

REMARKS BY

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BEFORE THE
HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
1994 ANNUAL CONVENTION

POINTE HILTON AT TAPATIO CLIFFS, PHOENIX
SEPTEMBER 16, 1994

(EDITED BY YVONNE E. CAMPOS)

BUENAS TARDES ESTIMADOS ABOGADOS Y ABOGADAS,
JUECES, DAMAS Y CABALLEROS. (GOOD EVENING
DISTINGUISHED ATTORNEYS, JUDGES, LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN) .

IT'S MY PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU IN PHOENIX
THIS EVENING TO SHARE IN THE CAMARADERIE OF THE 19TH
ANNUAL HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION (HNBA)
CONVENTION.

I APPLAUD HNBA'S EFFORTS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE
HISPANIC COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES,
PUERTO RICO AND MEXICO TO ACHIEVE A UNITY OF GOALS.

AS YOU MAY KNOW, I GREW UP IN SOUTH FLORIDA AND
WORKED WITH MEMBERS OF MIAMI'S LATINO COMMUNITY OVER
THE YEARS WHILE SERVING AS A PROSECUTOR IN DADE
COUNTY. LATINO ATTORNEYS AND JUDGES HAVE BEEN FRIENDS
AND COLLEAGUES OF MINE FOR MANY YEARS. MANY
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ATTORNEYS WHO WORK WITH ME, SUCH
AS YOUR NATIONAL BOARD MEMBER JOHN TRASVINA,

CONTRIBUTE TO THE HNBA AND ITS MISSION. I AM HONORED TO BE YOUR GUEST THIS EVENING.

AS YOUR ATTORNEY GENERAL, I APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY TONIGHT TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF THE CHALLENGES FACING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, AS WELL AS THE COURSES OF ACTION WE HAVE WORKED HARD TO UNDERTAKE IN RESPONSE TO THOSE CHALLENGES.

I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO TAKE PART IN A CONVENTION WHOSE THEME IS "LA FAMILIA HISPANA: A MYRIAD OF FACES", SINCE THE STRENGTH OF AMERICA'S FAMILIES HOLDS THE KEY TO OUR NATION'S FUTURE.

I KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU MUST COUNT THE STRENGTH OF YOUR FAMILIES AS ONE YOUR GREATEST BLESSINGS. I KNOW I DO.

THIS CONVENTION'S THEME ACKNOWLEDGES THAT OUR FAMILIES TAKE MANY SHAPES AND SIZES; THEY CAN BE CONVENTIONAL OR UNCONVENTIONAL, EXTENDED OR ADOPTED.

FOR MANY OF US, OUR PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND
SUCSESSES WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ATTAINABLE HAD IT NOT
BEEN FOR A FAMILY MEMBER READING TO US AS CHILDREN,
TAKING AN INTEREST IN OUR STUDIES, STRETCHING THE
FAMILY BUDGET TO HELP US WITH OUR SCHOOLING OR
DISCIPLINING US WHEN WE STRAYED.

WHEN WE REFLECT UPON OUR FAMILIES, "NUESTRAS
FAMILIAS," WE MAY EVOKE HAPPY, LOVING MEMORIES. OR WE
MAY NOT.

WHATEVER OUR MEMORIES AND EXPERIENCES OF FAMILY
ARE OR WERE, WE CANNOT OVEREMPHASIZE THE FAMILY'S
IMPORTANCE IN OUR INDIVIDUAL LIVES AND IN OUR SOCIETY.

LET'S STOP TO LOOK AT WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR
COUNTRY. TRAGICALLY, MUCH OF OUR NATION'S RECENT NEWS
HAS REVOLVED AROUND CRIME AND CHILDREN. SOME OF THESE
CHILDREN IN THE NEWS HAVE BEEN VICTIMS. OTHERS HAVE
BEEN THE PERPETRATORS OF HIDEOUS CRIMES.

