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The White House
Washington

For Fernando de la C.:

J.R.F.
The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your kind invitation to today's meeting to discuss problems unique to our Spanish-speaking citizens. Through discussions that you and I have had over the years in the House of Representatives, I know that your interest in this human problem is very sincere and that you are interested in developing solutions, not just another "program". I hope I can be of assistance to you in finding and implementing those solutions.

As with all other ethnic groups, the problems of Spanish-speaking people are different in various areas of the country. Individual goals and aspirations are the same, but the opportunities to achieve those goals do not exist equally in every state. While I basically believe that personal growth and development is the responsibility of the individual and his family, regardless of ethnic background, I share your conviction that one of the duties of a just government is to make certain that the doors of opportunity are open equally to all citizens, with fairness to all and favor to none.

I will confine my remarks to specific examples within the area I represent because that is the area with which I am the most familiar.

With the exception of language difficulties in some areas, I find in visiting my constituents that the special needs of all ethnic groups in New Mexico are the same. The head of the family needs and wants opportunity for meaningful employment near his home. Parents want and need educational opportunities for their
children so that the growth of young minds is not restricted by lack of money alone. Given the opportunity to work and earn a decent living, Spanish-speaking parents like all other parents will sacrifice and save in order to help their children gain an education. But the costs of education today are beyond the means of lower and middle-income families, regardless of their sacrifices.

Thus, I believe our major problems are the creation of job opportunities and the lowering of money barriers to a good education.

I mentioned language difficulties. We have developed a number of approaches to bilingual education, and now is the time to review those approaches, test them against their results and adopt a federal policy of encouraging and financing the best of these approaches in the areas where they are wanted and needed.

As to the creation of job opportunities, we have a rich field of potentials in utilizing our natural resources without getting deeper into the welfare-type programs that help very few and harm very many. I will mention a few examples in New Mexico, and the principle behind these examples could be applied to other areas, varying according to local natural resources.

In the northern part of my District, we have large forests and other public lands that are capable of supporting many more families than they now support. The request I receive most often from my northern constituents is not for more welfare and food stamps but for more grazing permits and for the opportunity to make use of land and water that is not now being used. This can be done without overgrazing the land and forests. Concentrated programs of range and forest management aimed at helping the people to produce a living rather than at locking these resources into a static, non-productive status would go far toward creating new job opportunities. And this can be done without damage to our goal of retaining wilderness, park and public recreation areas.

There are streams and rivers that can be dammed to provide more water for irrigation, and this is a proper function of government. Given the use of land and water, the people of northern New Mexico can and will be self-sufficient. As ranking member of the Water and Power Resources Subcommittee of the House Interior Committee, I will welcome the opportunity to work with you on job-creating projects of this kind.
Housing, health, sanitation -- these are problems that prosperous communities will solve at the local level. But poverty-stricken communities cannot. I believe we should assist the low-income areas to achieve proper standards of housing, health and sanitation while at the same time providing local job opportunities that will bring the level of prosperity necessary for the community to provide these things for itself.

The Department of Labor can be very useful in providing labor and job-training programs in our areas of high unemployment. But the problem with such programs in the past has been that they have not been tailored specifically to the needs of the local area. It does little good to train men for jobs that do not exist near home. I would be pleased to work with you in developing a down-to-earth program of job training that will dovetail with the needs and resources of each community.

When one talks about ethnic groups, the term most often used is "discrimination". Job discrimination, discrimination in education, social discrimination, etc. Every ethnic group that has, over the years, come to America has undergone some form of discrimination, and it obviously still exists in many pockets throughout the land. In trying to eliminate racial discrimination, well-meaning men have in the past gone much too far by attempting to implement national programs to cure ills that exist only in isolated areas. As with job-training, any program aimed at the discrimination problem must be adapted to the conditions prevailing in the local area. Otherwise a divisiveness is created that does more harm than good.

As with education, housing, health, etc., discrimination is a problem mainly because of economic status. If we can provide job opportunities and a chance to earn a decent living, people of all ethnic origins will find that their growth up the economic ladder carries with it a dissolution of discrimination problems.

There are many other facets of this problem that can be discussed usefully in our meetings. Solutions are available and can be provided now. Our goal must be to open doors of opportunity for the Spanish-speaking, the Italian, the Greek, the Negro, the Chinese and all other ethnic groups in America on an equal basis.
I will be honored to assist in this work.

Best regards,

[Signature]

Manuel Lojan, Jr.

ML/jk
Unfortunately, this is official business of the House, I was not present during that dissertation. I take this opportunity to add some of my interpretations of the situation as it exists and the several problems that it has as basic problems of the area, and give some recommendations that I would respectfully make to some people involved.

