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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Speechwriting

Series/Staff Member: Lowell Weiss

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 17198

FolderID:

Folder Title:

MALDEF [Mexican American Legal Defence and Education Fund] 5/16/00

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. fax	Marisa J. Demeo, Regional Counsel for MALDEF to Lowell Weiss [partial] (1 page)	5/15/00	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Weiss, Lowell
OA/Box Number: 17198

FOLDER TITLE:

MALDEF [Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund] 5/16/00

2006-0470-F

wr184

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
TALKING POINTS FOR MALDEF AWARDS RECEPTION
WASHINGTON, DC
May 16, 2000**

Acknowledge: MALDEF Pres. Antonia Hernandez and other members of the MALDEF Board; Ambassador Luis Lauredo; award winners: Sec. Richardson, Dr. Ruth Sanchez Way, John Trasviña; White House advisers: Maria Echaveste, Mickey Ibarra, Ray Martinez, Brian Barretto.

Two years ago, in the East Room of the White House, I had the great honor of giving MALDEF's co-founder Mario Obledo the highest civilian honor our nation can bestow, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. I'm just sorry he couldn't be here tonight. I still remember telling the story of how, in MALDEF's early years, Mr. Obledo received a complaint that a public swimming pool in Texas was barring young Mexican-Americans at the gate. And what did Mr. Obledo do? Well, he decided to drive 200 miles to take a swim.

Mr. Obledo was not allowed to enter the pool, and he filed suit. He prevailed in court – and opened up public facilities to young Latinos all over the country. That case was just one of hundreds of landmark civil rights victories MALDEF has won over the past 32 years – giving voice to the voiceless, widening the circle of opportunity, helping America to rise ever higher toward the more-perfect union of our founders' dreams.

When I became President seven and a half years ago, it was clear to me that we had to go beyond the kind of divide-and-conquer politics that had dominated our country for many years. I knew that if we could make a virtue of our diversity – not just tolerate it but celebrate it – we would have no trouble seizing the potential of our increasingly interconnected world.

And so we have worked for seven and a half years for a society in which there is opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and a community of all Americans. And it is working. We have the strongest economy we have ever had, with the lowest Hispanic unemployment rate in history, the highest Hispanic home-ownership on record, the largest drop in Hispanic poverty in a generation. We are moving forward.

Economic Accomplishments: EITC. New Markets. Small Business Loans (last year alone, SBA granted nearly 3 times as many loans to Hispanic entrepreneurs as it did in 1992).

Equal Opportunity Accomplishments: An Administration that looks like America (more Hispanic appointees than any other Administration; e.g., Bill Richardson, Maria Echaveste, Mickey Ibarra, Aida Alvarez, Ida Castro, Louis Caldera). Worked with you to ensure a fair, accurate, and complete Census (early reports indicate that your extraordinary efforts are paying off, with significant increase in response rate in minority communities). Expanding Civil Rights enforcement (last year, 19% increase for Civil Rights Division).

Education Accomplishments: Enacted Hispanic Education Action Plan – to reach out to Hispanic youth, encourage them to stay in school, and go on to college. Nearly doubled funding for HeadStart. More than doubled funding for after-school programs. Strengthened bilingual and immigrant education. Opened doors of college to all Americans.

Health Accomplishments: Extended health care to millions of children; now working to extend same coverage to their parents. Raised immunization rates to all-time high.

But now is not the time to rest. Today, I want to focus on a few of the areas where we have much more to do.

First and foremost, we must continue to work together to ensure that our federal courts reflect America's growing racial and ethnic diversity. I'm proud that I have appointed the most diverse group of federal judges in history – even prouder that my appointments have garnered the highest percentages of top ratings from the American Bar Association in 40 years. We have shattered the myth that diversity somehow diminishes quality. I am especially proud that we have succeeded in appointing more Hispanic Americans to the federal bench than any Administration in history. To date, 24 of my judicial appointees have been Hispanic Americans, more than in the previous two Republican Administrations combined.

Unfortunately, several eminently qualified minority nominees have become casualties of a highly politicized confirmation process. Last year, an African American state supreme court judge named Ronnie White was rejected solely on the basis of party politics. Now, the same appears to be happening with Enrique Moreno, of Texas. Earlier this month, Texas Senators Gramm and Hutchison announced that they would oppose Enrique Moreno's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Their claim that Moreno lacks the necessary experience to serve on the Fifth Circuit is shamefully inaccurate. The ABA unanimously gave Moreno their highest rating. And state judges rated Moreno as one of the top three trial attorneys in El Paso.

By suggesting that Moreno needs judicial experience before he could be appointed to the appellate bench, the Texas Senators appear to be applying a double standard. Six of the nine judges on the Fifth Circuit appointed by Republican Presidents had no judicial experience. And almost half of the Fifth Circuit judges appointed by Republican Presidents had fewer years of overall legal experience than Moreno.

[More on Moreno's impressive personal and family history TK.]

I am also greatly disturbed by the Senate's failure to act on my nomination of Dolly Gee for a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. Ms. Gee, an Asian-American attorney in Los Angeles who has served with great distinction on the Federal Service Impasse Panel, has broad bipartisan support. Nevertheless, her nomination has languished before the Senate for more than 11 months.

The quality of American justice suffers when, for partisan political reasons, highly qualified minority candidates such as Enrique Moreno and Dolly Gee are put on hold or denied an opportunity to serve on this nation's courts. I call on the Senate to put aside partisan differences and give Mr. Moreno and Ms. Gee an up-or-down vote in the full Senate. That is the very least they deserve.

The second area where we still need more progress is in creating more educational opportunities for young Latinos. Last August, the First Lady hosted the first White House Conference on Latino Youth. To build on that effort, next month we are going to hold a strategy

session on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. We will bring together public, private, philanthropic, and other leaders to focus on five key areas: expanding access to early-childhood education, closing the state achievement gap, raising Hispanic graduation rates, enhancing language proficiency, and guiding Hispanic students into higher education. We need Hispanic students to excel in school if we want America to excel in the world.

Third, we must continue to encourage Congress to correct long-standing injustices currently affecting many immigrants. We want to change the registry date to offer long-term migrants with longstanding ties to this country a fair chance to become full participants in American society. And we must amend the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) to provide equitable treatment for other Central American and Haitian immigrants.

Finally, we must continue to build that elusive One America. If the good Lord came to me tonight when I walked out of this room and said, "Bill, now I'm not going to let you serve the end of your term; I'm taking you home tonight. But I'm going to give one wish. What do you want? I would wish for our country to be truly one America. For all that we have achieved as a nation – and for all that MALDEF has achieved as an organization – we have only scratched the surface of what we can do because of our increasing diversity.

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Draft 5/16/00 10:30am
Lowell Weiss

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Asian-American

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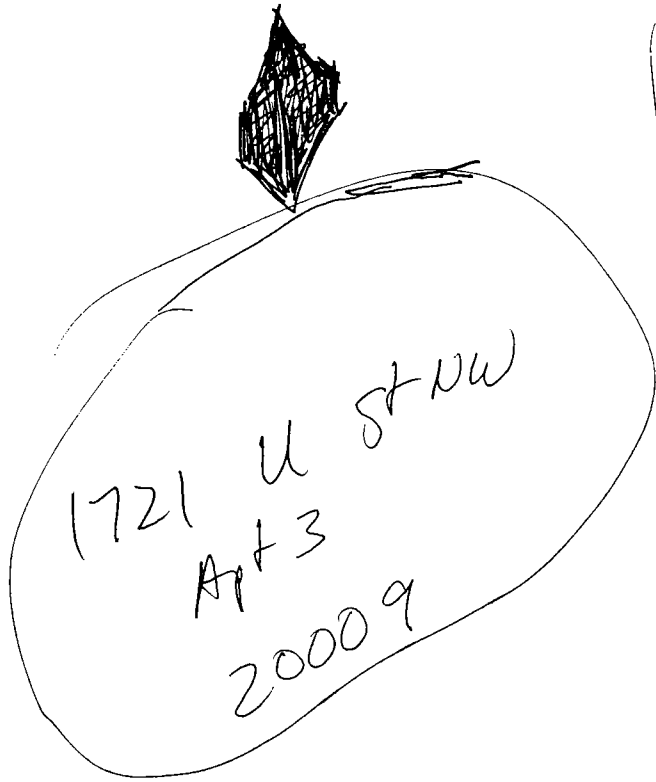
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May 2000

*Presidential Calendar

14-17 Aug.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																								
	1 Day & Evening Off RON DC*	2 Drop-by Independent Insurance Agents of America Conference Remarks to WH Conf. on Raising Teenagers Conference Martin Lee Mtg / Cong Mtg (China) Evening Off RON DC* <u>Holocaust Memorial Day</u> <u>DC, IN, NC Primary (D&R)</u>	3 Travel to KY Turnaround School Event, Owensboro, KY Travel to IA School Construction Event, Davenport, IA Travel to MN RON St. Paul, MN	4 Charter School Event, St. Paul, MN Travel to OH Teacher Quality Event, Columbus, OH Return to DC RON DC <u>Productivity #'s</u>	5 Mtg w/ Japanese PM Mori (1hr) Address Senate Democratic Issues Caucus, Nemaocolin, PA Tape Radio Address RON DC* <u>Employment #'s</u>	6 Hold Day RON Fayetteville, AR* <u>National Day of Prayer</u> <u>Guam Caucus (D&R)</u>																																																																																																								
7 Hold Day RON DC*	8 Down Until 10AM Drop-by MMM Mtg Travel to NY Attend Cardinal O'Connor Memorial Service, New York Return to DC Hill \$ Reception, DC RON DC	9 Down Until 10AM China Event, WH Working Visit of President Rodriguez of Costa Rica (1hr) Drop-by Mtg w/ Ukrainian PM CLINC Trophy Presentation Landrieu \$ Reception, DC Akaka \$ Reception, DC RON DC <u>NE, WV Primary (D&R)</u>	10 Hold 30 Mins (SS) Re Drugs Event Speech to Delta Conference Taped Interview for Diane Rehm Show WH Delta Reception Evening Off RON DC <u>Israel Independence Day</u>	11 Equal Pay Event, WH Mtg w/ FBOR Conferees National Teacher of the Year Event, WH Videos Hold 45 Mins (DCM) RON DC* <u>Equal Pay Day</u> <u>Anniv. Valujet Crash</u>	12 GMA Live Interview & Town Hall (AMM) Travel to OH Tape Radio Address & Statement (AMM) China AG Event, Akron, OH Travel to MN China AG Event, Shakopee, MN Return to DC RON DC*	13 Day & Evening Off RON DC*																																																																																																								
14 Million Mom March Rally, South Lawn Day & Evening Off RON DC* <u>Mother's Day</u>	15 Down Until 11AM Hold 15 Mins (SS) FOP Peace Officers Memorial Event Hold 1 Hour (SB) Houston Comets WNBA Championship Event, Rose Garden Wexler \$ Reception, DC DSCC (Robb) \$ Reception, DC RON DC* <i>Los Alamos</i>	16 Down Until 11AM Africa CBI Signing (T) Mtg w/ Somalia (ILO) (T) Hold 1 Hour (China) (T) Attend MALDEF Dinner, DC (T) <u>DUCC Taste of the States, DC</u> <u>CPI Released</u> <i>TEA</i> <i>LD</i>	17 U.S. Coast Guard Commencement, New London, CT Host Committee Conf Call DNC \$ Dinner, Greenwich, CT RON DC <i>Los Alamos</i>	18 Down Until 11AM Hold 11-12 (NH) Ron Brown Awards Photo-Op Mtg w/ Nelson Mandela (T) Hold 1 Hour (China) (T) Hold 1 Hour Hold Evening (China) RON DC* <i>have add...</i>	19 Armed Forces Day Event, Andrews AFB Travel to Philadelphia, PA Message Event, Philadelphia, PA (T) Tape Radio Address DSCC Luncheon, Philadelphia, PA Travel to Chicago, IL DSCC \$ Dinner, Chicago, IL RON DC* <u>US Trade #'s</u> <i>Heather</i>	20 Day & Evening Off RON DC* <u>Armed Forces Day</u> <i>LW</i>																																																																																																								
21 Day Off Travel to NY DDC Retreat Dinner, Hyde Park, NY Return to DC RON DC* <i>Paul</i>	22 State Visit of Mbeki of South Africa Round Table w/ Mbeki Hold 1 1/2 Hrs. (China) RON DC* <i>✓</i>	23 Down Until Noon Hold for Mtg. Event or China Seeds of Peace Award Veteran Bowlers Photo-op Meeting w/ PM Barak Tauscher \$ Reception DC DNC Dinner, DC <u>AR, KY Primary (D&R)</u>	24 Hold Day (China) Hold 1 Hour (SB) Asian American Photo & Event (T) DNC \$ Gala, DC RON DC* <u>Hold for Pre-Congressional Recess</u>	25 Message Event (TBI) Hold 1 Hour (SB) Evening Off RON DC* <u>APA Inst for Cong. Studies Dinner</u> <u>1st Quarter GDP (Revised)</u> <u>Sons of Italy Dinner</u>	26 Hold 1 Hour for A. Mtg Message Event (T) Foreign Trip Briefing (T) Tape Radio Address Mtg w/ Colin Powell (T) Evening Off RON DC*	27 Day & Evening Off RON DC*																																																																																																								
28 Day & Evening Off RON DC*	29 Annual Memorial Day Breakfast, WH Events at Arlington National Cemetery Afternoon & Evening Off Depart for Foreign Travel <u>Memorial Day</u> <u>Projected House & Senate Recess</u> <u>Foreign Travel to Portugal, Germany, Russia & Ukraine</u>	30	31	<table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="7">April</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="7">June</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		April							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							June							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
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Judge Moreno