IN ALL OF THESE CASES, FAMILIES ARE IMPACTED. IN MOST OF THESE CASES, THE LACK OF STRONG FAMILY SUPPORT IS IMPLICATED.

THIS WEEK'S TIME MAGAZINE CHRONICLES THE HAUNTING TALE OF AN 11 YEAR-OLD IN CHICAGO WHO KILLED AND WAS KILLED. THE PORTRAIT OF ROBERT "YUMMY" SANDIFER STARES OUT FROM OUR MAILBOXES AND FROM MAGAZINE RACKS ACROSS AMERICA. A KILLER WHO DEPRIVED A 14 YEAR-OLD GIRL OF HER LIFE AND THE LOVE OF HER FAMILY, HE IS DESCRIBED AS "ONE WHO SLIPPED THROUGH THE CRACKS."

OUR NATION'S JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM COULD NOT SAVE HIM OR HIS VICTIMS.

SADLY, OUR COUNTRY IS FACING AN EPIDEMIC OF KIDS KILLING KIDS.

WORKING TOGETHER, IT IS AN EPIDEMIC WE MUST, AND WILL, STOP.

I LEAD OFF WITH REFERENCES TO CRIME BECAUSE IT IS SOMETHING ALL OF US WORRY ABOUT. IT AT TIMES DOMINATES OUR NEWS. ALL ACROSS AMERICA I HEAR THE CONCERNS AND THE FEARS.

I AM HEAR TO TELL YOU PRESIDENT CLINTON AND I, AND MANY OF YOUR FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES, HEAR THOSE CONCERNS AND FEARS AND WE ARE WORKING TO MAKE AMERICA SAFER AND STRONGER. MANY POLICE OFFICERS AND PROSECUTORS, SCHOOL TEACHERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS IN YOUR COMMUNITIES DO THEIR BEST EACH DAY TO MAKE OUR COUNTRY BETTER.

I KNOW MANY OF YOU ARE DEDICATED TO YOUR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES. YOU HAVE DEVOTED YOUR LIVES AND PROFESSIONS TO ACHIEVING EQUAL JUSTICE AND TO THE BETTERMENT OF OUR SOCIETY. YOU CONSTANTLY BALANCE THE DEMANDS OF A CHALLENGING CAREER WITH THE DEVOTION REQUIRED FOR LOVED ONES AND PUBLIC SERVICE.

I SALUTE YOUR EFFORTS.

I ALSO ASK FOR YOUR HELP.

WE MUST EACH CONTINUE TO DO OUR PART. PARENTS MUST ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR ACTIONS. WHERE PARENTS ARE ABSENT, EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS MUST DO WHAT THEY CAN. IN ADDITION TO CARING FOR OUR OWN FAMILIES, WE CAN ALSO VOLUNTEER IN OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS AND IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND ACT AS ROLE MODELS FOR THE YOUTH OF AMERICA WHO ARE NOT BLESSED WITH LOVING, GIVING ADULTS IN THEIR LIVES.

WE MUST EACH PLAY AN ACTIVE PART IN TURNING OUR NATION'S FUTURE AROUND; IF WE DO NOT, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE A FUTURE FOR THOSE WHOM WE LOVE MOST: OUR OWN FAMILIES.

NOW THAT I HAVE ASKED FOR YOUR CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO YOUR COMMUNITIES, BE IT EL PASO OR NEW YORK, CHICAGO OR SAN JOSE, I WANT YOU TO KNOW WHAT YOUR GOVERNMENT IS DOING TO ADDRESS NOT ONLY CRIME IN OUR COUNTRY, BUT FIVE OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES.

FIRST, PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNED AN HISTORIC CRIME BILL EARLIER THIS WEEK. AS A RESULT, BILLIONS OF DOLLARS WILL GO TOWARD PUNISHMENT, POLICING AND PREVENTION.

