



## OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

FOR RELEASE

FRIDAY PM's  
October 27,  
1967

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY HEARING  
ON MEXICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

El Paso, Texas -- Vice President Hubert Humphrey Friday (October 27, 1967) issued a strong pledge of Administration support for "any reasonable proposal" to give Mexican-Americans -- and other citizens -- "their fair share in American prosperity."

Speaking at a Hearing on Mexican-American Affairs here, the Vice President spoke of the "painful inequities" and "historic injustices" that burden U.S. residents of Mexican background.

But he expressed confidence that solutions will be found because:

"First, our Mexican-Americans have clearly determined that they will do whatever they must to help themselves.

"Secondly, we already have some excellent and proven federal programs for progress designed to support the kind of grass-roots initiative that is taking place here in the Southwest.

"Finally, this country at large -- not only the poor people, not only the minority groups, not only the government but the majority of Americans -- want solutions."

Most Americans, Humphrey said, are ready to support federal programs to extend full and equal opportunity to all citizens, "even if some of their elected representatives are not."

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## OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

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Emphasizing the need for partnership between the government at all levels and private citizens and groups, the Vice President said the Administration "is ready to respond pragmatically to any reasonable proposal to expand or alter its present programs."

It is ready, he said, to assist industries in providing job training and establishing plants in deprived neighborhoods, to support private initiatives for decent low-cost housing and to do "whatever Congress and the voters will afford to guarantee every American child a first-rate education."

Humphrey told the hearing that great Mexican-American leaders are emerging to lead their people in "a new awakening of la raza." He had special words of praise for union organizer Caesar Chavez, whom he saluted as "one of the great leaders in America's struggle for a full ripening of democracy."

The present commitment to provide full opportunity for Spanish-speaking U. S. citizens, he said, was made by another great American, President Johnson, who began his public career teaching these youngsters in a Cotulla, Texas school house.

# # #

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE - Mexican American Speech, El Paso, Texas

La raza

La ra-sa

La marcha

La mar-sha

La huelga

La wel-ga

Caesar Chavez

Say-zar Cha-vez

Murillo

Mu - ree - yo

Velasquez

Ve - las - kez

Luis de Leon

Lu-ees day - Lee-on

Raymond Telles'

Raymond Tay-yes

(X) Congressman White } President DeLoach or data  
 } President Johnson  
 } Wick } Diaz Ordaz  
 } X }

(X) Former President Sopez-matias } El Paso } Bogota  
 } } Colombia Sta  
 (X) U of Texas - Exchange Program with Colombia Sta  
 (X) U of Texas at El Paso - Formerly Texas Western College was with you last year, Oct 29, at the Pre-Planning Session in Washington  
 one of first Peace Corps projects

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

HEARING ON MEXICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Judge Hernandez Presided

Great Climate -  
 Great Basketball team 1965  
 Cooperation between El Paso & Whoraz

EL PASO, TEXAS  
 OCTOBER 27, 1967

Great International Center  
 Nato Forces Training  
 Language Institute  
 Fort Bliss

SEVENTEEN months ago President Johnson established

Pro-naf-  
 Mexico's  
 Most Beautiful  
 Program  
 on Border

a Cabinet level committee on Mexican-American affairs.

When he appointed that committee, he said:

"I am asking this committee to meet with Mexican-  
Americans to review their problems and to hear from  
them what their needs are, and how the federal  
 government can best work with state and local

no need  
 to take up  
 laws in  
 the fall  
 in El Paso

Pro-naf- <sup>mexican Govt</sup> Border Beautification Program

(X) Benito Whoraz - Hero of Mexico  
 Friend of Lincoln -

government, with private industry, and with the Mexican-Americans themselves in solving those problems."

↳ That is why we are here today. That is why we have to come to El Paso where we can hear from the people themselves.

↳ The President requested results, not reports!  
We are here to discuss the future, not the past -- the solutions, not the problems!

*The opportunities, not the difficulties.*

↳ Those problems are already well-known:

↳ The average Mexican-American earns less than half as much as other citizens of the Southwest.

↳ His unemployment rate is almost double the average for this area.

↳ He suffers historic injustices because his forefathers were driven from their Spanish and

Mexican land grants.

↳ His children usually attend segregated or semi-segregated schools. ↳ They get, on the average, five years less of schooling than other Southwestern children.

↳ They are often compelled to give up their native tongue. ↳ They cannot find their proud ancestors in the history books, or discover why there are great American cities called Los Angeles, Santa Fee, Corpus Christi and El Paso.

↳ Yet most of these same people have been American citizens for generations -- many of them since well before the Humphrey's arrived from England.

↳ They have played a vital role in building our cities, stretching our highways, reaping the harvests of our

rich Southwest.

↳ They have won a proportionately higher number of  
Medals of Honor in the defense of freedom than any other  
group of American soldiers.

↳ And they have for too long been denied their fair  
share in American prosperity.

*But,* Mexican-Americans do not bear their burden alone.

↳ The same joblessness, poor housing, inadequate education  
and discrimination that add up to poverty here in the

Southwest can be found in equal measure in the slums of

*the inner city*  
cities and rural slums across America today.

↳ Those painful inequities might have been unavoidable | *maybe*

↳ in the past. But today, when we have the wealth and the  
power to remedy them, they are indecent, unnecessary,  
unacceptable -- unbearable.

∟ The final conquest of poverty and blighted opportunity is the great unfinished business of America in the last third of the twentieth century.

∟ I am confident that this hearing is going to produce some solutions -- for several reasons.

*Solutions*

∟ First, our Mexican-Americans have clearly determined that they will do whatever they must to help themselves. ∟ We are witnessing a new awakening of la raza which, I believe, will bring some of the greatest social reforms this nation has yet known.

*Proud People.*

∟ We have seen la marcha and la huelga.

*Marcha La huelga*

∟ We have seen great leaders emerge. One of those is a man of unselfish dedication and personal courage who has aroused the conscience of this nation: Caesar Chavez.

*Say-zu Chä Véz*

Caesar Chavez knows the pain of poverty. He knows the strength of religious faith and the power

*Say-zu*

of non-violent protest.

↳ He is one of the ~~best~~ <sup>Key</sup> leaders in America's struggle for a full ripening of democracy, and I salute him.

↳ Then there are cooperative efforts like Operation SER, which is now developing employment opportunities and placing Mexican-Americans in jobs throughout the Southwest.

↳ Ser means hope in Spanish. In English it stands for Services, Employment, Redevelopment.

↳ No matter which tongue you use, the word means opportunity for Americans who have been too long denied it.

↳ There is also project HELP -- Home Education Livelihood Program -- operating in 57 rural communities in New Mexico. HELP conducts pre-vocational education programs. It has started a credit union and health

clinics for migrant workers.

↳ Secondly, I am confident -- and I am proud -- because we already have some excellent and proven federal programs for progress designed to support the kind of grass-roots initiative that is taking place here in the Southwest. Indeed I believe that in the last four years more money, more energy, more vision and more concern have been given to this problem in Washington than in all the years of the preceding century.

↳ You all know about President Johnson's friend Frank Mansera, last year's Head Start Child of the Year.

↳ Frank entered a Head Start Program at the age of six but with the physical and mental development of a two-year-old.

A health check showed a serious -- but easily correctible--  
glandular deficiency.

↳ Frank got his medicine and grew nearly six inches  
in the first year. ↳ He also got some help from a  
sympathetic teacher. Now he is off on a normal  
school career and the sky is the limit.

↳ Frank is real. He represents 34 thousand  
Mexican-American kids who got an educational and  
health boost from Head Start last summer alone.

↳ Then there is the Neighborhood Youth Corps.  
Ninety thousand Spanish-speaking youngsters have  
found jobs, training, and recreation because of it.

↳ Five Thousand young Mexican-Americans have  
learned productive skills which can give them a lifetime  
of rewarding employment in the Job Corps.

↳ Special language programs and additional teachers  
for Spanish-speaking students are being provided under the  
Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

↳ The Adult Basic Education Program is helping  
50 thousand Spanish-speaking citizens learn to read and write  
their language.

