

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE ON RACE

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COMMUNITY FORUM

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TUESDAY

FEBRUARY 10, 1998

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SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

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The Commission's Community Forum met at Independence High School, Luiz Valdez Performing Arts Center, 1776 Educational Park Drive, San Jose California, at 6:20 p.m., Barbara Rogers, Moderator, presiding.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Dr. John Hope Franklin, Durham, NC, Chairman
Linda Chavez-Thompson, Washington D.C.
Suzan D. Johnson Cook, Bronx, NY
Thomas H. Kean, Madison, NJ
Angela E. Oh, Los Angeles, CA
Robert Thomas, Fort Lauderdale, FL
William F. Winter, Jackson, MS

MODERATOR: Barbara Rogers, KPIX-TV

WELCOMING REMARKS:

John Vasconcellos, California State Senate
Mike Honda, California State Assembly

Patricia Martinez-Roach, East Side Union High
School District

SPEAKERS:

Beth Gonzalez
Amana Jahed
Jorge Gonzalez
Louis Calabro
Velia Bastardo
Steve Pinkston
Cathy Brandhorst
Qa'id Aqueel
David Sul
John McKenzie
Brian Cheu
Gil Villegran
Marjorie Craig
Felix Alvarez
Henry Hutchins
Gayle Tiller
Dennisse Munoz
Adrian Stewart
Sharon Vierhus
Sarah Singer
Rollin Winslow

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

(6:20 p.m.)

MS. ROGERS: Okay. We're going to get started now. It's nice to see all of you here this evening.

To start off the evening I would like to introduce you to Judith Winston, who is the Executive Director of the President's Initiative on Race.

(Applause.)

MS. WINSTON: Good evening. I, too, would like to welcome you all here and thank you for coming to this community forum and meeting with the President's Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race.

The President is looking forward to hearing from the Board about its visit to San Jose and its work on behalf of the Initiative. The President is unable to be with us this evening but he has sent to us a message by video. And I would ask you to join me now to listen to a message from the President of the United States.

(Videotape plays:)

"I would like to welcome you and thank you for participating in this important conversation about race in America.

"America has always stood for the shining

1 ideal that we're all created equal. We haven't always
2 lived up to that ideal, but it has guided our way for
3 more than two centuries. And as we enter the 21st
4 Century, we know that one of the greatest challenges
5 we still face is learning how we can come together as
6 one America.

7 "America will soon be the most diverse
8 nation in the world. Will those differences divide
9 us, or will they be our greatest strength? The answer
10 depends on what we are willing to do, together.

11 "We must confront our differences in
12 honest dialogue, yes, but we must also talk about the
13 common dreams and the values we share. We must fight
14 discrimination in our communities and in our hearts,
15 and we must close the opportunity gaps that divide too
16 many Americans in real life.

17 "That is why I launched this National
18 Initiative on Race, and I'm very glad you're joining
19 us. Your views, your ideas, they're very important.
20 I ask you to share them with Dr. Franklin and the
21 members of my Advisory Board. They are helping me
22 reach out to communities like yours all across our
23 nation.

24 "I look forward to hearing from them about
25 the results of your conversation.

26 "Please go back to your neighborhoods,
27 your schools, your workplaces, your places of worship,

1 and continue this conversation about race. Take a
2 leadership role.

3 "Together, we can build a stronger America
4 for the 21st Century, as One America. Thank you for
5 helping us to meet this most important challenge."

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. ROGERS: Good evening. I'm Barbara
8 Rogers from KPIX-TV, Channel Five, and I will be
9 serving as the moderator this evening.

10 On behalf of the President's Advisory
11 Board on the Initiative on Race, I would like to
12 welcome you to this evening's community forum.

13 The purpose of the community forum is to
14 provide you with an opportunity to tell the Advisory
15 Board about race in San Jose and the Bay Area. The
16 advisory board is spending this year traveling
17 throughout the United States listening to Americans
18 and helping all of us understand and realize the
19 President's vision of One America in the 21st Century.

20 And to help us do that, we have this
21 distinguished panel here tonight, and I would like to
22 introduce the members of the Board to you -- as soon
23 as I find all of their bios here. I have quite a few
24 papers here, so bear with me just for a second.

25 The first person is the Chair of the
26 advisory board, Dr. John Hope Franklin, who is sitting
27 in the middle, so he's not at the end. So if you'd

1 just raise your hand, Dr. Franklin, so they know which
2 one you are.

3

4 (Applause.)

5 CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN: Thank you.

6 MS. ROGERS: Dr. Franklin is a retired
7 historian and educator who most recently served as
8 Professor of Legal History at Duke University Law
9 School from 1982 to 1992.

10 President Clinton awarded Dr. Franklin the
11 Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995.

12 Dr. Franklin's scholarly work has focused
13 on the Civil War and Reconstruction Era, and includes
14 the 1946 landmark study, From Slavery to Freedom. Dr.
15 Franklin received his A.B. degree from Fiske
16 University in 1935, an M.A. from Harvard University in
17 1936, and a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1941.

18 Now I will go from my right down, for the
19 other members of the panel.

20 And Rev. Suzan Johnson Cook will be
21 joining us a little bit later, but I will read you her
22 bio.

23 Rev. Suzan Johnson Cook of Bronx, New
24 York, is Senior Pastor of the Bronx Christian
25 Fellowship. She is also the first female chaplain of
26 the New York Police Department.

27 In 1983, the Rev. Dr. Cook became the

1 first African-American woman to serve as senior pastor
2 at Mariner's Temple Baptist Church, the oldest
3 American Baptist Church in New York City.

4 From 1993 to 1994, Dr. Cook was a White
5 House fellow, working for the White House Domestic
6 Policy Council. Dr. Cook received a B.S. from Emerson
7 College in 1976, an M.A. from Columbia University
8 Teachers' College in 1978, and a Master's of Divinity
9 from the Union Theological Seminary in 1983, and a
10 Doctorate in the Ministry from United Theological
11 Seminary in 1990.

12 Our next panelist is Robert Thomas of Fort
13 Lauderdale, Florida, Executive Vice President of
14 Strategic Marketing of Republic Industries. He is the
15 former President and CEO of Nissan Motor Corporation
16 U.S.A.

17 Mr. Thomas recently created a partnership
18 with the Los Angeles Urban League to increase
19 opportunities for women and minorities in automobile
20 manufacturing.

21 Mr. Thomas is also a Director of Nissan,
22 Foundation, which issues grants to support community
23 agencies in South Central Los Angeles. Mr. Thomas
24 holds a B.S. in Engineering from the U.S. Air Force
25 Academy in 1967.

26 Linda Chavez-Thompson of Washington D.C.
27 is Executive Vice President with the AFL-CIO. Ms.

1 Chavez-Thompson has 29 years experience in the labor
2 movement. She joined the American Federation of
3 State, County and Municipal Employees in 1971 and
4 became the first person of color to be elected to one
5 of the top officer positions of the AFL-CIO.

6 Angela Oh, of Los Angeles, California, is
7 an attorney with the Los Angeles law firm of Beck,
8 DeCorso, Dailey, Herrera & Oh, specializing in state
9 and federal criminal defense.

10 Following the riots in Los Angeles, she
11 served as Special Counsel to the Assembly's Special
12 Committee on the Los Angeles Crisis.

13 Ms. Oh received a B.A. and an M.P.H. in
14 1981 from the University of California and a J.D.
15 degree in 1986 from the University of California.

16 William F. Winter, of Jackson, Mississippi
17 is the former Democratic Governor of Mississippi and
18 is currently in private law practice with the law firm
19 of Watkins, Ludlum and Stennis. Gov. Winter serves as
20 Chair of the National Commission on State and Local
21 Public Service and the National Issue Forum Institute.

22 While governor, he fought for education
23 reform, equal opportunity for all citizens, and better
24 relations between the races. He received a B.A. in
25 1943 and an LL.B. in 1949 from the University of
26 Mississippi.

27 And you've already met the Executive

1 Director of the President's Initiative on Race, Judith
2 Winston, and she was formerly the General Counsel of
3 the Department of Education and has a long history as
4 an advocate for civil rights issues.

5 So this is our distinguished panel.

6
7 (Applause.)

8 MS. ROGERS: We have a couple of people
9 who I'm sure most of you in this area already know,
10 who are going to provide some welcomes to us tonight.
11 They are State Senator John Vasconcellos, who is
12 called a "pragmatic idealist, the conscience of the
13 legislature and the Johnny Appleseed of Self-Esteem."

14 He is serving his first term in the
15 California State Senate, representing the heart of the
16 Silicon Valley after thirty years in the State
17 Assembly.

18 And we also have a welcoming tonight from
19 Mike Honda, who is in the assembly. He was
20 overwhelmingly elected in 1996, in November of 1996,
21 with 73 percent of the vote. He represents the
22 Silicon Valley area and Santa Clara County.

23 Mike Honda is Chair of the Public
24 Employees Retirement and Social Security Committee and
25 is a member of the Education Committee; Water, Parks
26 and Wildlife Committee; Local Government Committee;
27 Insurance Committee; Governmental Organization

1 Committee; Health Committee and Judiciary Committee.

2 In addition, Mike is a member of the
3 Select Committee on California-Mexico Affairs and the
4 Select Committee on Professional Sports. He doesn't
5 have much time left over, so we're glad he's here to
6 be with us tonight.

7 And we'll start out with State Senator
8 John Vasconcellos.

9

10 (Applause.)

11 SENATOR VASCONCELLOS: Thank you.

12 Dr. Franklin, Members, I'm pleased on
13 behalf of the State Senate and the 800,000 members of
14 my constituency to welcome you to San Jose, to
15 communicate with the President and thank him for his
16 initiative about race. And I just drove down from the
17 capital to welcome you to this area and to urge you to
18 be as profoundly persistent and bold as you can be in
19 this historic effort.

20 Over the past few months I've been
21 launching an exploratory campaign for governor which
22 has been now ended for lack of resources. But in the
23 course of that I made my first issue the issue of
24 race.

25 And before you is a document I produced as
26 my first white paper, if you will, or black paper, or
27 non-race paper, but about race --

1 (Laughter)

2 SENATOR VASCONCELLOS: -- that I think
3 offers both a basis for efforts and as well a nine-
4 point action program I would urge you consider as you
5 do your deliberations.