First, basically, Mr. Speaker, I believe in the brief history that my colleagues gave us to explore the people in the area. It is a situation that it is necessary that they have the ability to speak of Spanish about, even having come are of Spanish about, even having come are of Spanish about, even having come from the Southwest, and others through history.

As the history of early Spaniards are still present and are united with the citizens of the Southwest and the Indians of Mexico. But, observe, mainly Gorts Gorts versus what is common, known as the American Americans, who is a Spanish, or part of a common possession that came to Mexico and manifested with the Indians.

There are some 3 million people who live in this area who have been good citizens. They have considered themselves to be Americans basically, because their ancestors were here even before there was an America. These people—myself included—are descendants in part of a migration that had a calendar, that had hospitals, that had a university, that had provinces—where it is my humble estimation far surpassed those of the ancient Nile before the white man had destroyed it.

This country becomes the United States of Spain. They estimated into the population. Even before the ancestors lived in Texas when it was a part of Mexico. They live in Texas when it is a Republic. They live in Europe now that it is a part of the United States of America.

The descendants of these people have always been loyal Americans. Not one of the Spanish families have been called to the enemy in time of war. Many with family, many families have been given Congress Honors and those are every Purple Heart.

In the early 1930s of this century there came a time when our people were looked upon, in my estimation for no other reason than ignorance. But even though they suffered they did not march through the streets, they did not riot rampant through the communities, they did not demonstrate or interfere with the freedom of others. They fulfilled their basic responsibilities of loyal American citizens.

They went on boldly suffering the indignation of discrimination at many times, but always with the understanding in their hearts that it would be different someday, as more time by those in the Government. This to great part was successful, because they became educated, società became lawyers, società became doctors. Some became teachers. Some of us even came to Congress.

This was done without fascination, without recognition by the press, without recognition by the Government, without recognition by any one at all who did not live in the immediate area where the problem existed.

So before going on with the conclusion of the problem, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few points. Even though they suffered the source of discrimination they remained loyal. They never voiced a word of disobedience to the laws of the United States, as other people have done. They never voiced objections which would demonstrate to the welfare of others. They suffered the humiliation, the painful discrimination, but if it were for their cause, their rights, or their beliefs, they never voiced the law. For this I believe they should be commended. For this I believe they should be heard.

I do not mean, Mr. Speaker, or my colleagues to minimize the sufferings of these people, because we know of responsibilities. We have discharged our responsibilities. It is not like the attention, with other groups interested to civil rights matters, which request immediate and request pettitions while not once do they mention the basic responsibility that must precede in every instance the assumption of the rights and privileges of a people.

We have accepted the responsibilities.

We have fulfilled the responsibilities.

Now we feel we are entitled to the benefits of having fulfilled those responsibilities.

I speak generally of the people of the Southwest because the problems of the Spanish speaking in the urban areas of the South or of the Midwest are not the same problems. The problems of the Cubans and the problems of the Puerto Ricans, who are Spanish speaking, are not the same problems as those of the people of the Southwest of whom I speak today. Therefore, if I may be pardoned, I am going to enumerate the problems in order to discuss mainly the problem of the Southwest.

They do not ask for any special privileges. They only ask for equal opportunity. They do not do as the Community say, that everyone be made equal, so in the erroneous manner that the Communist philosophy where they will line up every citizen one for one and say, "You will all have one apartment with one one roommate, and you will all have the same kind of one and you will all be equal in every respect."

This is not America. This is not what we are asking for. We are looking for equality under the law. Where every man who goes into a courtroom is equal regardless of what his name is or where he came from. We are looking for equality of justice where every man who is arrested or is detained by a sheriff or a peace officer, for whatever reason he may be detained, is detained because of his color being darker or lighter because of his name.

We do not ask for anything else except for this equality under the law. We ask for equality in education and equality in education.

No privileges are asked for. Nothing that anyone else is not entitled to be asked for. A large part of the problem is in employment. This begins with em-
Mr. Speaker, I am told here as much as I am able to do in the form of cooperation with the agencies of the Federal Government and in working with the legislative branch of the Government in an effort to see that every child, regardless of his name or his race, shall have an education and that he be given the opportunity to occupy a place in our governmental machinery. But, however, one cannot measure a person's standing if he has not received the proper education.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request that all of the problems of the United States and the executive branch of the Government that are the most important at the present time are problems of the problems of the Spanish-speaking people of the Southwest. I respectfully request that all of the problems of the Southwest be placed on this Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I have already mentioned the problems of Federal employment. And there is a vast body of knowledgeable people who could serve the Government, properly and profitably, from the Cabinet level to the lawless civil servant of which this Federal Government can avail itself, and the interest of these people is to serve their Government.

Mr. Speaker, the only interest that we have is that they be given an opportunity based upon their qualifications and their qualifications only, disregarding name or color and everything else.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that our Government, and the resources of the Government, be utilized to see that private industry follows the same course.