nom.
of 5th circuit

Graham + Hutchinson

with New Land

Texas judiciary panel

list of Moreno + said

not qualified"

MALDEF

all lawyers working for
grass roots causes

NAACP speech
Michigan

Eric Angel.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Sarah Wilson

S District of Texas

~~District~~

view me

Dolly Bee → Asia

Central District CA.

Moreno. audacity of Gramm,
Hutchinson commits saying "lack
of experience" of current voters
when they got nominated
prior nominees have had
less experience. standard
always changes
Harold Can, Harold
18 years of practice
tell me...

get written statement

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Detroit NAACP - Sunday
night

Census; thanking them for
help + particip.

Irene Brown re fairness for
immigrants

HIB - reversing

1986 amnesty

if one left country couldn't
apply for amnesty

why: INS misinterpreted law

1996 - diverted Justice Dept.

• in limbo

financing problem:

if you've been in country before
& date, you can apply to
become resident

change residency date

Jan, 1986

must show lawful... this would pick
up clean up of
solutions

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

El Salvador
Nicaragua
Guatemala

Hardwas

Thank ~~MAZDA~~ for working
for cause of immig.
incl. working w/ us
... fairness under NACARA +
for long-time residents
change registry date

⊗ racial profily ← No

health

⊗ CHIP
parents

⊗

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

right to vote
was in Texas in '72
w/ key leaders in MALDEF

McGovern

Willie Velasquez - ^{ran} SW voter +

Legal aid - challenges those
who put up roadblocks

Antonio

Funding for Legal Services

Educating ALL of America – Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans WHITEPAPER

Since, 1993, improving educational opportunities and outcomes for all Americans has been a cornerstone of President Clinton's Administration. Yet even as the effort to implement standards and accountability takes root in states and communities across the country, we confront the reality that Hispanic Americans lag behind in academic achievement.

In August 1999, the First Lady hosted the first White House Convening on Latino youth, seeking to draw attention to the needs of the Latino community and emphasizing the importance of ensuring that every child meets his or her full potential. Over 200 community leaders, foundation and private sector representatives joined federal agency personnel to discuss pathways to achievement for Latino youth, including the networks of support that promote such achievement, and the risk factors that impede that progress. The event also furthered an on-going discussion concerning how to expand effective programs to address the needs of young Hispanic Americans.

To build on this effort, the White House is exploring the idea of hosting a national strategy session in the spring of 2000 that would bring together the various stakeholders, including public, private, philanthropic, and other non-profit organizations and leaders. The strategy session would highlight the importance of boosting Hispanic education achievement to our country's democracy and economic success. It would take stock of the progress achieved to date while addressing the need for more action from every sector of society. We are interested in all areas of education, including the early childhood years, elementary, secondary, and higher education and lifelong learning.

At present, the meeting's focus is anticipated to concentrate on the following five areas:

- Access to Early Childhood Education
- Closing the Achievement Gap on State Assessments
- Hispanic Dropout Rate
- Language Proficiency
- Higher Education

In developing this strategy session we will work with stakeholders to help formulate and structure the session, as well as to secure concrete commitments for future investments to address the educational needs of Hispanic Americans. We are in the process of reaching out to various public, private and community-based organizations and individuals to elicit their views and input about our idea.

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36 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 293

Source: All Sources : / . . . / : Presidential Documents

Terms: atl 3 (hispanic american!) (Edit Search)

Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

February 14, 2000

CITE: 36 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 293**LENGTH:** 4238 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks on Receiving the League of United Latin American Citizens' Lifetime Achievement Award**BODY:**

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. Well, thank you, President Rick Dovalina. Elvia Morales, thank you very much for reminding us of why we're all here working every day. She did a fine job, didn't she? I was very proud of her. Thank you.

I thank the students from Cesar Chavez Public Charter High School for Public Policy for joining us, and their teachers and principal. Thank you all again for being here, and good luck to you.

I'd like to thank Senator Chuck Robb from Virginia and Congressman Silvestre Reyes from Texas for joining us today. Thank you very much, gentlemen. I want to thank our Secretary of Energy, and my dear friend, Bill Richardson for the wonderful statement that he made in opening this meeting today.

I thank all the people of our administration who are here, but I would like to especially acknowledge my Deputy Chief of Staff, Maria Echaveste; my Assistant to the President who deals with all the Governors, mayors, and half the headaches in America, Mickey Ibarra; Administrator of the Small Business Administration, Aida Alvarez, whom you've acknowledge already; Army Secretary Louis Caldera, who's here; the President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, George Munoz; the Chairwoman of the EEOC, Ida Castro; and the Director of the Selective Service Commission, Gil Coronado. And there are other present and past members of the administration here. I thank you all.

Tornado Damage in Georgia

I have, before I begin -- and I know you'll all forgive me, because they, too, are part of our American family -- I have to say that I am very saddened by the terrible loss of life and the other damage which occurred as a result of the tornadoes which swept Georgia early this morning. And we're working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is already there and providing me with regular updates on the situation.

I know that all Americans join me. Let me say, my home State very often had the largest amount of tornado damage in the country in any given year, and the loss of life in Georgia this morning is unusual and terrible. And I ask for your prayers for those people today.

LULAC Lifetime Achievement Award

Let me also say, I am deeply touched by this beautiful award. I have always said that the President's

job was reward enough, and no one should give the President an award. And you always have to check your pulse to make sure you're still living, when you get an award, if you're in my business. [Laughter]

But having said that, I accept it, and I am delighted to have it, because this has been a lifetime passion of mine. Bill Richardson talked about the people I met in Texas 28 years ago. I was born in a little town in southwest Arkansas which now has one of the Federal migrant centers there, because it's on the way that people come up from Mexico through south Texas and then go all the way up the Mississippi River in their migrant work, all the way to the cherry crop in Michigan.

When I went to Texas 28 years ago, in addition to meeting impressive people, I always begged to be permitted in my work to go to San Antonio and to the Rio Grande Valley. And I just went back to the Rio Grande Valley last week. When I went there as President, I found that I was the first elected President to go to the valley since Dwight Eisenhower 40 years before. I have been there three times because -- partly to help the people there who are doing so well -- it's now the third fastest growing area in America, population wise, and they're lifting themselves up; and partly because I want the rest of America to know about their contributions and, generally, the important role that Latinos are going to play in 21st century America.

I also want to say that more than any other person in America, the President accomplishes nothing on his own and would be nothing without all the people who help. So this award really belongs to all the people in this administration, especially my Hispanic appointees whom I've mentioned, and two who once were here who aren't anymore, Federico Pena and Henry Cisneros. I thank them for what they did. And I'd like to say a special word of appreciation also to the Vice President, who has done so much, through the empowerment zone program and in so many other ways, to lift the lives of our **Hispanic-Americans**. And I thank him for that.

I would like to thank all the LULAC members who are here and all the members of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda who are here -- and for all you are doing to try to help forge unity among the great diversity within Hispanic America, something many Americans don't know enough about. For all the differences of ethnicity, national origin -- and occasionally even a difference of opinion -- Hispanics in this Nation are united by common values of faith, family, hard work, by a common vision of a unified future.

When I became President 7 years ago, America was already a very diverse country, not nearly so much as it is today. It was clear to me then that we had to go beyond the kind of divide-and-conquer politics which had dominated our country for many years; that if we could make a virtue of our diversity -- if we could not only tolerate one another but celebrate and honor one another -- it would be America's meal ticket to the globalized information society of the 21st century.

And so we have worked for 7 years, as your president said, for a society in which there is opportunity for all and responsibility from all and a community of all Americans. And it is working. We have the strongest economy we have ever had, with the lowest Hispanic unemployment rate in history, as you pointed out, a 20-year low in poverty, over 2 million fewer children in poverty, the lowest welfare rates in 30 years, the lowest crime rates in 30 years. We are moving forward.

But what I would like to say to all of you is that in my judgment -- and I say that as a person who is no longer running for any office but a person who looks on these children as America's children -- we have only scratched the surface of our potential as a nation. And we have only scratched the surface of the potential of our young people. And we have only scratched the surface of what we can do because of our increasing diversity.

Therefore, it is more important even than it was 7 years ago when I took office in a time of stagnant economy and social difficulty and political gridlock. It is more important now -- now that we know we can do better, now that we know we're moving forward -- that we understand clearly we have only scratched the surface; and that we resolve to say we have only begun to meet the big challenges and seize the big opportunities that are out there for our country and especially for this generation of young Americans in the new millennium.

I would like to mention some of them but begin by saying we have a special opportunity in this year, as we do every 10 years, but since we just changed centuries it's particularly momentous to begin by getting an accurate picture of precisely who we are as a nation and what we are becoming. That's why I want to say a few words about the vital importance of the census in 2000. It begins next month.

In the 1990 Census, 8 million children were uncounted -- 8 million people were uncounted, and over a quarter of them were children. Parents with limited English often failed to include their children on the forms, or left them out for fear that landlords or housing officials might learn their families had grown, not realizing the information on census forms is totally confidential.

