

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE ON RACE

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COMMUNITY FORUM

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MONDAY

MARCH 23, 1998

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DENVER, COLORADO

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The Commission's Community Forum met at the Auraria Campus Tivoli Student Union, Turnhalle Room, at 900 Auraria Parkway, Denver, Colorado, at 7:00 p.m., Ernest Gurulé and Nadia Younes, Co-Moderators, 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: Ernest Gurulé and Nadia Younes

WELCOMING REMARKS:

Mayor Wellington Webb, Mayor of Denver

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

2 7:15 p.m.

3 MR. GURULÉ: Ladies and gentlemen, if I
4 could get your attention briefly. This is one of
5 those housekeeping chores that we wish we didn't have
6 to do, but Reba Demarius (phonetic), your two
7 children, Melissa and Chrissy are looking for you.
8 That's Reba Demarius, Melissa and Chrissy. We are
9 going to be starting in about five minutes, surely no
10 more than that I pray, so please be patient, we'll get
11 things off to a rousing start, so bear with us.

12 MS. YOUNES: Welcome.

13 We'd like to get started, please. For
14 those of you who are standing, there's room upstairs
15 and our fire marshals would appreciate it if you'd
16 move upstairs to sit in the balcony to clear our
17 aisles.

18 Thank you.

19 (Whereupon, off the record.)

20 MS. YOUNES: Welcome.

21 We'd like to open this session. We have an
22 honored guest, Mayor Wellington Webb. We have his

1 presence here this evening, and the First Lady of our
2 city, Wilma Webb. Mayor Webb is going to say a few
3 comments to open the session.

4 (Applause.)

5 MAYOR WEBB: And, I know all of you are
6 ready to go.

7 Secretary Peña, Chairman Franklin, Governor
8 Winter, Mr. Olmos, and other honored guests, I want to
9 say to all of you on behalf of the people of the city
10 and county of Denver welcome, and we welcome you here.

11 Over the next two days, we, as a community,
12 will have a dialogue about issues that affect every
13 American, race relations and racial stereotypes.

14 As we dialogue, let us remember some of the
15 defining moments of the rich tradition of racial
16 tolerance and diversity in Denver, including specific
17 moments like Governor Ralph Carr's (phonetic)
18 guarantee of human rights, the Japanese-Americans
19 exiting internment camps after World War II, and the
20 passage of some of the first fair housing laws in the
21 United States that were passed here in Colorado, and
22 before Americans settled along the front range in the

1 1850s our region was home to Comanche, Kiowa
2 (phonetic), Southern Ute, Southern Arapaho (phonetic),
3 Navajo, Chochelte (phonetic), Sioux, Crow (phonetic),
4 Osage and many other tribes as well.

5 The diversity we now celebrate in Denver
6 was once a diversity of nations living peacefully with
7 nature and with each other. As we dialogue about
8 race, my hope is that in the rich tradition of Denver
9 we can celebrate our differences as well as our
10 similarities.

11 For many years, Denver has largely been
12 successful in managing diversity. Denver's population
13 now reflects what the country's population will look
14 like in the next country and in the next century.
15 Most major cities across the United States will
16 experience a democratic shift, demographic shift, in
17 the next several decades to look more like Denver's
18 demographics.

19 First, we should also recognize the
20 leadership of President Clinton providing world
21 direction regarding race relations across the United
22 States, and while the federal government can provide

1 leadership racism -- one of the other things we also
2 have in Denver is respect for others, and I know we'll
3 do that later -- while the federal government can
4 provide leadership, racism and prevalence of
5 stereotypes can only be eradicated by every day people
6 addressing these issues every day.

7 On Tuesday, November 18, many of us had a
8 real wake-up call with the shooting of a West African
9 immigrant, Ohmar Dia, who was waiting for a bus. But,
10 in the true tradition of heroism and sheroism
11 (phonetic) Jeanie Van Valkenberg, a person whose
12 ancestry comes from many different parts, stood up in
13 defense of this individual who was shot by someone who
14 confessed to a crime because the other person's skin
15 color was different from his own.

16 We've tried to demonstrate that Denver in
17 this was incident was not indicative of the population
18 and the community that we all live in. Our community
19 is one of faith, our community is one of tolerance,
20 our community is one of understanding, our community
21 is one of appreciating diversity.

22 So, I applaud each and every one of you

1 here tonight for making the investment in the Denver
2 community by being here tonight and taking another
3 step in assuring our future as a community of hope for
4 all of us that live here.

5 I'm sure that also in our own respective
6 ways that you will also share in a different way
7 concerns with this panel, so that they can make their
8 recommendations.

9 To the panel, we appreciate you coming to
10 Denver. We believe and think it to be a very special
11 place where we have fought very hard to appreciate
12 everyone, regardless to any of the labels that other
13 people put on them or on us, diversity, tolerance and
14 understanding is something that we all strive very
15 hard for.

