

National Hispanic Leadership Conference on Housing
Conferencia Nacional de Vivienda Para Líderes Hispanos



Department of Housing and Urban Development
Headquarters

Departmental Conference Room - 10233
451 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C.

May 12-14, 1992



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-0001

May 21, 1992

National Hispanic Housing Council
Steering Committee
Mr. Ed Pena
Legal Counsel to the National
Hispanic Housing Council
1101 14th Street, NW, Suite 610
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Pena:

It was a pleasure to meet with you and the other members of the new National Hispanic Housing Council during our National Hispanic Leadership Conference on Housing. I appreciated the very professional and comprehensive briefing and the presentation of recommendations during the Conference on Thursday, May 14, 1992.

The outcome of the conference, including the formation of the National Hispanic Housing Council, provides the impetus for necessary change at this historic and exciting time in the Nation's history. I believe the Council will also play a critical role in creating and supporting facilitative coalitions which will help move the Hispanic housing agenda.

I promised that the Department would respond to the Council's recommendations within hours. On the following pages, I have outlined the actions the Department has already taken and others that have been initiated. I have identified areas in which the Council needs to provide consultation and additional information. These items are identified with the relevant recommendations.

I plan to write to the Council again to provide a status report on the actions outlined below. In addition, as I indicated at the close of the Conference, HUD will convene a meeting of the Council Steering Committee to assess the Department's progress and to plan a second conference on Hispanic housing issues.

The Conference and the establishment of the Council mark the beginning of an important relationship between HUD and the National Hispanic community. I pledge my total support to your

endeavors and seek to forge a continuing partnership between HUD and the Council to give attention to meeting the housing economic opportunity needs of the Hispanic community in this country.

Very sincerely yours,

Jack
Jack Kemp

Enclosure

*of thanks again. See for
your leadership &
partnership. JK*

ENCLOSURE

INITIAL RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
NATIONAL HISPANIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON HOUSING
SUBMITTED MAY 14, 1992

Recommendation 1:

To provide long-term leadership and continuity to this process, to form a National Hispanic Housing Council. This Council will be located in Washington, DC, and will be made up of a variety of members and will be reflective of the total Latino population in this country. Its mission will be five-fold:

- * Establish a mechanism for accountability.
- * Identify individuals with authority at HUD's national, regional and field offices that will provide direct access for Hispanic groups. We specifically recommend the inclusion of Jim Tarro, Jess Quintero and Roxana Chahin as national HUD Hispanic liaisons.
- * Articulate collective issues and promote the Hispanic agenda, ensuring continuity that will take us into the 21st century.
- * Call attention to the issues that affect housing conditions and services in the Hispanic community.
- * Advise the HUD national and regional offices.

This National Hispanic Housing Council will also function as a hub for interagency facilitation. We are asking HUD to take the leadership and execute an interagency agreement that will include other departments and provide seed funding for this organization. We are asking HUD to provide an immediate planning grant to help launch the new National Hispanic Housing Council initiative. In addition, we want HUD to support an Executive Order for the establishment of a Presidential Hispanic Housing Commission.

Actions Taken:

Assistant Secretary Jim Tarro, Jess Quintero, and Roxana Chahin are hereby designated the HUD Hispanic liaisons at the Headquarters level. In addition, Effren Herrera is designated the Field liaison. These individuals will maintain ongoing communications with the Council Steering Committee to ensure that Council input is received and that progress is made on implementing the recommendations.

HUD is reviewing the available funds for the most appropriate source for a planning grant to help establish the National Hispanic Housing Council. It appears that the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) would best serve this need in its education and outreach component. A Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will be published shortly and we hope that you apply. Copies of the NOFA will be forwarded to you.

HUD understands that the Council, in conjunction with the U.S. Congressional Hispanic Caucus, will initiate the drive to establish a Presidential Commission on Hispanic Housing. This action has HUD's full support, and HUD will make every effort to further this goal within the Administration.

Recommendation 2:

We want a thorough assessment of where HUD is today and how HUD is servicing the Hispanic community. We need the following specific data:

- Hispanic eligibility and participation in all assisted housing and other HUD programs, broken down program-by-program and Region-by-Region.
- Data on HUD's hiring practices of Hispanics, broken down by regional offices and skill level.
- HUD contracting with Hispanic vendors at the field, regional and national levels.