6 The first -- language could well be
7 written as America, with race as number one problem --
8 our challenge, we have to heal divisions amongst our
9 people. And we can if we have but the will to do it.
10 Americans are a special breed, able to face problems
11 others find insurmountable, and overcome them.

12 In the course of this paper, you know, we
13 talk about first leading up to our history of racism
14 that we have -- with respect to blacks as slaves, or
15 Japanese as -- Japanese-Americans interned, Latinos,
16 otherwise kept out. Owning up to reality is the way
17 to begin to do the healing that is necessary.

18 And then proceed -- if you look on page 3
19 of the document, the bottom, a nine-point particular
20 effort, which I want to put before you in some detail
21 but not too much tonight, my time is short. First,
22 we must put this on our agenda from the start.

23 Every one of us in public office,
24 leadership in every role, must talk about race
25 consistently, I've done it everywhere I go over the
26 past ten years.

27 Second, point out the facts that make this

1 so compelling. In California, which leads the nation
2 in so many ways, we are by the next year to be no
3 longer a white majority state. The figures are clear.

4 In the year 2000, which is now, what, 22
5 months away only -- of those 21 year-olds entering our
6 work force in California the percentage of white males
7 is 15 percent. In the year 2010 we retirees in the
8 state will be three-anglo, and our work force will be
9 two-thirds persons of color.

10 Already more than a quarter of our
11 marriages are interracial. We are the new age
12 society, we have a new society, a new racial mixture
13 society. And we need to own up to that fact and make
14 the figures clear.

15 Second and thirdly, with the facts clear,
16 the reasons become fairly evident. They're
17 religious -- "Love thy neighbor" has no racial
18 context, it means "Love thy neighbor," all of us.

19 Secondly, patriotically, is liberty and
20 justice for all.

21 Third, public policy -- we owe it to
22 ourselves to put together the most peaceful,
23 harmonious society.

24 Fourth, economically, the work force will
25 be large persons of color here and going across the
26 nation. So we have to educate every brown and black
27 and yellow and every other child to their fullest

1 capacity, or we will fail words.

2 And for those who can't morally grow to
3 embrace race and diversity in a comfortable way, the
4 bottom line is very clear: our old age, security
5 depends upon educating children of color, for our work
6 force in the global economy.

7 The challenge we face as a state, and all
8 of us as a nation, is to realize the promise of a
9 multi-cultural democracy, with gender equity, the
10 global economy in the age of technology.

11 Each of those is historic and huge, and we
12 are up to it if we have but the will, personally and
13 politically.

14 One of my most profound experiences in my
15 first year in the legislature, 1967, I sat in front of
16 a newcomer, also named Leon Rabb (phonetic) from South
17 Central and Watts. Leon and I became friends quite
18 soon.

19 He said, "Come home with me on weekend."
20 And I went and spent four days with him as his house
21 guest in South Central and Watts. For four days, saw
22 no white face but mine in the mirror, was the
23 minority -- even if only for a short time. And also
24 realized that blacks were no different from me in
25 aspirations, apprehensions and humanness.

26 You know, I was intellectually on issues
27 of race raised to be accepting and tolerant and

1 friendly. That experience of being in the place was
2 for me a profound and searing moment that's always
3 guided my life and choices ever since.

4 I encourage every American to be
5 encouraged, he or she, those of us, especially in
6 these positions, ought to extend him or herself to go
7 experience the lives of others and to invite others to
8 come and experience our own lives and our own
9 communities.

10 And if we can break down the barriers of
11 distance and distrust, we can then solve the race
12 issue.

13 We can do outreach, education, opportunity
14 and jobs and all the rest. The final point, I think,
15 is that we need to, each of us, become a model for
16 racial healing, for personal healing and become
17 comfortable with people who aren't like us.

18 Work I've done that's been most notable
19 over the years has been work around self-esteem -- at
20 one point lampooned by Doonesbury, two or three weeks
21 of satire at my expense. But the point is that people
22 who have a good sense of ourselves aren't likely to be
23 racist or sexist, but rather welcoming to others into
24 our lives and homes and families and workplaces.

25 So I encourage you to recognize that race
26 is -- even though you struggled with more than black
27 and white, it's black and brown and Asian and white

1 and all of us together as human beings, growing
2 comfortable, owning up to our weaknesses and failures
3 and leading lives of faithful healing and practice
4 that everybody else can understand -- our only hope
5 for a better future for America and all of us. Thank
6 you for being here and good luck in your efforts.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. HONDA: Chairman Franklin, Members of
9 the Advisory Board, welcome to Santa Clara County,
10 welcome to the City of San Jose.

11 Here in this valley we hear salutations
12 like (King Jao Qui Vi), (Arunsus Dei), Muy buenos
13 noches, i (un coloroso bienvenidos (a todos, y usted
14 esta bien).

15 This valley is multiracial, multilingual,
16 and I think that -- generally we believe that our
17 languages is the cultural transmitter of our culture,
18 our history and our own selves.

19 The Senator had indicated that he was
20 the -- or is the person who brought self-esteem and
21 talked about self-esteem in the State of California.
22 So we're very proud that we're not only the cradle of
23 this idea but also the crucible of the idea, in that
24 it's been tested and it's been tried and it's been
25 practiced.

26 And I believe -- personally, I believe
27 very compassionately, that it works. I'm a classroom

1 teacher, and I know that the idea of self-esteem is
2 rooted in respect and responsibility also.

3 There was a President of Mexico,
4 (Nitovares), who said, about respect, that among
5 individuals and communities, (Que respecto al derecho
6 heno, es la paz), that the respect of individuals and
7 communities and the respect of others is true peace.
8 And that the Bible tells us that we are our brother's
9 and sister's keepers. And we believe that, too, and
10 we try to practice that.

11 The good news is that we try, as much as
12 we can, to do that here.

13 The [dis]concerting news is that we've
14 still got a long ways to go. In the State of
15 California, we know that our history is replete with
16 discrimination -- laws being passed against us because
17 of who we are, or the threat that we pose.

18 And yet, when we really lived through it
19 and we worked through it we find that it was just mere
20 fear. And that goes on and on and on, and we grow
21 from each one.

22 Recently in the State of California we've
23 experienced 187, that seems to drive a wedge among our
24 communities. Here, we fought it back.

25 We had 209. And now we face Unz
26 Initiative. And we seem to be the practice ground of
27 wedges between our communities. But each time they

1 try to test us, we come out stronger, more tempered,
2 and more understanding.

3 I think that the Valley is diverse. I
4 think there are many solutions here. But then also
5 there are many challenges that we still need to work
6 together, to seek the solutions.

7 I'm very gratified that the President has
8 decided to take on the issue of race in this country
9 as an issue, as an initiative. Because we can no
10 longer turn a blind eye or go into a state of denial
11 that problems do not exist. They exist between our
12 communities, they exist within our communities, and we
13 cannot go on saying that racism does not exist -- that
14 what I call folk racism, the sense, the notion that
15 each ethnic group has of itself and other people,
16 exists also.

17 And we must strive to relearn new
18 information, the truth, so that we can live in a
19 better way with each other.

20 I diverted from my written comments
21 because I was taken again, as I often am taken, by the
22 message our Senator John Vasconcellos lays before us.
23 He's a person that is profound in his thought, he acts
24 out his beliefs, and we're really quite fortunate to
25 have him serve us these last thirty years, and that
26 I'm certainly glad he's our senator for the next few
27 years, and that he, among his colleagues and our

1 community members here in this Valley, will continue
2 to strive to live up to the reputation that we think
3 we have in this Valley, that we will strive to keep
4 redefining what an American is -- redefining and
5 struggling, to find out what truly, what one America
6 in the 21st Century can truly be.

7 So thank you for being here. They have
8 many messages to give you. I hope that you will take
9 their ideas, their thoughts, their experiences,
10 distill them and bring them together for the
11 President, to face the hard question of race, I
12 believe, in class, and in poverty.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. ROGERS: We now have one other very
16 brief welcome from Patricia Martinez-Roach, who is
17 representing the Board of Trustees of the East Side
18 Union High School District.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. MARTINEZ-ROACH: Good evening, and
21 welcome to the East Side High School District,
22 Independence High School, one of our very
23 distinguished high schools, bienvenidos a San Jose.

24 It's a real pleasure for me to be here,
25 and I wanted to share with you, as a Latina, as an
26 immigrant, an issue that I believe is very important,
27 that it represents many Latinas in this Valley, and

1 that is one of underrepresentation in every area --
2 education, in the work force, in textbooks.

3 We have the highest teen pregnancy rate in
4 this Valley, and Latinas have the highest rate of teen
5 pregnancy. I believe that these are the kinds of
6 issues that I would like for you to take back to the
7 President and to commend him for this Commission.

8 We are very, very glad that you're here.

9 We also, on the high school board, we are
10 looking at increasing our African-American students
11 and Latino students into four-year universities. It's
12 been a very strong focus for us, we're very proud of
13 all our students, but we are really focusing on these
14 two groups because we believe that they are
15 underrepresented, and we're trying very hard, and we
16 hope that with your deliberations you can bring back
17 some ideas to us as well that we might be able to
18 share, and to improve the quality of education in this
19 Valley.

20 Thank you. Bienvenidos, gracias.

21

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. ROGERS: Now what is going to make
24 this whole forum work tonight is your participation.
25 We're happy to see that so many of you are here, which
26 means that every one of you will not get a chance to
27 speak in the hour we have.

1 But we will call on as many of you as we
2 can.

3 So, the way this works is, when you raise
4 your hand, I will call on you. You will go to the end
5 of your row, where someone from the staff will have a
6 microphone, so that you can make your comments.

7 And we would ask that each of you be
8 respectful of the fact that there are a number of
9 people who will want to speak and therefore, keep your
10 comments kind of short. But make them pithy, but we
11 want to kind of keep them short.

12 So, in order, while you're collecting your
13 thoughts and getting started on what you want to say,
14 we have three people who are going to start us off,
15 who are community leaders. The first of whom is Beth
16 Gonzalez.

17 And Beth, would you stand so they can
18 bring you a mike, and would you tell us who you
19 represent, and make your comments.

20 MS. GONZALEZ: Good evening. My name is
21 Beth Gonzalez. I am chairperson of PACT -- People
22 Acting in Community Together.

23 PACT was founded in 1985 by nearly one
24 thousand San Jose citizens who wanted to do something
25 about the problems affecting our community. As drugs,
26 crime, and a lack of educational opportunity were
27 destroying a generation of San Jose youth, with other

1 citizens like myself I chose to become part of the
2 solution.