Now, if we believe everybody in our American community counts, we've got to make sure everyone is counted in this year's census. It's important for the Federal investments that are made in States and communities -- yes, that's one reason it's important. It's important for the drawing of congressional district lines and the allocation of representation in Congress. But it is also important because it gives us a picture of where America is, and we compare it with where we were 10 years ago -- we can see where we're going.

I must say, as a public official, I found the 1980 and the 1990 Census documents extremely important in showing, among other things, the profound impact of education on income for younger workers. If you compare the 1990 Census with the 1980 Census, it shows you more grippingly than any other study can how important it is for us to get our young people not only out of college but in 1990 through -- out of high school -- but through at least 2 years of college if we expected them to get jobs with growing incomes.

And what this 2000 Census will show is how important it is not only to make 2 years of college but 4 years of college available to all the young people in America. These are the kinds of things you learn in the census, because behind all those numbers there are real lives and real life stories. And when you put them all together, you see the patterns emerge. This is a profoundly important issue. If we want to make good decisions about where we're going, we first have to know exactly who we are.

Now, we have, to try to do better in this census, launched a program called "Census in the Schools," that will provide classroom teachers with lesson plans and other materials to encourage children to tell their parents to fill out the forms, to include information on the whole family, and to make it clear that no one outside the Census Bureau -- not even other Government agencies -- can ever see the information included on the census forms. If every American knew just those things, I believe more Americans would be counted.

Today I am glad to announce that over one million classrooms already have committed to using this "Census in the Schools" material. More orders are coming in every day. I'm also pleased to announce the Census Bureau today is launching three new public service announcements to get that message out again that all the census information is strictly confidential. The announcements feature three of my favorite baseball players -- Barry Bonds, Derek Jeter, and Ivan Rodriguez. Thank you for doing that.

I also want to congratulate Dr. Ken Prewitt, the Census Bureau Director, and his staff for their hard work, and to say a special word of thanks to the Census Monitoring Board members I appointed, including Cruz Bustamante and Gil Casellas. Thank you very much for what you have done. Thank you, Gil.

Now, let me just say briefly a few words about the other things we have to do if we want to do more than scratch the surface of our potential. I just presented my budget to the Congress last week. The budget contains a lot of new investments, some of which were mentioned. It also, however, continues to pay our debt down. And there's a lot of controversy about that. Some people are saying, "Well, isn't it enough that you got rid of the deficit. Why are you paying the debt down?"

So I want you to know why I hope that all of you will support not only investing more money in

education and in health care and in the environment and in new jobs but also paying the debt down. Because if we pay the debt down, every working family in this country with a home mortgage, a car payment, a college loan payment, will have lower interest rates. Every struggling small business in America will be able to borrow money at lower cost to expand. And these children, when they become adults, will be able to finance whatever they have to finance at a lower cost than would otherwise be the case if we get the Government out of the business of borrowing so there is more there for the private sector and for individual citizens. Just think of it. We could be out of debt for the first time since 1835.

There's something else I want to say. Even though the primary beneficiaries of this endeavor are the young, it is also important that we do this in a way that takes the benefits of debt reduction and secures Social Security and Medicare for the time when the baby boomers retire, so that we will not impose unbearable burdens on our children and our grandchildren.

When we all retire, those of us in the baby boom generation, the people born between 1946 and 1964, there will only be about two people working for every one person drawing Social Security. It is, therefore, imperative that we begin now -- not later, now -- to prepare for that day. And because we are fortunate enough to have a strong economy, we can know, if we do the right things today, that these children will not have to worry about raising their children because they can't afford to do that and take care of their parents. So that's another very important thing we have to do.

We have the opportunity to meet the challenge of the aging of America. And the older I get, the more I see that as a very highclass problem. [Laughter] That is a good problem. But it can only be good if our children have greater opportunities than we do, not fewer.

A couple of other things I would like to mention that I think are very important -- you were kind enough to say that in 1993 the Congress, by the narrowest of margins, passed a big deficit reduction package that also gave tax relief to 15 million working people -- and a lot of them were Latinos -- through what is called the earned-income tax credit. It is a good program because it basically gives money back, off taxes, to lower income working people, particularly with children.

I have proposed another big expansion of that, which would help a lot of Hispanic families. It would give more money to families where both the mother and the father are working. It would give lots more money to families that have more than two children. You've talked about coming from a large family -- I think this is very important. The way that program works now, it virtually punishes working families that have more than two children at home. I think we ought to keep such families together and reward them and help the parents to succeed. So I hope you will help me to expand that.

I hope you will help me to get another increase in the minimum wage. And I hope that you'll help me with these education programs. My budget would give us enough funds to give after-school and summer school programs to children in every school that's under-performing in the entire country. That's a huge, huge advantage.

Of all the ethnic groups in America, the percentage with the highest -- the group with the highest percentage of people without health insurance are **Hispanic-Americans**. Over 40 million Americans still have no health insurance -- more than there were in 1993 when I took office -- in 1994, when I tried to find a way to provide coverage to everyone.

We passed a couple of years ago the Children's Health Insurance Program, which gave States the ability to insure children who came from families who were not poor enough for Medicaid, but not well enough off to afford private health insurance. We now have 2 million children in that program. We'll soon have somewhere between 4 million and 5 million, as we get them all enrolled.

The Vice President has made a suggestion that I embraced in the State of the Union to allow all their parents to be enrolled, as well. If we did that, we could insure about 25 percent of all the uninsured people in America. And keep in mind, we're talking about working people here. We're talking about people that get up every day, for very modest earnings, and they pay their taxes. They obey the law.

They raise their kids and do the best they can, and they cannot afford health insurance. And with one simple action, we could insure 25 percent of the people in America who don't have health insurance. So I hope you will support that.

And then our Hispanic Education Action Plan was mentioned earlier. This budget has over \$ 800 million more for that, to try to get tutoring and after-school and mentoring programs specifically targeted at Latino children to help them meet higher standards, to help them finish high school, to help them go to college.

Now, why is that important? Well, you heard Elvia's story. And if I could have anything come out of this ceremony today, by the way, it would be her story, not my speech. Why? Because think of all the obstacles she had to overcome -- back and forth to Mexico, this in Spanish, this in English. You know, you hear a lot of people preach about what our children should learn and how everybody ought to learn in English, and I believe that and all that. But they don't think about the practical problems.

Remember the story this young woman told of her life. She has had a heroic journey, to have a degree from a 4-year institution that's a fine institution of higher education. And she did that. Doubtless, she had a lot of support along the way, as she said. But it was still -- I mean, it took my breath away to think she's telling the story of her life. She's got one more hurdle she has to leap over.

And I'd far rather people remember her life story than anything I say today -- first, because it should inspire these children and people like them all across America. And second, because it would remind people, in the Congress and in other places where we have responsibility, that it's all very well to tell our young people they should be responsible citizens, but when they're doing the best they can, the rest of us need to pitch in and help them. And we need to give them more support.

I will say again, this is the most sobering thing -- I am glad we continue to be a nation of immigrants. The largest group of immigrants still coming to America are people whose first language is Spanish, although they are increasingly a diverse lot, as all of you know. Because so many of our children in our schools are first generation immigrants, we have the continuing frustrating problem that the dropout rate in high schools is far, far higher among our Hispanic children than among any other group. Last year we reached a milestone: for the first time ever high school graduation rates of African-Americans was more or less equal to the high school graduation rate of the white majority. That's a great step forward. We should be proud of that.

But the dropout rate among Hispanic children is still high. Why? A lot of them are still quitting to go to work to support their families. An enormous number of others still have serious language problems. One of the most important things we've tried to do in the last few years is to make sure all of our kids who are in our schools can read independently by the end of the third grade. We have a thousand colleges sending tutors into the schools now.

I noticed Jim Barksdale, a Silicon Valley executive, the founder of Netscape, put over \$ 100 million into a foundation at the University of Mississippi the other day to do nothing but teach people to make sure they could teach our young people to read -- because when children get to junior high school or middle school, as it's commonly called now, and they can't keep up, a lot of people drop out because they're bored stiff because they're not fluent in the language enough to keep learning the material.

So I say to you, remember Elvia's story. It shouldn't be that hard. She was great, but it shouldn't be that hard. We've got to do more to keep all our children in school, get them out of high school, get them on to college. That's what this Hispanic education effort is all about.

And the last point I want to make is, while we've seen a big drop in welfare rolls and a significant but not nearly large enough drop in child poverty, we have to recognize that there are still lots of people in places this economic recovery has left behind. That's why I want to expand the number of empowerment zones and enterprise communities and give people more incentives to invest in them. That's why I'm trying to pass this big new markets initiative, to give Americans the same incentives

to invest in poor areas in America they get to invest in poor areas in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. I want people to invest overseas, but we ought to give them the same incentives to invest in underdeveloped areas right here in the United States and give our people an opportunity, too.

So these are some of the things that I hope we will do. I hope the Congress will also agree to invest more funds in the education of immigrants to teach them English, to teach them civics, to support them.

And finally, let me say, I want to thank those of you who are from Puerto Rico who came up to me today and talked to me about that. I have, ever since I ran for President, been committed to allowing the voteless citizens of Puerto Rico the right to choose for themselves the ultimate status of the island. And again, I have included resources in my budget for them to do that, and I ask Congress to look at this and to stop walking away from this. We cannot -- we cannot -- continue to pretend that there is any other ultimate resolution to this and to the difficulties that continue to arise, other than letting the people of Puerto Rico decide for themselves.

And I have also done what I could to empower the residents of Vieques to decide for themselves whether the Navy training there should end in 2003. We ought to be a good neighbor, and they ought to be able to decide. And we ought to be able to work around whatever decision they make.

Now, let me just mention one other big issue to me. Bill Richardson and Rick Dovalina were kind enough to refer to all the **Hispanic-Americans** who have served in this administration. And I'm proud of that. A big part of them, who cannot be here today because they are otherwise occupied, are those whom I have appointed to Federal judgeships. And unlike me, they are not term-limited. They get to stay a long time. Almost half my total appointees are women or minorities. And yet, these appointments have garnered the highest percentages of top ratings from the ABA, the bar association, in 40 years.

Now, one of my frustrations as President right now is that I'm having a hard time getting all these candidates processed and voted on by the Senate. There are three first-rate Hispanic judicial nominees that the Senate has not voted on yet, and I want to call their names, because I want you to know who they are: Judge Julio Fuentes, for the third circuit, a distinguished civil litigator from Texas; Enrique Moreno, a graduate of Harvard and Harvard Law School, well qualified by the American Bar Association, has still not been given a hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee -- better qualified academically than many, many judges who have been appointed by all previous Presidents of both parties; and Judge Richard Paez, for the ninth circuit, he is a sitting Federal judge. He has finally been promised a vote in March. But he has been waiting -- listen to this -- for 4 years for the Senate to vote on him. I nominated him 4 years ago.

Now, why is that? Because some people don't want these folks on the court, but they don't want you to know they don't want them on the court, because then you may not want them in the Senate. [Laughter] Now, this is not rocket science; this is what's going on. So if you don't want somebody on the court, but you don't want the folks back home to know you don't want them on the court, you just arrange for there never to be a vote.

