

ABSTRACT

This report was prepared to document a chronology of events in a series of meetings between White House and other top federal government officials and representatives of national Hispanic organizations.

The meetings were scheduled in the continuing effort to establish meaningful dialogue between the Spanish-speaking representatives and Washington officials. These meetings are a continuance of a series of meetings held last year with the following:

President Gerald Ford

Senators: Ted Kennedy  
Alan Cranston  
Henry Jackson  
Robert Dole  
Walter Mondale  
Pete V. Domenici

Congressman John Rhodes

Presidential Cabinet Members and Staff:

Earl Butz, Secretary of Agriculture  
Caspar Weinberger, Secretary of Health,  
Education and Welfare  
Peter Brennan, Secretary of Labor  
Fred Clark, Assistant Secretary of Labor  
David Lowe, Assistant Secretary of Army

Other Officials:

Robert E. Hampton, Chairman, Civil Service  
Commission  
Alex Armendariz, Director of Minority Business  
Enterprises  
Bert Gallegos, Director of Office of Economic  
Opportunity  
Fernando E. C. De Baca, Special Assistant to  
the President  
Mike Causey, Washington Post

The Hispanic leadership objectives included:

- (1) establish and develop clear and direct communication between military and Washington officials and the Spanish-speaking community;
- (2) seek commitments from military and Washington officials;
- (3) improve the quality of life for Spanish-speaking Americans through the executive and legislative branches of government;
- (4) issuance of a Presidential Memorandum to promote federal employment for the Spanish speaking;
- (5) high level appointments of Spanish-speaking to government posts;
- (6) accessibility to government contracts by Hispanic contractors;
- (7) channeling of social service programs to Spanish-speaking communities;
- (8) general support for Fernando E. C. De Baca to expand his resources;
- (9) lowering of GS rating for entry into Border Patrol from GS-7 to GS-5.

Activities included U. S. Department of Justice Policy Development Seminar on Civil Rights Compliance sponsored by Law Enforcement Assistance Administration at Meadowbrook Hall, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan.

Additional meetings were held in Washington, D. C. A list of participants follows:

Admiral I. C. Kidd - Chief, Naval Material Command  
 Lloyd Grable - Director of Civilian Manpower Management, Navy  
 Donald Rumsfeld - Assistant to the President  
 William Baroody - Special Assistant to the President  
 Fernando E. C. De Baca - Special Assistant to the President  
 Robin Clack - Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Border Patrol  
 Robert E. Hampton - Chairman, Civil Service Commission  
 Irving Kator - Assistant Executive Director  
 Richard L. Roudebush - Administrator, Veterans Administration  
 Fred Clark - Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor

Antonio Morales - National Chairman, American G. I. Forum  
 Edward Valenzuela - National President, IMAGE  
 Ricardo Zazueta - National Director, SER - Jobs for Progress  
 Jose Aceves - National Director, Latin American Manufacturers' Association  
 Lorenzo Gonzales - Leadership Development Fellow and IMAGE

The participants formulated recommendations and action plans in the following areas:

- (1) Naval contracts
- (2) recruitment of Chicanos in Federal supergrades
- (3) signing of Presidential Memorandum to promote federal employment for the Spanish speaking
- (4) follow-up meetings
- (5) Spanish-speaking in Immigration Department
- (6) promotion programs
- (7) pressure to be brought down on primary contractor to comply with EEO guidelines
- (8) send notice to all Hispanic organizations asking for documented incidents of civil rights violations by Immigration or Border Patrol officers.

These officials have made honest efforts to correct the social, economic, educational, and political ills that plague our community. However, these types of individuals are rare. It is unfortunate that the Hispanic community has to rely on so few representatives to gain a voice that by law is rightfully theirs. This type of situation brings to bear undue pressure on these special individuals; until Washington recognizes the shameful situation and the potential resources of the Spanish-speaking community, we are obligated to utilize a chosen few until which time the Hispanic community gains its constitutionally designated place in the whole spectrum of American society.

A final conclusion to the series of meetings cannot (will not) be drawn at this time. However, probably at no other time in history has there been such an interplay with the executive branch of government with so much assistance from the legislative.

Regretfully, this report cannot reflect the understatements, overstatements and expressions that one person projects and another person perceives when in these type of meetings. However, possibly the reader was able to capture the substance of the discussions and possibly detect some of the obstacles that have traditionally and historically blocked the Hispanics upward mobility in the American's social, economic, educational and political systems. Needless to say that tremendous amounts of energy need be utilized before we get our place in the sun.

## SYNOPSIS

This report was written in hopes that individual members of the Spanish-speaking community might gain some insight as to how strategies are developed and presented to combat the intricate and complexing issues facing the Spanish-speaking community. Also, the format of this report lends itself to assisting the reader to widen his/her spectrum of understanding national issues that affect the Spanish-speaking and the personalities involved in the framework of these issues. Hopefully the reader can now visualize a multidimensional picture of where the Hispanic community stands with respect to our capitol officials. To conceptualize this nation's bureaucratic leaders as all knowing, forever benevolent, understanding, mass media abstraction is misleading; but to visualize these personages as adulterated individuals with personal biases and prejudices that influence their policy making tasks is to see them with more clarity. To move one step further, it is to say that the social, economic, educational and political advances that our Spanish-speaking community has assured in the past 14 years have not been because White House officials or other top federal government officials have suddenly come to their senses, become sober by what they see as a deplorable "state of affairs" in the Hispanic community and reversed existing policy trends. It is to say that the Spanish speaking community has emerged from a doleful situation to one of a bespeaking society through slow tedious, sometime bitter, efforts orchestrated into the coordination of top level meetings as those described within the text of this report. It has been through the seemingly limitless energies put forth by national Hispanic leaders such as Ricardo Zazueta, Antonio Morales, Jose Aceves, and Edward Valenzuela that the voice of the Latino community has come to the conference table of the President of the United States, Gerald Ford, and other Washington officials, Donald Rumsfeld, Admiral I. C. Kidd.

These federal government officials are just coming to the realization that the Spanish-speaking community has somehow survived this country's educational "brain washing" and social castigation and is clamoring for the equal representation and opportunities afforded us under the United States Constitution.

However contrary to the above, the Hispanic representation did meet with federal government and White House officials that are sensitive to our needs and realize our capabilities.