3 With PACT's help, we work together to
4 develop creative ways to address problems and unite
5 our neighborhoods, sharing the philosophy that our
6 community is worth savings.

7 PACT's mission is to empower ordinary
8 community members to make extraordinary changes in
9 their neighborhood. Today, PACT represents 35,000
10 families through 17 member congregations in mostly
11 low- and middle-income neighborhoods.

12 Our organization reflects the tremendous
13 racial diversity of San Jose itself. One reason I
14 belong to PACT is that PACT breaks down barriers of
15 race, age, religion and gender.

16 PACT is one of many faith-based community
17 organizing ventures who provide examples of how to
18 build one America in the 21st Century. Over 500,000
19 families in urban centers in ten states are already
20 working together through PICO -- Pacific Institute for
21 Community Organization -- for the common good of
22 education, employment, and housing in an ongoing way,
23 across racial barriers.

24 The PICO network comprises 29
25 congregation- and community-based organizations who
26 work together on issues at the neighborhood, city and
27 state levels. People organizations reflect the

1 diverse makeup of their cities and of the country as
2 a whole -- 24 percent African-American, 33 percent
3 Anglo, 35 percent Hispanic and 7 percent Asian.

4 These citizens are not engaged in a one-
5 time discussion about race. PICO is about empowering
6 people to participate in the democratic process and
7 address those very issues relating to poverty which
8 divide our neighborhoods and therefore our own
9 country.

10 For the past twenty years, leaders of all
11 races have listened to their neighbors, made decisions
12 about what is best for their communities and
13 represented those interests in the public arena.

14 The PICO network's message to President
15 Clinton's Advisory Board is this: Whether one
16 believes that racism is something learned and passed
17 from one generation to another or that racism is
18 conscious oppression of one group by another to
19 maintain political and economic superiority, it is
20 clear that all racism results in poverty in
21 disproportionate numbers for people of color.

22 For those who believe racial stereotypes
23 are passed from one generation to another, the only
24 way to new learning is through working to resolve
25 concrete specific issues in the community.

26 For those who believe that racism is about
27 power, the only way to level the playing field is to

1 empower the people who have none. In California, the
2 14 people-related organizations came together, 2,000-
3 strong, to meet with Secretary of Education Richard
4 Riley, to take a stand for preparing our children for
5 the future of work through a relevant and rigorous
6 quality education.

7 This educational summit was built on
8 ongoing relationships and a shared vision of hope for
9 our children's future. We ask the President's
10 Advisory Council not to let this be a one-time
11 conversation, but supporting PICO and other
12 organizations that are involved in ongoing efforts to
13 bring citizens of all races together to work on the
14 issues that affect the quality of all of our lives.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Beth.

17
18 (Applause.)

19 MS. ROGERS: The next community leader who
20 is going to speak is Amana Jahed.

21 MS. JAHED: Good evening. My name is
22 Amana Jahed. I am the President of the San Jose
23 branch of NAACP, and I would like to thank you very
24 much for allowing me to be here and speak tonight to
25 you.

26 I would also like to begin with saying
27 thank you to the Advisory Board and to the President

1 for making this forum possible for our community.

2 As President of the NAACP, the
3 organization is faced on a daily basis with race
4 issues. In San Jose, race is an issue just like it is
5 around the nation. In our opinion -- in our
6 community, it is in our schools, the criminal justice
7 system, and corporate, and part of our daily lives.
8 It bares itself in decreased health status of African-
9 Americans in San Jose, in decreased educational
10 attainment in our high schools and institution of
11 higher learning. Overrepresentation of African-
12 Americans in the criminal justice system -- which
13 includes our adult and youth.

14 It impacts us economically, in attainment
15 of business opportunities for women and minorities.

16 In other words, the affect of racism leads
17 to poverty and poverty leads to decreased status in
18 the abovementioned areas that I just outlined.

19 Now that I've talked to you about
20 problems, I would like to share with you some
21 solutions.

22 It is important to begin introducing
23 cultural differences to our children at an early age.
24 Therefore, I think we should begin teaching it in
25 elementary. We should begin teaching the true history
26 and all of the history of our people, so that our
27 children grow up --

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. JAHED: -- so that our children grow
3 up with pride about themselves and appreciation of
4 others.

5 Community empowerment by having
6 representation of groups historically excluded from
7 the position of power in corporate America and other
8 American institutions, we should try to empower our
9 community so that the different government components
10 and corporate looks like us.

11 So that when we go to apply for jobs or we
12 go to apply for -- want to be -- want to run on
13 parties and be in the government, that we can
14 represent the people that the community face that are
15 in our community.

16 And I think that that's important around
17 the nation as well especially important in San Jose
18 because we have such a diverse population in San Jose.

19 With the new welfare-to-work movement,
20 attention to day care and health care are issues that
21 are important to us. And we feel that -- you know,
22 subsidized day care, subsidized community-based
23 health-wellness programs are definitely two areas that
24 we would like to see funded.

25 So we'd like you to take that back to the
26 President, if you would.

27 This is a brief overview of some of the

1 concerns and possible solutions that the African-
2 American community would like to have you seriously
3 consider. And thank you for giving me the
4 opportunity.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Amana.

7 And our last community leader is Jorge
8 Gonzalez.

9 MR. GONZALEZ: Good evening and welcome to
10 San Jose.

11 My name is Jorge Gonzalez, and I'm a
12 member of the Board of Trustees of San Jose Unified
13 School District.

14 I would like to mention a couple of
15 things. One is -- you know, I would humbly like to
16 make a suggestion, that really, the President's
17 Initiative on Race should be called the President's
18 Initiative on Race, Ethnicity and Class.

19 I think we would hitting the problem a lot
20 more squarely if we include those two other things.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. GONZALEZ: I'm sure that many of you
23 have heard about Silicon Valley being -- you know,
24 having one of the best if not the best economies in
25 the country. It's a booming economy, we have low
26 unemployment.

27 But in spite of its hard work, the Latino

1 population is being left behind while others rush into
2 the 21st Century.

3 Education, the great equalizer in U.S.
4 society, is not working for Latinos. According to the
5 1990 census, 40 percent of Latino adults in our county
6 do not have a high school education. And only 13
7 percent hold college degrees. This is completely the
8 opposite if compared to the European-American
9 population, where 46 percent of the adults have
10 college degrees and only 9 percent have not completed
11 high school.

12 A significant number of educators continue
13 to see Latino children not as college material but as
14 raw material for the hardest and worst-paid jobs in
15 the county. Little is done --

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. GONZALEZ: -- little is done to
18 encourage these youngsters to reach their potential.

19 So really, when we talk about the
20 opportunity gap, it is not being closed here in Santa
21 Clara County for Latinos -- and I say other minorities
22 also.

23 When it comes to benefiting from the
24 advancing technology, Latinos have very little access
25 to that technology, whether at schools or at home.

26 Latinos are clustered at the bottom of the
27 wage ladder, where wages declined in Silicon Valley by

1 six percent since '91, yet, the compensation for the
2 100 Valley corporate executives rose 390 percent for
3 an average of \$7 million a year per executive.

4 The Valley has developed a great number of
5 low-skilled jobs, low-wage jobs. Latinos are
6 clustered in that area. Five out of ten occupations
7 with the greatest projected number of openings will
8 pay less than ten dollars an hour.

9 Now ten dollars an hour may sound like a
10 lot of money in some areas of the country. But for
11 the Silicon Valley, where the average one bedroom
12 apartment rents for \$1,100, you can see that ten
13 dollars an hour is nothing.

14 Twenty-five percent of Latinos do not have
15 health insurance. The stresses of this kind of
16 situation have created a problem where 50 percent of
17 all the cases of child abuse and neglect in the county
18 are from Latino families. This is a result of the
19 housing shortage, the incredible cost of housing,
20 many, many families having to live, you know, 12-15,
21 in one-bedroom apartment.

22 And the kids are paying for that.

23 Great efforts by people in the
24 neighborhoods, in neighborhood agencies, in government
25 agencies, and some of our elected officials, are
26 really helping the country deliver on its promises of
27 equality, and to celebrate differences.

1 But this hasn't been enough. We need a
2 lot more help. We need a lot more dialogue. We need
3 a lot more people really doing some of the things that
4 some of the previous speakers have talked about,
5 really addressing the problems that we know very
6 little about each other.

7 I have faith that the average person, once
8 they hear what's going on with Latinos, what's going
9 on with Asians here in the county, what's going on
10 with African-Americans and with poor people, that they
11 will stand up to do something about it.

12 But we never really get a chance to
13 discuss the problem, talk about it, to learn about
14 ourselves. Differences ought to be celebrated,
15 differences ought to be taught.

16 Lastly, I would like to say that -- and
17 this has been also mentioned before -- that in
18 California we went through Proposition 187,
19 Proposition 209, and now we're being faced with the
20 Unz Initiative, who's a very shortsighted proposition.

21 And these -- you know, for example, 209,
22 being affirmative action, this was one of the tools
23 that we had developed to close the opportunity gap.
24 These tools are slowly being taken away, because of
25 the fact that we really do not know what the other
26 person is doing.

27 So I'm very glad that you're here, that

1 we're having this opportunity to air some of our
2 concerns with you, and hopefully all of these concerns
3 will be taken to the President and some action
4 developed out of them.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Jorge.

8 Now, if you would raise your hands, and I
9 will call on you, and when you go to the mike, would
10 you please state your name, and if you represent an
11 organization.

12 Remember that we want not just problems,
13 but if you have come up with solutions and you know
14 some areas where there are ways to solve some of the
15 problems, then please do talk about that as well.

16 And do try to keep your comments to about
17 a minute, minute and a half each.

18 Let's start with the gentleman up at the
19 back there, who has his hand up, in the raincoat. The
20 rest of you keep your hands up so I can see where to
21 go next.

22 MR. CALABRO: Good evening, Dr. Franklin
23 and distinguished members of the panel. My name is
24 Louis Calabro, and I'm the -- the President of the
25 European-American Issues Forum. We're a Bay Area
26 civil rights group for European Americans, as the name
27 implies.

1 And we -- we define ourselves as a diverse
2 group of ethnicities with a common culture. Now
3 without being accusatory, but merely to state the
4 facts as they are, we have repeatedly requested to be
5 represented on your panel, as European-Americans.
6 After all, even your handouts suggest that 73 percent
7 of the population of the United States are European-
8 Americans.