It's not right. That they think that they're too progressive, they ought to stand up and vote them down. But they ought to -- it's time to stop patronizing people or insulting them by playing games with them. Just vote them up or down. They're entitled to it, and they can take it. We can all take it. But when good people agree to submit themselves for Federal service -- and they are good people and they are not disqualified by the investigation, they're elevated by the investigation, they are entitled to be voted up or down. And I ask you to help us.

Now, again I want to say, I hope that all of you when you leave here will remember that, even though the President should never get awards, I'm tickled to get this one. [Laughter] I hope you will remember the story of Elvia Morales' life and try to replicate it. I hope you'll remember these children who came to join us today from the Cesar Chavez Charter School. And I hope you will remember that we have just scratched the surface of what their lives, and our life as a nation, can be.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:09 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Enrique (Rick) Dovalina, national president, League of United Latin American Citizens; Elvia Morales, graduate, California State University at Sacramento, who shared her story of growing up as a child of immigrants; Irasema Salcido, principal and founder, Cesar Chavez Public Charter High School for Public Policy; former Secretary of Energy Federico Pena; former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry G. Cisneros; and Major League Baseball players Barry Bonds, San Francisco Giants, Derek Jeter, New York Yankees, and Ivan Rodriguez, Texas Rangers. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

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Antonia Hernandez: The Leading Latina Legal Eagle for Civil Rights

Back in 1956, as eight-year old Antonia Hernandez was preparing to move from Torreon, Mexico to Los Angeles, little did she realize that four decades later she would be leading one of the nation's preeminent civil rights organizations.

Since 1985, Antonia Hernandez has been in the vanguard, as President and General Counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). As its CEO and chief lawyer, she leads MALDEF's efforts to protect the legal rights of the Nation's 29 million Latinos, the minority group that is expected to soon become the Nation's largest minority group. Working from her Los Angeles headquarters and five regional offices, with a budget of \$5 million dollars and a staff of 75, (including 22 lawyers), Hernandez and the members of her organization serve as a national watchdog, litigating and promoting the civil rights and other issues of special concern to the Latino community. Her organization works in close cooperation with other civil rights groups whenever their interests intersect, as well as with other organizations that work for the common good.

Hernandez's commitment to social justice comes from her parents, particularly her father who was one of many American-born Latinos corralled and arbitrarily deported to Mexico during a wave of anti-Mexican immigrant hysteria in the 1930s. Hernandez's awareness was further heightened when her family lived in an East Los Angeles public housing complex during her coming-of-age years, and while working as a summer migrant worker in 105 degree temperatures in the San Joaquin Valley. By the mid-1960s she was an integral part of the Chicano civil rights movement.

Ms. Hernandez received her B.A. from UCLA in 1970 and completed her law degree from UCLA School of Law in 1974. She worked for a number of non-profit organizations after graduation, including the Legal Aid Corporation, before being recruited in 1979 as a staff member for the US Senate Judiciary Committee.

She has been married for twenty years to Michael Stern, a civil rights attorney whom she met while they were both staffers with California Rural Legal Assistance, a group that worked closely with Cesar Chavez' UFW (United Farm Workers Union) in addressing the needs of migrant farm workers. They have three children and make Los Angeles their home.

CRJ: Tell us a little about what it was like when you were growing up in California?

The housing projects then were very different from the projects today. It was a working class, poor community with intact family units, but there were 'gang bangers' around. I liked books, so I was their little nerd and I was protected. I don't want to glamorize it, because I saw people getting killed in front of my eyes, for no reason whatsoever. Overall, though, we concentrated on family and church and school. We took care of each other.

CRJ: What was the experience of being the first Latina working on the US Senate Judiciary Committee?

I had to compete with the best and the brightest to get and keep that job. It was in the late 1970s, and it was a phenomenal, fascinating experience for a Latina to be able to go to Washington and actually be part of a historic Senate institution. I was in the belly of power and worked with a group of bright, dynamic people who are today at the center of influence, in and out of Washington.

CRJ: What are MALDEF's major priorities?

Actually we're up to our noses addressing a welter of familiar civil rights issues that won't go away anytime soon.

We've just finished working on issues of higher education, naturalization, affirmative action in the Federal government, the English-only initia-

CloseUp

tive, judicial nominations and appointments, minimum wage, and welfare reform. Whether it's at the State or Federal level, government has not been in a very positive, proac-

tive mode. But the pendulum is always swinging, and my staff is always on full alert, fighting the good fight day in and day out, anticipating the swings of the pendulum and tak-

ing full advantage when it swings back in our direction.

CRJ: Has MALDEF's focus changed since it was founded?

Unfortunately, the issues facing Latinos and our strategies to address them have remained essentially the same. What is changing is our emphasis in large part because of the devolution that came about during the 1980s — the shifting of power from the Federal to the State and local levels. We have been pretty successful in staying ahead of that power shift and revising our strategies to make them relevant to the new realities. But make no mistake, MALDEF is still very much a presence in Washington because that is still where the major policy decisions first surface and get made.

CRJ: What is the most important civil rights issue facing Latinos?

There is no single issue that's most important — they're all interconnected. Latinos suffer more housing discrimination than any other group, for example and there is no question that affordable housing in decent neighborhoods usually means better schools for our children, which is terribly important. Employment, language, immigration, police accountability, and health issues are all near the top of our list of concerns.

But if I were forced to choose only one it would be education. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see why Latino kids are falling through the cracks in school. I challenge anybody to visit two Los Angeles schools, Beverly Hills High and South Central's Jefferson High — I could choose other pairs of schools in many other cities — and tell me whether they think that students attending those schools are getting the same quality education.



CloseUp

Will that involvement continue?

Since MALDEF came into being we've been involved in every important redistricting battle, and we intend to be very involved in the years 2000 and 2002 after the results of the next census count are in and are being implemented. It is fortuitous timing that the Latino population is growing rapidly in certain key electoral States.

MALDEF has been one of the organizations that has conducted a massive national educational outreach effort encouraging Latinos to cooperate with neighborhood census workers and be counted. We have hired a national director and seven regional coordinators to head up that effort.

CRJ: Is there increased competition and conflict among recent immigrants and other resident minority communities?

Although that may sometimes become an issue at certain times and places around the country, it's not anything unusual in US history. I don't see that as a significant issue right now. Besides, I keep hearing that competition is generally a good thing. One of MALDEF's core values is having a collaborative relationship with all minority groups. We've made significant progress in trying to understand and work with one another and not let divisive issues get in the way. That is not to say that we don't have issues, but rather than let them divide us what we're trying to do is find the issues we have in common.

CRJ: Are there any commonalities or differences among Latinos that you think are worth noting?

That's not an easy question to answer in a few words, because it invites stereotyping of one kind or another. But I think that there is wide agreement about some of the things that define us. Obviously, language and music and

other aspects of our culture bind most Latinos together, despite our different countries of origin.

We all share a sense that everyone, regardless of how high up the ladder of success he or she has climbed, deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. We recognize the sacredness and fragility of being human. It's not that our way is necessarily better, but we tend to confront the reality of death more openly than some others in this society do, and our religiosity and celebrations and art reflect this. And of course, we continue to be very strongly family-centered, some-



thing that we share in common with other groups.

However, there are real differences among us, too. Puerto Ricans are US citizens, so immigration is not as critical an issue for them as it is for many other Latinos. Yet, to some degree we are united by the types of discriminatory experiences that we all share because of our skin color, or accent, or names that often set us apart in other people's eyes. Immigration is an example of this. It impacts on Puerto Ricans directly because many people who discriminate against Latinos cannot tell one Latino from another, so many Puerto Ricans have to contend with bigotry and discrimination directed at immigrants, whether ille-

gal or legal. With Cuban Americans, immigration is indeed an issue, but one that Cuban Americans often approach very differently than do Mexican Americans and immigrants from other nations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

CRJ: Why did you become a lawyer?

There weren't that many Latina lawyers when I was growing up. My heroes and heroines were union organizers like Delores Huerta of the UFW. But at some point I came to realize that what sets this country apart from others is that it is governed according to laws and the moral codes behind them, and that our legal system plays a very big role in everyday life. For Latinos and other people of color, becoming lawyers, becoming part of the system, being able to use the tools of this profession to bring about needed change within the system — all of that is as American as it gets.

I'm a very practical person, but I am also deeply optimistic. I think that the future bodes well for Latinos as more and more of us become business and labor leaders and professionals. I have a great deal of faith in the role that my profession and legal organizations like MALDEF will play in helping to bring about positive change.

CRJ: How long can you keep this pace up?

I'm passionate about civil rights and 40 years from now I see myself still being passionate about civil rights. I spend a lot of sleepless nights wondering how I'm going to meet the payroll, but I've never spent a sleepless night wondering if I'm doing the right thing.

heroes
(members)

U. M. U.
Here
Bentiz
George
Marisa

THE BIRTH OF MALDEF

The Mexican-American community in South Texas was constantly subjected to blatant discrimination policies in education, social, economic, and political concerns. Most of the complaints were investigated by LULAC or the GI Forum with little result.

In 1966, as State Civil Rights Chairman for LULAC, I developed a working relationship with Mr. Jack Greenberg, Executive Director of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, via telephone conversations and correspondence. As a result of their great victory in Brown vs. Board of Education they were recipients of grants from various foundations to continue their litigation of civil rights violation cases. Mr. Greenberg offered to make his staff available to litigate civil rights cases for our Mexican American community. My response was that we needed to have our own legal defense fund staffed by Mexican American attorneys.

Because of a lack of funds I never attended any Civil Rights Conferences until March 1967, when we started discussing the possibility of starting a Mexican American Legal Defense Fund in Texas. In April of 1967, Jack Greenberg wired me \$500.00 to cover travel costs to New York City to meet with the Ford Foundation representative. I invited Roy Padilla, representing the conservative faction of the Mexican American community, and Albert Pena, who represented the liberal faction, to attend this meeting. We proceeded to New York City and met with Bill Pincus and other gentlemen, whose names I do not recall, representing the Ford Foundation and Jack Greenberg with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund at an Argentinian Restaurant. We met for approximately three hours discussing the problems of the Mexican American Community. Mr. Pincus indicated that they would consider a proposal for funding but that we needed the sum of \$6,000.00 as seed money. We almost gave up the idea then and there because we did not have the cash and no hope of raising \$6,000.00. Jack Greenberg went to a pay phone and called one of the small New York foundations, whose name I do not remember. Within three minutes he came back and announced that we would receive a grant of \$6,000.00. We then discussed who was going to write the proposal. I suggested Joe Bernal or Jose Cardenas from San Antonio. Jack suggested that Mike

Finklestein from Columbia University and the person who had done the statistical study for the case of Brown vs. State Board of Education was available. Since Jack had been so helpful. I agreed with his recommendation. Mike Finklestein was selected as the person to write the proposal for MALDEF.

After returning to San Antonio we prepared for incorporation and selected a Board of Directors consisting of Gregory Luna, Joe Bernal, Carlos Cadena, Fr. Henry Casso, and Albert Armendariz from El Paso. Albert Pena, Roy Padilla, and Pete Tijerina were the incorporators.