Actions Taken:

Some data on contracting and Hispanic hires were available and were provided to John Huerta of the Council's Steering Committee. Other requested information will be provided as soon as it is available and/or on an ongoing basis, as agreed to by the Council and HUD.

HUD has had a hiring freeze in effect for virtually all of this fiscal year. Only a very few exceptions to this hiring freeze have been granted. Despite this, since 1989 we have placed Hispanics in several positions of influence, including Jim Tarro as the Assistant Secretary for Administration, five new members of the Senior Executive Service, Jess Quintero as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity for Hispanic Affairs, Jorge Negron as Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Michael Hernandez as a Special Assistant, now Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Single Family Housing, Roxana Chahin as an

Intergovernmental Relations Officer, two Field Office Managers and several career and Schedule C appointments. With Jim Tarro in the key role of Assistant Secretary for Administration, HUD is well prepared to monitor and directly influence current hiring activity in this regard.

Data presently available in HUD's program areas and the Office of Procurement and Contracts will be provided to you. HUD is currently reviewing what data are available and, based upon that review, will provide the data to you. HUD will also work with you to identify what else is needed and make arrangements for delivery.

Recommendation 1:

HUD must take active steps to immediately address the underrepresentation of Hispanics in all HUD and other housing programs.

Actions Taken:

HUD looks forward to receiving the input you offered at the end of your presentation, as well as consulting with you to ensure that Hispanics are given the utmost opportunity to participate in HUD programs and activities. HUD expects that this process will take place at both the Headquarters and Regional levels in an effort to gain a comprehensive understanding of the issues.

Recommendation 2:

HUD's current programs must address the critical needs of ~~farmworkers and migrants~~, a population which is 90 percent Hispanic and whose income falls way below the poverty level.

Actions Taken:

HUD will explore how our current programs might be more creatively used to serve the farmworker/migrant population. In addition, we will research and consider the need for new programs or legislation in this important area. It is imperative that HUD has your up front input as we delve into this new arena. You will be contacted as we begin to develop a plan for meeting migrant farmworker needs.

Recommendation 3:

Many of HUD's programs, such as elderly, AIDS housing, and others currently fail to take into account the Hispanic family structure. HUD programs must take Hispanic family structure into account in order to be effective.

Actions Taken:

The strength of the American family is essential to the success of an individual and of a community. As indicated at our meeting, HUD needs to understand the specific uniqueness of the Hispanic family structure and culture so that we can better shape our short and long-term responses to this recommendation. It is

requested that you prepare a paper which provides this information for use by HUD staff. Program Assistant Secretaries will consult with you to develop a plan for addressing these cultural considerations within relevant programs.

Recommendation 6:

HUD needs to increase its commitment to fully enforcing the fair housing protections for Hispanics, an area in which HUD's own research has indicated severe problems.

Actions Taken:

Enforcing fair housing for all is a HUD priority. Assistant Secretary Mansfield will initiate discussions with the Council Steering Committee and ensure the full implementation of fair housing opportunities for Hispanics.

Recommendation 7:

HUD needs to increase the capacity of Hispanic nonprofit housing organization through targeted technical assistance programs and develop training models to bring our youth into the housing profession. By building on local Hispanic initiatives, the Latino community will become part of the housing delivery system.

Actions Taken:

HUD requests that the Council provide a complete list of all non-profit housing or other relevant organizations. This list will serve as the basis for a plan, developed by HUD in consultation with the Council, for providing more and easier access by these organizations to technical assistance funding.

Recommendation 8:

Job creation is critical to the stability of Hispanic communities. Through microenterprise development, targeted tax incentives, or the enforcement of reinvestment laws for banks and secondary mortgage companies, Hispanics must gain access to tangible economic benefits. Jobs together with housing will help rebuild our communities.

Actions Taken:

Jorge Negron, our new Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, will take the lead in developing a plan for increasing Hispanic participation in HUD contracting opportunities. This plan should be created in consultation with other HUD contracting functions and with the Council.