I'M SURE YOU KNOW CONGRESS WRANGLLED FOR MANY, MANY MONTHS OVER HOW BEST TO ATTACK THE CRIMINALS WHICH ARE TEARING APART OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND THE SEAMS OF OUR SOCIETY. THROUGH ALL THIS LEGISLATIVE WRANGLING, PRESIDENT CLINTON AND MANY OTHERS HUNG IN THERE, REFUSED TO SEE THIS BILL DIE, AND PUSHED FOR COMPREHENSIVE CRIME FIGHTING LEGISLATION.

THE VIOLENT CRIME CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1994 ADDRESSES CRIME ON SEVERAL FRONTS AND I WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT A FEW OF ITS MAIN PROVISIONS.

IT BANS THE POSSESSION OF HANDGUNS BY ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 AND ENABLES US TO SWIFTLY AND SEVERELY PUNISH ANYONE WHO SELLS OR GIVES A GUN TO A CHILD. CHILDREN SHOULD NOT HAVE GUNS.

IT BANS NINETEEN DIFFERENT TYPES OF ASSAULT WEAPONS. WEAPONS OF WAR HAVE NO PLACE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS.

IT PROVIDES FUNDING FOR PUTTING 100,000 MORE POLICE OFFICERS ON THE BEAT TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES. WE MUST FORGE PARTNERSHIPS WITH THOSE WHO POLICE, PROTECT AND SERVE US.

IT PROVIDES FUNDING FOR NEW PRISON CELLS TO LOCK UP VIOLENT CRIMINALS. WE WILL NOT TOLERATE A REVOLVING DOOR POLICY WHERE CRIMINALS GO FREE. WE WILL BUILD THE NECESSARY FACILITIES TO KEEP THEM AWAY FROM OUR LOVED ONES.

IT PROVIDES FUNDING TO HELP THE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ALSO CREATES A CIVIL CAUSE OF ACTION TO EMPOWER WOMEN TO SUE THOSE WHO HARM THEM PHYSICALLY. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE HOME WILL BE VIGOROUSLY COMBATED.

IT ALSO TAKES A GIANT STEP TOWARD USING CREATIVE STRATEGIES TO ALLEVIATE THE ROOT CAUSES OF CRIME. IN PARTICULAR, THE CRIME BILL ADDRESSES ISSUES INVOLVING YOUTH. IT WORKS TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE SOMETHING TO SAY "YES" TO. MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL WAS RIDICULED BY MANY, BUT HOW MANY OF YOU AGREE THAT PUBLIC RECREATION PROGRAMS FOR OUR KIDS CAN PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED DISCIPLINE AND CAMARADERIE, A SENSE OF BELONGING AND VALUE?

SECOND, IN THE AREA OF THE ENVIRONMENT, THE DEPARTMENT IS PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO HNBA.

IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR, PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNED AN EXECUTIVE ORDER ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE. THIS ORDER DIRECTS ALL GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS UNEQUAL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS THAT DISPARATELY IMPACT MINORITY AND LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES. MANY OF YOU MAY KNOW PROFESSOR GERALD TORRES. HE IS SERVING BRILLIANTLY

AS MY REPRESENTATIVE IN AGGRESSIVELY PUSHING FORWARD THIS POLICY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

AT DOJ, WE HAVE ALSO BEGUN TO ADDRESS POLLUTION ALONG THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER. THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE DEPARTMENT ARE ACTIVELY PURSUING STEPPED-UP ENFORCEMENT ALONG THE TWO THOUSAND MILE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER. AS TOO MANY OF YOU MAY KNOW, THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER IS AMONG THE MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY DEGRADED AREAS IN THE COUNTRY, BECAUSE IT IS IN MANY RESPECTS A SHARED RESOURCE, WE SEE COOPERATION WITH MEXICAN AUTHORITIES AS A VITAL TOOL IN OUR EFFORTS.

IN THIS REGARD, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT LOIS SCHIFFER, ACTING ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, PARTICIPATED IN THIS SPRING'S U.S.-MEXICO BINATIONAL COMMISSION MEETING. SHE ALSO RECENTLY MET WITH MEXICAN OFFICIALS AT THE FOURTH BINATIONAL PROSECUTORS CONFERENCE IN ALBUQUERQUE.