Again, I have heard that private industry, and for instance, a particular company, and the vice president thereof, mentioned the fact that they have had a skin of Negroes in the United States for Negro people.

Mr. Speaker, we ask only that every individual and every private industry in this great country, of our give our people an opportunity to present their qualifications and that they judge them based on the others purely and solely based on their qualifications.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been of the opinion that everyone should be treated equally.

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A matter will come before this House very shortly—a matter that was discussed by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Findley) in interpolating and joining in the great-spender column in by my Democratic friends when commensurating with Cuba, Independence Day. This is the matter of negotiating trade in agricultural products and the dairy agricultural programs, to which, I estimate, is of interest to Communist countries and to those countries that are dealing with Communist countries. I would point out to my friends who have spoken of Cuba's independence that Cuba is Cuba.

In light of the cruelty that is now on the horizon and will appear tomorrow for so long in the Congressmen, House, I am curious to know whether those who have expressed to these fine views are going to support the amendment that would restrict trade in Cuba. This administration put its actions where its words are, so I am curious to ask the independence of the Cuban people? Or, will it continue to do what it has begun? I would say: Try to get the agricultural committee to reverse its decision and not continue there, everything will go through the Speaker, who joined in the oratory, to get the House of Representatives to repudiate the action of the Agriculture Committee.

Mr. FINDLEY. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CURTIS. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. FINDLEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding. One of the big pushers for my mind is whether the administration really wants to impose economic sanctions against Cuba or not. The answer to me is not clear. I will support this amendment. I will ask what had happened in the Committee on agriculture in dealing with the legislation to extend the Public law 485, known as food for peace. That committee adopted an amendment which would have forced the government to choose between concessional sale advance, without the program of giving in the enemy, the enemy being Cuba in South Vietnam. This was in committee profit form. As we finally got through with the other amendments under consideration, it was the full understanding that we would simply return later on for a straightforward approval of the revised legislation as a new bill.

But in the meantime the State Department had gotten wind of this amendment, which had some teeth in it. They did not have any compulsory authority, it had some teeth in it. It required countries to choose between the demarcation of concessional areas or transfer with the enemy, and, curiously, the State Department was concerned about the market for the Government of South Vietnam.

They had found out that this amendment would adversely affect the commercial interests of Haiti in selling just to Castro's Cuba and believe it or not, it caused our State Department such concern for Haiti that Haiti, see this market for its jute in Cuba, that it wanted our committee to revise that amendment, to kick enough holepunches in it big enough for the Indians to creep through and enable them to continue to have the advantages of these concessional sales; that is, virtual donations of massive amounts of food, and still retain the commercial markets that they have in Cuba.

Presumably, our committee sustained its earlier decision, although, I might add, by a very narrow margin.

The question here is whether or not the administration and the House majority leadership will have the good judgment and the courage and the persistence to stick by this effort, to get some teeth in the program of economic sanctions against Cuba.

Mr. CURTIS. I think the gentleman again emphasizes the point is: Where is this description of the American policy coming from? Whose responsibility is it? Our Democratic economic doctrine, in behalf of Cuban freedom, take the place of separate administration sanction that might in fact bring about actual freedom for the Cuban people? Or, failing to take these selective steps, will the administration continue to follow policies which, upon analysis in the end the advantage of the same free Cuban people?

Mr. FINDLEY. Speaker, will the gentleman yield further?

Mr. CURTIS. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. FINDLEY. The gentleman asks where the deception is coming from. The administration take one way in imposing economic sanctions against Cuba, but the main foreign policy officer of the administration, the State Department, act in another way.

Mr. CURTIS. Yes. But we must recognize that President Johnson is a dominating President. Certainly if the State Department acted without his approval, its actions would be changed. Remember, we had a bill on the floor of the House early this year that according to its label would provide foreign aid to South Vietnam. When some of us read the bill we found out that it was an inadequate label, that there was no tying of this money to South Vietnam. Then we sought to put an amendment into that bill that could tie it to South Vietnam. We found the administration forms, led by the Speaker and other Democratic leaders, in opposition. What was passed was a bill that did not tie the aid to South Vietnam at all.

Yahne news media, failing in their obligation to expose this kind of deception, reported throughout the country that Congress had passed a bill to give aid to South Vietnam. They failed to report this critical angle, expressed in my motion to dissociate the bill and report back forthwith with an amendment that required the money to be spent in South Vietnam. The Democratic leadership was able to defeat that amendment. This was the real issue, and it was unreported.

Right now the Ways and Means Committee has before it a proposal of the
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 4, 1974

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: FERNANDO De RACA
FROM: JERRY H. JONES

The attached letter is forwarded for appropriate handling. Any
response should be coordinated with Bill Timmons.

Thank you.

cc: Al Haig
    Bill Timmons