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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

For General DeLoach.

GRF.

MANUEL LUJAN, JR.
1ST DISTRICT, NEW MEXICO

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P.O. 1128
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September 4, 1974

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.

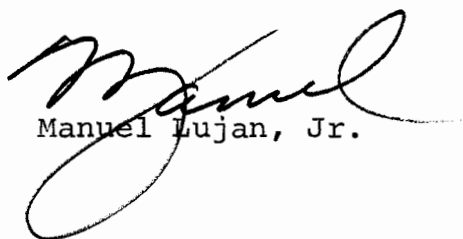
There are many other facets of this problem that can be discussed usefully in our meetings. Solutions are available and can be provided now. Our goal must be to open doors of opportunity for the Spanish-speaking, the Italian, the Greek, the Negro, the Chinese and all other ethnic groups in American on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

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Honorable Gerald R. Ford

September 4, 1974

I will be honored to assist in this work.

Best regards,



Manuel Lujan, Jr.

ML/jk

Government-sponsored programs, such as the Peace Corps and VISTA, and programs of private organizations such as International Voluntary Service and the American Friends Service Committee, could be considered as alternatives to military service.

Third. If world tensions decrease, might the draft system be eliminated?

During the Vietnam crisis, the military manpower requirements will be so great that there is no alternative to military conscription. But if world political conditions change so that we no longer have a need for so many men in uniform, would added inducements such as higher pay enable us to maintain professional Armed Forces which would not have to draft men to meet manpower requirements? The elimination of the draft system has had support from a great many individuals of diverse political philosophies, including Adlai Stevenson and Barry Goldwater.

Fourth. Can special training be provided for men who fail to meet the physical or mental requirements of the Armed Forces?

The above questions should be considered by a joint committee, as the resolution provides. These questions are not concerned with a subject in the jurisdiction of only one committee, such as the Armed Services Committee, the Education and Labor Committee, or the Foreign Affairs Committee. Rather, the resolution is concerned with the military, education, civilian manpower, poverty, foreign affairs, and other concerns in the national interest which can best be studied by a joint committee with a broad mandate.

The joint committee should make use of the best experts from the academic and government world. Of special merit would be the study of the draft ordered by President Johnson 2 years ago and conducted by the Department of Defense. The report has not yet been made public.

Mr. Speaker, the present draft law is due to expire next year. This Congress could make a very significant contribution toward welfare and greater equality in our Nation by passing this resolution and establishing a joint committee to examine the national service and the draft.

POVERTY IN THE SOUTHWEST AMONG AMERICANS OF SPANISH DESCENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DE LA GARZA], is recognized for 20 minutes.

(Mr. DE LA GARZA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, on Thursday of last week my colleague from Texas [Mr. GONZALEZ], gave a very comprehensive report on poverty in the Southwest as related to people of Spanish-speaking descent. It was a very thorough and well-detailed discourse on some of the problems that exist in that area. He was joined by several of my colleagues from other areas of the United States in that discussion.

Unfortunately, due to official business of the House, I was not present during that discussion. I take this opportunity to add some of my interpretations of the situation as it exists and the several problems that I feel are basic problems of the area, and give some recommendations that I would respectfully make to the people concerned.

First, basically, Mr. Speaker, I concur in the brief history that my colleague gave as to where the people in the area came from, which is generally that they are of Spanish stock, some having come directly from Spain into the Southwest, and others through Mexico.

Many of the bloodlines of early Spaniards are still conserved and are un-mixed with the Indians of the Southwest or the Indians of Mexico. But, nonetheless, eventually there evolved what is commonly known as the Mexican American, who is a Spaniard, or of one of the Spanish possessions that came to Mexico and intermarried with the Indians.

There are some 4 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 civilization that had a calendar, that had hospitals, that had a university, that had pyramids—which in my humble estimation far surpassed those of the ancient Nile—before the white man had ever set foot on this hemisphere.

That is the basic lineage of the people about whom I shall speak today. They were, if I may be permitted to say so, the sons of kings, because there was great culture in this area, and noble and courageous blood in their veins.

As this country became the United States of America, they assimilated into the population. Even before then my ancestors lived in Texas when it was a part of Mexico. They lived in Texas when it was a Republic. They live in Texas now that it is a part of the United States of America.