NATIONAL HISPANIC HOUSING COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Hispanic Leadership Housing Conference Participants
Subject: Response to May 21, 1992 correspondence from Secretary Kemp
Date: May 22, 1992

Dear Colleagues:

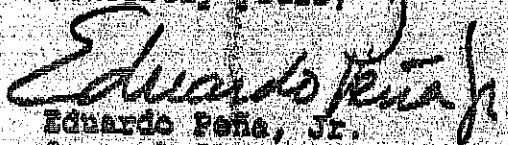
It is important that we provide a quick response to Secretary Kemp's letter which was faxed to you yesterday.

If you have any specific comments, ideas, or proposals that should be included in the response please fax them to my office (fax #202-789-3106), by Wednesday, May 27, 1992.

Working with the five co-chairpersons, I will co-ordinate a response, which will be cleared with all of you who send comments, before it is presented to Secretary Kemp.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,



Eduardo Peña, Jr.
General Counsel
National Hispanic
Housing Council

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To	Melan Kavanagh	From	Armo Cardona
Co		Co	
Dept.			

National Hispanic Housing Council

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ed Peña
General Counsel - NHHHC

FROM: Aureo Cardona
Co-Chair - NHHHC

DATE: May 20, 1992

As per our conversation the following is a list of points/issues to be addressed.

1. The coordinating committee of the NHHHC created a sub-committee representative of the three ethnic groups that had formed the council to be co-chairs. The members selected were in alphabetical order:

Aureo Cardona - Puerorriqueño
Guarone Diaz - Cubano
Henry Flores - Mexicanoamericano

2. The coordinating committee also accepted the commitment of LULAC to provide legal support for the incorporation process through the designation of Ed Peña as the General Counsel of the NHHHC.
3. The coordinating committee determined that major emphasis should be placed on historically neglected special interest groups. Specially the migrant worker and the farm worker and also women and the elderly. The following individuals were named to represent these interests:

Hon. Arcadio Viveros - Migrant worker
Farm Worker
Dr. Marta Sotomayer - Elderly & Women

The coordinating committee empowered these six individuals to make all decisions that pertain to the development and institutionalization of the National Hispanic Housing Council within the next 90 days.

HUD based on these decisions has committed to communicate directly with the General Counsel of the NHHHC as it relates to all issues until such time as a more formal structure and vehicle is created by the NHHHC.



Housing Assistance Council Inc. • 1025 Vermont Ave., N.W. • Suite 606 • Washington, D.C. 20005 • (202) 842-8600

Handwritten:
-10/10
FVI
Jack

DRAFT
May 27, 1992

A PROPOSAL FOR ADDRESSING THE HOUSING NEEDS OF FARMWORKERS AND MIGRANT WORKERS

**Prepared by the Housing Assistance Council
for the National Hispanic Housing Council**

For at least three generations the United States has pursued an agricultural policy designed to keep food costs for American families both plentiful and low in cost to the consumer. There can be little doubt that the policy is successful. Overall, food prices and abundant supply have made our retail supermarkets the envy of the world.

While consumers enjoy significant advantages from this policy, as usual, someone has to pay. Without going into detail, it is apparent that the taxpayer subsidizes the growers in a variety of different ways -- marketing orders, low-cost water, farm-to-market roads, enormous research expenditures, and of course direct payments of various kinds to growers, ranging from direct price supports to payments for not growing certain crops.

We do not suggest that this policy is misguided or wrong, or that tax dollars should not be used to implement the policy. Virtually all taxpayers are beneficiaries and there is nothing inherently unequal about asking taxpayers to meet the bill.

THE REST OF THE COST

What we do suggest is that the taxpayers do not foot the entire bill. Two other groups bear a disproportionate share of the cost -- small family farmers and, of particular interest to the Housing Assistance Council (HAC), migrant farm laborers.

While the idea is arguable, there is a considerable body of thought holding that the various subsidies have at least contributed to the loss of thousands of family farms in this country. Those farm families have sacrificed their livelihoods to the implementation of the cheap and plentiful food policy. Perhaps it is inevitable, but the family farm is disappearing, replaced by the corporate farmer, better positioned to take advantage of the opportunities available to modern farm entrepreneurs.

