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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Morton Blackwell
FROM: Manuel E. Iglesias

I am greatly heartened to see that officials of this administration are actively seeking avenues for communicating to the Spanish-American community, this administration's achievements on their behalf, as well as its concern for and continued interest in their well-being. I am referring to the recent luncheon meeting with Mr. Manuel Justis, Director of the National Institute of Education; Mr. Edward Elmendorf, Assistant Secretary of Post Secondary Education and his Special Assistant; Mr. Alex Armendaris, 1980 Reagan Hispanic Campaign Chairman; Mr. Carlos Salman, Florida Hispanic Campaign Chairman; Mr. Mario Elgarresta, Executive Director of the Florida Hispanic Campaign and member of the Transition Team; Mr. Armando Chapelli, President of a local company, and myself.

The meeting focussed on how NIE and DOE could improve their programs to better serve the "Hispanic" community. Discussions centered around the Cuban-American, Mexican-American, and other "Hispanic" communities.

All present agreed that funding cutbacks begun in 1981 have affected "Hispanic" civic and educational organizations across the board. It was also agreed that the leadership of these organizations was primarily liberal and anti-Republican. It was the group's consensus that such liberal Democrat politicization of the federal grants/contracts process is not only wrong, but illegal. Two courses of action were discussed as means for remedying the situation:

1. refunding of existing organizations in the hope that they will act as vehicles for serving the "Hispanic" community. It was pointed out that this is the policy that was followed by incumbent Republican Administrations prior to a re-election campaign (Nixon 1972, Ford 1976).
2. providing new funding to organizations whose leadership is in tune with the goals and objectives of this Administration.

There was quick agreement that time permitting, the second option would be the best alternative, but that with the 1984 election only 16 months away, this option would only be viable in the Cuban community. The Cuban community already has in

place an array of social, civic and educational organizations that would be able to utilize federal program monies in ways most advantageous to the Administration. It was suggested, however, that option two would be unworkable in such a short time within the framework of the political situation of the Mexican-American Community. It was further suggested, a suggestion with which I concur, that the leadership of the vast majority of the Mexican American community is highly political, anti-Reagan and that the Administration does not have time before election '84 to identify full representation of individuals or groups, to whom we could direct new support.

I wholeheartedly agree with the conclusions reached regarding the Cuban-American Community. In Miami, the liberal organizations that were a mainstay of the Cuban-American political panorama prior to 1980 have virtually disappeared. They were a creation of Federal monies and their "leadership" never represented the Cuban exile community which in 1980 voted over 80% for President Reagan. I disagree with the analysis made of the situation in the Mexican-American Community. I do agree with the statement that the vast majority of the "leadership" of the Mexican-American civil rights, educational organizations is composed of liberal Democrats. It may even be true that we do not have the time before 1984 to develop or foster friendly Mexican-American civil rights/educational organizations or leaders. But, I vehemently disagree that our only alternative is to continue to fund political activities of Democrat groups. The gubernatorial election in Texas in 1982 is a prime example of the results of such actions. Mexican-American civic organizations, partially or totally funded by Federal dollars, during the first two years of this Administration, were the ones that registered a record number of Mexican-Americans: the precise number of votes attributable to White's margin of victory over Governor Clements. In the Black Community, Operation Push is a prime example of how Federal monies used ostensibly to fund Federal programs are used to create liberal political machines.

This Administration should react to the Mexican-American Community in a manner similar to the way it reacts to the union vote. The Administration has been very effective in bypassing the AFL-CIO and appealing directly to the rank and file. Indeed, this Administration enjoys the highest level of acceptance by union voters in two generations, yet it is the target of the strongest condemnation by labor leaders against any Republican administration in generations.

At the meeting we discussed the possibility of having the President issue an Executive Order on behalf of educational opportunities for the "Hispanic" Community. At present there is one for Blacks and as a result, their programs get priority

funding over equivalent "Hispanic" ones. This idea is potentially farreaching if properly conveyed to the "Hispanic" Community. In doing so, we must create a viable campaign directed at the mainstream of the "Hispanic" Community, while assuring that the Administration receives the proper credit. There exists a highly developed national as well as local Spanish media, ranging from television to newspapers and radio. It should be possible to bypass the present Mexican American leadership and reach the general population directly.

The implications derived from this meeting regarding education are parallel to the same issues that are being raised vis a vis the Spanish surnamed Americans with other departments of the government. If an Administration wide policy is in fact determined, it should be done in a consistent manner. This is especially relevant in terms of Federal funding, because "civic" organizations like LULAC, GI Forum and Operation Push derive their federal funds not only from DOE but also from HHS, DOL and a variety of other public agencies.