↳ There is the Migrant Opportunities program. There  
is the Advisory Unit on Mexican-American Education in the  
Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

↳ And there are more Mexican-Americans than ever  
before in influential government posts where their special  
knowledge and insight can produce results -- many of  
them are the leaders of this conference.

↳ ~~Finally~~, I am confident that we are going to get  
solutions because this country at ~~large~~...not only the  
poor people...not only the minority groups...not only  
the government...but, I am convinced, the majority

of Americans want solutions.

↳ They are ready to extend a full and equal opportunity to every American. They are ready to support the federal programs to make that possible -- even if some of their elected representatives are not.

↳ In Washington not many weeks ago the Urban Coalition, a group of businessmen, labor leaders, representatives of non-profit organizations, and local governments resolved that "All representatives of the private sector in the Urban Coalition decisively commit themselves to assist the deprived among us to achieve full participation in the economy as self-supporting citizens."

↳ Businessmen have responded across the nation to the need for jobs and on the job training.

↳ Plans for Progress, an organization which is surely

Every  
community  
needs -  
in Urban -  
Rural  
Coalition

represented here today, has taken great strides in providing equal employment opportunity.

↳ But this commitment to progress goes deeper. Housewives, workers, students, and businessmen in communities across this nation are devoting their time as VISTA volunteers, as Teacher Corps volunteers, as Foster Grandparents, as members of community planning and civil rights organizations -- to build a better America. - *This is the good news of America*

↳ The deprived citizens of America cannot solve their problems <sup>alone</sup> alone; and the government cannot provide the solutions for them. ↳ The solutions are going to come from a cooperative partnership between government and private citizens from all walks of life. - *Govt + People working together.*

↳ That partnership is now forming; it is gaining

momentum.

This Administration is ready to respond ~~pragmatically~~ to any reasonable proposal to expand or alter its present programs.

↳ It is ready to assist industries which will provide on-the-job training or establish factories in deprived neighborhoods. *Urban or rural.*

Jobs

↳ It is ready to support initiative by non-profit groups and by businesses which will provide decent low-cost housing.

Housing

↳ It is ready to do whatever Congress and the voters will afford <sup>in order</sup> to guarantee every American child a first-rate education.

So I urge you to think big. The problems are known. The resources are available in this rich country to overcome them.

The determination that those problems shall be solved is strong in the White House, and I believe it is strong in every city, in every town, in every *rural area and* slum and every ghetto of this country.

↳ The task before you is to put those elements together into a prescription for success. That is the kind of solution this hearing must provide.

\* \* \*

Pick your Priorities.

} we need from you, Candor without Rancor  
Priorities without "Pie in the Sky"  
We need from you an honest interpretation of the people you represent.

∟ Finally, let me say a word about goals.

We are talking about something more complicated than poverty of the purse. And our purpose is grander than simply guaranteeing every Mexican-American the opportunity to achieve a decent American standard of living.

∟ We are talking about providing a material basis on which a cultural tradition that is precious to America can grow and flourish.

∟ That is a cultural tradition from which the world may expect another <sup>Murillo yō</sup> Murillo, el Greco, <sup>Va las-Kay</sup> Velasquez, Rivera, <sup>Luis de Leon</sup> Cervantes, Luis de Leon, <sup>Velas Kay</sup> It is the cultural tradition which has given us my very dear friend, Pablo Casals, and can give us more.

∟ It is a tradition which includes a deep religious faith,

strong family loyalties, warmth, friendliness, and respect for every man regardless of color or creed. This country admires and desperately needs that tradition today.

It is a tradition which gives us a vast reservoir of bi-lingual Americans at a time when, as never before, we need to talk to the 200 million other Spanish-speaking Americans who share this hemisphere with us. There are one and a half million Spanish-speaking U.S. citizens in school today who must become the Hector Garcias and the Raymond <sup>Teyes</sup> ~~Telles~~' of the future.

∟ We have the word of a great American who began his public career in a Cotulla, Texas, schoolhouse that those youngsters will have their opportunity:

∟ "It was there in that school, at an early age, that my dream began of an America -- my own land --

where race, religion, language and color didn't count against you.

"And I made a decision then which I have reaffirmed every day since I have been in the White House -- that if ever I had the privilege of holding public office, I would not rest:

"--until every American, who wanted it, had a job to work at;

" --until every child, who wanted it, had an opportunity to get all the education his mind could take;

" --until every family had an opportunity to get a decent home in a decent neighborhood;

" --until every single American had entered the open door to full participation in the life of America."

That is the pledge of President Lyndon Johnson.

*That is what we mean by  
"One Nation, under God, Indivisible  
with liberty + Justice for all"*

Remarks of Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey  
Hearing on Mexican American Affairs  
El Paso, Texas  
October 27, 1967

For Release: FRIDAY PM's, OCTOBER 27, 1967 (11:00 a.m. MDT)

~~Seventeen~~ <sup>FIVE</sup> months ago President Johnson established a Cabinet-level Committee on Mexican American Affairs.

When he appointed that Committee, he said:

"I am asking this Committee to meet with Mexican Americans to review their problems and to hear from them what their needs are, and how the Federal Government can best work with state and local government, with private industry, and with the Mexican Americans themselves in solving those problems."

That is why we are here today. That is why we have to come to El Paso where we can hear from the people themselves.

The President requested results, not reports. We are here to discuss the future, not the past -- the solutions, not the problems.

Those problems are already well-known:

The average Mexican American earns less than half as much as other citizens of the Southwest.

His unemployment rate is almost double the average for this area.

He suffers historic injustices because his forefathers were driven from their Spanish and Mexican land grants.

His children usually attend segregated or semi-segregated schools. They get, on the average, five years less of schooling than other Southwestern children.

They are often compelled to give up their native tongue. They cannot find their proud ancestors in the history books, or discover why there are great American cities called Los Angeles, Santa Fe, Corpus Christi and El Paso.

Yet most of these same people have been American citizens for generations -- many of them since well before the Humphrey's arrived from Scotland. They have played a vital role in building our cities, stretching our highways, reaping the harvests of our rich Southwest.

They have won a proportionately higher number of Medals of Honor in the defense of freedom than any other group of American soldiers.

And they have for too long been denied their fair share in American prosperity.

Mexican Americans do not bear their burden alone. The same joblessness, poor housing, inadequate education and discrimination that add up to poverty here in the Southwest can be found in equal measure in urban ghettos and rural slums across America today.

Those painful inequities might have been unavoidable in the past.

But today, when we have the wealth and the power to remedy them, they are indecent, unnecessary, unacceptable -- unbearable.

The final conquest of poverty and blighted opportunity is the great unfinished business of America in the last third of the Twentieth Century.

I am confident that this hearing is going to produce some solutions -- for several reasons.

First, our Mexican Americans have clearly determined that they will do whatever they must to help themselves. We are witnessing a new awakening of La Raza which, I believe, will bring some of the greatest social reforms this nation has yet known.

We have seen La Marcha and La Huelga.

We have seen great leaders emerge. One of those is a man of unselfish dedication and personal courage who has aroused the conscience of this nation: Cesar Chavez.

Cesar Chavez knows the pain of poverty. He knows the strength of religious faith and the power of non-violent protest.

He is one of the great leaders in America's struggle for a full ripening of democracy, and I salute him.

Then there are cooperative efforts like operation SER which is now developing employment opportunities and placing Mexican Americans in jobs throughout the Southwest.

SER means hope in Spanish. In English it stands for Services, Employment, Redevelopment.

No matter which tongue you use, the word means opportunity for Americans who have been too long denied it.

There is also Project HELP -- Home Education Livelihood Program -- operating in 57 rural communities in New Mexico. HELP conducts pre-vocational education programs. It has started a credit union and health clinics for migrant workers.

Secondly, I am confident -- and I am proud -- because we already have some excellent and proven Federal programs for progress designed to support the kind of grass-roots initiative that is taking place here in the Southwest. Indeed I believe that in the last four years more money, more energy, more vision and more concern have been given to this problem in Washington than in all the years of the preceding century.