But an even greater subsidy payment is made, year after year after year, by the farm laborers who plant, cultivate and harvest the bountiful, low-cost food we take for granted. No one knows with any certainty just who or how many there are. The USDA publication, "Agriculture Statistics," has nearly three hundred pages on commodities -- soybeans, tree fruits and nuts, dairy products, tobacco, etc. -- but only four pages on hired farm labor. Another USDA report, "The Agricultural Work Force of 1987," places the number of farmworkers at 2,463,000, but it includes neither the Special Agricultural Workers (SAWs) gaining legalization under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, an estimated 1.3 million, nor many of the undocumented workers who are notoriously difficult to count. It is HAC's considered estimate that there are a minimum of 5,000,000 farmworkers working annually in the United States. Most, according to the House Select Committee on Aging, are young married foreign-born males, over two-thirds of Hispanic origin.

How do these farmworkers subsidize our table foods? By accepting minimum and even sub-minimum wages. By traveling long distances in often unsafe vehicles to accept those low-paying jobs. By tolerating working conditions unsafe by any health standard. By living in abandoned chicken houses, exorbitantly expensive motel rooms, doubled up with two or three families in a single one-room shack, or in orchards, dry stream beds or abandoned vehicles. By permitting their children as young as six to work in the fields with them. By indenturing themselves to farm labor contractors who all too often "short-weigh," "short-count" and consequently shortchange workers on pay and withheld taxes, while charging excessive fees for food, lodging, transportation and life's necessities. In short, hundreds of thousands of farmworkers subsidize our food by surrendering their dignity to the demands of survival.

The principal result of Edward R. Murrow's CBS broadcast of 30 years ago, "Harvest of Shame," detailing the misery and neglect of migrants has been an increased public awareness of the problems. But there has been little tangible change. Five cabinet level departments -- Agriculture, Labor, Health and Human Services, Justice and Education -- and the Environmental Protection Agency have regulatory or program responsibilities for migrant farm laborers. Laws are on the books. Administrators we have. Amelioration of the deplorable working and living conditions has not yet occurred.

HAC has no special expertise with respect to the migrant health, education, Headstart or job training programs administered by those departments, but we do understand the desperate need for decent housing and the inadequate response. Further, it seems apparent to us that inadequate living conditions must contribute materially to the precarious state of health so many migrants suffer. Lack of pure drinking water or even of water to wash off field-applied chemicals is commonplace. Crowded, unsanitary living conditions contribute to the spread of communicable diseases among both children and adults.

HOUSING FOR MIGRANT FARM LABORERS

The most recent survey (in 1980) of the national need for migrant farmworker shelter indicated a shortage of nearly 800,000 units. More rigorous enforcement of health and sanitary standards since that time has meant the loss of even more private labor camp units, while the only federal farm labor housing program has financed fewer than 5,000 new units since 1980, virtually all of those in states with nearly year round need for farm labor. The Section 514/516 program, administered by the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is wholly inadequate to the task.

Funded at roughly \$27 million in FY 1992 (40 percent of which is grants and 60 percent loans), the Section 514/516 program simply cannot meet the need. Furthermore, the nature of the program financing virtually necessitates year round occupancy of the units produced, making it totally impractical in agricultural areas with a labor demand of only three or four months.

The National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 did establish a new Homeless/Migrant program that would permit interested local governments or nonprofits to apply to FmHA for 100 percent financing of shelters to be used for migrants during their residency in the community, and for homeless individuals and families in the off season. While \$10 million was authorized, nothing was appropriated. FmHA is attempting to utilize money from the 514/516 program to initiate the program, but the legislative requirements that an area have both migrants and homeless persons has made the program almost unworkable.

In short, there is no workable program to address the need for decent housing for migrant farmworkers in the agricultural communities which need such labor for a few months each year. Nor is there an adequate program to provide decent housing for farmworkers in those areas which need their labor eight, ten or twelve months of the year.

The Housing Assistance Council suggests a five-point agenda to address the problems of farmworker housing.

1. The current appropriation level for the FmHA Section 514/516 farm labor housing program should be significantly increased. A five-fold expansion of the funding would produce about 2,500 year-round units annually at a cost of about \$150 million.
2. The newly enacted Migrant/Homeless Shelter program should be modified to make it workable and funded with increasing annual amounts up to the level of the farm labor housing program.
3. A new program of portable Section 8 vouchers or certificates should be enacted expressly for migrant farmworkers.

