

STATEMENT
BY
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TO
THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM COMMITTEE
IN MIAMI

AUGUST 16, 1972

THANKS TO THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT NIXON, AMERICA HAS BEGUN TO SEE ITS UNSEEN MILLIONS.

THESE MEN AND WOMEN DID NOT CHOOSE TO BE UNSEEN. THEIR ANCESTORS LIVED IN THIS LAND LONG BEFORE MOST OF THEIR NEIGHBORS'. THEY HAVE OBEYED ITS LAWS, FOUGHT ITS BATTLES DONE ITS WORK. BUT THEY HAVE BEEN HIDDEN FROM THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS. THEY ARE AMERICA'S SPANISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE.

NOW PRESIDENT NIXON IS OPENING THE NATION'S EYES. HE IS SHOWING US THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SPANISH-SPEAKING. HE IS TELLING AMERICA THAT SPANISH-SPEAKING MEN AND WOMEN ARE GOOD CITIZENS.

SPANISH-SPEAKING AMERICANS BELIEVE IN GOD AND IN THE FAMILY. THEY KNOW RELIGION AND FAMILY ARE STRONG WEAPONS AGAINST DRUGS AND CRIME.

SPANISH-SPEAKING AMERICANS WOULD RATHER HELP THEMSELVES THAN ASK FOR HELP. THEY LOOK FOR WORK. THEY DO NOT WAIT FOR WORK TO LOOK FOR THEM.

SPANISH-SPEAKING AMERICANS VALUE EDUCATION. THEY ACCEPT NEW WAYS WITHOUT GIVING UP THEIR TIES WITH THE PAST. THEY SHOW THE WORTH OF SPEAKING TWO LANGUAGES. MORE THAN ANY OTHER GROUP, THEY TURN TRAINING INTO SUCCESS.

SPANISH-SPEAKING AMERICANS GET INVOLVED. THEY WORK TO BUILD BETTER NEIGHBORHOODS AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES. THEY OPPOSE DISRESPECT FOR THE LAW. THEY VOLUNTEER FOR THE ARMED FORCES AND THEN THEY SERVE WITH HONOR AND BRAVERY.

THE SPANISH-SPEAKING HAVE DONE MUCH FOR AMERICA. NOW WITH PRESIDENT NIXON AND THE REPUBLICAN PARTY TAKING THE LEAD, AMERICA MUST LISTEN TO THE SPANISH-SPEAKING. THE COUNTRY MUST HEAR THEIR DREAMS AND THEN DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HELP THOSE DREAMS COME TRUE.

WHAT IS OUR DREAM? TO HAVE AN EVEN BREAK. WE WANT NO SPECIAL FAVORS. WE ASK ONLY FOR OPPORTUNITY. THEN WE WILL EARN OUR FAIR SHARE OF THE GREATNESS OF AMERICA.

IN TERMS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AN
EVEN BREAK MEANS:

1. JOB OPPORTUNITIES PROPORTIONAL TO
THE SIZE OF THE SPANISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY.
OPPORTUNITIES ON THE BASIS OF MERIT ON EVERY
LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT AND IN EVERY COMPANY
DOING BUSINESS WITH GOVERNMENT. THE GOAL
IS FULL AND FAIR JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR
SPANISH-SPEAKING AMERICANS.

2. FAIR COUNTING. WE MUST CONTINUE TO
HAVE THE SPANISH-SPEAKING COUNT AND BE
COUNTED. UNDER THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION,
STATISTICS ARE BEING GATHERED FOR THE FIRST
TIME WHICH ACCURATELY REFLECT THE EMPLOYMENT
PATTERN AND PROVISION OF SERVICES TO THE
SPANISH-SPEAKING POPULATION.

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF A UNIFORM DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM IS THE FIRST IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD THE IMPROVED MANAGEMENT AND THE GREATER EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO THE SPANISH-SPEAKING.

3. FAIRNESS IN TRAINING AND FUNDING PROGRAMS. SPANISH-SPEAKING AMERICANS WANT TO BE ABLE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN TRAINING CLASSES AND ON-THE-JOB TRAINING. THEY WANT A FAIR CHANCE FOR EDUCATION ON ALL SCHOOL LEVELS.

4. FAIRNESS IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. SPANISH-SPEAKING BUSINESSMEN MUST HAVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FINANCIAL HELP EQUAL TO THE OPPORTUNITIES OF BUSINESSMEN OF ANY OTHER GROUP.

5. QUALITY HEALTH CARE SERVICES:

UNDER THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION, HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES ARE BEING MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY SPANISH-SPEAKING NEIGHBORHOODS. THIS SHOULD CONTINUE UNTIL EVERY SPANISH-SPEAKING INDIVIDUAL CAN ENJOY CONVENIENT QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR HIMSELF AND HIS FAMILY IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS MINDFUL OF HIS NEEDS. THE LANGUAGE BARRIERS THAT OFTEN STAND IN THE WAY OF QUALITY MEDICAL CARE MUST BE BROKEN BY PROVIDING DOCTORS AND NURSES WHO SPEAK HIS LANGUAGE.