ALSO OF PARTICULAR NOTE FOR THIS STATE AND THE SOUTHWEST, THE ENVIRONMENT DIVISION CONCEIVED AND PROMOTED THE ARIZONA NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE. THE AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE COMMITTEE, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND, WAS SIGNED THIS PAST JANUARY BY THE ENVIRONMENT DIVISION, EPA'S OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE, THE ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL AND U.S. ATTORNEY, AND HEAD OF THE STATE ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT.

THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS -- INVESTIGATORS AND PROSECUTORS -- MEETING TO SHARE STRATEGIES AND INFORMATION, AND GENERALLY ASSIST ONE ANOTHER'S INVESTIGATIONS. FOR POLLUTION ISSUES WITH CROSS-BORDER IMPLICATIONS, THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT MEXICAN OFFICIALS BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

THIS JUNE, EPA ADMINISTRATOR CAROL BROWNER AND I, ALONG WITH MS. SCHIFFER AND OTHERS, SIGNED THE AGREEMENT FORMING THE NEW MEXICO NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE. AS FOR ARIZONA,

MEXICAN OFFICIALS WILL BE ASKED TO ATTEND MEETINGS DEALING WITH CROSS-BORDER ISSUES. WE HOPE TO ESTABLISH MORE SUCH BORDER COMMITTEES IN THE COMING MONTHS.

THIRD, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT OUR EFFORTS TO SECURE A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIVE AMERICANS. I SAY THIS IN RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT WE ARE GATHERED HERE WITHIN A RELATIVELY SHORT DISTANCE OF THE HOMES OF MOST OF OUR COUNTRY'S NATIVE PEOPLES. I ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT LATIN AMERICAN CULTURE AROSE FROM THE MIXING OF EUROPEAN AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE AMERICAS.

IN MAY OF THIS YEAR, THE DEPARTMENTS OF INTERIOR AND JUSTICE HELD A HISTORIC CONFERENCE IN ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, TO LISTEN TO REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL 535 FEDERALLY-RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES. WE ARE FOLLOWING UP THE CONFERENCE BY DEVELOPING A LEGISLATIVE AND LITIGATION STRATEGY TO ADDRESS CONCERNS RAISED BY TRIBAL LEADERS.

FOURTH, THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IS ALSO WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE WHITE HOUSE TO BRING GREATER DIVERSITY TO OUR FEDERAL JUDICIARY.

AS YOU KNOW, THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE GREAT PROGRESS IN CONFRONTING THE CRISIS THAT GRIPPED THE FEDERAL COURTS WHEN PRESIDENT CLINTON TOOK OFFICE. THE PRESIDENT INHERITED 113 VACANCIES IN THE FEDERAL COURTS -- MORE THAN ANY PRESIDENT IN MODERN TIMES -- AND MORE VACANCIES HAVE OPENED UP SINCE THEN. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ATTACKED THE PROBLEM OF VACANCIES ON THE BENCH VIGOROUSLY, NOMINATING 134 JUDGES SO FAR AND GETTING 91 OF THEM CONFIRMED.

I WANT TO STRESS THAT WE ARE EXTREMELY PROUD OF THE QUALITY OF THESE JUDICIAL NOMINEES. THE ABA HAS RATED OVER 63% OF THE PRESIDENT'S NOMINEES "WELL QUALIFIED" -- THE HIGHEST RATING POSSIBLE.

WE ARE EQUALLY PROUD THAT UNDER PRESIDENT CLINTON THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY IS BEING OPENED TO WOMEN AND PERSONS OF COLOR ON A SCALE UNPRECEDENTED IN OUR

NATION'S HISTORY. WOMEN AND MINORITIES ACCOUNT FOR FULLY 60% OF THE PRESIDENT'S JUDICIAL NOMINEES.