9 And yet, there is no -- there is
10 representation of European-Americans. We have
11 grievances. We want to address, we want to present
12 those grievances to you, and then to have them
13 addressed, and to have a person on the panel argue for
14 us, and to support our grievances as we see them.

15 We have -- the policy of our organization
16 is we do not slur other groups. We do not say what
17 they have and what they don't have. What we say is
18 that we have a right, as Americans, to be invited to
19 the party.

20 This is a serious party that's going on
21 between -- supposedly, going on between all Americans.
22 But it isn't. It's a one-way conversation. There is
23 no dialogue tonight. If you would be honest with
24 yourselves -- and I say this respectfully -- you will
25 just reexamine all of the invited speakers. None of
26 them represent -- at least in this city or this
27 county -- 53 percent of the people are European-

1 Americans.

2 I mean, why is it -- why is that you can't
3 understand that we want representation, we want a seat
4 at the table.

5 MS. ROGERS: Could you start to wrap up a
6 little? We do want to be fair and give everybody
7 time --

8 MR. CALABRO: I understand that. And I
9 appreciate that.

10 MS. ROGERS: So -- we'd like you to keep
11 it to about a minute.

12 MR. CALABRO: But as a group -- if you
13 would also be honest about it -- we're not represented
14 here. We haven't been spoken for. No one has spoken
15 for us, but other groups have been spoken for.

16 So that's all we're asking, is for you to
17 bring back a message to the President of the United
18 States that 73 percent of the population are European-
19 Americans, and we deserve a seat at the table.

20 GOVERNOR WINTER: May I ask --

21 MR. CALABRO: We have grievances, we have
22 many, many grievances.

23 MS. ROGERS: Okay. Thank you. I think
24 you've made the point and --

25 GOVERNOR WINTER: Madame Moderator.

26 MS. ROGERS: Yes.

27 GOVERNOR WINTER: May I have the privilege

1 to speak briefly, as a European-American?

2 V O I C E S : Y e a h .

3

4 (Applause.)

5 GOVERNOR WINTER: I didn't realize we
6 weren't at the table.

7 Three of the seven members of the
8 President Advisory Board on Race are European-
9 Americans.

10 And let me say this --

11 MS. ROGERS: Please let him finish.
12 Please.

13 MR. CALABRO: Do you represent me?

14 MS. ROGERS: Remember --

15 MR. CALABRO: Have you ever told us that
16 you represent me, or us?

17 (Commotion in Auditorium)

18 MS. ROGERS: I think -- let him speak,
19 please. We've let you speak.

20 GOVERNOR WINTER: I'm representing a point
21 of view that I think brings us all together here
22 tonight. And that is, the common interest of
23 creating a society where racism is not a factor.
24 Where we -- where --

25 (Applause.)

26 GOVERNOR WINTER: -- where we understand
27 that the very diversity that we have in this country

1 is one of our richest resources. As a white American,
2 I am -- I feel so fortunate that I have the
3 opportunity to know, to be associated with, to work
4 with, to have gone to school with, people of different
5 racial backgrounds.

6 It has enriched my life. And this country
7 will be a much stronger country as we realize and
8 recognize that the very diversity of the population of
9 this country is one of our greatest strengths.

10 I've traveled all over the country with my
11 colleagues from this Board, and we have talked to
12 people from every conceivable background, racial
13 origin, and I have found that most people want about
14 the same thing. They want their children to have a
15 decent education. They want to have a level playing
16 field in terms of the opportunity to get meaningful
17 employment.

18 They want to live in good houses, they
19 want to live on safe streets, and they want to be
20 accorded the dignity and respect that I think every
21 single person in this criteria is entitled to.

22
23 (Applause.)

24 GOVERNOR WINTER: So I don't -- I don't
25 think it helps anything to be pointing fingers. I
26 think we have got to involve all of us, wherever we
27 come from, whatever our interest, whatever our race,

1 in this process of understanding and having respect
2 for others. Not having to be like everybody else, but
3 to feel that we will enrich outside if we understand
4 the culture and the background of everybody else who
5 made be -- so many of whom will be different from us.

6 I don't feel that we European-Americans
7 are imperiled or threatened by any -- by any other
8 races in this country.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. ROGERS: Thank you.

11 FROM AUDIENCE: -- and we're not anglo and
12 we're not gringo and we're not white trash. Get that
13 through your heads.

14 MS. ROGERS: Please -- please do -- wait
15 until you have been called on, sir.

16 FROM AUDIENCE: (Inaudible)

17 MS. ROGERS: Sir.

18 FROM AUDIENCE: You have excluded us.

19 MS. ROGERS: You are not -- you're not
20 allowing other people to speak who have been called --
21 the lady here --

22 GOVERNOR WINTER: Let me close on this
23 note. The purpose of this initiative -- and I think
24 I speak for my colleagues on this board -- is to
25 create an understanding of how we can work together to
26 m a k e t h i s o n e A m e r i c a .

27

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. ROGERS: The lady here in the black
3 leather jacket. Yes.

4 MS. BASTARDO: Good evening. Welcome to
5 Independence High. My name is Velia Bastardo, and I
6 am a home support service worker.

7 I was born and raised in this country but
8 I feel I have not been given the opportunity to be
9 successful.

10 As a woman I have encountered that men in
11 this society get greater income for doing the same job
12 I would do, and as a Latina, I have felt discriminated
13 from job just for my race.

14 At this point in my life, I'm working
15 taking care of the disabled and elderly. Like me,
16 they have no voice and not opportunities to succeed.
17 I earn minimum wage and have no benefits, and up till
18 last year I had no rights to organize into a union.

19 We work very hard and want rights that
20 other workers take for granted. Now I am in a union
21 working to get better wages and benefits.

22 I still don't remember when -- the last
23 time I went to see the dentist or a doctor, and when
24 I am sick I have to work because I have no paid time
25 off.

26 But who are the home care workers in
27 California? The majority of them are women of color

1 who have no voice, who remain invisible, who get sick
2 and have no right to see a doctor.

3 Yet we devote our lives to help those who
4 are less fortunate than we are.

5 I am a Latina worker who is poor, and hope
6 that you listen to my voice. I hope you tell the
7 President to help us have a better life. And what
8 does this mean? It means that each individual has the
9 right to a decent housing, decent job, and Medicare.

10 Thank you, and welcome to San Jose.

11

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. Let me just
14 remind you again that you have to wait to be called on
15 to speak, and also to be respectful of the other
16 people who want to speak, if we shout and scream we
17 will get nowhere, we will not hear anything.

18 The gentleman here in the sweater. And
19 remember to state your name and your organization, if
20 you represent one.

21 MR. PINKSTON: My name is Steve Pinkston.
22 I am diversity coordinator at a local high school,
23 (Vellema) College Prep.

24 An observation. As I watch my 12-year-old
25 son progress from a cute young black boy to a black
26 adolescent -- and in the eyes of many, I see him
27 becoming what W.E.B. Dubois called, "a black problem."

1 Not for his actions, but rather for just being.

2 And as I hear some comments from my Latino
3 brothers and sisters, I think the same might be said
4 for some Latino youth, as they grow from cute, six,
5 seven, eight year-olds that are accepted, to 12, 13,
6 14, 15, year-olds, they become a problem. They are
7 looked upon as a threat.

8 So I don't have a solution. I think this
9 problem can be attacked -- can be addressed in our
10 schools, but that's an issue that I want to pose and
11 put out to you, as a committee. How do we as a
12 society get beyond that, what W.E.B. Dubois called "a
13 problem people"?

14 Second, in December of last year, Cynthia
15 Tucker of the Atlanta Constitution wrote that by
16 shutting out critics of affirmative action -- and let
17 me parenthetically say that I am a supporter of
18 affirmative action -- but by shutting out critics of
19 affirmative action from the Board's session on higher
20 education, that you specifically, Dr. Franklin,
21 damaged the Board's credibility.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. PINKSTON: And -- boy, I tell you,
24 it's hard for me to refrain right now.

25 Let me just say this. You, Dr. Franklin,
26 and you, Dr. Cook, you don't represent all the black
27 Americans. But you do speak and, I think, represent

1 a good number of us. There's a Islamic perspective
2 that you may not represent, but that's okay. We
3 cannot represent every individual in America. That
4 just can't be done.

5 But my question here is: How do you
6 respond to her statement? I was tossed when I heard
7 that, that the credibility of the committee is not
8 sound. I think it is sound. I give you credit for
9 what you're doing. I give you credit for your stance,
10 for your fortitude, for your efforts. I don't think
11 they're futile, as some might say.

12 MS. ROGERS: Okay.

13 MR. PINKSTON: But how do you respond?

14 MS. ROGERS: Okay. Did you want to make
15 a response at all, or do you want us to move on?

16 CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN: I suppose that the
17 reference was to a question that came up in a press
18 briefing at the end of a first session on higher
19 education at our meeting at the University of Maryland
20 last fall.

21 At that press briefing, which followed a
22 session on diversity in higher education, the question
23 was asked of me about affirmative action in higher
24 education and where -- on the panel, of where did we
25 stand with respect to people who represented the
26 opposition to affirmative action?

27 And I said that we were talking about

1 diversity in education. That is, increasing diversity
2 in education. And people, as I saw it, who were
3 opposed to affirmative action were not interested in
4 increasing diversity. That's what I said.

5 And I gave as an example the leader in the
6 opposition to affirmative action here in this State.

7 If I damaged the credibility of the Board,
8 of the advisory Board, I'm very sorry, and I didn't
9 intend to damage the credibility. I was trying to
10 explain why we -- in searching out various ways to
11 increase the diversity we didn't have people who -- on
12 that panel -- in one panel only, we were talking
13 about, on that panel -- who were opposed to
14 affirmative action, which sought to increase
15 diversity.

16 That did not mean that we were opposed to
17 that point of view and we have welcomed that point of
18 view. It merely meant that at that -- on that
19 panel -- I was trying to explain how the panel was
20 composed. And that's all that that was done -- I
21 did not, as I read in the paper, say -- I did not
22 refuse anyone the opportunity to speak, then, or ever.

23 And we had -- we had open microphones from
24 that point on, and we have welcomed diversity of
25 opinion. And at any point that we can find persons
26 who want to tell us how to increase diversity in
27 higher education, they are welcome.