4. The HOME program should be amended to make migrant housing in agricultural areas eligible for new construction with a high priority and no local match requirement.
5. Public housing authorities in agricultural areas with shortages of farm labor housing should receive a set-aside of new construction funds expressly for developing and operating farm labor housing.

The first two agenda items, along with the outline for a demonstration program, are included in "A Proposal for Migrant Shelter" prepared by HAC in 1990 and appended to this paper as Attachment A. The final three items are discussed briefly here.

Portable Vouchers

Vouchers are not in themselves an answer to migrant shelter needs, but in areas of the country where standard housing does exist, but is simply beyond the financial means of farmworkers, vouchers can make a significant difference. Because they must be portable, they would of necessity be administered directly by HUD (perhaps acting through a state agency) from a national set-aside of vouchers. We do not suggest such a program would be easily administered, but nothing about migrancy is particularly easy.

We suggest that vouchers be issued only in the state of a migrant's off-season residence, and be invalid in that state. They might be issued for discrete time periods, but in no case longer than one year. They ought not to be valid payment for housing controlled by labor contractors without specific inspection and approval by health officials dealing at arm's length. Local fair market rent schedules are unlikely to have much relevance.

Actual payment to the landlord may present a problem, though theoretically the voucher could be like a coupon bond, with dated tear-off certificates endorsed by the migrant, certified by the landlord and mailed to HUD for payment. They could be like Food Stamps and deposited by the landlord at the local bank.

HOME Funding for Migrant Shelter

HUD interim regulations implementing the HOME program make it virtually impossible to undertake new construction in rural areas. Nothing in the law prohibits such activity, though the higher match requirement inhibits such construction.

While the goals and priorities established in each CHAS will determine just how the HOME money is used, to HAC's knowledge, no locality in the country has suggested that housing for migrant farmworkers is a special need, or included it in the goals set forth in the CHAS. We believe that if the prohibition on new construction were removed and migrant housing was specifically addressed in the regulations as a special need (as is homelessness), many participating jurisdictions might well awaken to the need for such housing and respond

accordingly. That of course further assumes a waiver of the matching requirement for farm labor housing.

Public Housing Funding for Migrant Shelter

In hundreds of small towns and crossroad communities the only decent low-income housing is public housing, and the only possible entity for developing additional housing is the local public housing authority. Even today much of the FmHA Section 514/516 farm labor housing is developed, owned and operated by local housing authorities. They have demonstrated both their interest and their skill in building and managing housing for this disparate, difficult group.

The seemingly universal urban complaint about public housing is just that -- an urban complaint. Most rural housing projects are built to scale, are well managed, attractive and desirable homes for low-income families.

Agricultural communities with a need for migrant housing would, we believe, enthusiastically support their housing authorities' request for funding specifically designated to build migrant shelter. We suggest it indeed be shelter, built to the standards set forth for farm labor housing in 7 CFR 1924(a) (Exhibit I), rather than typical public housing. It would be designed and built for seasonal use and consequently be less expensive.

A SUMMARY

HAC has not computed the cost of these new programs, but we are confident that their cost would be but a tiny fraction of the cost of the countless subsidies currently supporting our agricultural policy.

Farmworkers, like other working poor, earn incomes usually insufficient -- even when work is available -- to pay for adequate housing. We have an imperfectly developed policy of keeping food costs low and supplies abundant by subsidizing, in one way or another, virtually all of the costs of production except the wages of those who actually grow our food. Simple equity demands that farmworkers no longer be required to pay a disproportionate share of the subsidy we all enjoy.

Vows to Improve Housing

HUD Secretary Gives Department F's on Past Policies

By Ann Marrano
Washington Post Staff Writer

5/23/91

Angry and suspicious, Hispanic leaders gathered here last week at the invitation of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Jack Foy to talk about the often severe housing problems of their people.

They left three days later, saying they were still wary but more hopeful that Kemp would deliver on pledges made during the conference, to increase aid to Hispanics.

The housing problems of many Hispanics across the country are severe but they have gotten less help than other minority groups, despite appeals to federal authorities, the leaders said.

After meeting twice with the Hispanic group last week, Kemp said in an interview that the department "gets F's" on its past record of housing and other assistance for Hispanics but that he is committed to making changes.