YOU MAY KNOW THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS NOMINATED THREE HISPANICS TO THE COURTS OF APPEALS --

ROSEMARY BARKETT TO THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

PETE BENAVIDES TO THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

JOSE CABRANES TO THE SECOND CIRCUIT

AND NINE TO THE DISTRICT COURTS --

DAVID BRIONES IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

SALVADOR CASELLAS IN PUERTO RICO

RUBEN CASTILLO IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

DANNY DOMINGUEZ IN PUERTO RICO

ORLANDO GARCIA IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

RICHARD PAEZ IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SAMUEL PAZ IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RICARDO URBINA IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MARTHA VASQUEZ IN NEW MEXICO

AND MORE ARE ON THE WAY. THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE IT CLEAR TO ALL OF US INVOLVED IN THE JUDICIAL SELECTION PROCESS THAT IDENTIFYING MORE HISPANIC-AMERICANS WHO ARE SUPERBLY QUALIFIED FOR THE FEDERAL BENCH IS A TOP PRIORITY.

I WISH YOU ALL COULD EXPERIENCE THE EXCITEMENT -- YES, THE EXCITEMENT -- IN THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARING ROOM AS THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THESE NOMINEES SEE THEM TESTIFY AND REALIZE THE FULFILLMENT OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL ASPIRATIONS-- AND THE AMERICAN DREAM. I KNOW THAT THEIR PRESENCE ON THE FEDERAL

BENCH WILL HAVE THE SAME INVIGORATING EFFECT NOT ONLY ON LATINOS BUT ALL AMERICANS.

FIFTH, I WOULD LIKE TO TOUCH UPON THE AREA OF CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT. YOU ALREADY HEARD THIS AFTERNOON FROM DEVAL PATRICK, THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR CIVIL RIGHTS. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IS TRULY FORTUNATE TO HAVE SUCH AN OUTSTANDING ATTORNEY AS ITS CHIEF CIVIL RIGHTS OFFICER.

I WON'T GO OVER AREAS DEVAL HAS ALREADY DISCUSSED WITH YOU TODAY. HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE OUR DEPARTMENT'S COMMITMENT TO CERTAIN PRINCIPLES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTICULAR INITIATIVES THE DEPARTMENT IS UNDERTAKING.

AS DEVAL NOTED EARLIER TODAY, THE RIGHT TO VOTE IS AT THE HEART OF A MEANINGFUL DEMOCRACY. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR PARTICIPATION BY ALL IN OUR COUNTRY'S GOVERNANCE. YOU SHOULD CONTINUE YOUR EFFORTS TO EMPOWER YOUR COMMUNITIES.

DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORK PLACE MUST BE COMBATED AT ALL LEVELS AND IN ALL PLACES. WE ARE COMMITTED TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN EMPLOYMENT. IN THIS REGARD, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, WE TOO ARE WORKING TO ENSURE INCREASED OPPORTUNITY. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE CONTINUED ADVANCEMENT OF LATINOS AND LATINAS WITHIN MY OWN DEPARTMENT.

BARRIERS TO HOME OWNERSHIP MUST ALSO BE COMBATED. ONE OF OUR TOP CIVIL RIGHTS PRIORITIES IS THE ELIMINATION OF UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION BY THE LENDING INDUSTRY. IT IS PROBABLY NOT NEWS TO YOU THAT THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF BOSTON RELEASED A STUDY LESS THAN TWO YEARS AGO DOCUMENTING HOW AFRICAN AMERICANS AND LATINOS IN THAT CITY HAD ABOUT A 60 PERCENT GREATER CHANCE OF BEING DENIED MORTGAGE FINANCING THAN WHITE APPLICANTS WITH SIMILAR OBJECTIVE QUALIFICATIONS.

THIS TYPE OF TREATMENT ON THE BASIS OF RACE OR NATIONAL ORIGIN IS WRONG AND WE WILL NOT TOLERATE IT.

