

HUMPHREY '72

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HUMPHREY CALLS FOR JOBS, POLITICAL REPRESENTATION FOR CHICANOS

EAST LOS ANGELES, MAY 21---Senator Hubert H. Humphrey said today he will fight for government services for California's nearly 3,500,000 Chicanos.

At the opening of his East Los Angeles headquarters, Humphrey pledged that there would be a Chicano cabinet member when he is President.

"I am committed to an end to token representation of America's Spanish speaking population," he said.

The following is the text of his prepared remarks:

I've come to East Los Angeles today to join Your campaign for Chicano political representation, Chicano political participation, and jobs for your families.

For too many years, political figures have come into your community to open their campaigns. They've invited you to join them. Today, I want to join you in your battle for jobs. I want to be part of your battle to be heard, to be listened to, to be represented in government in California and in Washington.

I endorse the fundamental goal of California's 3.19 million Spanish speaking people:

To get some political muscle, so that jobs and economic justice can come to the Chicano communities of this state.

Here are the facts:

Chicanos are 16% of the population of this state, but there are only 2 Chicano state assemblymen. In the California Senate, there is no Chicano representation. And there is only one Chicano congressman out of a delegation of 43.

There are 15,648 elected and appointed public officials in California. Yet, among these, there are only 310 Chicanos.

When this community lacks political muscle, jobs are nowhere to be found and problems go unsolved. Unemployment in the community is at a shameful and tragic level--sometimes as high as 20%.

People in this community are proud and industrious. They don't want welfare. They want to work. They don't want food stamps. They want a good job that provides them with income.

I'm opposed to any programs or proposals of the Nixon Administration or my Democratic opponent, that forces more people onto the unemployment rolls in California. The residents of East Los Angeles have a right to a good job. They have a right to job training that leads to advancement and not more training. Your children are called slow learners and excluded students, because bilingual education is still a promise--not a fact.

We must not only provide an education which attempts to teach Juan Lopez English, but provide programs that will enable John Smith to speak Spanish, as well as English. The future of the Southwest lies in our ability to communicate with the millions of people south of our border.

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Drugs and drug pushers are in the community and little is done.

It's a fact. More political representation means that you have control over what happens in your community. Beyond East Los Angeles, in the fields of California, in Arizona, in New York City, in Miami, in Texas, in New Mexico, the voice of America's Spanish speaking people must be heard and listened to, by a compassionate government.

I am committed to a job for every man and woman who can work. I am committed to an end to token representation of America's Spanish speaking population.

There will be a Chicano cabinet member in my administration. I will see to it that no one treats farm workers as second class citizens, and they will have the benefits provided other workers. The time for putting Chicanos in positions where they serve as window dressing in Washington is over. I will appoint Chicanos to responsible positions in agencies and departments where they will have a voice in the Justice Department, in the Agricultural Department, in Health, Education and Welfare and in Housing and Urban Development.

Your programs for jobs, for bilingual education, for housing and health care, for business opportunity, will not be vetoed. They will be funded and strongly supported by a president who really cares.

Your campaign is a campaign for dignity and work for people. This is my campaign. Together we can rebuild our communities and provide a better life for all of us.

-HHH-

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