THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 10, 1975

MEETING WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE
REPUBLICAN NATIONAL HISPANIC ASSEMBLY

Thursday, December 11, 1975
The Roosevelt Room
11:30 a.m.
From: Gwen Anderson

I. PURPOSE
To give recognition and visibility to this newly organized group
and to discuss their future plans.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN
A. Background
The Republican National Hispanic Assembly (RNHA) was founded
in February 1974 under the leadership of the Republican National
Committee's Spanish-speaking Advisory Committee. The
objectives of the group are to promote and to encourage state
and local participation of Spanish-speaking citizens in Republican
Party activities and to work for the advancement of the Party's
principles, policies and candidates; to serve as a Republican
fund-raising mechanism in the Spanish-speaking community;
and to stimulate the members' participation in the regularly
constituted structures of the Republican Party.

The RNHA is organized in 16 states including the District of
Columbia. It is asking to obtain permanent affiliate status next
year with the RNC similar to that of the Young Republicans and
the Women's Federation.

This meeting was requested by RNHA chairman, Benjamin
Fernandez, to discuss and request specific Administration action
in the areas of Presidential appointments to Administration posts
as well as to federal judgeships; the importance to the Spanish-
speaking community of the position of Special Assistant to
the President for Spanish Speaking Affairs, a post held by
Fernando C. De Baca; and the role of the RNHA and the
Hispanic voters in the upcoming elections.

In October, a small group of representatives of the RNHA
met with Counsellor Robert T. Hartmann, Douglas Bennett,
and Gwen Anderson to discuss some of the above matters.
A copy of Benjamin Fernandez's letter concerning the
various subjects discussed at that meeting is attached at
Tab A. Mr. Fernandez has indicated that these same
topics will be the subjects discussed at this meeting with
you.

The RNHA is presently uncommitted in the upcoming Repub-
lican Presidential primaries and favorable press coverage
of the event could do much to encourage RNHA backing of
your candidacy or at the very least individual state-by-state
endorsements, according to Fernando De Baca. This could
prove of particular value with the Cuban population in the
upcoming Florida primary race. Attached at Tab B is a
recent news article on this subject.

Sixty-one Hispanic Americans presently serve in appointed
positions in the Administration. Under your Administration,
two Hispanos have been appointed to high level positions,
Fernando C. De Baca, Special Assistant to the President,
and Fernando Oaxaca, Associate Director of the Office of
Management and Budget. Ricardo Nunez's appointment as
Director, Cuban Refugee Program of the Department of
Health, Education and Welfare, is pending. The RNHA
believes that a concerted effort must be made to appoint
qualified Hispanic Republicans to higher positions in the
Administration. A list of appointees is attached at Tab C.

B. Participants

Approximately 35 persons will participate in the meeting,
including National Chairman Benjamin Fernandez of Los
Angeles, members of the RNHA National Executive Com-
mitee and RNHA State Chairmen. A list of those attending
is attached at Tab D.
B. Participants (continued)

Congressman Manuel Lujan of New Mexico will also attend.

C. Staff

Counsellor Robert T. Hartmann, Special Assistant Fernando C. De Baca, Gwen Anderson, James Cannon, Douglas Bennett.

D. Press Plan

White House photographer and press photo opportunity.

III. TALKING POINTS

Prepared by Paul Theis.
October 6, 1975

Mr. Robert Hartman
Counselor to the President

Mr. Douglas Bennett
Presidential Appointments

Mr. James Cannon, Executive Director
The Domestic Counsel

Miss Gwenn Anderson
Special Assistant to the President

Dear Messrs. Hartman, Bennett, Cannon and Miss Anderson:

Thank you for your patience last Wednesday re: the Republican National Hispanic Assembly meeting.

We were delighted with the courtesies and the attention given to our presentation re: the 1976 Presidential Campaign; the hopes and aspirations of Hispanic Republicans; and the immediate and long-term plans of the RNHA.

The following critique will serve as a reminder of the various subjects discussed at the meeting, urging that all feasible aspects of our request be implemented immediately by the Administration.
A. Presidential Appointments. In order for an Administration to earn credibility among Hispanic Americans, it must report accomplishments which can be quantified; which can be announced through the normal means of mass communications. To date, the Administration's performance in the appointment of Hispanic Americans to supergrade positions is poor. The best figures available to us at this time indicate that President Kennedy appointed three Hispanics to supergrade positions (GS 17 - 18); President Johnson appointed six; and President Nixon fifty five. To date, President Ford has appointed two! Fernando C. de Baca, Special Assistant to the President and Fernando Oaxaca, Associate Director, the Office of Management and Budget. Ricardo Nunez's appointment as Director, Cuban Refugee Program, Health, Education and Welfare is pending.

We believe that a concerted effort on the part of the Administration must be made to appoint qualified Hispanic Republicans to higher positions within the Ford Administration. For example, Hispanics should be appointed to positions of Secretary, Undersecretary, and Assistant Secretaries. To the best of our knowledge, Hispanic Americans have never served at these levels.

Presidential appointments should be made to commissions, boards, and advisory councils, and, as suggested by Mr. Bennett, positions at the secretarial level also could be filled by qualified Hispanic Republicans.
Let us not forget the independent agencies such as Controller of the Currency, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, the Federal Communication Commission, the Federal Reserve Banks, etc., and regional positions within these independent organizations. In short, gentlemen, we want to participate at every level of the Ford Administration believing that we have earned it. We will continue to work for future Republican administrations as we have in the past.

Doug Bennett was particularly hopeful when he suggested that:

1) We submit resumes of qualified Hispanics directly to him for the development of an inventory of resumes;
2) He would notify my office of positions opening within the administration which could be filled by Hispanics;
3) He would be receptive to our submitting of resumes for positions known to us but unknown to his office; and
4) He would assume full responsibility for the implementation of this program.