You all know about President Johnson's friend Frank Mansera, last year's Head Start Child of the Year.

Frank entered a Head Start program at the age of six but with the physical and mental development of a two-year old. A health check showed a serious -- but easily correctible -- glandular deficiency.

Frank got his medicine and grew nearly six inches in the first year. He also got some help from a sympathetic teacher. Now he is off on a normal

school career and the sky is the limit.

Frank is real. He represents 34 thousand Mexican American kids who got an educational and health boost from Head Start last summer alone.

Then there is the Neighborhood Youth Corps. Ninety thousand Spanish-speaking youngsters have found jobs, training, and recreation because of it.

Five thousand young Mexican Americans have learned productive skills which can give them a lifetime of rewarding employment in the Job Corps.

Special language programs and additional teachers for Spanish-speaking students are being provided under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

The adult Basic Education Program is helping 50 thousand Spanish-speaking citizens learn to read and write their language.

There is the Migrant Opportunities Program. There is the Advisory Unit on Mexican American Education in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

And there are more Mexican Americans than ever before in influential Government posts where their special knowledge and insight can produce results -- many of them are the leaders of this Conference.

Finally, I am confident that we are going to get solutions because this country at large -- not only the poor people -- not only the minority groups, not only the Government -- but, I am convinced, the majority of Americans want solutions.

A full and equal opportunity to every American.

They are ready to support the Federal programs to make that possible -- even if some of their elected representatives are not.

In Washington not many weeks ago the urban coalition, a group of businessmen, labor leaders, representatives of non-profit organizations, and local governments resolved that: "All representatives of the private sector in the urban coalition decisively commit themselves to assist the deprived among us to achieve full participation in the economy as self-supporting citizens."

Businessmen have responded across the nation to the need for jobs and on-the-job training.

Plans for Progress, an organization which is surely represented here today, has taken great strides in providing equal employment opportunity.

But this commitment to progress goes deeper. Housewives, workers, students, and businessmen in communities across this nation are devoting their time as VISTA volunteers, as Teacher Corps Volunteers, as Foster Grandparents, as members of community planning and civil rights organizations -- to build a better America.

The deprived citizens of America cannot solve their problems alone; and the Government cannot provide the solutions for them. The solutions are going to come from a cooperative partnership between Government and private citizens from all walks of life.

That partnership is now forming; it is gaining momentum.

This Administration is ready to respond pragmatically to any reasonable proposal to expand or alter its present programs.

It is ready to assist industries which will provide on-the-job training or establish factories in deprived neighborhoods.

It is ready to support initiative by non-profit groups and by businesses which will provide decent low-cost housing.

It is ready to do whatever Congress and the voters will afford to guarantee every American child a first rate education.

So I urge you to think big. The problems are known. The resources are available in this rich country to overcome them.

The determination that those problems shall be solved is strong in the White House, and I believe it is strong in every city, in every town, in every slum and every ghetto of this country.

The task before you is to put those elements together into a prescription for success. That is the kind of solution this hearing must provide.

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We are talking about providing a material basis on which a cultural tradition that is precious to America can grow and flourish.

That is a cultural tradition from which the world may expect another Murillo, El Greco, Velasquez, Rivera, Cervantes, Luis De Leon. It is the cultural tradition which has given us my very dear friend, Pablo Casals, and can give us more.

It is a tradition which includes a deep religious faith, strong family loyalties, warmth, friendliness, and respect for every man regardless of color or creed. This country admires and desperately needs that tradition today.

It is a tradition which gives us a vast reservoir of bi-lingual Americans at a time when, as never before, we need to talk to the 200 million other Spanish-speaking Americans who share this hemisphere with us. There are one and a half million Spanish-speaking U. S. citizens in school today who must become the Hector Garcias and the Raymond Telles' of the future.

We have the word of a great American who began his public career in a Cotulla, Texas, schoolhouse that those youngsters will have their opportunity.

"It was there in that school, at an early age, that my dream began of an America -- my own land -- where race, religion, language and color didn't count against you.

"And I made a decision then which I have reaffirmed every day since I have been in the White House -- that if ever I had the privilege of holding public office, I would not rest:  
-- until every American, who wanted it, had a job to work at;  
-- until every child, who wanted it, had an opportunity to get all the education his mind could take;  
-- until every family had an opportunity to get a decent home in a decent neighborhood;  
-- until every single American had entered the open door to full participation in the life of America."

That is the pledge of President Lyndon Johnson.

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON MEXICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
EL PASO, TEXAS  
October 27, 1967

As you know, yesterday in Washington we were honored by the visit of the President of Mexico. What a gala occasion it was, and what a happy visit. So I come to you in the spirit of this community.

I know that the relationships between El Paso and Juarez are of the finest. I know that the program known as PRONAF, the border beautification program is well underway with our friends in Mexico doing a fine job. I know that the University of Texas at El Paso has a splendid exchange program with the Republic of Colombia in Bogota.

So there are many things that remind us of the common heritage, the great cultural ties that exist between the United States and all our friends in the hemisphere!

It was just about a year ago that we had a planning meeting in Washington for this conference. There was some argument as to where it would be, and I said, "It is really unimportant where it is; what is important is what it does." That is what we are here to talk about.

Seventeen months ago, President Johnson established a Cabinet level committee on Mexican-American affairs.

When he appointed the committee, he said:

"I am asking this committee to meet with Mexican-Americans to review their problems and to hear from them what their needs are, and how the federal government can best work with state and local government, with private industry, and with the Mexican Americans themselves in solving those problems."

That is why we are here today. That is why we have come to El Paso, where we can hear from the people themselves, people from all over the Southwestern United States.

The President asked for results, not just reports. We are here to discuss the future, not the past--the solutions, not the problems. We are here to talk about the opportunities and not just the difficulties.

The problems are well known:

The average Mexican American earns less than half as much as other citizens of the Southwest.

His unemployment rate is almost double the average for this area.

He suffers historic injustices because his fore-fathers were driven from their Spanish and Mexican land grants.

His children, all too often, attend segregated or semi-segregated schools. They get, on the average, five years less of schooling than

other Southwestern children.

They are often compelled to give up their native tongue. They cannot find their proud ancestors in the history books they read, or even discover why there are great American cities called Los Angeles, Santa Fe, Corpus Christi and El Paso.

What a tragedy for all Americans that we deny ourselves the knowledge of this heritage. Every American history book ought to be filled with the stories of the ethnic groups that make up this wonderful mosaic, this pluralistic society that we call America.

Most of these people that I have spoken of have been American citizens for generations--many of them well before the Humphreys ever arrived from England. They have played a vital role in building our cities and our highways, and reaping the harvests of our rich Southwestern fields.

They have won a proportionately higher number of Medals of Honor in the defense of freedom than any other group of American soldiers.

And they have for too long been denied their rightful share in American prosperity. It is to this that we address ourselves today.

Mexican Americans do not bear their burdens alone. The same joblessness, poor housing, inadequate education and discrimination that add up to poverty here in the Southwest can, I regret to say, be found in equal measure in the slums of the inner cities and in rural slums across America today.

Those painful inequities might have been really unavoidable in the past. But today, when we have the wealth and the power to remedy these injustices, they become indecent, unnecessary, unacceptable--frankly, unbearable.

A sense of national shame should grip this nation when we see people denied their chance to be first-class American citizens.

The final conquest of poverty and blighted opportunity is the great unfinished business of America in the last third of the Twentieth Century.

We will be celebrating our two hundredth anniversary in 1976, two hundred years of American independence, and I want to be able to say that in those two hundred years we have overcome every vestige of bigotry, intolerance and discrimination in America. I want to be able to say that we have eliminated the vast pools of poverty in this land and that we have been able to provide every child with a good education.

Let me emphasize we can do this with law and order. We can redress our grievances peacefully. It can be done, and I am confident that this conference is going to produce some solutions. Let me list some of the reasons.

First, our Mexican-Americans have clearly determined that they will do whatever they must do to help themselves.

This conference will be noted for one fact above all others: that a proud, self-respecting people have decided to do things for themselves. All they ask is a helping hand from government to get the programs started.