The descendants of this people have always been loyal Americans. Not one with a Spanish surname has deserted to the enemy in time of war. Many with Spanish surnames have been given Congressional Medals of Honor, and thousands more Purple Hearts.

In the early years of this century there came a time when our people were looked down 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 run 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 quietly suffering the indignation of discrimination at many times, but always with the understanding in their hearts that it would be righted somehow, at some time, by those in the Government. This in great part was successful, because they became educated. Some became lawyers. Some became doctors. Some became teachers. Some of us even came to Congress.

This was done without fanfare, with-

out 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 continuation of the problem, Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to this people. Even though they suffered the scourge 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 be detrimental to the welfare of others. They suffered this acrimonious, spiteful discrimination, but if it were done under the guise of law they obeyed the law. For this I believe they should be commended. For this I believe they should be heard.

I do not want you, Mr. Speaker, or my colleagues to mistake the yearnings of this people, because we know of responsibility. We have discharged our responsibility. It is not like the situation with other groups interested in civil rights matters, which request guarantees and request privileges 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 assumed 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 East 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 permitted the use of the word, I am going to segregate 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 ask, as the Communists say, that everyone be made equal, in the erroneous manner that the Communists pursue where they will line up every citizen one by one and say, "You will all have one apartment with one one bedroom, and you will all have the same kind of car and you will all be equal in every respect."

This is not America. This is not what we are looking 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 not because of his color being darker or lighter or because of his name.

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

No privileges are asked for. Nothing that anyone else is not entitled to is asked for. A large part of the problem is in employment. This begins with em-

ployment in the Federal agencies where you can see that the amount of people working in the Federal agencies from the top to the bottom have very few Spanish names. They are very few and far between.

We do not ask that you do as has been done here in the past, because we would be compounding the error and compounding the problem. For example, when they mention civil rights, everyone assumes generally that they are talking about Negroes. I think my brethren of that race have a problem, and we all wish to help them out. However, the problem was compounded when you said that we must give them their equal rights. In the Federal Government the word went out, "Hire Negroes," be they qualified or not. "Just get me a Negro and put him in this job." He is not in the same civil service position? "It does not make any difference. Get me a Negro and put him in there." This word went out through the Government. I know that for a fact.

The Latin Americans or the Spanish-speaking people of the Southwest are saying that we do not want them to do the same thing. We do not want them to say, "Get me a Spanish-speaking man and put him in there whether he is qualified or not."

All we say is do not exclude us because our name is Gonzalez or Garcia. Do not exclude us because our name is different. Give us the opportunity where we qualify. If you need a lawyer, give us the opportunity. If a man is a lawyer and his name is Gonzalez, do not push him off to the side. Give him an opportunity along with the rest. But, for God's sake, do not compound the crime and put him in there just because his name is Gonzalez. That is not what we want. It is not what I am speaking about today. What I am saying is that everyone should be treated equally.

So I ask and implore our executive branch of the Government and everyone in all the departments of the Federal Government that they look into the situation not with the mistaken idea that I or we are asking that because our name we should be given this opportunity, but we are asking that you deal with us as every American should be dealt with. You give the man an opportunity because of his qualifications. Do not compound the problem.

Mr. Speaker, the people complain that there is no Commissioner on the Equal Employment Commission who knows the problems of the Southwest and the Spanish-speaking people in the Southwest. That is true and I agree with that. Again they are not asking that someone with a Spanish surname be put on the Commission just for the sake of putting someone with a Spanish name on it. They already have one, but she is not Spanish.

They are asking for someone who knows the problems and can help that Commission to deal with those problems. And no one can know those problems better than one who has lived with them.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request and ask the President of the United States

and the executive branch of the Government that at the earliest opportunity a person cognizant of the problems of the Spanish-speaking people of the Southwest be placed on this Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I have already mentioned the question of Federal employment. And, there is a vast bank of knowledgeable people who could serve this Government loyally and fruitfully, from the Cabinet level to the lowliest civil servant of which this Federal Government can avail itself, and the interest of these people is in serving 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.

