The original documents are located in Box 37, “7/29/76 - Remarks at the First Annual Banquet of the Republican National Hispanic Assembly” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT NATIONAL HISPANIC
ASSEMBLY, JULY 29, 1976
I AM HONORED TO BE WITH THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL HISPANIC ASSMRLY IN THIS MONTH OF OUR NATIONAL BICENTENNIAL WHEN WE GIVE SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO OUR RICH NATIONAL HERITAGE INCLUDING OUR HISPANIC HERITAGE. BUT AMERICA’S RECOGNITION OF ITS HISPANIC COMPONENTS INVOLVES MORE THAN HISTORY.
IT INCLUDES YOUR GROWING ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION AT ALL
LEVELS OF LEADERSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

YOUR ORGANIZATION HAS PROVIDED INSPIRATION AND RESULTS FOR MEN AND WOMEN OF HISPANIC ORIGIN.
WITH YOUR HELP, WE HAVE DONE MUCH TO MOBILIZE THE GREAT
WEALTH OF TALENT AND DEDICATION OF HISPANIC AMERICANS
IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. I AM PROUD OF YOUR FINE
CONTRIBUTIONS.
IN RECOGNITION OF OUR MUTUAL DESIRE TO INCREASE

THE NUMBER OF HISPANIC AMERICANS IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

IN MY ADMINISTRATION, I AM PROUD TO HAVE APPOINTED MANY

OF THOSE I SEE HERE TONIGHT.
TONIGHT, I AM PLEASED TO INTRODUCE MY MOST RECENT HISPANIC APPOINTEES.
MY NEW SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HISPANIC AFFAIRS AT

THE WHITE HOUSE, THOMAS ARANDA, JR.

MY NEW ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT

OF THE INTERIOR IS ALBERT C. ZAPANTA.
THERE ARE TWO DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS:

PHILLIP SANCHEZ, WHOM I HAVE NOMINATED TO BE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA, AND IGNACIO (EGG-NOS-EE-OH) LOZANO, WHOM I HAVE NOMINATED TO BE OUR AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR.
AND, OF COURSE, SAMUEL MARTINEZ, THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

MY ADMINISTRATION WANTS THE VIGOROUS INVOLVEMENT OF HISPANIC-AMERICANS IN GOVERNING OUR NATION.
JUST AS YOU NEED MORE ADVOCATES IN GOVERNMENT,

AMERICA NEEDS MORE HISPANIC REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CONGRESS,

LIKE MY GOOD FRIEND MANUEL LUJAN OF NEW MEXICO.
OUR COMMON GOAL IS TO MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR THE
HISPANIC COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES - BY ASSURING
FULL VOTING RIGHTS - BY IMPROVING THE STANDARD OF LIVING
FOR ALL - EXPANDING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION - INCLUDING
BI-LINGUAL PROGRAMS - BY ENCOURAGING GREATER PARTICIPATION
IN THE MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM, AND BY
CONTINUING OUR SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO REDUCE INFLATION
AND UNEMPLOYMENT FOR ALL AMERICANS.
Several months ago, I was proud to issue orders that resulted in speeding up the naturalization proceedings for new citizens from Cuba. I welcome the growing political involvement of vigorous and talented new Americans at all levels - local, state, and national.
MY ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE ITS POLICY OF

FRIENDSHIP TOWARD THE PEOPLE OF CUBA. BUT WE WILL

NOT ACCEPT INTERVENTION BY THE FIDEL CASTRO REGIME IN THE

AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. NOR WILL WE ACCEPT THE

COUNSEL OF THOSE WHO WOULD GIVE IN TO FIDEL CASTRO.
THE FREE CHOICE OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE WILL BE VIGOROUSLY DEFENDED. MY ADMINISTRATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO VIEW ANY OUTSIDE INTERVENTION INTO PUERTO RICAN AFFAIRS AS AN UNFRIENDLY ACT. WE SHALL STRONGLY RESIST ANY SUCH INTERVENTION.
FREEDOM OF CHOICE IS PRECIOUS NOT ONLY FOR THE PUERTO RICANS BUT FOR ALL AMERICANS. AFTER 200 YEARS OF FREEDOM WE ARE APPROACHING ANOTHER DAY WHEN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AGAIN GIVE THEIR CONSENT TO BE GOVERNED AND CHOOSE THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES. I CALL UPON HISPANIC AMERICANS TO JOIN ME IN MY CAMPAIGN TO ACHIEVE A GREATER REALIZATION OF THE AMERICAN DREAM.
YOU KNOW WHERE I STAND. YOU KNOW WHO I AM.

YOU KNOW MY RECORD IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT -- A RECORD

THAT YOU HELPED TO ACHIEVE.