We are witnessing a new awakening of la raza which, I believe, will bring some of the greatest social reforms this nation has yet known. We have seen la marcha and la huelga, and we have seen great leaders emerge. One of those is a man of unselfish dedication and great courage who has aroused in his time the conscience of this nation--Caesar Chavez.

He knows the pain of poverty. It's not a theory with him, it's a fact. I don't think a person really knows what it is to suffer the indignities of poverty until he has been poor. I don't believe a man can understand the unbelievable humiliation of discrimination until he has been discriminated against.

Caesar Chavez also knows the strength of religious faith and the power of non-violent protest. He is one of the key leaders in America's struggle for a full ripening of democracy, and I salute him along with others.

When there are cooperative efforts like operation SER, which is now developing employment opportunities and making a good start in placing Mexican-Americans in jobs throughout the Southwest.

SER means hope in Spanish. In English it stands for services, employment, and redevelopment. No matter which tongue you use, the word means opportunity for Americans who have too long been denied it.

Then there is another project you are familiar with, project HELP--Home Education Livelihood Program. Operating in 57 rural communities in New Mexico, HELP conducts pre-vocational education programs. It has started a credit union and health clinics for migrant workers.

Secondly, I am confident--and I am proud--because we already have some excellent and proven federal programs for progress designed to support the kind of grass-roots initiative that is taking place here in the Southwest. Indeed I believe that in the last four years more money, more energy, more vision, more concern and more commitment have been given to this problem in Washington than in all the years of the preceding century.

This is not to say that enough has been done, it is only to say that we have made a beginning, a beginning that will be carried through.

You all know about President Johnson's friend, Frank Mansera, last year's Head Start Child of the Year. Frank entered a Head Start program at the age of six but with the physical and mental development of a two year old child. A health check-up, however,

showed a serious but easily correctible glandular deficiency.

That little boy had never had a health check-up, and a person without health has no opportunity because health is hope and hope is life. Frank got his medicine and he grew nearly six inches in the first year. He also got some help from a sympathetic teacher. Now that little fellow is off on a normal school career, and the sky is the limit.

Young Frank is real. He represents 34 thousand Mexican-American kids who got an educational and health boost from Head Start last summer alone.

Then there is the Neighborhood Youth Corps. Ninety thousand Spanish-speaking youngsters have found jobs, training and recreation because of it.

Five thousand young Mexican-Americans have learned productive skills in the Job Corps which can give them a lifetime of rewarding employment.

And this is what we want to do--make people productive citizens. We are not trying to make a welfare state in America, we want a state of opportunity.

Special language programs and additional teachers for Spanish-speaking students are being provided under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

The Adult Basic Education Program is helping fifty thousand Spanish-speaking citizens learn to read and write their language.

There is the Migrant Opportunities Program. There is the Advisory Unit on Mexican-American Education in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. And there are more Mexican-Americans than ever before in influential government posts where their special knowledge and insight can produce results--and many of them are the leaders of this conference.

Finally, I am confident that we are going to find solutions because we always have been able to find them when we set our minds to it.

Not only the poor people, not only the minority groups, not only the government, but, I am convinced, the majority of Americans want solutions. Whatever their background, they want answers. They are ready to extend full and equal opportunity to every American.

I find that in America there is a new sense of morality despite what the critics may say. There is a new sense of social consciousness among young and old alike. People want America to be a better country.

The world depends on us, so we are going to need every American fully developed, with all of his abilities to pull his share of the load, and the American people know it.

In Washington not many weeks ago, the Urban Coalition, a group of businessmen, labor leaders and representatives of non-profit organizations, churches, and local governments met and resolved that:

"All representatives of the private sector in the Urban Coalition decisively commit themselves to assist the deprived among us to achieve full participation in the economy as self-supporting citizens."

That is a new Declaration of Independence, a new manifesto of freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom from discrimination, freedom from frustration.

Businessmen are responding all across this land to the need for jobs and on-the-job training.

Plans For Progress--and there are representatives of it here today--has taken great strides in providing equal employment opportunity.

But this commitment to progress goes deeper than our great corporations. Housewives, workers, students and little businessmen in communities across this nation are devoting their time to projects as VISTA volunteers, as Teacher Corps volunteers, as Foster Grandparents, as members of community planning and civil rights organizations--all to do one thing, to build a better America.

There are a lot of good things happening in our country, though sometimes they don't make the headlines. Last year, from the graduating classes of our great universities, as many as twenty-five percent volunteered for the Peace Corps. Two hundred and fifty thousand college students volunteered for community action programs to help the needy. Half a million high school seniors did the same.

The deprived citizens of America are on the march, but they cannot solve their problems alone, and the government cannot solve them alone either. The solutions are going to have to come from a cooperative partnership between government--federal, state and local--and private citizens from all walks of life. That is what Lincoln meant when he said, "government of the people, by the people and for the people."

This partnership of the people can't come just from Washington. It must come from every city and county across the land--from farm organizations, labor, business and civic organizations.

That partnership is now forming--a partnership in freedom and opportunity--and it is gaining momentum.

I feel it all over America. I have been in over five hundred communities since I became Vice President. I have been with the rich and the poor in penthouses and in the slums.

I think I know what is going on in this country. Cities are being rebuilt, communities are coming alive, education is being expanded, a sense of personal commitment and of service to community is becoming a fact of our life.

I want you to know that your government--this Administration--is ready to respond to any reasonable proposals to expand or alter its present programs.

It is ready to assist industries which will provide on-the-job training or establish factories in deprived neighborhoods.

It is ready to support initiative by non-profit groups and by businesses which will provide decent low cost housing.

It is ready to do whatever Congress and the voters will afford to guarantee every American child a first-rate education.

So I urge you to think big. And remember that a great nation is not determined by its wealth or its size or the numbers of its population. The question is, what does it do with these things.

You know the problems. Resources are available in this rich country to overcome them. It is a question of whether we have the will to apply those resources.

The determination that those problems shall be solved is strong in the White House, and I believe that it is strong in every city and every town, in every rural area and every slum of this country.

The task before us is to put these elements together in a prescription for success. We must lay out our priorities. We can't do everything at once. And we need from you, above all, an honest interpretation of the hopes and aspirations of the people that you represent.

Let me conclude with a word about our goals.

We are talking about something more complicated than poverty of the purse. This kind of poverty can be handled by a welfare check. The poverty we are talking about is the poverty of the spirit, the poverty that is characterized by hopelessness and despair, by

deprivation and humiliation, and this is the most difficult poverty to overcome.

Our purpose is grander than simply guaranteeing every Mexican-American the opportunity to achieve a decent American standard of living, even though that is a worthy goal.

We are talking about providing a material basis on which a cultural tradition that is precious to America can grow and flourish. That is a cultural tradition from which the world may expect another Murillo, or an El Greco, a Velasquez, a Rivera, a Cervantes, a Luis de Leon. It is a cultural tradition which has given us my dear friend, Pablo Casals, and can give us more like him.

It is a tradition which includes a deep religious faith, strong family loyalty, warmth, friendliness, and respect for every man regardless of color or creed. This country admires and desperately needs this tradition today.

It is a tradition which gives us a vast reservoir of bi-lingual Americans at a time when, as never before, we need to talk to the two hundred million other Spanish-speaking Americans who share this hemisphere with us. I don't think we can ever make the Alliance for Progress succeed just with money and technical assistance. There must be sympathy. Our neighbors must feel that we understand each other, they must sense the music in our souls, and they can only do that if we speak their language and speak with the depth and conviction.

There are one and a half million Spanish-speaking U.S. citizens in school today who must become the Hector Garcias and the Raymond Telles of the future.

We have the word of a great American who began his public career in a Cotulla, Texas, schoolhouse that those youngsters will have their opportunity.

Here is what he said: "It was there in that school, at an early age, that my dream began of an America--my own land--where race, religion, language, and color didn't count against you. And I made a decision then which I have reaffirmed every day since I have been in the White House--that if ever I had the privilege of holding public office I would not rest:

"--until every family had an opportunity to get a decent home in a decent neighborhood;

"--until every single American had entered the open door to full participation in the life of America. "

That is the pledge of President Lyndon Johnson to the people of the United States.