Next, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that our Government, and the resources of this 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 sent a word throughout the United States to hire Negro people.

We ask only that every individual and every private industry in this great country of ours give our people an opportunity to present their qualifications and that they judge them against the others purely and solely based upon those qualifications.

They also want to and are trying to help themselves, Mr. Speaker. How well I remember the project of the League of United Latin American Citizens called the Little School of the 400, where with their own funds they helped the little children learn the basic 400 words of English necessary to enter and progress in the first grade.

This program, later became a State law called the preschool English law which I am honored to say I coauthored while serving in the Texas Legislature. Another example, Mr. Speaker, is the SER program, service-employment-redevelopment, an attempt by the LULAC, and the American GI Forum to attack the problem of unemployment, and underemployment. This program well merits the cooperation of the Federal Government, and I respectfully call for its aid.

Mr. Speaker, I have done here as much as I have been able to do in the form of cooperating 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 receive an education and that he be given the opportunity to occupy a place in our society commensurate with his ability. However, one cannot measure a person's ability who has not received the proper education.

I have seen children with IQ's as high as 140 who never got beyond the fourth grade. But can one imagine the potential of that child had he been able to obtain a college education and what he could have contributed to this country and to the people of this country had

that IQ been given the opportunity of having formal education?

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of the resources of this our Federal Government, that all of the resources of our State governments and that all of the resources of the local governments provide every opportunity to guide and bring these young people into school where they may receive an education and where they will thus become able to help themselves.

Mr. Speaker, since I said that the problems of the Spanish-speaking people in one area were not confined to that area and that the problems of our colored brethren were not the same, because it was only a few years ago, or, perhaps, still now, that that was true in the South. For instance, one could take a person of the colored race to a restaurant and he would not be admitted into that restaurant in any city of that State, that was dedicated for the use of white people. That meant that whether he be a college professor or a migrant worker or whatever he be, if he were colored, he could not get into the white place.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the case with the Spanish-speaking people, and this is not the same problem. Therefore, the problem demands a different solution and a different approach.

There has been some question to the effect that the Spanish-speaking people should have been included in the forthcoming civil rights conference which will be held in Washington.

I do not think this would be proper because the problems are not the same.

I, therefore, ask respectfully of the President of the United States and of the executive department that they call a conference on equal job opportunities and on civil rights and specifically for the Spanish-speaking people and people of Spanish descent of the Southwest so that they can deal with their specific problems separate and apart from the problems of other Americans.

I ask also of the President and of the executive department—here let me interject that President Johnson understands the problem. He has always been a friend. He is a product of the Southwest. He is a product of the influence of the people of whom I speak. So, this is not in any way a complaint about the President of the United States or of the executive department, it is more a complaint about the agencies below that level that I am sure are trying to help with the problem, but not having anyone really cognizant of the problem, have stumbled and fumbled in their attempt to help in compounding the crime or compounding the problem.

So, Mr. Speaker, very respectfully and very humbly I add to the remarks of my colleague, the gentleman from Texas, of Thursday of last week.

Further I can only say, Mr. Speaker, that in the still of the night my people cried out for recognition. Now we are out under the sun at high noon, where all can see, and all can be heard.

I speak for no one, Mr. Speaker, but myself, by the way, in order that my statement may not be misinterpreted

that I was trying to speak for the Spanish-speaking people or for the Mexican-Americans, or whatever you might wish to call them. I speak for no one except myself. I speak only from the knowledge that I have of the area and that I have of the people.

The request that I make of the President and of the executive department, is not a request of these people in particular but what I estimate are the things that they are asking for and which I am putting in my own words as a request by me and no one else.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

DEBT CEILING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAWKINS). Under previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. CURTIS] is recognized for 15 minutes.

(Mr. CURTIS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, as I announced under the 1-minute rule, I was going to discuss the action that will be before the Committee on Ways and Means next week; namely, the debt ceiling in light of the actions taken on the floor of the House yesterday creating a new type of Federal debt security.

This involves the question as I pointed out during the debate of whether or not there was a sham and a deception going on in this matter. I think there was and still is and that is what I am going to discuss. But I was on the floor listening to the great oratory in commemoration of Cuban Independence Day. I listened to the castigation of the news media by my good Democratic friends, including the Speaker. I listened to their comments about the deception that went on, that the American people were deceived in regard to Castro; that we were also deceived with respect to Hitler's rise to power, and other things.

