

REMARKS OF
THE HONORABLE BOB DOLE
G.I. FORUM
KANSAS CITY, KANS.
MAY 31, 1969

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO TAKE PART IN YOUR STATE CON-
VENTION. THERE IS HARDLY A GROUP I MORE ENJOY VISITING WITH
THAN VETERANS.

FIRST, YOU DEFENDED YOUR COUNTRY WELL.

SECOND, YOU STOOD UP AND WERE COUNTED FOR A NATION AND
A PEOPLE, COMMITTED TO THE HIGHEST HUMAN VALUES.

THIRD, YOU LEARNED FIRSTHAND THAT OUR COUNTRY'S HERITAGE
CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED...THAT FREEDOM AND JUSTICE UNDER
LAW IMPOSE A VERY CONSTANT AND INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY ON
EACH OF US.

IT IS ALSO A SPECIAL PLEASURE TO BE WITH YOU HERE TODAY
BECAUSE YOUR HERITAGE -- WITH ITS ROOTS DEEP IN ANCIENT CIVILIZATION
--HAS MADE A RICH, LASTING IMPACT ON AMERICAN LIFE.

-MEXICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE-
YOUR MEXICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE COMBINES AN ADVENTUROUS
SPIRIT WITH A CREATIVE SPIRIT, CEMENTED TOGETHER BY A TREMENDOUS
RESPECT FOR TRADITION AND PRIDE IN ANCESTRY.

IT IS A HERITAGE WHICH HAS ENRICHED AMERICAN LIFE
RANGING FROM FOOD TO ART, FROM AGRICULTURE TO MUSIC. IT LIVES
IN THE INFLECTIONS AND RHYTHMS OF THE SPANISH LANGUAGE SPOKEN
BY MANY MEXICAN-AMERICANS.

BUT IT IS NOT ONLY YOUR PAST, BUT WHAT YOU AND OTHER
MEXICAN-AMERICANS ARE BUILDING IN THE PRESENT AND PLANNING TO
BUILD IN THE FUTURE THAT MAKES YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICA
SO UNIQUE AND IRREPLACEABLE.

A WHOLE NEW GENERATION OF MEXICAN-AMERICANS HAS SUCCEEDED IN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND THE ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL FIELDS WITH A DYNAMISM AND IMAGINATION MATCHED BY FEW OTHER MINORITY GROUPS. MANY OF YOU, REPRESENTING ALL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CLASSES, HAVE RENEWED YOUR COMMON BONDS OF TRADITION AND LANGUAGE AND HAVE EMBARKED ON A NEW JOURNEY TOWARD SELF-HELP AND PRIDE IN WHICH THOSE LESS FORTUNATE MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMUNITY WILL BE ABLE TO SHARE MORE FULLY IN THE ACTION OF AMERICAN LIFE.

YOUR WAY IS BUT ONE OF SEVERAL AMERICAN WAYS OF LIFE, ALL OF WHICH ADD A VITAL SPIRIT AND QUALITY OF LIFE TO THE UNITED STATES. YOUR PRIDE, ENERGY AND DEDICATION IS REPRESENTATIVE OF AMERICA...TO MANY, ANOTHER NAME FOR OPPORTUNITY.

-WHAT NIXON IS DOING-

I CAN ASSURE YOU THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO PAVING THE WAY FOR MORE AND BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEXICAN-AMERICANS IN EDUCATION, JOBS, HOUSING AND OTHER AREAS.

TODAY I WILL MENTION A FEW EXAMPLES OF WHAT NIXON, IN FIVE MONTHS, HAS DONE -- NOT JUST "SAID" -- TO ASSURE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND ADVANCEMENT FOR MEXICAN-AMERICANS.

WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF MARTIN CASTILLO AS CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON MEXICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS JUST LAST WEDNESDAY, I UNDERSTAND THERE WILL BE DETAILED WHITE HOUSE AND CABINET-LEVEL STATEMENTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE ON MAJOR PROGRAMS AFFECTING MEXICAN-AMERICANS.

ONE OF THE FIRST ACTIVITIES OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION WAS A MEMO FROM THE PRESIDENT CIRCULATED TO ALL CABINET MEMBERS, ASKING FOR A NEW FOCUS ON THE PROBLEMS OF MEXICAN-AMERICANS. AS YOU MAY RECALL, THE PRESIDENT PLANS TO CONVENE A WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE NOT FOR IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS OF MEXICAN-AMERICANS, BUT FOR DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING SOLUTIONS.

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE SECRETARY ROBERT FINCH HAS CREATED A TOP-LEVEL POSITION -- AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR BILINGUAL AND MULTI-CULTURAL EDUCATION -- WHICH PROMISES POSITIVE, FAR-REACHING EFFECTS FOR MEXICAN-AMERICANS. IN ADDITION, PRESIDENT NIXON HAS ASKED CONGRESS FOR AN 800 PERCENT INCREASE IN FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THE BILINGUAL EDUCATION ACT. THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION REQUESTED SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS; THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS ASKED FOR FORTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS. THE FUNDS WILL GREATLY AID PRE-SCHOOL AND SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN, WHO SPEAK, FOR EXAMPLE, SPANISH AS THEIR PRIMARY LANGUAGE, ^{to}~~REINFORCE~~ THEIR SPANISH AND BECOME EQUALLY FUNCTIONAL IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

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IN HIRING PERSONS FOR TOP-LEVEL FEDERAL POSITIONS, THE PRESIDENT RECOGNIZED THE TALENTS AND DEDICATION OF MANY MEXICAN-AMERICANS INCLUDING HILARY SANDOVAL, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND CARLOS VILLARREAL, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION.

IN ADDITION, THERE ARE SEVERAL NEWLY-CREATED ADVISORY BOARDS TO THE PRESIDENT ON HOUSING, JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE UN- AND UNDER-EMPLOYED.

JUST THIS WEEK, THE CENSUS BUREAU ANNOUNCED THAT IT PLANS TO TAKE THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE COUNT OF SPANISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES' HISTORY. THE CENSUS WILL BE HELD THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, NOT JUST IN FIVE SOUTHWESTERN STATES AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS. THE FIGURES OBTAINED WILL BE OF GREAT AID IN ASSURING THAT FEDERAL PROGRAMS REALLY REACH THE PEOPLE FOR WHOM THEY WERE INTENDED.

IN SUM, PRESIDENT NIXON AND HIS ADMINISTRATION ARE
ACTIVELY DEMONSTRATING THEIR CONCERN FOR MEXICAN-AMERICANS,
WITH MORE DETAILED PLANS TO BE ANNOUNCED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.