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MILLEN FALMS  
EZE RASE

INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE

ON

MEXICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

PLENARY SESSION

MAGOFFIN AUDITORIUM  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
AT EL PASO, TEXAS

OCTOBER 27th, 1967

10:30 A. M.

CHAIRMAN

Honorable Vicente T. Kimenes.

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the needs of everyone, and this is in point of fact the basic purpose of our civil service in this day and time, and although we have many problems - and I hope that we will face up to them in the next two days - I like to think with a note of optimism, which I feel is a typical theme of American life and American purpose, I would hope that <sup>we would see</sup> today's problems ~~will~~ <sup>evolve</sup> resolve into tomorrow's opportunities, and I look forward to participating with you in that process of converting problems to opportunities. Thank you so much and the best of luck to everybody in this meeting.

(Applause).

MR. XIMENES: Ladies and Gentlemen, let's be seated and in a very few moments we will bring our honored guest in here and he will then deliver his address.

(The Vice-President of the United States, the Honorable Hubert Humphrey, then entered the auditorium and was greeted with applause).

MR. XIMENES: Thank you very much; ladies and gentlemen, the Vice-President of the United States. (Applause).

MR. HUMPHREY: Thank you very much. Mr. Ximenes, Mr. Galvan, Secretary Freeman, Secretary Gardner, Secretary Weaver; and I know my friend, the Director of the OEO, Sargent Shriver, is here; and all the distinguished members of the joint committee; Mayor Williams; and others:

I am very very happy to be in the company of my friend

and your friend from this area, Congressman White. He has given me a full lecture <sup>may I say Mr. Mayor</sup> on the wonders of El Paso, and I can tell you that in the few brief moments that I have been here what I have seen indicates that Congressman White is a man of complete intellectual integrity, he hasn't exaggerated a bit, it is all as good as he says. (Applause). He told me, "There is one thing that you will find here, Mr. Vice-President, the climate is great", he said, "everything that California brags about we have, everything Florida wishes they had we have, it is a beautiful community", that is exactly what the note says that he said to me, and I agree with him fully. (Applause).

And he also was considerate enough to tell me a little bit about the University of Texas at El Paso, and he said, "I think you ought to know that while the University of Texas is one of the great educational institutions, that it really receives its greatness from the fact that it now has a branch here in El Paso, the former Texas Western College, which has added its greatness to the University of Texas to make Texas great", and that is exactly what he said. (Applause). And it was at this point that our conversation was interrupted by Sargent Shriver who said, "I think you ought to know that the very first Peace Corps trainees, and the first graduates of the Peace Corps were right here in this auditorium, and the Peace Corps <sup>meaning</sup> program was launched from what was then the Texas Western College, which is now the University of Texas at El

Paso". So, one more first for this great school. I met your students outside, and I want to take just a minute, they are a healthy, alert, fine-looking group of young men and women, and I noticed that they were not at all hesitant about telling me about what they are <sup>about</sup> to do, I said, "I understand you have a good football team here", and they said, "Good?" "The greatest". I like this Texas modesty. I mentioned to them that they had a great basketball team here a couple of years ago. They said, "Second-rate compared to what we are going to have this year". (Applause). So, I have been fully indoctrinated in these very few moments, but in all seriousness I want to tell you how much of a pleasure it is to come here and be with you, and my only regret is that I am not going to be able to spend these two days at your conferences and your consultations. As you know, yesterday in Washington we were honored by the visit of the President of Mexico. What a gala occasion it was, and what a happy visit. Last evening, President Johnson and Mrs. Johnson were the host and hostess for the President of Mexico and Mrs. Diaz Ordaz, and we had a wonderful wonderful evening together. So, I come to you in <sup>the</sup> a spirit of this community. I know that the relationships between El Paso and Juarez are of the finest. I know that the great program known as - I believe I am correct - PRONAF, the border beautification program, is well underway with our friends in Mexico doing a fine job. I know that this great university has a splendid exchange program with the Republic

of Colombia in Bogota, so there are <sup>many</sup> some things that remind us of the common heritage, the great cultural relationship that exists between the United States, <sup>of America</sup> our friends to the South, Mexico, and our friends in the hemisphere of all of the Latin-American nations.

It was just about a year ago that we had a planning meeting in Washington, as I recollect, that had something to do with this particular conference. I believe that Judge Hernandez was the presiding officer at that meeting, and, as I recall, we discussed then the prospects for this conference, there was some argument as to where it would be, and I said, "It is really unimportant where it is, what is important is what it does", and that is what we are here to talk about, what is going to happen.

Well, five months ago President Johnson established a Cabinet-level Committee on Mexican-American affairs. And that committee is here. We are bringing the Government, so to speak, to the people, rather than always having the people come to the Government, and I have always felt that this was the better way. Quite frankly, I think it is good for those of us who are in the federal establishment at the executive level or at the congressional level to come and see the people in their own homes, their own surroundings, their own environment, rather than always to do our deliberations and our conferences within the confines of the nation's capital. It is

a beautiful capital, and it is, of course, the seat of our Government, but, really the Government of the United States is in the people, and we need to go to the people for information, not just for information, but let me say for inspiration, and I know that this conference is going to offer inspiration, perspiration, but I hope not too much consternation. I hope it comes <sup>down to</sup> ~~up with~~ some good <sup>solid substance</sup> ~~solutions~~.

The President said when he appointed this Committee:

"I am asking this Committee to meet with Mexican Americans to review their problems and to hear from them what their needs are, and how the Federal Government can best work with state and local government, with private industry, and with the Mexican Americans themselves in solving those problems."

Now, those are the marching orders from the Commander in Chief, from the President, and that is why we are here today, that is why we have come to El Paso, where we can hear from the people themselves, people from all over the Southwestern United States, people that live with the hopes and the aspirations and even the frustrations of the people themselves.

The President has requested results, and not just reports. Oh, how many conferences I have attended in which there were beautiful reports, so beautiful and so big that they either became museum pieces or they became filed away because there was no time to read them. Well, we are here to discuss and to talk amongst ourselves, ~~and~~ to learn <sup>together</sup> ~~something~~, and to

discuss the future, not the past. You can't live another day of yesterday, that is gone. We are here for solutions, and not just to have a sad report once again of the many many problems. We are here to talk about opportunities and not just the difficulties, and by the way, the difference between a person of the future and of the past, one who has confidence in the destiny of this nation, as compared to one who feels that our best days have already been lived, is the fact that some people talk about problems and difficulties, and other people talk about opportunities and challenges. Every problem is a challenge. Every difficulty offers an opportunity. The problems are well-known.

The average Mexican American earns less than half as much as other citizens of the Southwest. And, by the way, may I say that I frequently just say "My fellow Americans", because while we are all very proud of our cultural heritage, and <sup>my</sup> what a great heritage the Spanish-speaking have, those with a Spanish surname, Mexican-Americans, really what we all know we are above everything else is a citizen of the United States of America. (Applause).

(The pages numbered 16 through 23 were transcribed by Mr. A. C. Valenzuela. Mr. Allen Hill transcript follows.)

(applause) -- but this American, proud and resourceful, patriotic, and good, this Mexican-American finds himself with an unemployment rate that is almost double the average for this area. That is not right.

He suffers historic injustices because his forefathers were driven from their Spanish and Mexican land grants.

His children, all too often, attend segregated <sup>or</sup> ~~of~~ semi-segregated schools. They get, on the average, five years less ~~of~~ schooling than other Southwestern children.

They are often compelled to give up their native tongue. They cannot find their proud ancestors in the history books they read, <sup>even</sup> or <sub>1</sub> discover why there are great American cities called Los Angeles, Santa Fe, Corpus Christi and El Paso.