1 MS. ROGERS: Okay. The woman in the back,
2 in the second row from the back.

3 MS. BRANDHORST: Yes, my name is Cathy
4 Brandhorst, and I work part-time with the United
5 States Secret Service -- the Immigration and
6 Nationalization Service, (Acts) for the homeless
7 people -- and I also represent the senior citizens.

8 And I would like to know why you have a
9 very old picture of the United States President, and
10 also, that picture has been taken a long time ago,
11 like 1995. Is he still alive, or are you just trying
12 to cover up?

13 Also, I would like to say, too, that if I
14 say I am white, are you going to shoot me down because
15 I am a white person? Because you said that you --

16 MS. ROGERS: I don't think that is really
17 about what we're doing tonight. So we would like to
18 keep it on the issue of race, and so we appreciate
19 your comments but let's get --

20 (Commotion in Room)

21 MS. BRANDHORST: I'm still talking.

22 MS. ROGERS: I know, but we're trying to
23 keep it on the issue of race, --

24 MS. BRANDHORST: (unintell. crosstalk)

25 MS. ROGERS: -- and I don't think that
26 that was --

27 MS. BRANDHORST: -- control, because I

1 live here. And I (unintell. crosstalk)

2 MS. ROGERS: I know you do.

3 FROM AUDIENCE: (Unintell. crosstalk)

4 MS. ROGERS: But we are trying to --

5 MR. BRANDHORST: These people are coming
6 here from Mexico and taking over!

7 (Applause, booing, general commotion in
8 hall)

9 MS. ROGERS: The young man here in the
10 leather jacket.

11 Could we please, we only have a limited
12 amount of time to make comments, and you really will
13 take up everybody's time if we don't sort of stay on
14 point here. And remind everybody, please try to keep
15 your comments to about a minute, and to keep them on
16 the issue of race and solutions to some of the
17 problems involving race.

18 Thank you.

19 MALE VOICE: No justice, no peace.

20 MR. AQEEL: My name is Qa'id Aqueel, and
21 I work for (Gemadone) Family Services, a Afrocentric
22 nonprofit agency in San Jose.

23 I look around and I see a lot of people of
24 different ages, young, old. But I don't see no kids.
25 And something that the young lady touched on earlier
26 today about educating -- far as each other, far as --
27 we all have a story to tell. But what good is it if

1 we don't know our own story and we don't know each
2 other's story?

3 So I'm looking at it like -- I see we all
4 got something in common, which we all learned a lot
5 about Eurocentric history.

6 And so to you, my solution is that we
7 have -- you know, we run a program called African-
8 American Survival Skills Course at four local high
9 schools, and some of the kids are amazed by not
10 knowing that African-Americans invented the fire
11 extinguisher or the gas mask or the traffic lights,
12 and those things, I think those things should be
13 taught at a young age, and as time goes on and you
14 know, the young youth of color, the European,
15 everybody, that's how I look at it -- they should
16 learn about the effects of slavery, as they get older.

17 Not at a young age, because that's too
18 much for their mind. But they need to connect
19 themselves to what they contribute to this country.
20 Like you say, you know, one America in the 21st
21 Century. So we all have a story we all contribute to
22 it.

23 But I believe as time goes on, then we
24 need to get more into the effects of what happened,
25 like slavery, what happened with the Japanese when
26 they got thrown into concentration camps, or when
27 Latinos lost, you know, this side of the country, and

1 so forth.

2 FROM AUDIENCE: What about (Keniwick,
3 Mass.?)

4 MR. AQEEL: And my brother --

5 MS. ROGERS: Please. Would you please --

6 FROM AUDIENCE: (Unintell. crosstalk)

7 MS. ROGERS: Sir. Sir, would you
8 please -- we will have to ask you to leave if you
9 cannot respect the other people here.

10 (Commotion in room.)

11 MS. ROGERS: I think we're going to have
12 to ask you to leave if you can't respect the other
13 people here, sir.

14 MR. AQEEL: And just -- just excuse me, it
15 just --

16 FROM AUDIENCE: (unintell. crosstalk)

17 MR. AQEEL: -- just to elaborate on his
18 point, those kind of things we do need to learn.
19 Because that's very important, because you must
20 tolerate ignorance, you must correct it.

21 And that's what I believe in.

22

23 (Applause.)

24 (Commotion in Room)

25 MS. ROGERS: I think, sir, we're going to
26 have to ask you to leave if you can't -- if you can't
27 respect the other people here.

1 (Commotion continues).

2 FROM AUDIENCE: No justice, no justice no
3 peace. No justice, no peace.

4 MS. ROGERS: Could you have -- have the --
5 Could you have the security ask him to
6 leave, because he's not going to respect the other
7 people in the audience who want to speak.

8 FROM AUDIENCE: Look at the people that
9 (unintell. crosstalk)

10 MS. ROGERS: Could the security ask him to
11 leave.

12 FROM AUDIENCE: You are a complete white
13 basher. We are gonna talk (unintell. crosstalk)

14 MS. ROGERS: Where is the security? Could
15 we ask them to have him to leave?

16 (C o m m o t i o n c o n t i n u e s .)

17

18 (Applause.)

19 GOVERNOR WINTER: Madame Moderator.

20 MS. ROGERS: Yes.

21 GOVERNOR WINTER: I think we are very
22 clearly --

23 FROM AUDIENCE: Let me get my stuff, will
24 you?

25 GOVERNOR WINTER: -- having demonstrated
26 here tonight --

27 FROM AUDIENCE: Why are you pulling me

1 away when I (unintell. crosstalk)

2 GOVERNOR WINTER: -- the importance of
3 this initiative on race. And how far we still have to
4 go --

5 (Applause.)

6 GOVERNOR WINTER: -- to make this one
7 America. So let us be about the business of
8 understanding that each one of us have a
9 responsibility --

10 MALE VOICE: Yeah, but stop (unintell.
11 crosstalk)

12 GOVERNOR WINTER: -- to create a basis --

13 MALE VOICE: Fight the power.

14 GOVERNOR WINTER: -- for respecting each
15 other.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. ROGERS: And I applaud the rest of you
18 for doing that, for being respectful of the people who
19 are up speaking. Because if you do not do that we
20 cannot get anything out of this whole evening.

21 For someone like that who was not allowing
22 other people to speak, we had no choice but to ask him
23 to leave, so I hope you understand that.

24

25 (Applause.)

26 MS. ROGERS: The gentleman here in the
27 black sweater, in the glasses, in the third row.

1 MR. SUL: I just wanted to start my
2 comments by asking the audience whether or not they
3 felt that race matters.

4 FROM AUDIENCE: Yes.

5
6 (Applause.)

7 MR. SUL: And so if you could take that
8 back to the President, that you know, we do here in
9 Silicon Valley believe that race matters.

10 I want to introduce myself. My name is
11 David Sul, I'm a professor in the Mathematics
12 Department at Santa Clara University. I'm a product
13 of the East Side District.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. SUL: I'm a product of the East Side
16 District. I grew up here in the area, and I actually
17 taught here in the East Side District. And so I feel
18 that I do come with some specific experiences that I
19 have led in my life, and -- having to deal with the
20 issues of race.

21 At any instance in my lifetime, there
22 could have been, you know, maybe for one day that I
23 may have been absent from school, something could have
24 redirected my whole entire life.

25 I wanted to talk about a couple of things.
26 You know, I'm trying to think of this issue of race
27 and poverty on a national level, because that's who

1 you report to. And I think a major issue that has to
2 do with racism and poverty, of course, is education,
3 that's my field.

4 But one of the problems I see is the issue
5 of equality. And I don't see equality as a problem in
6 and of itself. It's just that some people want to be
7 more equal than others.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. SUL: And so I thought about, you
10 know, is there one instance, one issue that we can
11 look at? And I thought about the way that we fund our
12 public schools today.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. SUL: Of course, public schools are
15 based on property taxes and therefore, you know, the
16 rich people are going to have the nicer schools.
17 Point -- you know, point blank.

18 Is there some sort of a way that we can
19 figure out a new way to fund our schools not based on
20 property taxes anymore?

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. SUL: And I want to relay -- I was at
23 one of the high schools today and I was speaking to an
24 AP Spanish teacher today. And this AP Spanish teacher
25 is getting phenomenal results from students who are
26 immigrants who were -- whose first language is Spanish
27 but didn't have the formal training in Spanish but are

1 now getting phenomenal results on the AP exam.

2 And she meets every day with her
3 colleagues in the lunchroom, and she tells them of all
4 the hard work that she does to prepare her students
5 for the AP exam. And a lot of her colleagues
6 basically tell her, "Oh, well, my kids couldn't do
7 something like that. I don't believe that my kids
8 could do something like that."

9 And in some instances, the students are
10 the same in both teachers' classes.

11 And is there some other way, is there any
12 way that we can get some of these teachers who are not
13 really there, that don't have the belief in their
14 students, if we could somehow get them out of there?

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. Thank you.

17 The gentleman with the red hair here, and
18 the sweater.

19 MR. MC KENZIE: Thank you. My name is
20 John McKenzie. I'm from the Recovering Racist
21 Network. We hope inspire people to take personal
22 responsibility for healing racism. I would like --

23 MS. ROGERS: We need -- a little bit
24 louder.

25 MR. MC KENZIE: I'm from Recovering Racist
26 Network. We hope to inspire people to take personal
27 responsibility for healing racism.

1 I would like all white European-Americans
2 to join with me and say,

3 "I have come to understand
4 that I'm living in a racist culture
5 and I've learned to be a racist and
6 I want to work diligently to end
7 racism in myself and be an example
8 to others."

9 I've come --

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. MC KENZIE: (READING:)

12 "I have come to realize that I
13 have directly and indirectly taken
14 part in perpetuating racism. I have
15 come to realize that I have directly
16 benefited from living in a racist
17 culture.

18 "I wear this bridge of racism
19 as a reminder for others and myself
20 that we need to consciously and
21 deliberately acknowledge racism and
22 take the required steps to
23 relinquish and end it."

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. MC KENZIE: (READING:)

26 "I wish my actions to be for
27 my own growth and the common good.

1 I will try not to seek praise from
2 others or absolution from other
3 races for my actions or principles.

4
5 "As I learn how to free myself
6 from my racist shortcomings I will
7 share my knowledge with others and
8 join with others of like mind in
9 working towards the elimination of
10 racism in people and institutions."