We have already started this program with the submission to his office of Alex Armendariz's resume for an Assistant Secretarial position.

B. The Judiciary. Our research indicates that there are 564 federal judges appointed by the President throughout the United States. Of this number, only seven have been designated to Americans of Hispanic origin. Geographically, there are four in Puerto Rico, two in Texas, and one in Guam.
B. The Judiciary (continued).

This share of the market is deplorable, and the only way that it can be rectified is with the commitment by an American President to identify and appoint qualified Hispanics for these positions. Indeed, President Ford should move aggressively at the appropriate time, to appoint the first Hispanic American in the history of the United States to the Supreme Court bench.

The RNHA would welcome the opportunity to recommend individuals qualified to sit on the federal bench at every level.

C. Special Assistant. The Special Assistant to the President, one of the most important positions to our community within the Ford Administration, is that of Special Assistant to the President for Spanish Speaking Affairs, a post held by Fernando C. de Baca. It is important to us, for it gives us instant visibility and establishes in the eyes of the community the eagerness of President Ford to give Hispanics a voice in his Administration.

Mr. de Baca, despite the lack of staff and budget, has been enormously effective in the marketplace. He has been extremely cooperative with the leadership of the RNHA, responding swiftly and in a positive way to all of our requests. We want the Administration to know that Mr. de Baca is highly respected in the Hispanic community, and urge that he be given more support by the Adminis-
Critique

Special Assistant (continued)

...ation in those areas which he deems critical to the benefit of all Hispanic Americans. He is supported fully and completely by the RNHA.

D. Employment. The last administration developed an employment program entitled "The 16 Point Program" for the purpose of identifying, recruiting, and training Hispanic Americans in the field of public service via the federal government. There are two areas of concern to us with regard to this program; viz.,

(1) Intensification of the program could be done by asking each of the agencies to implement the goals of this program at once. A follow-up program should be started to insure the success of this excellent plan.

(2) Upgrading among the present federal employees should be reviewed very carefully and publicized where such upgradings are in order.

The Ford Administration already has a body of Hispanic Americans in its employ who could move up the ladder of government.

In every instance we do not ask special consideration; however, we do ask for an equitable opportunity. The appointment of Hispanic Americans to positions indicated above is the swiftest way to earn credibility with the people. We urge that these requests be adopted immediately.

E. The Republican National Hispanic Assembly. The RNHA of the United States, located in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Building, Washington, D.C., is asking to obtain permanent affiliate status next year with the Republican National
The Republican National Hispanic Assembly (continued)

Committee similar to that of the Young Republicans and the Woman's Federation.

We already have 16 states in organization, including the District of Columbia. It is our goal to become fully involved in all matters Republican; to participate as full and equal partners within the political process. We are not asking for "handouts" as evidenced by the fact that 100% of our operating expenses are being funded by the volunteers who conceived the idea of an Assembly and who administer its operations. The concept of an Hispanic organization of Republican volunteers is absolutely essential in all future Presidential, Senatorial, and Congressional campaigns.

We bring to your attention that in 1972, some 2% of the people who voted for the Republican candidate was attributed to Hispano Americans; that for the first time in history, Hispanic Americans organized to raise some $400,000 for a Republican candidate.

We urge you to review the basic statistics of the 1968 and 1972 campaigns. In 1968 only 6% of the Hispanic Americans who voted in the presidential election, voted for the Republican candidate. In 1972, however, the figures rose dramatically to 36%. We were organized; we had been invited to participate, the Administration had identified with our people.
The Republican National Hispanic Assembly (Continued)

We urge that you respond to the requests of a noble people, of a gracious people, of decent Americans who wish only the right to participate as Americans and as Republicans.

F. Presidential Meeting. We requested a meeting with President Ford in The White House, wherein all members of the National Executive Committee and all State Chairman would be invited to meet the President and for the President to meet them. We would present to him a request for participation similar to the one submitted to you. We respectfully request again that a specific date be designated for said meeting, and that sufficient lead time be allowed to permit as many people as possible to attend.

Con todo respeto,

Benjamin Farnoblez
Chairman
BF:em

cc: Mary Louise Smith, Chairman, Republican National Committee
Gary Englebrecht, Co-Chairman, Republican National Committee
Delfin H. Pupo, Executive Committee Member, Republican National Hispanic Assembly
Gilbert Pompa, Executive Committee Member, Republican National Hispanic Assembly
Monte F. Montez, Executive Committee Member, Republican National Hispanic Assembly
Jay Garcia, Director, Office of Spanish Speaking Affairs, RNC
Richard Thaxton, Director, Political Research Division, RNC
Joe Gaylord, Director, Special Voter Groups Division, RNC
Ford Aide Says U.S. Hispanic Voters Could Sway Election

Ford Aide Says U.S. Hispanic Voters Could Sway Election

For further information:
Clayton Willis
202-318-3900
202-338-450-6219
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<td>ARMENDARIS, Alex</td>
<td>Director OMBE, Department of Commerce</td>
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<td>CORDOVA, Jorge L.</td>
<td>Regional Director for Latin America, Peace Corps.</td>
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<td>DE BACA, FERNANDO</td>
<td>Special Assistant to the President, The White House</td>
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<td>GALLEGOS, Bert</td>
<td>Director Community Services Administration</td>
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<td>HIDALGO, Edward</td>
<td>General Counsel and Director of Congressional Affairs, U.S.I.A.</td>
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<td>JOVA, John Joseph</td>
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<td>MARTINEZ, Samuel</td>
<td>Chairman, Federal Regional Council, Denver, Regional Director, USDOL</td>
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<td>MAYMÍ, Carmen</td>
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