What a tragedy for all Americans that we deny ourselves the historical knowledge of this heritage. Every American history book, <sup>not</sup> <sub>1</sub> I say, ought to be filled with the stories and legends of the culture of the ethnic groups that make up this wonderful mosaic, <sup>this pluralistic</sup> <sub>1</sub> society that we call America. Then we will be rich people. (applause)

I know there are some teachers here and I am a refugee from the classroom myself and I would like to mention that when I am on a college campus because all of you people know <sup>that</sup> elective politics is a rather precarious and uncertain business

particularly these days. I may need a job. I've begun to like <sup>it down here</sup> but I must say if we would only teach history as it really is, how much it would help. (applause)

Yes, most of these same people that I have spoken of have been American citizens for generations. Many of them, ~~wait~~, long <sup>well</sup> before the Humphreys ever arrived from England or Wales or Norway. (applause) They have played a vital role in building our cities, stretching and building our highways, and reaping the harvests of our rich Southwestern fields.

They have won a proportionately higher number of Medals of Honor in the defense of freedom than any other group of American soldiers. (applause) And they have for too long been denied their rightful share in American prosperity and it is to this that we address ourselves.

Mexican Americans do not bear their burden alone. The same joblessness, poor housing, inadequate education and discrimination that add up to poverty here in the Southwest can, I regret to say, be found in equal measure in the slums of the inner-cities and in the rural slums across America today.

I am so pleased to see our Secretary of Agriculture here today. He is trying to do so much to see to it that rural America shares fully in the <sup>richness</sup> ~~riches~~ of this great American society. This is topic that both he and I share in common with great interest and I hope that some time we can come and talk to you about that, how we can make rural America what we

want it to be. (applause)

Those painful inequities, that I have spoken of, these inequities of yesterday; they might have been <sup>really</sup> unavoidable in the past. I think there is a case to be made that fifty years ago, a hundred years ago we couldn't do much about some of these inequities because we didn't have the means even the knowledge but today, my fellow Americans, today when we have the wealth and the power as no other nation ever dreamed of having, when we have the wealth and the power that is capable of remedying these injustices, then these injustices and inequities become indecent. They become unnecessary. They become unacceptable. They become immoral and frankly, for many, many of our fellow citizens, they become unbearable and they ought to be unbearable for all of us. A sense of national shame must grip this nation when we see people denied their chance to be a first-class American citizen. We can't tolerate it. (applause)

The final conquest of poverty and blighted opportunity is the great unfinished business of America in the last third of the Twentieth Century.

I was in Philadelphia just a few days ago, the cradle of our liberty where our constitutional convention was held, where the Declaration of Independence was signed, and I said to an audience, a large audience of several thousand people, I said you are going to be celebrating your two hundredth

anniversary, our two hundredth anniversary here in the year 1976, two hundred years of American independence. I want to be able to say in 1976 that in two hundred years we have overcome every <sup>vestige</sup> ~~trace~~ <sup>bigotry</sup> of intolerance and discrimination in America. (applause) I want to be able to say that we have eliminated the vast pools of poverty in this land, that we have been able to provide every child with a good education. That ought to be the birthday present for America. That's what we ought to be working toward. We ought to set that at least as our immediate target, the year 1976, two hundred years of American freedom to demonstrate to the world <sup>that</sup> our democracy <sup>can</sup> and cleanse <sup>itself</sup> ~~ourselves~~ of ~~the~~ <sup>and</sup> inequities ~~as~~ injustice as a free people with representative government in law and order. (applause)

Let me emphasize we can do this within law, peacefully, orderly. We can redress our grievances <sup>peacefully,</sup> orderly. We can do it with the sense of dedication and militancy but do it with order and within the law and do it without violence and <sup>do it</sup> without great trouble. It can be done. We have the system to do it and it must be done that way. Now, I am confident that this hearing, this conference with the people is going to produce some solutions and I can list out some of the reasons.

First, our Mexican-Americans have clearly determined that they will do whatever they must do to help themselves. (applause) This conference will be noted for one fact above all others, that a proud self-respecting people of dignity

are determined to do things for themselves. All they are asking for is the co-operating, helping hand of government to help them get the program started and you will carry on by yourselves. (applause) We are witnessing a new awakening of La Raza which, I believe, will bring some of the greatest social reforms this nation has yet known. Now my dear friends, if my Spanish doesn't come out too <sup>well</sup> perfectly remember I have a slight Norwegian accent.

We have seen La Marcha and La Huelga and we have seen great leaders emerge and one of those is a man of unselfish dedication and great courage who has aroused <sup>in his time</sup> the conscience of this nation and I think you know who I mean, Cesar Chavez. (applause)

He knows the pain of poverty. It's not a theory with him, its a fact, and might I say that a man never knows what <sup>it is to</sup> sorrow ~~is~~ until he <sup>has</sup> suffered grief. I don't think a person ever knows what it really is to suffer the indignities of poverty until he has really been poor. I don't believe a man can ever appreciate the unbelievable humiliation of discrimination until he ~~has~~ been discriminated against, and some of us who have not had all of these experiences maybe are unable or incapable of really interpreting our <sup>hearts</sup> thoughts and our message to you but there are people <sup>that are leaders today</sup> ~~today who are~~ ~~leaders~~ in our ranks that know what needs to be done and know what has not been done because they have lived the experience,

it has touched their lives. Yes, Cesar Chaves knows the pain of poverty. He knows the strength of religious faith and the power of non-violent protest. He is one of the key leaders in America's struggle for a full ripening of democracy, <sup>of many,</sup> and I salute him along with others.

Then there are cooperative efforts like operation SER or S-E-R (applause) which is now developing employment opportunities and it is making a good start in placing Mexican-Americans in jobs throughout the Southwest. A beginning, but ladies and gentlemen, the story of democracy is the story of beginnings. Seldom do any of us, in our time, live long enough for the ending, but everyone of us in our time and our generation has the responsibility for some beginnings. We ought never to be discouraged because the work is not all done. The only discouragement we ought to have is if we do not start, if we do not begin. I'll never forget those words of John Kennedy when, as he took the oath of office in 1961, when he said, <sup>Let us</sup> "Let's begin", and then when the assassin's bullet took his life, Lyndon Johnson said, "Let us continue". <sup>Now</sup> That is the story of progress in America, the beginning and continuing of human effort and I see it here in the Southwest.

SER means hope in Spanish. In English it stands for services, <sup>and</sup> employment, redevelopment. No matter <sup>which</sup> tongue you use, <sup>though,</sup> the word means opportunity for Americans who have <sup>too long</sup> been <sup>1</sup> ~~too long~~ denied it.

And let me pause a moment just to repeat that beautiful word, opportunity.

I'm going to tell you a story that just flashed into my mind. Some of you may remember I was in the Soviet Union in 1958. I had a rather extended conversation with Mr. Kruchev, <sup>a while over eight hours.</sup> There has been some arguement as to who did most of the talking, (applause) but I want to say it was about a draw. But after that visit I was permitted, as the first Westerner, the first man from a free country to go on Soviet nation-wide television and to tell the story of America. I think you would be interested in knowing that I spent my time telling the story of our rural people with REA, of our farm cooperatives, of our free trade unions, of our independent business, of our representative government, and particularly of local government. I tried to tell the story of American individual liberty and I said there is one phrase and one word above all that characterizes America and what it means and what it stands for; not just freedom, not just liberty, not just wealth or power, but the word that characterizes America's hope and dream of promise is opportunity. Opportunity, that is what we want, that is what mankind wants all over the world, the opportunity to make something out of himself and you know what? The interpreter had a difficult time finding a word in the Russian language, at least then as a Communist interpreter

for that word, the American word, opportunity, and I thought to myself, here is a little example of the difference between a free society and a totalitarian society. The difference, is opportunity, and we ought to have a whole wagon load of opportunity for every American in this country, and that is what our purpose is and that is the goal of your President, your Vice-President, of your government, and I know its your goal, opportunity for every American. (applause)