Kemp promised to search all of HUD's programs for ways "to meet the special needs of Hispanic families." He said he also will make a special effort to ensure the "upward mobility" of the department's Hispanic employees.

The National Council of LaRaza, one of the largest Hispanic advocacy groups, said Hispanics are more likely to live in over-crowded and substandard housing and to pay more for it than other whites.

They are also less likely to own homes than non-Hispanic whites and to encounter discrimination more than half the time when they try to buy or rent houses, nearly as often as blacks, according to a HUD study released in 1991.

At the close of the conference, the Hispanic group formed a new organization called the National Hispanic Housing Council and gave Kemp a list of recommendations, asking that HUD examine the reasons for the low level of aid.

Several days after the meeting, Kemp sent the new council a report of actions he said the department has taken and others it plans. He pledged to "take active steps" to correct underrepresentation of Hispanics in all HUD and other housing programs.

The department also will try to give more aid to poor migrant farmworkers, ensure that Hispanics are protected under fair housing laws, provide more assistance to Hispanic non-profit housing groups and increase contracting opportunities for Hispanic companies.

Housing needs have become more urgent with the dramatic increase in the country's Hispanic population, to 22.3 million, according to the 1990 census. This is a 53 percent increase over the number reported by the 1980 census. Hispanic residents now make up 9 percent of the population.

In contrast, the black population grew by 13 percent to 29.9 million over the decade and now accounts for 12.1 percent of all U.S. residents.

Federal aid has not kept up with the need, Hispanic leaders said. According to federal surveys, 26 percent of all Latinos lived in poverty in 1989 but only 7.3 percent got any form of housing aid. In contrast, 30.7 percent of all blacks were in poverty with 13.6 percent receiving housing assistance.

"We are angry about the lack of response and resources" from federal agencies over the past decade, said Irene Packer, president of the National Hispanic Housing Coalition. "We want technical assistance, a presence in Washington."

Robert Carmey, housing policy analyst for the National Council of LaRaza, said Hispanics want "equal benefits" from all of HUD's assisted housing programs.

"If Hispanics are 20 percent of the population [who are] eligible for housing assistance from the HUD Section 8 program, it's not unreasonable to expect that they should get

See HISPANICS, E10, Col. 4

THE WASHINGTON POST

Kemp to Improve Housing for Hispanics

HISPANICS, From E1

the same ratio of housing," he said, referring to the government's major rental assistance program. Carney also urged "greater enforcement" of fair housing laws by federal authorities.

Scores of Hispanic housing groups got federal money to support their activities during the 1970s and early 1980s, but the funding was cut off after Ronald Reagan became president in 1981, they said.

During the decade ending in 1988, funds authorized for assisted housing of all kinds plummeted by 78 percent, according to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition. The first Reagan budget, in fiscal 1982, cut the spending by nearly half. Since then, the levels have risen slightly, with the Bush administration proposing \$20.4 billion for fiscal 1993.

Aureo Cardona, vice president of the Washington-based National Center for Housing Management, said some of federal officials' lack of attention to Hispanic needs results from "out-and-out racism. Historically, they don't pay attention to us."

HUD "clearly has a black agenda," Cardona said, adding that Kemp's "affiliation with the black community can be a problem for us, but it's a big football team and we want to be on it."

Resident management groups

formed in many public housing agencies are headed or dominated by black tenants, and many of the residents are black. Kemp's housing agenda is dominated by his programs for helping resident management groups and individual tenants buy public housing and he meets frequently with them.

Migrant farmworkers are among the neediest Latinos, the Hispanic leaders said. Their housing conditions are "deplorable" and getting worse, said Arlene Gillespie of the National Puerto Rican Coalition Inc. "HUD has excluded them from the very beginning."

Mayor Victor Lopez of Orange Cove, Calif., said Fresno and two other California counties "are the breadbasket of the world" but the "housing situation is so poor you would not believe it." Three and four families, most of them farmworkers, live in every house, he said.

The Washington conference was "not the first time" federal officials have promised more help for Hispanics, and in the past they have failed to deliver, said Guadalupe Martinez, president of the Midwest Association of Farmworker Organizations. "Maybe I should be cautious, but I'm optimistic."