6. SAFE, ATTRACTIVE NEIGHBORHOODS.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SHOULD REMEMBER THE SPANISH-SPEAKING NEIGHBORHOODS.

THEY SHOULD RECEIVE THE SAME SERVICES AS OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS. SPANISH-SPEAKING FAMILIES DESERVE WELL-PAVED AND LIGHTED STREETS, GOOD POLICE PROTECTION AND FREQUENT REMOVAL OF GARBAGE AND TRASH.

7. A CRACKDOWN ON DRUG ABUSE.

SPANISH-SPEAKING CITIZENS HAVE LED THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS. THEY DON'T WANT THEIR CHILDREN DESTROYED AND THEIR FAMILIES TORN APART. THEY NEED — AND PRESIDENT NIXON WILL SEE THAT THEY GET — ALL OUT FEDERAL HELP TO END THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CURSE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS.

8. DECENT HOUSING. FAMILIES NEED COMFORTABLE HOMES. TO HELP MAKE MORE SUCH HOMES AVAILABLE TO THE SPANISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY, ORGANIZATIONS MUST BE BROUGHT INTO A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH AGENCIES LIKE THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE FORMED NEARLY 70 CORPORATIONS WHICH CAN CONTROL THE BUILDING OF HOMES THAT MEET THE NEEDS OF SPANISH-SPEAKING FAMILIES. THIS PROGRAM MUST BE STARTED IN MORE AND MORE COMMUNITIES.

9. BI-LINGUAL EDUCATION. ASK A SPANISH-SPEAKING AMERICAN TO SAY WHAT COUNTS MOST IN HIS LIFE. NINE TIMES OUT OF TEN, HE WILL SAY, THE CHILDREN. FOR THEM, HE ESPECIALLY WANTS AN EVEN BREAK. HE THINKS THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO THE BEST THIS COUNTRY HAS TO OFFER. MORE THAN ANYTHING, HE WANTS THEM TO HAVE SCHOOLS WHERE THEY CAN REALLY LEARN, SCHOOLS WHERE THEY CAN PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE SO THAT THE FUTURE CAN BE THEIRS.

SPANISH-SPEAKING MOTHERS AND FATHERS KNOW THAT A SCHOOL IN WHICH THEIR CHILD FEELS LEFT OUT, A SCHOOL IN WHICH HE IS LAUGHED AT BECAUSE HE TELLS DIFFERENT STORIES AND SINGS DIFFERENT SONGS-- IS NO SCHOOL AT ALL. THESE MOTHERS AND FATHERS WANT SPANISH AS WELL AS ENGLISH USED IN THE TEACHING OF THEIR CHILDREN. THEY WANT THEIR SPANISH-SPEAKING CHILDREN TESTED FAIRLY. THEY WANT THEIR SCHOOLS TO RESPECT THEIR WAYS OF LIFE THE HISTORY, HERITAGE, CUSTOMS OF THE BORICUAS, CUBANS, MEXICAN-AMERICANS AND OTHERS WHO CAME FROM CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.

IN SHORT, THEY WANT BI-LINGUAL-
BI-CULTURAL EDUCATION AND, IN SEEKING THIS GOAL, I BELIEVE THEY HAVE THE COMPLETE BACKING OF PRESIDENT NIXON AND THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

THE PRESIDENT AND PARTY KNOW THAT BI-LINGUAL-BI-CULTURAL EDUCATION HAS BEEN USED WITH GREAT SUCCESS IN COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD. THE PRESIDENT KNOWS IT WILL HELP SPANISH-SPEAKING YOUNG PEOPLE REALLY BELONG. AND PRESIDENT NIXON KNOWS IT WILL PREPARE THEM FOR A FULL SHARE IN CITIZENSHIP AND LEADERSHIP.

THE SPANISH-SPEAKING DON'T WANT TO BE THOUGHT OF AS MEMBERS OF A MINORITY. WE ARE INSULTED BY POLITICAL PROMISES. WE WANT TO BE ACCEPTED FOR WHAT WE ARE--AMERICANS TIED TIGHTLY TO THE HOPES OF OUR COUNTRY. FROM OUR NEIGHBORS, WE ASK ONLY FAIRNESS. FROM OUR GOVERNMENT, WE WANT ONLY THE EQUAL TREATMENT THAT WILL ALLOW US TO JOIN IN THE BUILDING OF AMERICA.

FOR FOUR YEARS, PRESIDENT NIXON HAS BEEN WITH SPANISH-SPEAKING AMERICANS IN OUR LONG MARCH OUT OF THE DARKNESS OF PREJUDICE AND ANONYMITY--TOWARD FAIRNESS AND EQUALITY. NOW HE AND HIS PARTY WILL MARCH WITH US AGAIN AS SPANISH-SPEAKING AMERICANS MOVE INTO THE SUNLIGHT OF AN AMERICA THAT SEES AND UNDERSTANDS.