11 Thank you very much.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. ROGERS: Thank you.

14 The gentleman with the blue suit with the
15 burgundy tie. Yes, you in the blue -- yes, you.

16 If we could get him the mike, please.

17 MR. CHEU: Hi, my name is Brian Cheu. And
18 I am the President-Elect of the San Francisco chapter
19 of the Organization of Chinese-Americans. And I had
20 just two points I wanted to make, one specific and one
21 general.

22 One, I wanted to bring to your attention
23 the situation of a population which you may not have
24 a chance to hear from too much in some of your other
25 cities that you visit, and that is of the Asian-
26 Pacific Islander communities.

27 I want to point out that -- people are

1 familiar in the past with the Chinese Exclusion Act in
2 terms of immigration and the Japanese internment, the
3 unfortunate case of the Vincent Chin killing and the
4 Kao (phonetic) case, you're probably familiar with, up
5 in Santa Rosa.

6 And I put those in a line, because I think
7 that you can see that anti-racism [sic] exists against
8 the Asian-Pacific Islander community, and I think
9 there is a straight line between all of those cases.

10 I also want to point out, since you're
11 focusing on race and poverty, the situation of
12 immigrants, of especially recent Southeast Asian
13 immigrants and Pacific Islanders.

14 I think there's often the focus on high-
15 achieving Chinese-Americans, Japanese-Americans,
16 Korean-Americans, and I know I drove down here today
17 from San Francisco to point out that, for example, in
18 the Tenderloin, you have a high population of
19 Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotians -- Cambodians, often
20 in the rural areas that people aren't aware of.

21 And those folks, I think, have problems
22 that are never even imagined, heard of, because they
23 exist so much within their own inclusive communities
24 and often never venture out. I think the situation is
25 similar to that of relatives mine I know that grew up
26 in Chinatown, never learned to speak English
27 throughout their 80 years, never ventured out of that

1 area, and indeed, would be scared to venture out
2 because they never were able to master even the simple
3 skills of catching a taxi and going to another place.

4 I think also, when we look at what
5 happened with 187, people whose immigration status is
6 unsure, I think, are even less willing to be to able
7 to ask for services, and I think that when we look at
8 what happened with 187 and 209, we did a lot of,
9 obviously, lobbying in San Francisco, and it was very
10 discouraging to see that statewide, out of 58
11 counties, affirmative action was defeated in 51 of
12 those 58 counties.

13 And that, I guess, brings me to my larger
14 point, is that when I think about what happened here,
15 I'm glad that these incidents are happening in front
16 of you, because I think that it's very important that
17 we not just be speaking to the converted. Because I
18 think that what this gentleman said is unsaid, by
19 many, many people.

20 And we have the opportunity, because we're
21 in a controlled environment, to tell that person,
22 "You're not letting other people be heard and so you
23 need to leave."

24 However, that does not happen outside of
25 this controlled environment. When this fellow said 73
26 percent of the nation is European-American, I'm
27 thinking only 2 or 3 percent is Asian-Pacific

1 Islander, and although I'm happy I'm living in a
2 republic and a democracy, the fact is, when I think of
3 that man and I think of who's voting and who's in the
4 majority, then I feel scared about what happens when
5 I start --

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. ROGERS: Thank you.

8 MR. CHEU: Thank you.

9 MS. ROGERS: The woman here in the hat.

10 You have to come to the end of your row to
11 get to the microphone. While you're getting ready --
12 you'll be next, and I'll go to this gentleman here on
13 the aisle here, in the sweater with the beard.

14 And then you'll be next, the lady in the
15 hat.

16 FROM AUDIENCE: We got two beards.

17 MS. ROGERS: Oh, we have two with beards.

18 So we'll take one first and then the
19 other.

20 MR. VILLEGRAN: Thank you. Gil Villegran.
21 I'm a vice president of the Santa Clara chapter of the
22 California Latino Social Work Network. I also teach
23 social work at San Jose State University.

24 The point I'd like to make is that all of
25 the wonderful people sitting on that panel, of
26 whatever ethnicity, you probably have the money to go
27 anywhere. And you can probably -- maybe you're

1 staying at the Fairmont tonight. You can go to the
2 Fairmont Hotel anytime you want.

3 The point is, if you have the money in
4 this country, you can probably get anywhere except
5 certain golf clubs that are very exclusive. But you
6 can go somewhere and get a place -- you can eat, you
7 can buy a house, you can do anything if you have the
8 money.

9 To me, the issue of race is very
10 important. But even more important is the issue of
11 poverty and inequity.

12 And Santa Clara County is the place that
13 you can see inequity to a level that is absolutely
14 grotesque.

15 VOICES: Right.

16 MR. VILLEGRAN: A person working minimum
17 wage at an honest job makes less than \$10,000 before
18 deductions to pay for everything else that our
19 government does, including the B-2 bomber that doesn't
20 fly in the rain.

21 [Laughter]

22 MR. VILLEGRAN: Compare that, and the rent
23 for that two-bedroom apartment is \$1200 in this
24 Valley, five blocks from here in the worst part of
25 town. Not that the worst part of town is five blocks
26 from here, but there are apartments near here that you
27 wouldn't want to raise your children there.

1 And just an hour away from here, we could
2 go to the home of Andy Grove, CEO of Intel -- and yes,
3 I am naming names -- his income last year, according
4 to the San Jose Mercury News was \$6 million.

5 And my question is, why does he need \$6
6 million, and there are people, like this lady, having
7 an honest job taking care of people that are elderly
8 and disabled, and she does not have health care, she
9 does not have the money to have a decent place to
10 live.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. VILLEGRAN: So please tell the
13 President and tell the Congress that race is the
14 problem, but grotesque inequity is even more of a
15 problem.

16 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. The lady --

17 MR. VILLEGRAN: Thank you.

18 MS. ROGERS: -- in the hat.

19 CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN: May I just make one
20 comment.

21 MS. CRAIG: My name is --

22 MS. ROGERS: Hold on just a second. You
23 wanted to respond?

24 CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN: I just wanted to make
25 this comment. I agree with everything you said,
26 except that money will not buy things for certain
27 people in this country.

1 FROM AUDIENCE: (Unintell. crosstalk)

2 CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN: I said I agree with
3 everything you said, except that your description of
4 what money will do -- this Advisory Board has
5 recommended to the President on the basis of our
6 findings last fall that we must do something about
7 discrimination in housing. We have people who can't
8 rent a mobile home because of their color, you see.
9 And they have the money to do it.

10 I, with a pocketful of money and with a
11 check in my pocket cannot get a taxicab in New York,
12 you see.

13 So I agree with everything you say, but
14 let's not -- let's not narrow it unreasonably or on
15 the basis of not having the facts.

16 The first thing we did was to find out the
17 extent of discrimination, the extent of
18 discrimination. And it's very extensive, it's very
19 deep, and there are kinds of discrimination in this
20 country where money will not -- won't get you the
21 privilege you seek, even with a pocketful of money.

22 That's all I wanted to -- let us remember
23 that money is not everything. When hate and
24 discrimination are so deep, money won't shake it. I
25 agree with everything you say, but I'm not arguing
26 about that.

27 I just want -- I want to broaden the thing

1 so we understand the nature and extent of the
2 inequities.

3 MS. ROGERS: Okay. The lady in the hat
4 now, finally.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. CRAIG: Thank you.

7 MS. ROGERS: Thank you for being patient.

8 MS. CRAIG: Thank you very much. My name
9 is Marjorie Craig, and I greatly appreciate your
10 coming to get input from us to carry back and share
11 with the President.

12 I'm a retired college counselor. I'm also
13 a psychiatric mental health nurse. And whatever
14 solutions we choose to focus on to deal with the
15 issues of prejudice and discrimination in our country,
16 we must be mindful of the fact that both of those,
17 prejudice and discrimination, not only affects the
18 victim but it affects the perpetrator as well.

19 And I think we had an excellent
20 illustration of that tonight. I would have wished
21 that the gentleman who was going to give us the
22 archaeological history, that we could have managed to
23 keep him in here, and maybe an all-night encounter to
24 deal with some of these issues that we really do not
25 deal with enough.

26 It is so deep, we hide it.

27 The question was raised by the professor,

1 from the University of Santa Clara: Does race matter?
2 Only a few people clapped. The rest of us kept our
3 mouths closed.

4 Yes. Race does matter. And it doesn't
5 always have to be negative.

6 We're sitting in here talking about
7 education not being available to certain groups, and
8 we're going to sit in here and say, "Oh, no, race
9 doesn't matter"?

10 We must be honest, and we must be honest
11 in a way where we're not trying to fight or destroy
12 someone. But we need a lot of honest dialogue. We
13 can get to the 21st Century if we do.

14 But putting it under the rug and dressing
15 it up is not going to help us get there. Thank you
16 very much.

17 MS. ROGERS: Thank you.

18 MR. ALVAREZ: My name is Felix Alvarez.
19 I would like to -- and I'm the Director of El Teatro
20 De Los Povres, and the Center for Community Cultural
21 Activism of San Jose, here in this neighborhood.

22 I would like to say -- I would like to
23 bring something different to the dialogue or to the
24 discussion. And that is that we must also look at
25 history; we must also look at -- from the history of
26 the treatment of the native people, the Mexican, the
27 Spanish. Because I come from a community that started

1 this Americanization way before the United States was
2 e v e n f o r m e d o r s h a p e d .

3

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. ALVAREZ: Anytime we talk about race,
6 we always talk in terms of only two colors -- black
7 and white -- and usually this dialogue takes place, as
8 my friend from Santa Clara University reminded me,
9 from the right side of the United States not from the
10 left side of the United States.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. ALVAREZ: And on the left side of the
13 United States there were people, there were
14 civilizations, there were settlements that have gone
15 back more than 4,000 years. This is not something
16 new.

17 But the last 500 years, with the good and
18 the bad -- irregardless of the good and the bad,
19 between the native people -- the Spanish and the
20 Mexicano, the Mexican -- one thing was at least
21 present in those relationships, and that was that we
22 did try to form a Mestizo people -- and we are a
23 Mestizo people -- a mixed people.

24 MS. ROGERS: Can I remind you -- the panel
25 does want to hear about your concerns and solutions.
26 So -- the history is wonderful, but I think they would
27 like for you to focus on what is the concern you want

1 them to take back to the President.