Then there is another project you are familiar with, proj HELP, Home Education Livelihood Program. Operating in 57 rural communities in New Mexico, HELP conducts pre-vocational education programs. It has started a credit union and health clinics for migrant workers. Just these little beginnings a credit union, a health clinic mean a better life. These are the building blocks of the pursuit of happiness, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Secondly, I am confident, and I am proud because we already have some excellent and proven Federal programs for progress designed to support the kind of grass-roots initiative that is taking place here in the Southwest. Indeed I believe that in the last four years more money, more <sup>energy</sup> ~~energy~~, more vision, ~~and~~ <sup>more commitment</sup> more concern, have been given to this problem in Washington than in all the years of the preceeding century. This is not to say that enough has been done, it is only to say that we have made a beginning, a beginning that will be carried

thought

You all know about President Johnson's friend <sup>Frank</sup> ~~Frank~~ Mansera, last year's Head Start Child of the Year. Well, Frank entered a Head Start program at the age of six but with the physical and mental development, pathetically to say, of a two year old child. A health check-up, however, showed a serious but fortunately an easily correctible glandular deficiency. That little boy had never had a health check-up. He had never had a chance, and a man without health has no opportunity because health is hope and hope is life. Frank got his medicine and he grew nearly six inches in the first year. He also got some help from a sympathetic teacher, and now that little fellow is off on a normal school career and the sky is the limit. He is opportunity bound because he got a head start. That is what that program means and don't you let anybody touch that program, my fellow Americans. <sup>(applause)</sup> If you can't fight for little children at home who are Americans, what makes you think we can fight for the <sup>adults</sup> ~~people~~ abroad who are not Americans. I think you <sup>begin</sup> ~~believe~~ to show you patriotism right here in your own communities. (applause)

Now, young Frank is real, he is not a boy of fiction. He represents 34 thousand Mexican-American kids who got an educational and health boost from Head Start last summer alone. What a wonderful thing if we did nothing else but that <sup>I think</sup> ~~we could~~ say that something good had happened in America.

Then there is the Neighborhood Youth Corps. Ninety thousand Spanish-speaking youngsters have found jobs, training and recreation because of it. A good program, fight for it. Speak up for it. Let me tell you there are some doubters and retreaters who don't want it. I guess I had better be careful here, I'm apt to laugh right off, but if you don't fight for the things you believe in, you are not going to get it. There is a lot of competition in this world and I didn't come down here to tell you a lot of nice things. I'm here to tell you that the things you want you are going to have to speak up for, work for, ask for, talk for, fight for. If you don't believe it, ask your Congressman, he fights for you. Sometimes he needs a little help and I'm here to ask for <sup>it</sup> us, I hope we get it.

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(Page 24 though 33 transcribed by Mr. Allen Hill. Mr. Bobby May continued from Page 34 .

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Five thousand young Mexican Americans have learned productive skills which can give them a lifetime of rewarding employment in the Job Corps.

That is what we want to do, make people productive citizens. We are not trying to make a welfare state in America where everybody is on the go, we want a state of opportunity where people can be at work, <sup>earning</sup> ~~earing~~ their <sup>own</sup> ~~on~~ way, climbing up the ladder of success. Every program that I have spoken of is designed to fulfill that objective.

Special language programs and additional teachers for Spanish-speaking students are being provided under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

Secretary Gardner can tell you much about this ~~the~~ opportunity for experimentation and education. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act can be a laboratory of educational adventure so that we can get the kind of education to our youngsters that they need from modern society. So that we can preserve a cultural heritage, so that we can teach language, so that we can acquaint them with art and literature and drama so that they can learn about the richness of life, they know enough of the drabness of it. So experiment with it, use it, speak to your educational authorities.

The <sup>A</sup>Adult Basic Education Program is helping fifty thousand Spanish-speaking citizens learn to read and

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write their language, and do we ever need it.

There is the Migrant Opportunities Program.  
There is the Advisory Unit on Mexican Education in the  
Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Things are happening, things are changing and there  
are more Mexican Americans than ever before in influential, important  
Government posts where their special knowledge and insight  
can produce results <sup>and where they can help us know the problem</sup> ~~many of them are the leaders of this~~ <sup>insight</sup>  
~~Conference.~~ <sup>a little better and know the answers -- and many of them are</sup>  
~~the leaders of this Conference.~~

Well, I am confident that we are going to get  
solutions. I'll tell you why, because we always have been  
able to get them when we set our mind to it. Not only the  
poor people, not only the minority groups, not only the  
Government, but I am convinced the majority of Americans  
want solution. Whatever their background, whatever their  
ethnic origin, wants answers. They are ready to extend full  
and equal opportunity to every American.

I find that in America there is a new sence of  
morality despite all of the critics to the contrary. There  
is a new <sup>Sense</sup> sence of social consciousness amongst young and old  
alike. People want America to be a better country. They  
are fed up with gripers, they are fed up with people that  
say you can't do things. People know that America is going  
to carry a tremendous burden for the foreseeable future. We  
are leaders whether we want to be or not.

The world depends on us. Therefore we are going to need every American, fully developed, every American with all of his capacities, all of his abilities, every American regardless of race, color or creed to pull his share of the load, and the <sup>American</sup> people know it. That is why we are on the march today.

In Washington not many weeks ago, <sup>we had a great meeting</sup> the urban coalition, a group of businessmen, labor leaders, <sup>and</sup> representatives of non-profit organizations, <sup>churches,</sup> and local governments <sup>and they</sup> resolved that: "All representatives of the private sector in the urban coalition decisively commit themselves to assist the deprived among us to achieve full participation in the economy as self-supporting citizens."

Now that is a new Declaration of Independence, that is a new manifesto of freedom, freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom from discrimination, freedom from frustration. It is a manifesto, and who signed it, some of the greatest men of this country, some of the richest and some of the poorest, Catholic, Protestant and Jew, labor and business. They stood together in one massive meeting and said America must have a new day for the Americans that have had no day.

Businessmen are responding all across this land to the need for jobs and on the job training.

We have a program called Plans For Progress, and there are representatives of it here today, of our great corporations. That program has taken great strides in

MILLERS FALLS  
FERRIS STATE

providing equal employment opportunity.

But this commitment to progress goes deeper than just business or labor. It goes to housewives, workers, students, and <sup>little</sup> businessmen in communities across this nation. They are devoting their time to good projects as VISTA volunteers, as Teacher Corps Volunteers, as Foster Grandparents, as members of community planning and civil rights organizations, to do one thing, to build a better America.

Ladies and gentlemen there is a lot of good things happening in our country, sometimes it doesn't make <sup>the</sup> headlines, I wish it did. But let me tell you that I have a little knowledge of what some of our young people are doing. You read about some of the things they are doing that you don't care for, that you don't like. You read of the excesses <sup>of some,</sup> but how many in this audience know that last year from the graduating classes of our <sup>great</sup> universities as many as twenty-five percent of the graduates volunteered for the Peace Corps. They don't get paid much, no wealth, no riches, but a love of service for their fellow man.

Two hundred and fifty thousand college students last year volunteered in community action programs, to help the needy. A half a million high school seniors did the same.

I want you to know that that is better news than all the hippies put together and it ought to be on the front page. <sup>(Applause)</sup> These young people need a pat on the back, they need

some encouragement and lets give them some out of this conference.

The deprived citizens of America <sup>are on the march</sup> cannot solve their problems alone, <sup>that is why we are here,</sup> and the Government cannot <sup>They</sup> provide the <sup>solve them</sup> solutions <sup>alone</sup> for them. It cannot by itself provide solutions, and if it could it is questionable whether that is the way we would want it. The solutions are going to have to come from a cooperative partnership between <sup>the</sup> Government <sup>federal, state + local,</sup> and private citizens from all walks of life. Government and the people, walking, talking and working together. That is what Lincoln meant when he said, Government of the people, by the people and for the people.

He didn't say that just to have it written in the books to be remembered by, he said it as an article of faith and that is what he meant when he said to us we will either meekly lose or nobly save the last best hope on earth, speaking of our country.

This partnership of the people, we started here at El Paso, it doesn't come just out of Washington, it must come from every city and county across this land. In farm organizations, labor, business and civic organizations, not a dominating government, but a cooperative government. Not a government that supplants what you do, or should do, but supplements what you do, <sup>and</sup> what you should do.

That partnership is now forming, and we all have to share in it, we are all on the board of directors. It

is the greatest partnership the world has ever known, ~~it~~  
~~is~~ a partnership in freedom and opportunity and it is  
gaining momentum.