LET US GO ON WORKING TOGETHER, AS PARTNERS,

TO OBTAIN FULL PARTICIPATION FOR ALL CITIZENS IN THE POLITICAL

PROCESS. I ASK YOUR HELP -- AND I NEED YOUR PERSONAL

INvolvement -- TO COMPLETE THE WORK OF THE LAST TWO YEARS.
HISPANIC GENIUS, HISPANIC ENERGY, HISPANIC PRIDE

AND HISPANIC DEDICATION HAVE STRENGTHENED OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM. YOU HAVE ADVANCED OUR GOALS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE HIGHEST ASPIRATIONS OF ALL AMERICANS.

I NEED YOUR ABILITIES AND YOUR SKILLS FOR AMERICA --

AND FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IS A CHANNEL FOR A NEW ERA OF
HISPANIC INVOLVEMENT FROM CALIFORNIA AND THE SOUTHWEST,
FROM FLORIDA, FROM NEW YORK, FROM ALL OVER THIS GREAT LAND,
WE ARE UNITED HERE TODAY TO PRESERVE THE PRINCIPLES OF
AMERICA AND DEDICATED TO CONTINUING OUR PROGRESS NEXT
JANUARY.

AND I THINK IN THE WORDS OF CERVANTES, "TOE-DA VIA
NOAH - BA-SAY VISTOE NADA" WHICH TRANSLATED MEANS,
"YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET."
PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT NATIONAL HISPANIC ASSEMBLY
JULY 29, 1976

I am honored to be with the Republican National Hispanic Assembly in this month of our national Bicentennial when we give special recognition to our rich national heritage -- including our Hispanic heritage. But America's recognition of its Hispanic components involve more than history. It includes the expansion of your actual involvement at the highest levels of the leadership of the United States of America.

Your organization has provided inspiration -- and results -- for men and women of Hispanic origin. With your help, we have done much to mobilize the great wealth of talent and dedication of Hispanic Americans in the Federal government. I am proud of your fine contributions.

Cervantes, in Don Quixote, might have been thinking of our program to continue the work next January when he observed:

"Thou hast seen nothing yet." [Todavia No Habeis Visto Nada.]
I appreciate your forthright objective of increasing the number of Hispanic Americans in leadership positions in my Administration.

I have instructed my personnel office accordingly so that my Administration will have the advantage of the best talent available.

I am proud to have appointed many who I see here.

Tonight, I am pleased to introduce my most recent Hispanic appointees. My new Special Assistant for Hispanic Affairs at the White House, Thomas Aranda, Jr.

My new Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior is Albert C. Zapanta.

There are two diplomatic appointments: Phillip Sanchez, who I have nominated to be United States Ambassador to Colombia, and Ignacio Lozano, who I have nominated to be our Ambassador to El Salvador.

My Administration wants the vigorous involvement of Hispanic-Americans in governing of our nation. Just as you need more advocates in government, America needs more representatives in the Congress,
like my good friend Manuel Lujan of New Mexico.

Our common goal is to make life better for the Hispanic community in the United States -- by assuring full voting rights, by improving the standard of living for all, expanding the quality of education -- including bi-lingual programs, by encouraging greater participation in the Minority Business Enterprise program and by continuing our successful efforts to reduce inflation and unemployment.

I was proud to issue orders that resulted in speeding up the U.S. naturalization proceedings for newcomers from Cuba. I welcome the growing political involvement of those vigorous and talented new Americans at all levels -- local, state and national.

My Administration will continue its policy of friendship toward the people of Cuba. But we will not accept the intervention of the Fidel Castro regime in the affairs of other countries. Nor will we accept the counsel of those who would give in to Fidel Castro.
I warn Fidel Castro against exporting his international adventurism to Puerto Rico. The free choice of the Puerto Rican people will be vigorously defended. My Administration views any outside intervention into Puerto Rican affairs as an unfriendly act. We shall resist such intervention by all appropriate means.

Freedom of choice is precious not only for the Puerto Ricans but for all Americans. After 200 years of freedom, we are approaching another day when the American people again give their consent to be governed and choose their elected representatives. I call upon Hispanic Americans to join me in my campaign to achieve a greater realization of the American dream.

Let us work together, as partners, to obtain full participation for all citizens in the political process. I ask your help -- and I need your personal involvement -- to complete the work of the last two years.
Hispanic genius, Hispanic energy, Hispanic pride and
Hispanic dedication have strengthened our political system. You
have advanced our goals in the best interests of the highest
aspirations of all Americans.

I need your abilities and your skills for America -- and
for the Republican party. The Republican party provides the channel
for a new surge and flow of Hispanic involvement from California
and the Southwest, from Florida, from New York, and from all over
this great land as we unite to preserve the principle of unity from
diversity that makes America great.

I thank you very much.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

-- THANK YOU, FERNANDO  (Fernando Oxxaca, Associate Director, OMB, introduces you)

-- CONGRESSMAN RHODES
-- CONGRESSMAN LULJAN

MARY LOUISE

-- BEN FERNANDEZ (President, Republican National Hispanic Assembly)

-- DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION
-- DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
-- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN