

The original documents are located in Box 130, folder “Kuropas, Myron” of the Ron Nessen Papers 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. Ron Nessen donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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.

April 26, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR MYRON KURAPAS

FROM: RON NESSEN

It doesn't look like it will be possible for the President to have the interview Dr. Reyes suggests.

Could you handle the reply to him, along whatever lines you think best?

Thank you.

Attachment: Letter from Manola Reyes

RN/CG/cg



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

NOTE FOR:

Connie G.

FROM

: RON NESSEN

Let's get rid of
this guy by sending
his letter to
Nicholson, or Spanish
American assistant,
for reply and
handling. R.N.

WTVJ

WTVJ TELEVISION • 316 NORTH MIAMI AVENUE • MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128 • (305) 377-8241

April 7, 1976

Mr. Ron Nessen
Press Secretary to
the President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ron:

Thank you very much for your courtesy in returning my call.

I want to inform you that since December 1975 I organized a committee of 26 prominent Cuban Businessmen and professionals who started a promotional campaign to encourage the Cubans and Latins of this area and throughout the United States to become American citizens.

The campaign was formed with the approval of the Immigration and Naturalization Services of the United States.

We have been visiting civic and professional organizations, stores, churches and temples, senior centers, etc. Up to now more than 5 thousand persons, mostly Cubans, have filed their application to become U.S. citizens through this campaign.

Several weeks ago Mr. Edward T. Sweeney, District Director of Immigration in Miami, Mrs. Norma Hunt, President of the Florida Bicentennial committee and myself had a planning meeting, for the 4th of July celebration.

Probably some 5 thousand new citizens will be sworn in at that ceremony which will probably be broadcasted live coast to coast. There is not a definite okay on this, but there is a great chance that it would be so.



Mr. Ron Nessen
Page II

On my trip to Washington, I was going to extend an invitation to President Ford for this 4th of July ceremony at Miami Beach Convention Hall. Of course the official invitation has to come through the Federal Court in Miami.

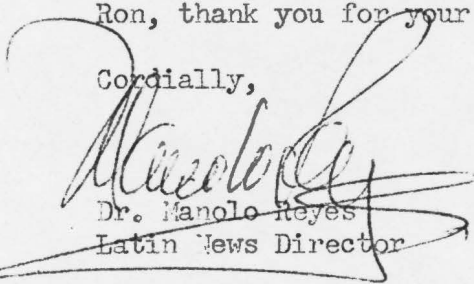
Since it will not be possible to have the meeting with President Ford, I am writing this letter to you with all the information for the President.

My trip to the Capital was going to be related also to meetings with Senators and Congressmen because our Committee is trying to obtain a law by which those persons 50 years of age or more with 5 years of legal residence in this country would be allowed to have the citizenship exam in their native language. This could be a great help for many senior citizens who are trying to become U.S. citizens but due to their ages and illnesses can not study a new language and are deprived of all the privilege and duties of being a U.S. citizen.

Congressman Fascell, Pepper and Lehman, and also Senator Lawton Chiles have shown their interest to help and Florida State Senator Robert Graham is presenting a memorial at Tallahassee Senate and House of Representatives supporting this law and asking the U.S. Congress to approve such a law for those 50 years of age or older.

Ron, thank you for your attention to this letter.

Cordially,


Dr. Manolo Reyes
Latin News Director

MR/ma





SENATOR D. ROBERT GRAHAM
33RD DISTRICT

THE FLORIDA SENATE
14420 NORTHWEST 60TH AVENUE
MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA 33014
305/821-1137 558-8071

COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION,
 Chairman
AGRICULTURE
RULES AND CALENDAR
WAYS AND MEANS
 Subcommittee B, Chairman

RELEASE DATE: 4-7-76

FROM THE OFFICE OF:

SENATOR ROBERT GRAHAM
403 Senate Office Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

For Further Information, Contact:
Mr. David Mursten, Administrative Aide
904/488-7091

PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS URGED TO CUT THE RED TAPE OF NATURALIZATION

TALLAHASSEE--To speed the day when prospective Americans will become citizens, Senator Bob Graham (D-Miami Lakes), on the opening day of the 1976 legislative session, filed a Senate Memorial urging the President and Congress of the United States to:

- * Reduce the backlog of applications for citizenship.
- * Administer the naturalization examination in the native language of immigrants who are over 50 years of age.

"Delaying, discouraging, or postponing naturalization," Senator Graham said, "is contrary to the American way. We've welcomed people to become Americans, but hindered them from becoming citizens. These men and women, many of whom have experienced the tyranny of a dictatorship, are presently contributing as full citizens, through work, taxes, and raising families, but bureaucratic entanglements deny them citizenship and the right to fully participate in our democratic process."

"Also, many older immigrants are in every way capable of being citizens, but because of overly stringent regulations, are prevented from becoming full Americans."

Senator Graham, along with Senators George Firestone, Vernon Holloway, Kenneth Myers, Ralph Poston, Richard Renick, and Sherman Winn, is sponsoring this Memorial, answering the public appeal of a group of concerned citizens led by Dr. Manolo Reyes.

SENATE MEMORIAL NO. 646

A memorial to the President and Congress of the United States, urging facilitation of the naturalization of prospective Americans.

WHEREAS, we the people of the United States in 1976 are commemorating our two hundredth anniversary, and

WHEREAS, we are a nation of immigrants, a proud melting pot of the world, and

WHEREAS, peoples from other nations continue to accept our welcome and invitation to share in the American Dream, and

WHEREAS, there exists a national backlog of applications for United States citizenship, and

WHEREAS, a process delaying, discouraging, encumbering, or postponing naturalization is antithetical to the American way, and

WHEREAS, the naturalization process was established to measure the loyalty, not the patience of prospective citizens, and

WHEREAS, there are a number of older immigrants who, although they do not speak fluent English, have rendered continuous and meritorious allegiance to these United States,

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the President and Congress of the United States be urged to expedite naturalization by providing adequate manpower to process the present backlog of applications.

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United States provide for the administration of the naturalization examination in the native language of elderly immigrants who are at least 50 years of age and who have continuously resided in the United States for a minimum of five years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.