Martinez compared himself to Charlie Brown, the "Peanuts" comic strip character who "at least once a year" is persuaded by Lucy that she

will not jerk the football away just before he kicks it. But Lucy never keeps her promise. After waiting nearly two years for a meeting promised by top-ranking Bush administration housing officials, some conference delegates said they were suspicious of the timing of last week's gathering.

"It smacks of election year sloganeering," Carney said. LaRaza decided not to take part, and sent Carney as an observer.

The way the conference started off confirmed their suspicions, several delegates said. A parade of HUD officials described the department's housing programs. Several of the Hispanics said they were familiar with HUD programs, and after a few speeches, the Hispanics took over the conference and rearranged the agenda to cover subjects they considered most important.

The "kind of liaison with the Hispanic community" that grew, at least temporarily, out of last week's conference "is something Hispanics have been seeking throughout the Bush administration," said Ruth Pagani, public policy coordinator of the National Puerto Rican Coalition Inc. "But Hispanics become very popular every four years. There's very strong skepticism" among Hispanics who have been "working valiantly for years" to direct more federal services to their people, she said.

**HISPANIC LEADERSHIP HOUSING
CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS**

(as of 30 April 1992)

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7. National Council of La Raza (Co-chair)

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10. National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA)

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11. Ibero-American Chamber of Commerce

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final

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF NATIONAL HISPANIC LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE ON HOUSING**

**Washington, D.C.
May 14, 1992**

(Presented by Aureo Cardona, Vice President, National Center for Housing Management, Washington, DC)

Blatant neglect and underrepresentation of Hispanics by HUD or any other agency has never been acceptable and will no longer be tolerated. Our growing numbers in both rural and urban areas make us no longer a minority but instead a major consumer force with specific housing and economic development needs. As such, we are making the following eight recommendations:

(1) Our first recommendation, to provide long-term leadership and continuity to this process, is to form a NATIONAL HISPANIC HOUSING COUNCIL. This Council will be located in Washington, DC, and will be made up of a variety of members and will be reflective of the total Latino population in this country. Its mission will be fivefold:

- * Establish a mechanism for accountability
- * Identify individuals with authority at HUD's national, regional and field offices that will provide direct access for Hispanic groups. We specifically recommend the inclusion of Jim Tarro, Jess Quintero, and Roxana Chahin as national HUD Hispanic liaisons.
- * Articulate collective issues and promote the Hispanic agenda, ensuring continuity that will take us into the 21st century
- * Call attention to the issues that affect housing conditions and services in the Hispanic community
- * Advise the HUD national and regional offices

This National Hispanic Housing Council will also function as a hub for interagency facilitation. We are asking HUD to take the leadership and execute an interagency agreement that will include other departments and provide seed funding for this organization. We are asking HUD to provide an immediate planning grant to help launch the new National Hispanic Housing Council initiative. In addition, we want HUD to support an Executive Order for the establishment of a Presidential Hispanic Housing Commission.

National Hispanic Housing Council: A Strategy for an Hispanic Empowerment Partnership

(Presented by Henry Flores, Executive Director, Corpus Christi Housing Authority, Corpus Christi, TX)

We speak to you today on behalf of over 35 national and local Hispanic housing groups and other organizations from all over this great country of ours who have been convened by Secretary Kemp. We have met together at HUD headquarters for an historic event -- the first Hispanic Leadership Housing Conference in thirteen years. We want to express our thanks to Secretary Kemp and his Hispanic staff, especially Jim Tarro, Jess Quintero, and Roxana Chahin who worked hard and scrounged for scarce dollars to bring the Mexican-American, Cuban-American, Puerto Rican and other Latino housing advocates and practitioners together to talk about what deeply concerns our community--the lack of affordable, decent housing for the growing Latino community.

When you spoke to us on Tuesday, you talked passionately about your concerns for the Latino community. As one of the poorest minorities in this country, Latinos want a piece of the pie. Hispanics have traditionally preserved the family unit, and HUD needs to work with us to further that priority. We want to help build our communities, join in partnerships with the private and public sectors to restore our neighborhoods, provide decent housing for our migrant families and rural farmworkers, and train our young people for meaningful jobs. We agree with you that "this is the time to move", that this is the time to "empower our people" and work together -- across party lines -- to make our cities safe and economically strong. We support many of the concepts in the six-point urban agenda announced by President Bush. In your speech to us on Tuesday, you asked us to work with HUD officials to develop an Hispanic housing agenda, to ask the tough questions, to look for ways to improve HUD's outreach to the Hispanic community.