2 MR. ALVAREZ: This is the concern I want
3 them to take back to the President.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. ALVAREZ: There seems to be historical
6 amnesia when it comes to the native people, the
7 Spanish and the Mexican. Like we just came across the
8 border yesterday.

9 No, there are no borders. That's what you
10 need to take back to the President. There are no
11 borders.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. ALVAREZ: What you also need to take
14 back to the President is that this has been going for
15 a long, long time. And if we're going to look at what
16 has occurred at least here in California, then we have
17 to look back to 1848 --

18 FROM AUDIENCE: Yes.

19 MR. ALVAREZ: -- when the United States
20 sent Fremont and sent others to come and conquer these
21 territories, to --

22 MS. ROGERS: Okay.

23 MR. ALVAREZ: -- come and take these
24 territories from the people who were here.

25 MS. ROGERS: Thank you.

26 MR. ALVAREZ: Now when you begin to
27 examine -- the other thing is, I want to leave you

1 with some data and some records, because all of this
2 is documented in the San Jose Mercury News, the San
3 Francisco paper, and others, that recorded the
4 treatment of European-Americans and right-side
5 Americans, of native people of California, of the
6 Mexican and the Spanish.

7 MS. ROGERS: Okay.

8 MR. ALVAREZ: And I believe that that same
9 treatment continues today.

10 This is why we have organized Immigration
11 against the Mexicano people.

12 FROM AUDIENCE: Yes.

13 MR. ALVAREZ: This is why we have the
14 police brutality against our community, and this is
15 why we have many, many other institutions that impact
16 and affect our community in the way that they do.

17 And the reason --

18 MS. ROGERS: Thank you.

19 MR. ALVAREZ: To finalize -- to
20 finalize --

21 MS. ROGERS: We have to let some --

22 MR. ALVAREZ: I understand.

23 MS. ROGERS: -- other people speak. We do
24 really have to --

25 MR. ALVAREZ: But let me (unintell.
26 crosstalk)

27 MS. ROGERS: -- let some other people

1 speak.

2 MR. ALVAREZ: To finalize --

3 MS. ROGERS: We -- you had quite a long
4 time.

5 MR. ALVAREZ: But I have to say this,
6 because everyone is going to focus primarily on what
7 we need. And yes, we need an economics, and we need
8 money and we need services.

9 But we don't need -- our dignity is more
10 important and more valuable.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. And again, please
13 let me remind you, I know that every one of you has
14 something that is --

15 FROM AUDIENCE: (Unintell. crosstalk)

16 MS. ROGERS: -- something important.

17 FROM AUDIENCE: What about the gypsies?!!!

18 MS. ROGERS: Every one of you has --

19 FROM AUDIENCE: (Unintell. crosstalk)

20 MS. ROGERS: -- something important to
21 say --

22 FROM AUDIENCE: I heard about Asians, I
23 heard about Americans, I heard about every kind of
24 Latino here. All right. I'm not a racist. But I am
25 a gypsy, and I am proud to be gypsy. But I want to
26 speak for myself and for my children and my family.

27 I (have been racist) from the American

1 people ever since I was a baby, when even my father
2 and mother was born. What about us?

3 MS. ROGERS: Okay. We appreciate your
4 comments, all of your comments.

5 As I said, at the beginning, we wouldn't
6 be able to get everybody's comments in. A lot of you
7 wanted to speak. In an hour you just can't get
8 everybody in.

9 FROM AUDIENCE: (Unintell. crosstalk)

10 MS. ROGERS: I can appreciate that this is
11 a very emotional issue. People do get very emotional
12 about it, and I really, really hope that you will
13 continue in this community to have some dialogue.

14 We're going to have time for just a few
15 more questions.

16 FROM AUDIENCE: Ehhh.

17 MS. ROGERS: But please, please, do try to
18 keep your comments -- do try to keep your comments
19 short, so that other people can talk.

20 The gentleman in the tie, on the aisle
21 here in the black suit, he's had his hand up for quite
22 some time.

23 MR. HUTCHINS: Yes, thank you. My name is
24 Henry Hutchins, and I'm President of the San Francisco
25 Bay Area chapter of the National Black MBA
26 Association. And our organization deals with the
27 creation of the economic and intellectual wealth of

1 the African-American community.

2 As a matter of fact, and we invite you --
3 we're having a reception in San Francisco where we're
4 giving away \$29 thousand in scholarships to African-
5 American students.

6 But the most important thing I want to
7 share with you is that there is the interesting
8 dichotomy with the State of California.

9 I moved from Atlanta six years ago. And
10 oddly enough, as my plane was flying from Atlanta
11 here, I didn't realize that there was a tremendous
12 number of African-Americans going south, coming from
13 the west. And when I got here, I found out why.

14 California is going south, and the south
15 is going to where we think California ought to be.

16 Unfortunately, we have a situation where
17 187, 209, the Unz Amendment that's coming up right now
18 are issues that are affecting every American, be they
19 Hispanic, be they Asian, be they whatever.

20 We have a situation here -- and I must
21 tell you that you have to take particular interest in
22 this state. The racism that you see that's being
23 passed through the initiatives is an important piece
24 of racism.

25 Think about it.

26 (Applause.)

27 MR. HUTCHINS: If this would have happened

1 in Mississippi -- Governor Winter -- if this would
2 have happened in Mississippi, we'd all be down there
3 right now, marching.

4 If 187 had of passed in Georgia, we'd of
5 been raising serious question.

6 When 209 was passed, if it had of been
7 passed in Louisiana -- as a matter of fact, in the
8 State of Louisiana, look what happened. When the
9 governor did what Governor Wilson did, what happened?
10 You had 20,000 people surrounding the state capital
11 saying no, we're not going back.

12 But in the State of California we're going
13 back. People of color are being discriminated against
14 in everything that you can think about.

15 In the school system -- and I think it's
16 time for us to -- and just let me say that -- I'll
17 give two suggestions.

18 MS. ROGERS: Thank you.

19 MR. HUTCHINS: One is that I think the
20 panel should look at the school systems in the State
21 of California, where 90 percent of the children of
22 color are being expelled for breaking school
23 infractions, where 90 percent of the white kids are
24 being expelled for drugs and weapons. I mean, there
25 is a problem there, when my kid is expelled for
26 sassing the teacher and your kid is expelled for
27 having a gun.

1 MS. ROGERS: And give us your other
2 suggestion.

3 MR. HUTCHINS: And the other suggestion
4 is, take a very serious look at the judicial system.

5 MS. ROGERS: Okay.

6 MR. HUTCHINS: Because the judicial system
7 says to you, if you're an African-American male, if
8 you're a Hispanic male, don't come, because you're
9 going to go.

10 MS. ROGERS: Okay.

11 MR. HUTCHINS: Where you're going to go is
12 to jail.

13 MS. ROGERS: Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. ROGERS: The lady here in the -- with
16 the scarf around -- yes, you.

17 FROM AUDIENCE: (Unintelligible)

18 MS. ROGERS: That's not true, and if you
19 think about it, it's really not true.

20 It's not true.

21 MS. TILLER: Good evening. My name is
22 Gayle Tiller, and I'm the First Vice President of the
23 San Jose branch of the NAACP. I'm also a community
24 lawyer.

25 Yesterday, a San Jose judge upheld
26 Proposition 209, the anti-affirmative action
27 initiative. This was a sad day here for race

1 relations.

2 Currently, the students of Boalt Hall Law
3 School are gathering signatures for the Equal
4 Educational Opportunity Initiative for the November
5 ballot.

6 Ten years ago, when I graduated from Boalt
7 Hall Law School, there were 25 African-Americans in my
8 class. Last fall, there was only one African-
9 American.

10 That is sad. And that is a reflection of
11 Prop 209, which is not only anti-people of color,
12 anti-women, it's anti-American.

13 The bottom line is --

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. TILLER: -- affirmative action is not
16 about quotas, it's not about giving people handouts
17 because they happen to be the right color.

18 It's about expanding opportunities for
19 people of color and for women. It's about being pro-
20 American, pro-economy and pro-people. That's the
21 bottom line.

22 So what I'm asking you is one thing,
23 simple, and you can take this back straight to
24 President Clinton, is: Support the educational
25 initiative to restore affirmative action back into our
26 educational system here in California. Thank you.

27 MS. ROGERS: Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. ROGERS: The young lady here with
3 the -- yes, you. Yes.

4 MS. MUÑOZ: Hi, good afternoon. My name
5 is Denisse Muñoz, and I'm a first-year student at San
6 Jose State University, and I'm also here with a non-
7 profit organization called La Familia Counseling
8 Service.

9 Before I get to my question I want to tell
10 you just a little bit about myself.

11 Sad to say, I emigrated nine years ago at
12 the beginning of anti-immigrant hysteria here in
13 California. Legislation such as Proposition 187, Prop
14 209, and then-pending bilingual educational initiative
15 have, I think, exacerbated racial tensions among
16 minorities.

17 It's my belief that there's a crisis that
18 often goes unrecognized by those who handle public
19 policy when addressing racial issues that address
20 tensions among African-Americans and white communities
21 only. And the question that I want to ask you is,
22 what is government's role in fostering community
23 rebuilding and racial reconciliation efforts to
24 include all minorities and not just address black and
25 white issues?

26 MS. ROGERS: Thank you.

27 (Applause.)

1 MS. ROGERS: The man in the Raiders hat.

2 MR. STEWART: To Mr. Franklin, I'm very
3 happy to be in the same room with you. I feel very
4 honored and privileged. To the moderator, thank you.

5 To my Latino brothers, I know that I'm
6 here in California on a guest pass.

7 (Laughter).

8 MR. STEWART: Now I've been called a lot
9 of things in here. As a student taking law classes
10 I've been stopped and accused of being in that area to
11 try to case homes for robbery.

12 That was kind of unfair.

13 (Laughter)

14 MR. STEWART: There's a big difference in
15 what they have for different places. Like West Valley
16 College has banks and rolls in their computer lab of
17 brand-new Dell computers, and another one with banks
18 and rolls of brand-new top-of-the-line Power PCs.

19 Over here at Evergreen College, they have
20 old 486s.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. STEWART: We have to do something
23 about that. there's still a glass ceiling.

24 If you go to every computer company in
25 this area you will look and you will not find hardly
26 any black, Latino managers above the lowest managerial
27 levels. We have been shut out of the computer

1 revolution in this valley.

