cuban refugees, whereas the normal waiting period for all other Western Hemisphere aliens is five years (Act of November 2, 1966, P.L. 89-732, 80 STAT 1161).

- 6) The resident alien becomes a citizen.

In practice, the time frame between steps 3 and 4 may take as many as ten years. It is that bottleneck to which Mr. Casanova justifiably complains.

A suggested method to alleviate this delay would be to have the President direct the Secretary of State to terminate the State Department's present practice of issuing visas to refugees on a "first-come, first-served" basis. It has been suggested that the State Department segregate from its awaiting visa file those individuals of Cuban extraction and to thereafter, on priority bases to Cubans, grant visas ahead of other Western Hemisphere refugees, all of whom,



MEMORANDUM

Page 4

unlike the Cubans, are immigrating from a non-Communistic State. As a practical matter, once the visa is issued by State, INS merely performs a ministerial function in granting resident alien status.

Notwithstanding the temporary expeditious treatment this would provide, the United States would still be limited in the total amount of annual visas and/or resident agent status it could grant to Western Hemisphere refugees to 120,000 annually. However, that too, can be readily resolved.

Currently pending in the Congress is H.R. 8195 (copy of the Bill attached) which, if passed into law, would remove the 120,000 limitation applying to immigrants from the Western Hemisphere. H.R. 8195 would remove the distinction between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres and allow a total of 300,000 visas and/or resident agent statuses to be granted annually to the Western Hemisphere residents. The Bill has been endorsed by the Attorney General and INS.

Proponents of the Bill maintain that its passage would significantly reduce the proliferated influx of thousands of illegal aliens into the United States. This would be accomplished, quite simply, by providing the legislative mechanism of increasing the number of available applications and, thereby, decrease the necessity of illegal immigration. The proponents further maintain that passage would alleviate



MEMORANDUM

Page 5

U.S. hostility felt by Western Hemisphere aliens desirous of immigrating to the U.S., but frustrated by the "closed club" policy of our immigration laws.

H.R. 8195 ~~does~~ not restrict itself to Cuba, yet, if passed into law and if the State Department procedure outlined in this memorandum was changed, the complaint voiced by Mr. Casanova would be greatly mitigated. Preferential State Department treatment to Cuban refugees may not be fairly criticized, as a legislative precedent, for such treatment already exists (two and a half v. five years, referred to as step 5 herein).

As indicated earlier, the Administration could suggest that its new State Department visa policy is humanly motivated to encourage, where legally possible, the removal of U.S. immigration restrictions for immigrants from Communist States.



94TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 8195

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 1975

Mr. BADILLO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

## A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to remove the distinction between Eastern and Western Hemisphere immigrants, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3 That this Act may be cited as the Immigration Equaliza-  
4 tion Act of 1975”

5 SEC. 2. Section 201 (a) of the Immigration and Na-  
6 tionality Act is amended—

7 (1) by striking out in clause (i) of such subsec-  
8 tion “45,000” and inserting in lieu thereof “75,000”;  
9 and

10 (2) by striking out in clause (ii) of such subsec-  
11 tion “170,000” and inserting in lieu thereof “300,000”.



1        SEC. 3. (a) Section 101 (a) (27) of the Immigration  
2 and Nationality Act is amended by striking out subpara-  
3 graph (A) thereof and renumbering subparagraphs (B),  
4 (C), (D), and (E) as (A), (B), (C), and (D),  
5 respectively.

6        (b) Section 211 (b) of the Immigration and Nationality  
7 Act is amended by striking out "section 101 (a) (27) (B)"  
8 and inserting in lieu thereof "section 101 (a) (27) (A)".

9        SEC. 4. Section 212 (a) of the Immigration and Na-  
10 tionality Act is amended—

11        (1) by striking out in paragraph (14) "to special  
12 immigrants as defined in section 101 (a) (27) (A)"  
13 (other than the parents, spouses, or children of United  
14 States citizens or of aliens lawfully admitted to the  
15 United States for permanent residence,"; and

16        (2) by striking out in paragraph (24) "section  
17 101 (a) (27) (A) and (B)" and inserting in lieu  
18 thereof "section 101 (a) (27) (A)".

19        SEC. 5. Section 241 (a) (10) of the Immigration and  
20 Nationality Act is amended by striking out "(other than  
21 an alien who is a native-born citizen of any of the countries  
22 enumerated in section 101 (a) (27) (B)" and inserting in  
23 lieu thereof "(other than an alien described in section  
24 101 (a) (27) (A)".






1 SEC. 6. Section 244 (d) of the Immigration and Nation-  
2 ality Act is amended by striking out "is entitled to a special  
3 immigrant classification under section 101 (a) (27) (A),  
4 or".

5 SEC. 7. Section 245 (c) of the Immigration and Nation-  
6 ality Act is repealed.

7 SEC. 8. Section 349 (a) (1) of the Immigration and  
8 Nationality Act is amended by striking out "section 101 (a)  
9 (27) (E)" and inserting in lieu thereof "section 101 (a)  
10 (27) (D)".

11 SEC. 9. Section 21 (e) of the Act entitled "An Act to  
12 amend the Immigration and Nationality Act, and for other  
13 purposes", approved October 3, 1965, Public Law 89-236  
14 (79 Stat. 921), is repealed.

15 SEC. 10. Each special immigrant, as that term was  
16 defined in section 101 (a) (27) (A) of the Immigration and  
17 Nationality Act immediately prior to the date of enactment  
18 of this Act, who had a priority date as such an immigrant  
19 immediately prior to such date of enactment, shall be allotted  
20 a visa according to the most preferential class for which such  
21 immigrant files a visa petition and to which he is entitled  
22 under section 203 (a) of the Immigration and Nationality  
23 Act. Upon according such class to that special immigrant,  
24 the date of the filing of his visa petition shall be considered  
to be the priority date he had as such a special immigrant.



1 SEC. 11. Title I of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
2 is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new  
3 section:

4 "IMMIGRATION STUDY

5 "SEC. 107. The Immigration and Nationalization Serv-  
6 ice is hereby authorized to conduct a study of perspective  
7 immigration patterns into the United States of America  
8 from other countries of the world.

9 "The Immigration and Nationalization Service is to  
10 report to Congress on its findings by December 31, 1976."