Up to this time our intention was to have a legal services program for Texas. But in May 1967, I was called back to New York City for a meeting with Jack Greenberg and Bill Pincus at the Ford Foundation. I was told that the Ford Foundation would consider funding the organization if it was expanded to cover New Mexico, Arizona, California, and Colorado. I was also instructed that there were not to be any competing proposals because if that happened they would drop us from consideration. The next effort was to enlarge the Board of Directors, obtain active participation by the other states, and provide Mike Finklestein with the material so that he would follow with a visit as part of the research for the proposal. Rebecca Garcia assisted me in documenting specific case histories of discrimination and injustices against Mexican Americans which were used by Finklestein.

In June of 1967, I drove with my wife and children to New Mexico where I met with San Antonio attorney, Manuel Lopez, who at the time was functioning as Executive Director of Project SER. Mr. Lopez provided his office facilities for a meeting with New Mexico lawyers. I made my presentation on behalf of MALDEF. Some of the lawyers protested that in New Mexico they were not identified as Mexican Americans but as Spanish Americans. Somehow we finally obtained consensus and Judge Dan Sosa became a member of the Board of Directors.

I don't recall the names of the original directors from Arizona, but their participation was brought about through the efforts of the LULAC members.

In Los Angeles I was again assisted by LULAC and we met with other attorneys at Herman Silla's office. In Los Angeles I was introduced to Bert Corona, who at the time was working on a legal services proposal to be submitted to the Ford Foundation. When I approached him, he was quite indignant and stated "We in California do not need Texas lawyers to handle our legal problems." But we talked for hours and hours and he finally graciously agreed to let us proceed with the MALDEF proposal upon an agreement that there would be a completely staffed office in Los Angeles.

In the State of Colorado, Judge Roger Cisneros and attorney Levi Martinez called a meeting of the Mexican American attorneys and there we were able to obtain an endorsement and agreement to actively participate as an integral part of MALDEF. Colorado had very serious police brutality problems and on one occasion the Crusade for Justice had almost 1000 people protesting on the street.

The original proposal submitted was for a budget of \$1.2 million. On or about May 1, 1968, Mr. Pincus, from the Ford Foundation, and Jack Greenberg came to San Antonio to announce the grant. In a meeting held at the Gunter Hotel Mr. Pincus announced that the Ford Foundation had awarded MALDEF a grant of \$2.5 million which included \$250,000.00 for law school scholarships for Mexican American law students.

MALDEF opened its office at the International Building in San Antonio, Texas, on August 1, 1968. Mario Obledo was recruited from the Attorney General's office as the Chief Trial Lawyer. We brought in Alvaro Garza, Jerry Lopez, and Juan Rocha as staff attorneys. We also recruited five VISTA volunteer lawyers, graduates of prestigious law schools, namely Alan Exelrod and Mike Mendelson, and three others, whose names I do not recall. Immediately thereafter a suit to correct the jury selection system in Texas was filed and also against the City Public Service Board for employment discrimination practices.

The Los Angeles office was staffed with a director and staff attorneys and they filed several law suits in the Western area.

During the first two years of MALDEF there was political revolution in South Texas brought by the emergence of the RAZA UNIDA PARTY. This Political awareness brought about significant changes in City and County government throughout South Texas. As head of MALDEF I needed exposure and first hand knowledge of the problems of the Mexican American poor in the barrios and rural areas. Consequently I employed Jose Angel Gutierrez, known as a Militant, to identify the victims of Civil Rights violations in these areas. Unfortunately, Militant groups, became involved in conflict and confrontations with Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez and without any basis in fact, these groups were identified with MALDEF. Clearly, MALDEF almost immediately brought about significant social changes, which adversely affected the establishment and the affluent. Thus, because of the identification with Militants complaints were made to the FORD FOUNDATION, who at this time was our sole funding source.

Subsequently a committee from FORD FOUNDATION came to San Antonio and after a meeting at Bill Sinkins' residence, came to MALDEF Headquarters with a suggestion that the MALDEF office be moved to San Francisco. I was offered an increase in salary plus an additional grant to cover the expenses of moving the offices. The Board of Directors were polled and the majority left the matter to my discretion. Considering the best interest of MALDEF and its future we agreed to move the headquarters to San Francisco and I submitted my resignation as Executive Director.

MALDEF continues to prosper and has earned the respect and recognition of the legal community. This is a direct result of the efforts of past director Vilma Martinez, Present Executive Director

**Antonio Hernandez and a highly professional
dedicated staff.**

Respectfully,

PETE TIJERINA

MALDEF



By Albert Peña*

Copy to VP
Alma - return
to me

[Signature]
CC: RLD

In 1967, I convinced the Ford Foundation in New York to fund a group of Chicanos dedicated to fight for their civil rights.

That group later became known as the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF). It happened this way.

About a year before my trip to New York a young man came to my County Commissioner's office to complain about discrimination on the job, and because he complained, he was about to be fired. Destitute, he had no money to hire a lawyer. I told him I would try to find a lawyer to help him.

Unable to find a lawyer, I promised him I would file the case under Title Seven of the Civil Rights law. Later I found out that it was the first Title Seven case filed in the State of Texas.

Since my client had no money, the case was filed under a pauper's oath. In addition, since I had never filed a case in Federal Court, I had to take a special test which I almost failed to practice in Federal Court.

Came the day of reckoning - a day before the trial - I was told by a lawyer friend that the case would be dismissed because I had not filed the required procedural papers. I checked and found out this was true. Because I had failed the young man, that night I couldn't sleep.

In the morning I decided to tell the Judge the truth. I said to him, "Your Honor, because this is my first Federal case and because of my ignorance, I have failed to file the necessary papers in this case. I understand this case is subject to being dismissed. I implore your honor give us more time to prepare in this case, and not take it out on my client who I believe has a good case of wage and job discrimination."

Despite frantic, loud protests from the defense lawyers, the judge granted an additional 90 days. Naturally I was grateful, but I didn't really know what to do.

A friend of mine suggested that I call Jack Greenberg, the director of

NAACP Legal Defense in New York, and ask for help. I did. The response was immediate. Greenberg sent a young, energetic and intelligent Black attorney to assist me. He filed the necessary papers. On the day of the trial, the defense caved in and negotiated a settlement.

As a result of this case, I was invited by Greenberg to visit the Ford Foundation in New York and present the Chicano's need for funding to fight discriminating abuses. The Ford Foundation people with whom I met were surprised that Hispanics had the same problems that Blacks had.

These are some of the issues I discussed with them:

I told them about the school segregation case I had worked on and unequal education of Hispanics throughout South Texas.

I told them of the job and wage discrimination, and that the Federal government was the number one culprit.

I told them about restrictive clauses in housing, and how I was denied housing in certain sections of town after I graduated from law school.

I told them and emphasized the lack of funding to pursue these problems.

After several discussions with groups of Chicanos, the Ford Foundation funded MALDEF, and the National office was situated in San Antonio. I was a founding member of the board. But because certain politicians protested, the national office was transferred to San Francisco.

I do not write this column to take any credit for the excellent job that MALDEF has accomplished in the field of civil rights for Hispanics. My only purpose is to place the founding of MALDEF in the proper historic perspective.

*Former County Commissioner and Judge. Albert Peña is now a law consultant in the offices of Douglas E. Dilley, 629 So. Presa, telephone 225-0111.

Our 30th Year

1997-1998

For 30 years, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) has diligently protected the civil rights of Latinos living in the United States. Making sure there are no obstacles preventing this diverse community from realizing its dreams, MALDEF works through litigation, advocacy, community outreach and education to secure the rights of Latinos, primarily in the areas of employment, education, immigration and political access.

Since its founding in 1968, MALDEF has become the leading Latino civil rights organization in the nation, establishing several legal precedents that have tremendously benefited Latinos and other under-served groups throughout the country. Participating in community coalitions, training parents and community members for leadership positions and awarding scholarships are also integral parts of MALDEF's work, helping to ensure that the 29 million Latinos living in the United States are aware of their rights and have every opportunity to participate actively in American society.

MALDEF is headquartered in Los Angeles and has regional offices in Chicago, Los Angeles, San Antonio, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.; a satellite office in Sacramento, Calif.; and a program office in Phoenix, Ariz.

MALDEF is a nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code receiving private support from foundations, corporations and individuals.



30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE



In 1945, Felicitas Mendez, a young mother living in Westminster, California, filed what is now regarded as a landmark desegregation case. Felicitas, a native of Puerto Rico, and her husband Gonzalo, tried to register their children in their neighborhood school. But school officials would not allow

the Mendez children to enroll because of their dark skin.

They instructed the Mendezes to enroll their children in one of the separate "Mexican" schools, known to be inferior to the "white" schools in the quality of education they offered.

The Mendezes were outraged and filed a lawsuit against four Orange County school districts demanding an end to the segregation of Latino children. They won their case in the U.S. District Court and again following the school district's appeal. This was the first education desegregation case filed in U.S. history, preceding the better-known *Brown v. Board of Education* case by eight years.

Although Felicitas had only a fourth grade education, she was sharp and logical, and refused to let injustices persist. Felicitas' passion to end discriminatory practices embodies the spirit upon which MALDEF was founded. Her work was the spark that led MALDEF to open its doors more than 20 years after the Mendezes won their case.

In 1968, Pete Tijerina, an idealistic Texas civil rights lawyer, opened MALDEF with help from Mario Obledo, then

Texas Assistant Attorney General and soon-to-be president and general counsel of MALDEF. This was the first national Latino civil rights legal organization.

Complaints poured in from day one: school segregation, police brutality, employment abuse. MALDEF staff, most of whom were working on a voluntary basis, took on a slew of cases aimed at ending discriminatory practices against Latinos. They used the law as a vehicle to remove obstacles that kept the Latino community from exercising its civil rights.

Although the Latino community has made great advances since that time, many problems still persist. As MALDEF enters its fourth decade, it continues to articulate the interests and aspirations of this community. The combined efforts of many amazing individuals helped bring us to where we are today.

Vilma Martinez became the first woman to head a national civil rights organization when she took office in 1973 at the age of 29. Martinez's work as president and general counsel expanded MALDEF's funding sources and focused MALDEF's legal work on education, employment and political access, which are among our main legal program areas today.

During Martinez's nine-year tenure from 1973 to 1982, MALDEF staff greatly expanded, the board of directors was restructured and the now-familiar MALDEF symbol -- the Aztec butterfly -- appeared for the first time on the cover of the 1976 annual report. More importantly, MALDEF's work in the 1970s brought about the implementation of desegregation laws in several schools throughout the country and helped place Latinos in the high-ranking positions from which they were previously excluded. It also expanded the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to include "Hispanic amendments" when it came up for renewal in 1975. This Act has helped to greatly increase black and Latino voter participation throughout the country today.

LATINO COMMUNITY

Martinez's successor was Joaquin Avila, who began working for MALDEF in 1975 as a staff attorney and later became director of the voting rights program. When he became president in 1982, Avila worked to strengthen MALDEF's leadership programs and increase its involvement in the census.

Current president and general counsel Antonia Hernández took the helm in 1985, and, under her guidance, litigation, public policy and community outreach were strengthened and incorporated into one holistic approach. Hernández also helped MALDEF become the financially solid institution it is today, and turned it into one of the most renowned civil rights organizations in the country.

In the 1970, 1980 and 1990 census counts, MALDEF staff worked diligently on community outreach campaigns. Because many government programs and community services are funded based on a community's population and demographics, MALDEF made sure the Latino community was aware of the importance of being counted in the census. MALDEF is gearing up for its largest ever campaign for the upcoming 2000 census. The campaign will kick off in early 1999 in 10 major cities across the United States, and will use multimedia strategies to inform Latinos about the census.