EVEN IN THE FACE OF BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS, LAST YEAR I AUTHORIZED AN INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF OUR CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION'S HOUSING SECTION BY ALMOST ONE-THIRD SO THAT WE CAN DEVOTE MORE RESOURCES TO THIS VERY SERIOUS ISSUE.

I, ALONG WITH OUR CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION PERSONNEL, HAVE MET WITH LEADING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LENDING INDUSTRY TO DISCUSS THE ERADICATION OF DISCRIMINATION, AND I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE INDUSTRY, THROUGH ITS TRADE ASSOCIATIONS, IS NOW CONDUCTING MANY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN AN EFFORT TO IDENTIFY WHERE UNLAWFUL CONDUCT MAY BE OCCURRING AND TO ELIMINATE SUCH CONDUCT VOLUNTARILY.

DISCRIMINATION BY LENDERS, OF COURSE, IS NOT THE ONLY UNLAWFUL BARRIER TO HOUSING FACED BY LATINOS. WE HAVE SUED TWO MUNICIPALITIES (CICERO, ILLINOIS AND WILDWOOD, NEW JERSEY) FOR UTILIZING OCCUPANCY CODES OR OTHER ZONING PROCEDURES THAT WE BELIEVE WERE DESIGNED TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF LATINOS RESIDING IN THE COMMUNITY. AND WE ARE USING OUR FAIR HOUSING TESTING

PROGRAM TO HELP ENSURE THAT LATINOS HAVE FAIR ACCESS TO THE RENTAL AND SALE OF HOUSING.

SIXTH, AND FINALLY, WE ARE CONTINUING OUR WORK ON REFORMING OUR NATION'S IMMIGRATION POLICIES AND STRATEGIES. THE PROMULGATION OF IMMIGRATION POLICIES HAS ALWAYS EVOKED HEATED CONTROVERSY - YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT IMMIGRATION IS A COMPLEX AND COMPELLING AREA OF PUBLIC POLICY. WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ME IS THAT I TOO HAVE IMMIGRANT ROOTS AND I DO NOT FORGET THEM. I STRIVE TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT IN THIS AREA AS IN ALL OTHERS THAT I FACE.

TOMORROW, I WILL TRAVEL TO LOS ANGELES TO ARTICULATE SOME OF THIS ADMINISTRATION'S NEWEST IMMIGRATION POLICIES AND STRATEGIES. I WILL ALSO TRAVEL TO SAN DIEGO AGAIN TO KEEP MYSELF INFORMED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS ALONG THE BORDER.

WITHOUT GETTING INTO THE POLICIES I WILL ANNOUNCE TOMORROW, LET ME TELL YOU THAT I AM COMMITTED TO AN IMMIGRATION POLICY THAT MAKES SENSE. I KNOW AMERICA

IS RICHER BECAUSE OF ITS IMMIGRANTS. I COUNT MY OWN FAMILY AMONGST THOSE CONTRIBUTORS.

HOWEVER, I ALSO KNOW THAT WE MUST PROTECT OUR NATION'S BORDERS. WE MUST FIGHT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN A FAIR, HUMANE AND NON-DISCRIMINATORY MANNER.

IN DEALING WITH THIS COMPLEX AND COMPELLING AREA, I WELCOME YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS AND INVITE YOUR PARTICIPATION IN OUR COUNTRY'S DIALOGUE.

PLEASE KNOW THAT I AM PROUD TO BE HERE WITH YOU TONIGHT. I AM PROUD TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF OUR NATION'S CHALLENGES AND SOME OF OUR DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS AT MEETING THOSE CHALLENGES.

CONTINUE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN YOUR COMMUNITIES. YOUR FAMILIES, PROFESSION AND COUNTRY NEED YOU AND YOUR INPUT. AMERICA IS TRULY RICHER AS A RESULT OF YOUR PARTICIPATION.

I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR WORK TOGETHER.
ADELANTE JUNTOS. MUCHAS GRACIAS Y BUENAS NOCHES.
(FORWARD TOGETHER. THANK YOU AND GOOD NIGHT.)