2 This is a valley of tremendous opportunity
3 for a few and tremendous despair for many, many
4 others.

5 I've one of those people. I've ran up \$6
6 thousand in medical bills and don't have a penny to
7 pay.

8 MS. ROGERS: Okay. Thank you.

9 The woman here in the black coat. Yes,
10 you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. ROGERS: And let me just say again, I
13 am not picking people based on any personal
14 preference. I'm trying to mix up the audience and
15 give a wide range of views. And everybody will not
16 get in, just because we don't have time.

17 So this isn't personal.

18 MS. VIERHUS: My name is Sharon Vierhus,
19 and I'm a teacher. I taught kindergarten through high
20 school. And I grew up in the '50s. Being a white
21 girl growing up I only saw nurses and teachers that
22 were white. All my doctors were always men.

23 I therefore never saw an opportunity
24 except to be a teacher or a nurse. And so of the two
25 I chose teacher.

26 I feel like children I teach -- especially
27 is Hispanic community -- I see children that are

1 bright, intelligent children that should be achieving
2 at the same levels of another child who is white and
3 is achieving. And that Hispanic child is not.

4 And I feel like one of the problems -- not
5 all, not in total -- but one of the problems is they
6 do not see Hispanic doctors, Hispanic lawyers.

7 So I ask you to please go back and have
8 Clinton come up with a plan that will bring the people
9 in our community who have been successful and are
10 minorities into our classrooms. Let our children see
11 doctors, CEO's -- we have them in this community, who
12 are of Hispanic -- who are black -- and bring them in
13 so that children can see what they can become.

14 I'm concerned about the future. While the
15 history is important, I want our children to see what
16 their future can hold.

17 MS. ROGERS: Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. ROGERS: Gentleman here on the corner.

20 MR. KONDA: I'm Richard Konda from the
21 Asian Law Alliance.

22 And I'd first like to point out an
23 excellent reference book that has just been published.
24 It's called Race, Rights, and the Asian-American
25 Experience. It's authored by Angela Ancheta,
26 (phonetic) and it suggests that in this debate, many
27 times the Asian-American experience is forgotten. So

1 I would reference this to your panel, to really look
2 into this.

3 Secondly, as another report which talks
4 about the growing violation against Asian-Americans --
5 this is an audit by the National Asian-Pacific
6 American Legal Consortium -- I'm sure all of you have
7 seen this, but if you have not, I would certainly
8 suggest this to you.

9 I would also like to point out that in
10 this community we have an excellent agency within the
11 county that has done a lot in terms of race relations,
12 and this agency is the Office of Human Relations of
13 Santa Clara County.

14 Jim McAfee (phonetic), who is the director
15 of that office, has a very visionary approach in terms
16 of race relations. That kind of model needs to be
17 duplicated throughout the nation.

18 And I'd finally like to just say that in
19 Santa Clara County we are at the edge in terms of
20 technology and development. But there is a growing
21 number of people in poverty; many of them are Latino,
22 many of them are Asians, many of them are refugees.

23 And we need to remember that there is
24 poverty in this valley. Thank you.

25 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. The woman here
26 with the long hair and the black jacket.

27 And remember, if you keep it real short,

1 we'll have time for two more, if you go long, we won't
2 have time for anymore. If you go real short.

3 MS. SINGER: My name is Sarah Singer. I'm
4 Wanatchee. I'm speaking on behalf of American Indian
5 Alliance.

6 One of the things I'd like for you to
7 bring back to Clinton is just the fact, the way
8 people -- Native Americans, are portrayed. For
9 instance, we're not mascots, we're not all wearing war
10 bonnets or whatever it is.

11 So I guess the way people are portrayed is
12 one big factor that Clinton should know about. Thank
13 you.

14 MS. ROGERS: Thank you.

15 The man with the beard right here.

16 MEMBER: While he's coming to the mike, to
17 the young lady, I just want to let you know that this
18 Advisory Board has made a great effort, whenever we
19 travel, as far as this Advisory Board -- we were in
20 Phoenix just recently -- in Washington D.C. where the
21 Indian tribes met. We have made a special effort to
22 reach out and listen to the Indian nations of our
23 country and the concerns that they have with their
24 sovereignty and with the fact that they feel left out
25 of any conversation.

26 We've made sure that we include them,
27 we've made sure that they are on our panels, we've

1 made sure that we are paying specific attention. And
2 what you have just mentioned has often been -- the
3 fact that they are not written in the history books
4 for the things that they've contributed to this
5 country, but the images of past history of the Indian
6 people.

7 And we're making sure that we pay special
8 attention to that.

9

10 (Applause.)

11 MEMBER: Yes, and Laura Harris is also a
12 special consultant to this Advisory Board from -- I
13 believe she's from New Mexico, Cherokee Nation.

14 MR. WINSLOW: My name is Rollin Winslow,
15 and I'm here to represent the Baha'i faith. You may
16 ask why the Baha'i faith is interested in a meeting
17 like this.

18 A hundred and fifty years ago, our prophet
19 founder, Baha'u'llah, emphasized the unity of mankind,
20 the oneness of men and women and the wrongs of the
21 extremes of wealth and poverty.

22 So our whole religion is based on this.
23 And there are many teachings, and we are very involved
24 in these types of things. And what's very interesting
25 is that we're the second most widespread religion in
26 the world. Why is this important?

27 It is because we have represented all

1 these countries -- we represent over two thousand
2 ethnic groups. These writings about unity of mankind
3 have been translated into 800 languages.

4 And what I'd like to offer is two things.
5 One, we feel, through the fact that we as such a
6 diverse worldwide community, have a lot of experience.
7 And what we find, is to change people's attitudes is
8 an individual thing. And we've talked a lot about
9 education. A lot of people that have testified before
10 you have talked about education.

11 We think education is important, but
12 education should include about the unity of mankind.

13 The second thing I would like to say --
14 one last point --

15 MS. ROGERS: Okay.

16 MR. WINSLOW: -- is that we'd like to
17 offer our community as an example of how diversity
18 works -- works worldwide. And take a look, and it's
19 working.

20 Thank you very much.

21 MS. ROGERS: Thank you.

22 Unfortunately, we do not have time for any
23 more questions. I know some of you had your hands up
24 a long time.

25 I tried to mix up the people I called on
26 so we had a wide range of ethnic groups and gender and
27 everything else. So I know some of you had your hands

1 up a long time, but we couldn't get everybody in.

2 We do encourage you to write your
3 questions down and pass them along to one of the staff
4 people holding the mike so that they will get to the
5 Initiative Board and also any comments you might have.

6 And we're going to have now a summing-up
7 comment from John Hope Franklin.

8 CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN: I want to thank
9 Barbara for her handling of our meeting this evening.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. ROGERS: I tried.

12 CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN: And the generosity
13 that she's given all of us of her time and her
14 patience and her understanding.

15 I think I speak for the Board -- the
16 President's Advisory Board -- when I say to you that
17 we are deeply grateful to you for your participation
18 in this community forum. We enjoyed learning about
19 the issues that concern you and we certainly
20 appreciate your suggestions for how we can address
21 challenges related to race.

22 I know that some of you have individual
23 complaints that we on the Board cannot address, we're
24 not able to respond to. But we have invited
25 representatives from several federal agencies to the
26 forum, and they may be able to answer your questions
27 and your suggestions more specifically than we can.

1 And some of them are here and will be located outside
2 the auditorium when you leave.

3 I do wish that we had more time to listen
4 to more of you. The forum has been wonderful, for it
5 has given us a very good idea of your state of mind,
6 your concerns, your anxieties and your hopes for the
7 future.

8 I hope it will not be just an isolated
9 experience that you have this evening. I hope that
10 you will continue to carry on these conversations,
11 these dialogues on race, long after we have gone. For
12 only if we do that and only if we see what the
13 problems are and only if we seek solutions for those
14 problems and only if we work together in solving these
15 problems will we be able to find the solutions that
16 will bridge the racial issues that divide us and
17 improve race relations that bring us together so that
18 we can reach our goal of one America in the 21st
19 Century.

20 We look forward to your continued
21 participation in this community, and we look forward
22 to the time when we can tell other communities about
23 what you are doing about your problems as well as your
24 triumphs and your solutions and we commend these
25 efforts to you as you go about your daily tasks, in
26 smaller groups and in larger groups, and we believe
27 that the time will come when you will see the light

1 ahead, which will be brighter and which will be the
2 bridge that we will cross going into one America in
3 the 21st Century.

4 Thank you very much.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. I would like to
7 thank all of you for participating tonight.

8 We have one final thing before you leave.
9 There is going to be a PSA shown, so don't leave just
10 yet.

11 But please do not let your participation
12 stop tonight. All of you are in this community --

13 FROM AUDIENCE: Is there a forum tomorrow?

14 MS. ROGERS: Hold on.

15 FROM AUDIENCE: Is there a forum tomorrow?

16 VOICES: Yeah.

17 FROM AUDIENCE: The newspaper said
18 (unintell. crosstalk)

19 CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN: There's a Board --
20 there's an Advisory Board meeting tomorrow from 9:00
21 to 3:00, with time out for lunch. And there will be
22 opportunities at those meetings for participation of
23 the audience.

24 FROM AUDIENCE: That's open to the public?

25 CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN: Oh, yes. All the
26 Advisory Board meetings, under the law, are open to
27 the public. We cannot meet at all unless we meet in

1 public.

2 FROM AUDIENCE: I've heard two locations.
3 Is it here or is it someplace else?

4 MS. ROGERS: It is here. It is here
5 tomorrow, from 9:00 --

6 FROM AUDIENCE: 9:00 o'clock.

7 MS. ROGERS: -- to 3:00.

8 FROM AUDIENCE: Thank you.

9 MS. ROGERS: Again, do not let your
10 participation stop with tonight. You can, in your own
11 community organize your own forums and continue this
12 dialogue, which I think could be very healthy.

13 So before you leave, we do have a PSA to
14 show you, so please, please don't leave yet. It's
15 just a short one. You have another minute.

16 Can we roll the PSA?

17 (V i d e o t a p e p l a y s .)

18

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. ROGERS: Again, thank you all for
21 coming, for your participation. And don't stop
22 talking to each other, it's important.

23 And I'm sorry you couldn't all get to
24 speak tonight, but thank you.

25 (Whereupon the meeting was concluded at
26 8:04 p.m.)

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