As MALDEF begins its fourth decade, it's evident that there are still many challenges facing the Latino community, MALDEF will continue to work to increase the participation of Latinos in the political process, to preserve the rights of the immigrant community, and to increase opportunities for the educational attainment of Latinos.

People like Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez paved the way for the progress of the Latino community. Gonzalo passed away in 1967, never having been fully recognized for his role in fighting school segregation. Felicitas died in April 1998, just after Orange County paid tribute to the Mendezes through the dedication of the Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez Fundamental Intermediate School. Two early champions of civil rights have left us, but their spirits will live on in the work that MALDEF does.



MESSAGE FROM AND GENERAL

In this, its 30th year, MALDEF finds itself in the midst of a very exciting time for the Latino community. This diverse group is growing at a tremendous rate, and the number of Latinos living in the United States is expected to double to a quarter of the population over the next 50 years.

With this growth comes tremendous responsibility. We need to develop a mind set that goes from being a minority to an empowered majority. We must then take on the important task of working to solve not only the problems of the Latino community, but of all of society.

As an institution that uniquely serves the Latino community in the United States, one of MALDEF's greatest challenges is to meet the needs of our rapidly changing community. From our modest beginnings in 1968, we used the law as a means to remove obstacles that prevented our community from actively participating in society. I am proud to say that we have been involved in many landmark cases that changed the face of civil rights.

But we also know that litigation has its limitations, and in order to give a strong, powerful voice to the Latino community, MALDEF developed other program areas that also address the most important issues facing our community.

Our policy analyst program employs four policy analysts to monitor legislative proposals that affect the Latino community. The analysts also meet with legislators to discuss their impact and help ensure sound public policy.

Our outreach efforts and leadership programs, under the community education and public policy program area, work within the community to teach parents and grass roots leaders leadership skills and help them become engaged and involved members of society. I have seen many grads walk out of our leadership programs with confident strides and the knowledge and motivation to create positive change.



Antonia Hernandez

PRESIDENT SEL

Regrettably, as our power and numbers continue to grow, there are those who feel threatened and have responded by reacting to the things that make us Latino: our language, our roots — our culture. Three initiatives that have passed in California over the last five years illustrate this point: Proposition 187, Proposition 209 and Proposition 227.

Collectively, these initiatives attempted to deny health care to undocumented immigrants, end affirmative action programs and prohibit the use of any language other than English in California classrooms. Here is where our strength in litigation comes into play: MALDEF's efforts in court successfully blocked the implementation of Proposition 187, and we continue to work to lessen the adverse effects of Proposition 209 and Proposition 227.

These initiatives did something their authors did not count on — they helped awaken the Latino community and bring it together as a group that is recognizing its strength and feeling the resonance of its voice.

This voice is being amplified by the many young and talented Latinos entering the political arena. And the entrepreneurial spirit of our community combined with increased educational attainment levels have given way to a successful professional middle class. But there are still many timid voices afraid to be counted in the national census or speak out against unfair or discriminatory practices.

Now that MALDEF has matured into a financially solid national institution with regional offices throughout the country, our responsibility becomes even greater to educate our community members and tear down obstacles preventing them from exercising their voices in the dialogues that shape our society. As we look towards the quickly approaching millennium, it is inspiring to reflect on MALDEF's many accomplishments over the last 30 years and to boldly prepare for the work that remains to be done.

Final 2/13/00 5:00 p.m.
Glastris

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS AT HISPANIC-AMERICAN ACHIEVEMENT EVENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, DC
February 14, 2000**

Acknowledgements: LULAC Pres. Rick Dovalina; Sacramento State student Elvia Morales; Secretary Richardson; Maria Echaveste; Mickey Ibarra; Administrator Aida Alvarez; Secretary of the Army, Louis Caldera; EEOC Chairwoman Ida Castro; Selective Service Director Gil Coronado; Overseas Private Investment Corporation President George Munoz; Members of LULAC; Members of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda; Students from Cesar Chavez Public Charter High School for Public Policy.

I've always felt that the President's job is award enough. But I am truly delighted to receive this award for lifetime achievement. And I'd like to accept it on behalf of the entire administration—especially Vice President Gore. No vice president in history has worked harder and done more to lift the lives of Hispanic Americans. He's been my partner every step of the way.

I would also like to acknowledge the many lifetimes of achievement of LULAC and all the organizations that make up the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda. You have helped forge unity among the great diversity that is Hispanic America. You have shown that for all the differences of ethnicity, national origin, and occasionally opinion, Hispanics are united by common values of faith, family, and hard work--and by a common vision of a better future.

I think America itself, at its best, is like that. We are a diverse nation—the most diverse in human history. And in an increasingly global economy, that diversity can be a Godsend—if we keep in mind the fundamental truth that what unites us is greater than what divides us.

That thought was uppermost in my mind seven years ago, when I became President. Vice President Gore and I came to office determined to move away from the divide-and-conquer politics that had dominated our nation, and instead bring Americans together by doing something about the big challenges that we all faced--high deficits, high unemployment, high crime. We wanted to do it in a way that reflected the values all Americans share: of opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and a community of all.

With all that in mind, we put in place a new economic plan, new crime and welfare policies, new education, environment, and health policies, and new policies to empower the poor and elevate citizen service.

I think the results speak for themselves. We have nearly 21 million new jobs; the fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rates in 30 years; the lowest poverty rates in 20 years; the lowest crime rate in 25 years; welfare rolls cut in half to their lowest levels in 30 years; and the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years. And this month we mark the longest period of economic growth in our entire history.

We now have the lowest Hispanic unemployment rate on record, the lowest Hispanic poverty rate in a generation, median income for Hispanics rising even faster than the nation as a whole, and a million new Hispanic homeowners since 1994.

As I said last month in my State of the Union Address, our nation has never before enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity and social progress with so little internal crisis and so few external threats. That gives us a blessed opportunity—and a profound responsibility—to meet our long term challenges, set great new goals for our nation's future, and to begin today taking the steps that will move us toward them.

The steps we take must be based, first of all, on an accurate picture of who we are as a nation, and what we are becoming. That's why, before I discuss anything else, I want to say a few words about the vital importance of 2000 Census, which begins next month. In the 1990 Census, over 8 million people went uncounted. A quarter were children. Parents with limited English often failed to include their children on the forms. Or they left them out for fear that landlords or housing officials might learn that their families had grown—not realizing that the information on Census forms is totally confidential.

If we believe that everybody in our American community counts, we've got to make sure everyone is counted in this year's census—including every child. That's why we have launched our "Census in the Schools" program. It provides classroom teachers with lesson plans and other material to encourage children to tell their parents to fill out the forms; to include information on the whole family; and to make it clear to parents that no one outside the Census Bureau—not even other government agencies—can ever see the information they include on their census forms.

Today, I am pleased to announce that over 1 million classrooms have committed to using this Census in the Schools material, and that more orders are coming in every day.

I am also pleased to announce that the Census Bureau today is launching three new public service announcements to get the message out that all information on Census forms is strictly confidential. The announcements feature three of my favorite baseball players: Barry Bonds, Derek Jeter, and Ivan Rodriguez.

I want to congratulate the Census for its hard work. And I want to say a special thanks to Census Monitoring Board members I appointed, including Cruz Bustamonte and Gil Casellas [kah-SAY-yas].

As our nation moves into the future, it is vital that we stay on the path of fiscal discipline that helped create our current prosperity. The new budget I released last week does that. It allows us to pay down the debt entirely in just 13 years and make America debt-free for the first time since 1835.

It ensures that the benefits of debt reduction are used to secure the future of Social Security and Medicare while adding an optional prescription drug benefit. And it allows us to continue investing in our people, as we have been for seven years.

In 1993, we doubled the Earned Income Tax Credit, and that has lifted 1.2 million Hispanics out of poverty. Now, in my new budget, I propose another major expansion of the EITC: to reduce the marriage penalty and to expand the tax credit for families that have more than two children.

In 1997, we passed the Children's Health Insurance Program -- CHIP -- so that workers who don't have coverage through their employers at least can get it for their children. So far, we've enrolled 2 million children; we're well on our way to our goal of 5 million. Now it's time to follow Vice President Gore's suggestion to make low income parents eligible for the insurance that covers their children, and my new budget does that. Together with our children's initiative, this action would enable us to cover nearly a quarter of all the uninsured people in America.

We raised the minimum wage--directly benefiting 1.6 million Hispanic workers—and I think it's time we raised the minimum wage again.

Since 1993, we've nearly doubled our investment in Head Start and improved its quality. My budget includes another \$1 billion for Head Start, the largest increase in the history of the program. It doubles our investment to help states and districts turn around their worst-performing schools, or shut them down. It doubles our investments in after-school and summer school programs.

It includes \$823 million more for our Hispanic Education Action Plan to make sure Latino children get the tutoring and the afterschool and mentoring programs they need to help them meet higher academic standards, finish high school, and enter college. And it includes a new teacher quality initiative -- to recruit more talented people into the classroom, reward good teachers for staying there, and give all teachers the training they need.

Since 1993, we have increased the number of Small Business Administration loans to Hispanic entrepreneurs by 250 percent.

We created--under the Vice President's leadership--over 100 enterprise zones and enterprise communities across the country, generating billions of dollars in new private sector investment in these low-income areas. My new budget increases the number of empowerment zones, and the incentive to invest in them. And it creates New Markets tax credits and other incentives to spur \$22 billion in private-sector capital to create new businesses and new investments in our inner cities and rural areas.

We revolutionized welfare and allowed millions of Americans to move from dependency to the dignity of work.

And we reversed the unfair cuts in the welfare reform law, restoring benefits to over 600,000 legal immigrants. Now, I think the next stage of welfare reform should be to help absent fathers who want to do right by their children to get and keep jobs and pay their child support, and my budget provides that help.

Under the VPs leadership, we have reduced the naturalization backlog at INS by streamlining the naturalization process to make it easier for immigrants who play by the rules to become full partners in America.

Now, I think we need to invest more to teach immigrants civics and English, and my new budget does that.

I have long been committed to enabling our voteless citizens in Puerto Rico to choose the island's ultimate status, and my budget provides the resources for them to be able to do that. I have also acted to empower the residents of Vieques to decide for themselves whether Navy training there should end in 2003.

I'm proud that, since 1993, I have appointed more Hispanics to the federal bench than any administration in history. Almost half of my appointments are women or minorities, and my appointments have garnered the highest percentages of top ABA ratings in nearly 40 years. But we have three first-rate Hispanic judicial nominees that the Senate has still not voted on. Judge Julio [WHO-lio] Fuentes for the Third Circuit, civil litigator Enrique Moreno for the Fifth Circuit, and Judge Richard Paez [PIE-ez], for the 9th Circuit. Judge Paez is extremely well-qualified.

Yet he has been made to wait four years for the Senate vote that has finally been promised next month. It is going to be a tough vote. I need your help to win it.

I have worked hard to build an administration that looks like America, because I believe that the more diverse our nation becomes, the richer we are in talent and energy and ideas. I think most Americans agree with me. The public these days cannot seem to get enough of the vitality and sheer joy of Hispanic culture, from the CDs of Ricky Martin and Jennifer Lopez to the books of Susan Cisneros and Oscar Hijuelos [e-WELL-os].