To achieve these goals, we have used these two days to work hard to brainstorm and develop a pro-active agenda that will unify our community, an agenda which will address the differing needs of our community, and promote Hispanic capacity for providing community development and educating a new generation of Hispanic housing leaders and practitioners.

(Presented by John Huerta, Staff Attorney for the Western Center for Law and Poverty, Los Angeles, CA)

The goals of the Hispanic community are affordable housing, empowerment, job creation, education, and leadership development. These goals can be accomplished through existing programs if these programs are properly applied. We want HUD to work with us to give us funding and resources so that we can go out into our own communities and work out responses to our problems. We have the expertise to develop community-based programs and projects that address the root causes of our poverty and housing needs. We have the products and resources within Hispanic communities that we can use to work together with HUD to strengthen the implementation of federal housing programs. We want the opportunity to develop our own solutions and form an Hispanic empowerment partnership. Our second recommendation is:

(2) We want a thorough assessment of where HUD is today and how HUD is servicing the Hispanic community. We need the following specific data:

- * Hispanic eligibility and participation in all assisted housing and other HUD programs, broken down program-by-program and region-by-region.
- * Data on HUD's hiring practices of Hispanics, broken down by regional offices and skill level.
- * HUD contracting with Hispanic vendors at the field, regional and national levels.

(Presented by Arlene Gillespie, Vice President, National Puerto Rican Coalition, Washington, DC)

Many of HUD's programs are well designed and are targeted to low-income families. But there are specific flaws in the regulations, as well as problems with the implementation of the programs which result in Hispanics not receiving equitable benefits. We believe there are a number of key areas where HUD could make changes, and the results could dramatically improve the way HUD services the Hispanic community.

Below is a short list of the most serious problems:

- (3) HUD must take active steps to immediately address the underrepresentation of Hispanics in all HUD and other housing programs.
- (4) HUD's current programs must address the critical needs of farmworkers and migrants, a population which is 90% Hispanic and whose income falls way below the poverty level.
- (5) Many of HUD's programs, such as elderly, AIDS housing, and others, currently fail to take into account the Hispanic family structure. HUD programs must take Hispanic family structure into account in order to be effective.
- (6) HUD needs to increase its commitment to fully enforcing the fair housing protections for Hispanics, an area in which HUD's own research has indicated severe problems.
- (7) HUD needs to increase the capacity of Hispanic nonprofit housing organizations through targeted technical assistance programs and develop training models to bring our youth into the housing profession. By building on local Hispanic initiatives, the Latino community will become part of the housing delivery system.
- (8) Job creation is critical to the stability of Hispanic communities. Through microenterprise development, targeted tax incentives, or the enforcement of reinvestment laws for banks and secondary mortgage companies, Hispanics must gain access to tangible economic benefits. Jobs together with housing will help rebuild our communities.

(Presented by Joe Giron, President, Brothers Redevelopment Corporation, Denver, CO)

Hispanic housing groups and leaders want to have access to resources that make us equal partners in building our communities and empowering us to be self sufficient.

We want to establish the Council and implement the eight recommendations that will go toward furthering this goal.

We're willing to do our part, but we need a commitment from you that you will do the following in the short term:

- * Commit to allocating an innovative seed grant for the establishment of the National Hispanic Housing Council.
- * Provide in writing within 45 days, specific action responses to our eight recommendations.
- * Reconvene the working group to assess the Department's response and plan for a major gathering of Hispanic housing leaders to coincide with HUD's participation in Hispanic heritage month.
- * Promote and work with the Council to establish a Presidential Hispanic Housing Commission.

We want the long-term institutionalization of this process:

- * Develop an Hispanic housing agenda that will meet the needs of the Hispanic population into the 21st century.
- * Convene semi-annual Hispanic housing issues conferences in Washington, D.C., financed by HUD.
- * Seek the Administration's active support for the legislative establishment of the National Hispanic Housing Council.

We will submit a more substantive document which further details issues and recommendations on specific HUD programs that affect the Hispanic community. Thank you.

Washington, D.C.

May 14, 1992

enc. Letter from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Jack Kemp