I feel it all over America, I travel, I get  
around. Many of the people that are writing about America  
haven't left their armchairs. Many of the people that  
are commentating about America haven't been out of Washing-  
ton.

I have been in over five hundred communities in  
America since I became Vice President of the United States.  
I have been with the rich and the poor, the penthouse and  
the slums. I have been out on the deserts and I have been  
in the forest. I have been with the boyscouts and I  
visited the jails.

I think I know what is going on in this country  
and I can tell you that there is a great momentum under way  
in America to make America a better place for those of this  
generation and generations yet unborn.

Cities are being rebuilt, communities are coming  
alive, education<sup>is</sup> being expanded, a sense of personal commit-  
ment, of service to community and individual is a fact of  
our life.

(Mr. Bobby May transcribed from Page 34 through 39. Mr.  
W. W. Holmes transcribed from Page 40 on.)

What a wonderful story, and it is happening no place else in the world in such proportions <sup>as</sup> ~~except~~ here, and I want you to know that <sup>you</sup> ~~this~~ government, ~~that~~ this administration, is ready to respond to any reasonable proposals to expand or alter the present program. We need your guidance. It is ready to assist industry, which will provide on the job training, or to establish factories in deprived neighborhoods. You have the cabinet officers here that you can talk to about this. It is ready to support initiative by non-profit groups or by businesses which will provide decent low cost housing. It is ready to do whatever congress and the voters will <sup>afford</sup> approve in order to guarantee every American child a first-rate education; so I urge you to think big. Remember this, what a great philosopher once said, that a great nation is not determined by its wealth or its size or its geography or its population. The question is, what do you do with these things, for what purpose wealth, what purpose power, for what purpose bigness, for what purpose size? What do you do with these things? I have never forgotten the words of Woodrow Wilson who reminded us that America is not as rich as the money in its banks or the production of its factories or even the production of its fields and its forests. <sup>he said,</sup> America is as rich as its people. We are talking people. <sup>This is a people's conference</sup> ~~The people count~~. Not things, but people, and I want you to think big about the greatest pepole in the world, the

American people. The problems you know. Resources are available in this rich country of ours to overcome them. It is a question of whether we have the will to apply those resources. The determination that those problems <sup>shall</sup> ~~will~~ be solved is strong in the White House. I know. I talked to the man in the White House as much or more than anyone on this platform, and I believe that it is strong in every city and every town, in every rural area and ~~slum~~ of this country. The task before us is to put these elements together in a prescription for success. Lay out your priorities. You can't do everything at once. Speak to us with candor but without rancor. Set your priorities without pie in the sky. We need from you above all an honest interpretation of the hopes and the aspirations of the people that you represent so let me conclude by a word about our goals. We are talking about something more complicated than poverty of the purse. Poverty, of course, can be handled by a welfare check. Money. Money. The poverty we are talking about is the poverty of the spirit, the poverty that is described by hopelessness and despair, by deprivation and humiliation, and that is the most difficult poverty to overcome. Our purpose is grander than simply guaranteeing every Mexican-American the opportunity to achieve a decent American standard of living, even though that is a worthy goal. We are talking about providing a material basis on which a cultural tradition that is precious to America can grow and flourish because <sup>Capplanned</sup>

a man does not live by bread alone. That is a cultural tradition from which the world may expect another Murillo, or an El Greco, or a Velasquez, or a Rivera, or a Cervantes, or a Luis De Leon, just to mention a few. It is a cultural tradition which has given us my dear and wonderful friend, Pablo Casals, and can give us even more like him. It is a tradition that includes a deep religious faith, strong family loyalty, warmth and friendliness, and respect for every man regardless of color or creed. This country, my fellow Americans, admires and desperately needs this tradition today. This is what America needs more than anything else, these qualities of faith and family loyalty and warmth and friendliness and respect for a fellow man. If we have these traditions, we are unbeatable. <sup>(applause)</sup> It is a tradition which gives us a vast reservoir of bi-lingual Americans at a time when as never before we <sup>up here</sup> need to talk to two hundred million plus other Spanish speaking Americans which share this Hemisphere with us. <sup>(applause)</sup>

Oh, how important the language, how regretful that some of us don't have it, but you do, you do. I don't think we can ever make the Alliance for Progress <sup>succeed</sup> ~~achieved~~ with just money and technical assistance. ~~They must feel the music in our souls, the lot of them, sympatica.~~ <sup>There must be sympatica.</sup> They must feel that we understand each other, they must <sup>sense</sup> ~~feel~~ the music in our souls, the love of

them, and we can only do that if we speak the language and speak with depth + conviction. ~~it well.~~ There are over one and a half million Spanish speaking

U.S. Citizens in school today who must become <sup>the</sup> that Hector Garcias and ~~the~~ Raymond Tellez of the future, ~~And by the way, I was with or a Ramon Tellez.~~ I visited with Ray Tellez last night. We ~~the former mayor of El Paso, Ray Tellez, last night~~ are close personal friends. He was in Washington. I visited him

when he was Ambassador to Costa Rica. ~~IX~~ <sup>that</sup> meant so much to speak, ~~the tone,~~ <sup>the tongue so</sup> the feel, <sup>to</sup> speak the nuances, and not ~~all this stumbling~~ <sup>just to stumble</sup>

like I am doing here today over words that need a fuller and richer interpretation; and we have the word of a very great American who began his public career <sup>in</sup> Cotulla, Texas, a schoolhouse. Is it any wonder that there is great emphasis on education in this administration? The President is a teacher, a former teacher; the Vice-President is a former teacher; the Secretary of Education, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Agriculture, all teachers and Sarge Shriver, the Chairman of the Schoolboard. <sup>(applause)</sup> And I might add that the majority leader of the Senate, a former teacher, and the majority leader of the house, the teachers have taken over. Now let's be sure that we teach the right things; so I say that we have the word of that teacher in that little schoolhouse <sup>here</sup> in Southwest Texas, that those youngsters of today and tomorrow will have their opportunity. Here is what he said; "It was there in that school at an early age that my dream began of an America, my own land

where race, religion, language, and color <sup>didn't</sup> ~~wouldn't~~ count against you, and I made a decision then which I have reaffirmed every day since I have been in the White House that if I ever have the privilege of holding public office," said President Johnson, "I would not rest," and then listen to this statement of principal, conviction, and commitment, "until every American who wanted it had a job to work at, until every child who wanted it had an opportunity to get all the education that his mind could take, until every family had an opportunity to get a decent home in a decent neighborhood, until every single American had entered the open-door to full participation in the life of America." That is the pledge of the President of the United States, President Lyndon Johnson, to the people of the United States, to the needy, to the deprived, to the fortunate, to the unfortunate, to one and all because if we know nothing else, my dear friends <sup>today</sup> ~~in Texas~~, and if we believe nothing else, this we <sup>should</sup> ~~must~~ know and this we must believe, you know your children every day stand in their little classroom and their teacher says, "Now, rise, and join with me in the Pledge of Allegiance." Or to call upon one of the little children to lead the class in the Pledge of Allegiance. Every time I see a flag, I feel the same way. The first part is like the "whereas" in a resolution. "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States

and to the Republic for which it stands," and then comes the charge which adults should take to heart <sup>like</sup> ~~or~~ children learn it by heart because the adults have the responsibility, and you can have nothing in this country unless this charge is fulfilled, this commitment is one deeply seared into your very souls, and I think it is the most beautiful concise statement of American purpose that any man or any woman ever heard or has ever written, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all." <sup>(applause)</sup> Thank you, very, very, much, my fellow Americans. Let's keep that pledge. Let's work on this here in this conference. Thank you very, very, much.

I am going to Asia and Malaysia but let me tell you that anything I have to say there will only be as meaningful as what you do here so I am going to be thinking about you every minute that I am gone because we can't export democracy unless we have an awful lot of it here in surplus so let's get to work at it.

not on page

(END OF SPEECH OF VICE-PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY.)  
(Mr. W. W. Holmes transcribed from Page 40 though 45.)

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