In an increasingly interconnected world, our diversity is our greatest strength. As long as we honor our common values and common humanity, we can and will build the more perfect union of our Founders' dreams.

Thank you.

Draft 10/8/99 7:35 p.m.
Glastris

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS AT
U.S. HISPANIC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
HYATT REGENCY MCCORMICK PLACE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
October 9, 1999**

Acknowledgements: USHLI Pres. Juan Andrade; USHLI Chair. Rey Gonzalez; Rep. Luis Gutierrez; Maria Echaveste; Mickey Ibarra; Ida Castro,

I want to thank Rey Gonzalez, Juan Andrade, and everyone at the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute. Since 1982 you have carried out the noble mission of widening the circle of participation in American democracy, and your hard work has clearly paid off. We see it in greater Hispanic voter turnout in recent elections, and in the growing number of Hispanic elected officials, like Rep. Luis Gutierrez. I also want to acknowledge the many dedicated Hispanic members of my own administration--the most Hispanics of any administration in history—including my Deputy Chief of Staff Maria Echaveste; White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Mickey Ibarra; and EEOC Chairwoman Ida Castro.

There is another noble mission that the Hispanic Leadership Institute has carried out over the years. You have helped forge unity among the great diversity that is Hispanic America. You have shown that for all the differences of ethnicity, national origin, and occasionally opinion, Hispanics are united by common values of faith, family, and hard work--and by a common vision of a better future.

I think America itself, at its best, is like that. We are a diverse nation—the most diverse in human history. And in an increasingly global economy, that diversity can be a Godsend—if we keep in mind the fundamental truth that what unites us is greater than what divides us.

That thought was uppermost in my mind six-and-a-half years ago, when I became President. Vice President Gore and I came to office determined to move away from the divide-and-conquer politics that had dominated our nation, and instead bring Americans together by doing something about the big challenges that we all faced--high deficits, high unemployment, high crime. We wanted to do it in a way that reflected the values all Americans share: of opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and a community of all. With all that in mind, we put in place a new economic plan in 1993, to cut the deficit, expand trade, and invest in our people.

I think, on the whole, we have been successful. America is enjoying the longest peacetime economic expansion in history; the lowest unemployment rate in 29 years; the lowest welfare rolls in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the first back to back budget surpluses in 42 years; and the lowest crime rate in 26 years.

Just last week, we received more good news. Median household income rose 3.5 percent last year, and median household income for Hispanics rose at an even faster rate of 4.8 percent. We now have the lowest Hispanic unemployment rate in history, the lowest Hispanic poverty rate in a generation, and a million new Hispanic homeowners since 1994.

The prosperity we now enjoy is the result of the hard work of the American people. But it is also the result of good decisions made in Washington, and that is the result of a democratic process that the Hispanic Leadership Institute has done so much to strengthen. With your help, we have been able to take many, many important actions that have had a positive impact on people's lives.

We doubled the Earned Income Tax Credit, so that it now lifts 1.2 million Hispanics out of poverty.

We raised the minimum wage--directly benefiting 1.6 million Hispanic workers—and I think it's time we raised the minimum wage again.

We turned a \$290 billion deficit into a \$115 billion surplus, we nearly doubled our investment in education and training.

We increased the number of Small Business Administration loans to Hispanic entrepreneurs by 250 percent—and as VP Gore recently announced, the SBA has plans to expand that lending even more.

We revolutionized welfare and allowed millions of Americans to move from dependency to the dignity of work. And we reversed the unfair cuts in the welfare reform law, restoring benefits to over 600,000 legal immigrants.

Under the VPs leadership, we have reduced the naturalization backlog at INS by streamlining the naturalization process to make it easier for immigrants who play by the rules to become full partners in America.

In the 1997 bipartisan balanced budget bill, we created the \$24 billion Children's Health Insurance Program, the largest expansion of children's health coverage since the enactment of Medicaid.

Under the VPs leadership, we have created over 100 enterprise zones and enterprise communities across the country, generating billions of dollars in new private sector investment in these low-income areas. In all these ways, we have worked to bring more Americans, and more Hispanic Americans, into the winner's circle—and into the mainstream of American life.

But there are some areas where we have not made enough progress because we have not received enough cooperation from Congress—in particular on my

judicial nominations. I'm proud that we have succeeded in appointing more Hispanics to the bench than any administration in history. I'm proud that the judges I've appointed are the most diverse group in American history; that almost half of them are women or minorities; that more than half of my current judicial nominees are women or minorities; and that my appointees have garnered the highest percentages of top ABA ratings of any president in nearly 40 years.

But I am also deeply dissatisfied with the Senate's partisan handling of some of my minority nominees. Earlier this week, I said it was a disgrace that the Senate defeated, on a straight party-line vote, my nomination of Ronnie White, a highly talented African American jurist. I also spoke out on behalf of Richard Paez [PIE- ez], the first Mexican American ever to serve as a judge in federal district court in Los Angeles. More than three-and-a-half years ago I nominated Judge Paez for a seat on the 9th Circuit. For more than three-and-a-half years he has been waiting for the Senate to confirm his nomination. Judge Paez has been deemed "well qualified" by the American Bar Association. He has broad bipartisan support. Yet he has still not been given a Senate floor vote. Another fine candidate for the 9th Circuit, renowned appellate litigator Marsha Berzon [BURR-zon], has been waiting for more than 18 months to receive a floor vote. The Senate's treatment of Marsha Berzon and Judge Paez is shameful.

We have also been working to get three other exceptional Hispanic nominees confirmed: Judge Julio Fuentes for the Third Circuit, civil litigator Enrique Moreno for the Fifth Circuit, and Judge Ronald Guzman for the Northern District of Illinois. I'm pleased to announce that Judge Guzman finally received his Judiciary Committee hearing this past week for a vacancy on the Northern District of Illinois. But the Senate's treatment of Judge White, and its failure to vote on these outstanding Hispanic candidates, creates a real doubt about the Senate's ability to fairly perform its constitutional duties to advise and consent. I urge you all to help me to get Judge Paez, Judge Fuentes, Judge Guzman, Marsha Berzon, and Enrique Moreno confirmed this term.

Congress is clearly capable of putting partisanship aside and doing what's right. We saw that this week when a bipartisan majority in the House passed a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights. We still have a lot of work to do before this bill becomes the law of the land. But if we can continue to summon that same bipartisan spirit, I believe we can continue to make real progress on many fronts.

We can keep this prosperity going by using the surplus to pay off the debt over 15 years for the first time since 1835. And we can spread the prosperity to poor rural and urban communities that haven't felt it by offering investors the same incentives to invest in these new markets that we offer them to invest in new markets overseas.

We can meet the challenge of an aging America by strengthening Social Security and Medicare and modernizing Medicare with a prescription drug benefit.

We can pass the Kennedy-Jeffords bill that will make sure Americans with disabilities can gain a job without losing their health care.

We can make the U.S. the safest big nation on earth by closing the gun show loophole and putting 50,000 more police on the street—especially in high-crime neighborhoods.

We can give all our children a world-class education, by demanding more from our schools but also investing more—not less, as the majority leaders in Congress would do. I am proud that we won almost \$500 million in the 1999 budget for our Hispanic Education Action Plan to make sure Latino children get the tutoring and the afterschool and mentoring programs they need to help them meet higher academic standards, finish high school, and enter college. But when 30 percent of Hispanic students drop out before finishing high school, we know we must do more to make sure that states and school districts that accept federal dollars spend those dollars in ways that reach under-served Hispanic students.

Finally, we can build One America by renewing our commitment to racial harmony.

America has always been enriched by its Hispanic heritage, but never have so many Americans been eager to be enriched by it. The public these days cannot seem to get enough of the vitality and sheer joy of Hispanic culture, from the CDs of Ricky Martin and Jennifer Lopez to the books of Susan Cisneros and Oscar Hijuelos [e-WELL-os]. And more and more Americans of all racial and ethnic backgrounds are casting their votes for Hispanic-American elected officials. I think this says something about where we are as a people, and where we're headed. It says that at this moment in history, we Americans are confident, prosperous, and open to the world. We are eager for new sights, new sounds, and new adventures. And we increasingly understand that in a diverse and changing world, America's diversity is its greatest strength. On the verge of the 21st Century, that is not a bad place to be.

Thank you and God bless you.

National Goals for Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans

This draft is an attempt to articulate what the national goals may look like at this point, and elicit areas of confusion or disagreement. This is in no way a final product, and will not necessarily represent everyone's understanding of the goals. Strategies and indicators are still being developed for each of these goals and will be shared for comment when they have been drafted.

- 1) Ensure that all Hispanic American children have access to high quality early childhood education and development programs and enter school prepared to succeed by eliminating the gap between the Hispanic participation rate and the national participation rate in high quality programs by 2010.
- 2) Respecting the value of multilingualism, different learning styles, and different instructional approaches, by 2010 states and school districts will ensure that all students graduate from high school having demonstrated proficiency in English.
- 3) Eliminate the achievement gap between Hispanic students and other students on state assessments by 2010 by providing a high quality education with the resources and systems that ensure equal opportunities for all.
- 4) Eliminate the gap in the high school completion rate between Hispanic students and the national average by 2010.
- 5) Make progress towards eliminating the gap between the average rate of college completion for Hispanic Americans and the national average by 2010 by at least doubling both the percentage of Hispanic Americans who earn Associate's and the percentage of Hispanic Americans who earn Bachelor's degrees.

Draft 5/15/00
Lowell Weiss

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
TALKING POINTS FOR MALDEF AWARDS DINNER
WASHINGTON, DC
May 16, 2000**

- Acks: MALDEF Pres. Antonia Hernandez; Ambassador Luis Lauredo; award winners: Sec. Richardson, Dr. Ruth Sanchez Way, John Trasvina; Maria Echaveste;
- intro
- good time for america
- good time for hispanic americans
- accomplishments
- more to do
- judges
- other justice issues
- ~~education~~
- census
- health
- make voices heard in election
- conclusion

1:15 pm

generics
expanding right to vote.

marisa demeo. 293-2828. Dc counsel. Exec. Dir.

First fundraising/awards ceremony. First time giving awards in DC. Excellence in govt service: dr. ruth sanchez wey. Hhs. Career.

Leadership: sec. richardson; excellence in legal: trasvina, john. Unfair employment. Doj. Noche de Celebracion.

President has not spoken to them. VP has.

Reception 6-7. Program starts at 7pm. Luis lauredo, permanent ambass. To oas. Hernandez introduces potus.

Awards will be after.

Importance of hispanic community to the united states. Giving back to the community.

Importance of being role models. With growing population. 3 people in federal govt. maldef huge civil rights org. very helpful with: paez, burzuron, clinton nominees went through senate. Helpful in beating up on opposition to moreno. Double standards. People shouldn't be held to Qualified. ABA said highly qualified.

Education.

Census.