I could not help but relate these fine words to the actual situation right now in regard to Cuba and other enslaved nations; namely, Vietnam—North Vietnam which is enslaved—and the problem in South Vietnam where there is an attempt at enslavement.

I thought of the responsibility to the people that those of us in politics, in a representative government, have to put these issues in context. I would say that the news media indeed has a great responsibility in reporting to the people on the issues that face our society. But there is an equal, if not a greater, responsibility on the part of us in political life to represent facts and events accurately.

I would observe that there has been a great failing on the part of this administration in not forthrightly reporting to the people on the issues—not only in Vietnam but in Cuba and the Dominican Republic. In this limited sense the action of the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations is exercising his initiative in a constructive way.

A matter will come before this House very shortly—a matter that was discussed by the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. FINDLEY] in interrogating and joining in the great oratory indulged in by my Democratic friends when commemorating Cuban Independence Day. This is the matter of restricting trade in agriculture products and, the donable agricultural programs, as they relate to Communist countries and to those countries that are dealing with Communist countries. I would point out to my friends who have spoken about Cuban independence that not the least of these countries is Cuba.

In light of the oratory that is now on the RECORD and will appear tomorrow for all to read in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, I am curious to know whether those who gave expression to these fine views are going to support the amendment that would restrict trade to Cuba. Will this administration put its actions where its mouth is as far as its concern for the independence of the Cuban people? Or, will it continue to do what it has begun? I would say: Try to get the Agriculture Committee to reverse its decision and, not succeeding there, do everything it can through the Speaker, who joined in the oratory, to get the House of Representatives to repudiate the action of the Agriculture Committee?

Mr. FINDLEY. Mr. 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 puzzles in my mind is whether the administration really wants to impose economic sanctions against Cuba or not. The answer to me is not clear.

To support this statement, I will cite what did happen in the Committee on Agriculture in dealing with the legislation to extend the Public Law 480 authority, known as food for peace. The committee adopted an amendment which would force governments to choose between concessional sale advantages under the program or trading with the enemy, the enemy being either Cuba or North Vietnam.

This was in committee print form. When we finally got through with the other amendments under consideration, it was the full understanding that we would simply return later on for a pro forma 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. It did not have any discretionary authority. It had some teeth in it. It required countries to choose between the advantage of concessional sales or trading with the enemy, and, curiously, the State Department was concerned about the markets for the Government of India in Cuba, in Castro's Cuba.

They had found out that this amendment would adversely affect the commercial interests of India in selling jute to Castro's Cuba and, believe it or not, it caused our State Department such concern for fear India might lose this

market for its jute in Cuba, that it wanted our committee to revise that amendment, to kick enough loopholes in it big enough for the Indians to crawl through and enable them to continue to have the advantage of these concessional sales; that is, virtual donations of massive amounts of food, and still retain the commercial markets they have in Cuba.

Fortunately, 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 perseverance to stick by this effort to put some teeth in the program of economic sanctions against Cuba.

Mr. CURTIS. I thank the gentleman. Again I emphasize, the point is: Where is the deception of the American people coming from? Whose responsibility is it? Can Democratic oratorical deliveries in behalf of Cuban freedom take the place of concrete administration actions that might in fact bring about actual freedom for the Cuban people? Or, failing to take these concrete steps, will the administration continue to follow policies which upon analysis promote the enslavement of the once free Cuban people?

Mr. FINDLEY. Mr. 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 talks one way about imposing economic sanctions against Cuba, but the main foreign policy agency of the administration, the State Department, acts 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 increase foreign aid to South Vietnam. When some of us read the bill we found out that this was an inaccurate 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 forces, 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.

Yet the 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 crucial issue, expressed in our motion to recommit the bill and report it back forthwith with an amendment that required the money to be spent in South Vietnam. The Democrat leadership was able to defeat that amendment. That was the real issue, and it went unreported.

Right now the Ways and Means Committee has before it the proposal of the

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 4, 1974

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: FERNANDO De BACA

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