Health

Equality Opportunity

To Do:

- insert Hernandez into judge section
- insert Maria's medical thing in One America section
- confirm "hundreds of landmark legal cases"
- Irvin Bervo

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Terms: [atl 3 \(hernandez\) and maldef and antonia](#) ([Edit Search](#))*1991 Los Angeles Times, April 18, 1991*Copyright 1991 The Times Mirror Company
Los Angeles Times

April 18, 1991, Thursday, Nuestro Tiempo Edition

SECTION: Nuestro Tiempo; Page 4; Column 5; Nuestro Tiempo Desk**LENGTH:** 564 words**HEADLINE:** LEADER OF RIGHTS GROUP IS CONFIDENT IN COMBAT**BYLINE:** By RICK HOLGUIN, TIMES STAFF WRITER**BODY:**

When **Antonia Hernandez** was studying to be a history professor, history took a turn and later changed her plans.

Hundreds of Latino students at four East Los Angeles high schools boycotted classes in 1968 to press for educational reforms. There were arrests during the so-called "blowouts" that marked the start of an era of Latino student activism in Los Angeles.

In 1971, **Hernandez** was teaching Latino students in a special program that had been created as a result of the "blowouts." One day, some of her students did not show up for class. They had gotten into trouble with the law for their activism.

Hernandez quickly decided to enroll in law school at UCLA. "It was one of those frustrating moments," **Hernandez** said. "I decided I'm going to be a lawyer to change the laws to make this a better place to live."

Two decades later, **Hernandez** is president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, a leading Latino civil rights organization.

Talkative and engaging, **Hernandez** leads with an informal style and does not stand on ceremony. She and her staff can often be found conferring around a table at a small Mexican restaurant called Mi Tierra across the street from **MALDEF's** Spring Street headquarters downtown.

Hernandez, 42, has gained a reputation as a tireless and hard-driving administrator since she was named to head **MALDEF** in 1985. "Her strength and her effectiveness and her productivity rest in her persistence," said Dionicio Morales, president of the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation in Los Angeles.

Like her organization, **Hernandez** is comfortable in combat.

Flash back to 1987, when **MALDEF's** executive committee abruptly fired her, contending that she had mishandled a case and questioning her leadership skills. **Hernandez** denied any wrongdoing and sued the executive committee. Newspapers carried the story. She was reinstated six weeks later and the lawsuit was dropped.

"They insulted me in public, and I had to fight back," **Hernandez** said.

Hernandez often recalls the words of her father, who taught her to serve the public and to view the world with a critical eye. "My father would say blind loyalty to anything is not something to be proud of," said **Hernandez**, a mother of three who is married to another lawyer, Michael Stern.

Hernandez also is driven by her experiences as an immigrant.

She was born in Mexico and spent her early years on an *ejido*, or communal ranch, near Torreon, in the north-central state of Coahuila.

"We were materially poor but not deprived," she said.

The **Hernandez** family moved across the border into New Mexico and later settled into the Maravilla housing project in East Los Angeles.

From the time she was about 9 through her teen-age years, **Hernandez** spent four to six weeks each summer picking cotton and other crops in the San Joaquin Valley fields to help her family make ends meet.

Education was important to the **Hernandez** family. **Antonia** graduated from Garfield High and she attended East Los Angeles College. She earned her undergraduate and law degrees from UCLA.

Hernandez remembers some of the youths from the projects who never beat the odds to attend college. The Maravilla project, with its gang activity, was one of the roughest in the area.

"I saw my friends being wasted as talented resources for reasons not of their making," she said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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San Antonio Express-News September 26, 1998, Saturday

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September 26, 1998, Saturday , METRO

SECTION: METRO / SOUTH TEXAS; Pg. 1, Part B

LENGTH: 690 words

HEADLINE: MALDEF marks 30th anniversary

BYLINE: John Tedesco; Express-News Staff Writer

BODY: Thirty years ago, a small group of lawyers opened a law office in San Antonio that was different from most.

It was free, dedicated to the downtrodden and about to change **history**.

The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund was created in **1968**. About 350 of its supporters gathered Friday at the Hyatt Regency Hotel downtown to remember past battles and gear up for future ones.

The fund-raising dinner drew politicians from across the state and nation, including U.S. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Garry Mauro.

They came to praise an organization that turned to the courts to bring about change for minorities.

"The greatest contribution MALDEF has made has been to America itself, not just to us," Richardson, the keynote speaker, told the audience.

"Where would this country be, and the promise of America be, if Hispanics were still denied the rights that are guaranteed by the Constitution to all of its citizens?"

Honorees at the dinner were retired U.S. District Judge James DeAnda of Houston; Maria de Los Angeles Jimenez of Houston, director of the Immigration Law Enforcement Monitoring Project; and Charles Butt, chairman and CEO of the H-E-B Grocery Co.

MALDEF is a nationwide organization today, but it had humble beginnings in San Antonio.

Its founders announced the creation of a legal defense fund May 1, **1968**, in the St. Anthony Hotel, according to a news article published at the time.

They denounced gerrymandering of legislative districts, a "restrictive" voter registration system and school segregation.

"Discrimination is serious in many areas of Texas, where the public education system is not geared to preparing Mexican-Americans for higher education," declared MALDEF's first chairman, Carlos

Cadena, more than 30 years ago.

MALDEF's offices opened three months later with a staff of five lawyers in San Antonio and one in Los Angeles, operating from a \$2.2 million Ford Foundation grant.

The lawyers won their first civil-rights legal battle in December **1968**. Students of Edcouch Elsa High School in Hidalgo County had brought a list of 15 demands for better education to the school board, which refused to consider them.

Sixty-two students boycotted classes and were expelled.

MALDEF argued the students had a right to protest, and Judge Reynaldo Garza agreed. The students were reinstated, and the expulsion was ruled unconstitutional.

Police brutality was another MALDEF target in the early 1970s, and dozens of lawsuits were filed on behalf of Hispanic families, especially in the Los Angeles area.

MALDEF refused to cooperate with a San Antonio commission that investigated cases of police brutality, calling it an ineffective "kangaroo court," according to a news report.

Minorities won representation in the Texas Legislature because of a 1971 MALDEF lawsuit. *White vs. Regester* challenged at-large voting districts in Bexar and Dallas counties, resulting in single-member districts that empowered minorities.

"Each of the legal briefs that MALDEF filed was a declaration of the rights of man," Richardson said Friday.

The event raised \$180,000, which will go to MALDEF's general fund.

"Change takes a long time, it requires a lot of patience, and it takes a lot of funds," Al Kauffman, MALDEF's regional counsel in San Antonio, said before the dinner.

A nonprofit organization, MALDEF reported it earned \$4.8 million in 1997 and spent about \$4.4 million.

According to its annual report, \$2.4 million of those expenditures were spent on legal expenses.

MALDEF is working to restore affirmative action in Texas colleges. In June, the group joined the NAACP in intervening in the University of Texas' appeal of the Hopwood vs. Texas case.

The Hopwood case in 1996 resulted in a ban on using race as a factor in making decisions on admissions, financial aid and scholarship in public colleges.

MALDEF plans to educate leaders about the importance of Hispanics being counted in the upcoming national census.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: RODOLFO B. ORNELAS / Staff

H-E-B Grocery Co. Chairman and CEO Charles Butt (center) chats with David Perry and his wife, Rene Haas, during Friday night's MALDEF fund-raiser celebrating its 30th anniversary.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: September 29, 1998

Hispanic Speech

I would like to say a few words about an issue that is important to me and that I know is important to this community: the need to confirm judges and to ensure that our federal courts reflect America's racial diversity. I'm proud that I have appointed the most diverse group of federal judges in history. Nearly half are women or minorities. Almost half of my current judicial nominees are women or minorities – and they are good judges. Significantly, my appointments have garnered the highest percentages of top ratings from the American Bar Association in 40 years – shattering the destructive myth that diversity somehow diminishes quality.

I am especially proud that we have succeeded in appointing more Hispanic Americans to the federal bench than any Administration in history. To date, 24 of my judicial appointees have been Hispanic Americans, more than in the previous two Republican Administrations combined. This Administration has also appointed more Hispanics to the appellate bench – seven thus far – than in the previous three Administrations combined.

In short, my appointees are well-qualified, they're diverse – you would think the United States Senate would be falling all over themselves to confirm them. Unfortunately, this has not been the case. A non-partisan blue ribbon study (issued by the Citizens for Independent Courts' Task Force on Federal Judicial Selection) found that during the 105th Congress, women and minority nominees took significantly longer to be considered than did white male nominees and that minority nominations failed at a far higher rate (35%) than the nominations of whites (14%).

This disturbing trend has continued into the present Congress. Over the past year, two very qualified minority nominees have become casualties of the highly politicized confirmation process. Last year there was a disgraceful rejection of an African American state supreme court judge from Missouri named Ronnie White, solely on the basis of party politics.

Enrique Moreno is another eminently qualified lawyer whose nomination has recently fallen victim to partisan politics. Earlier this month, Texas Senators Gramm and Hutchison announced that they would oppose Moreno's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Their claim that Moreno lacks the necessary experience to serve on the Fifth Circuit is unconscionable. The American Bar Association, which has rated judicial nominees for Republican and Democratic Presidents since the Eisenhower Administration, unanimously gave Moreno their highest rating. Moreno was rated one of the top three trial attorneys in El Paso by state judges, and has garnered the support of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic National Bar Association, and local law enforcement officials. By suggesting that Moreno needs judicial experience before he could be appointed to the appellate bench, the Texas Senators appear to be applying a double standard. Six of the nine judges on the Fifth Circuit appointed by Republican Presidents had no judicial experience. And almost half of the Fifth Circuit judges appointed by Republican

Presidents had fewer years of overall legal experience than Moreno. The claim that ~~Moreno is not qualified for the Fifth Circuit is nothing short of an insult to fair-minded Americans.~~ By blocking qualified judicial nominees, Gramm and Hutchison have exacerbated the vacancy crisis on the Fifth Circuit. Their unjustifiable opposition to Enrique Moreno – an exceptionally well-qualified Hispanic judicial nominee – must not be allowed to stand.

The quality of justice suffers when, for partisan political reasons, highly qualified minority candidates such as ~~Judge White and Enrique Moreno~~ are denied an opportunity to serve on this nation's courts. I therefore call upon the Senate to put aside partisan differences and work toward bringing greater diversity to the federal bench from this day forward. In particular, I challenge the Senate to act on two Hispanic nominees currently pending before the Senate Judiciary Committee. In April, I nominated Jay Garcia-Gregory, a San Juan lawyer with over 20 years of litigation experience, to fill a vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico. And last week, I nominated Ricardo Morado for a position on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas. A graduate of Harvard Law School, Morado is a successful litigator in San Benito, Texas. I urge the Senate to confirm both of these excellent Hispanic nominees.

I also challenge the Senate to act on ~~Dolly Gee~~, an Asian American woman nominated for a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. A private practitioner in Los Angeles who was appointed by me to the Federal Service Impasse Panel, Gee has broad bi-partisan support. Nevertheless, her nomination has languished before the Senate for over eleven months, longer than all but nine of my pending nominees.

These wonderful candidates – Jay Garcia-Gregory, Ricardo Morado, and Dolly Gee – deserve up-or-down votes before the full Senate. We must have a federal judiciary that applies the law fairly, and one that represents the diversity of America.

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LEGAL DEFENSE
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MALDEF

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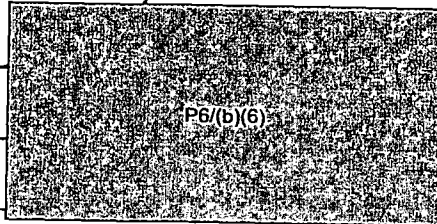
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