16 Welcome to the panel, we look forward to
17 the comments, and now I'd like to introduce a video
18 message from the President of the United States,
19 William Jefferson Clinton.

20 PRESIDENT CLINTON (On Video): I'd like to
21 welcome you and thank you for participating in this
22 important conversation about race in America. America

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

11 We must confront our differences in honest
12 dialogue, yes, but we must also talk about the common
13 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 American in real life.

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

1 nation. I look forward to hearing from them about the
2 results of your conversation.

3 Please go back to your neighborhoods, your
4 schools, your workplaces, your places of worship, and
5 continue this conversation about race. Take a
6 leadership role. Together we can build a stronger
7 America for the 21st Century as one America.

8 Thank you for helping us to meet this most
9 important challenge.

10 (Whereupon, end of videotape.)

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. GURULÉ: Ladies and gentlemen, good
13 evening. Thank you very much for giving up your
14 evening to come and join us. My name is Ernest
15 Gurulé, I'm with 2 News, some of you know me from
16 there, but I hope as the evening goes on you'll get to
17 know me better, if you don't know me from there.

18 I'm here tonight because the White House
19 called me a couple days ago and, quite frankly, you
20 don't say no the White House, but the fact of the
21 matter is -- I'll get back to you in a minute on that
22 -- the fact of the matter is, we are here to discuss

1 William Winter, former Denver Mayor, now Secretary of
2 Transportation, pardon me, Secretary of Energy,
3 Federico Peña.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. GURULÉ: He skips around from job to
6 job.

7 The Executive Director of this initiative
8 tonight, Judith Winston, and our Senior Consultant to
9 the initiative, Laura Harris, please, give them a
10 round of applause.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. YOUNES: For those of you that were
13 just mentioned, could you just raise your hand and
14 show the audience members who you are? Thank you.
15 Some of you are very well known.

16 We also have panelists from our community
17 that we're proud to represent, and as I say their
18 names they will, too, just raise their hand. Adelia
19 Trujillo Cisneros, Kenra Archiletta (phonetic), Dan
20 Egger-Belandiea, John Hope Franklin, Lynn Ellins,
21 Laura Harris, Father Dan Hopkins, Edward James Olmos.

22 (Applause.)

1 MS. YOUNES: William Winter, Annelle Lewis,
2 Secretary Federico Peña --

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. YOUNES: -- Linda Chavez-Thompson, Jack
5 Bell, Judith Winston, John Yee, Charles Johnson, Carol
6 O'Dowd, Reverend Susan Johnson, Darius Lee Smith, Toby
7 Cho, Robert Thomas, Reverend Gil Ford, Darrell Watson,
8 Rebecca Buretta, Saul Rosenthal, Don Kelin, Celina
9 Benavidez, Jerry Kopel, Judith Clausen, Esteven
10 Flores, Tamara Lutz. Let's give a round welcome of
11 applause to our panelists.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. YOUNES: To begin the session and talk
14 about dialogue, especially when we are going to be
15 talking about race, race relations, stereotypes,
16 things like that, that bring up a lot of emotions,
17 we'd like to start the session with some ground rules
18 for a productive dialogue and discussion. We'd like
19 to ask both the panelists on the stage and the people
20 in the audience to commit to those ground rules for
21 the next couple hours that we are going to be
22 together.

1 First and foremost, please try to listen,
2 without interrupting, to the perceptions and
3 experiences of others.

4 Suspend judgment of others and avoid
5 blaming behaviors, in other words, we are going to
6 have a chance to have dialogue and criticism is
7 welcomed, constructive criticism is welcomed.

8 Seek to understand the views and the
9 experiences of others who are different from you
10 first, instead of trying to be understood first. It
11 makes for better dialogue.

12 Wait for the moderators to recognize you
13 before speaking, both to the people on the stage and
14 when we do a community dialogue you will have a
15 chance, we will want to hear from as many of you as we
16 can. We'll have microphones in the audience and we'll
17 set that up after we hear from our panelists.

18 Be concise and crisp with your examples, so
19 that we can share a lot of ideas. Treat honesty and
20 openness as gifts and enjoy this dialogue.

21 Ernest would like to explain the format of
22 how we are going to actually run things.

1 MR. GURULÉ: The format is going to be
2 fairly simple tonight. We are simply going to have
3 our special guests share some very pointed thoughts
4 with the audience.

5 There will be a panel discussion that will
6 go in length for approximately 60 minutes, and there
7 will be comments from the audience, everyone will have
8 their opportunity to address this issue, or their
9 issues. Moderators are Nadia and myself, and we are
10 asking you to be thoughtful about the time limit on
11 your comments, and make your criticism constructive.

12 We will have people with comments reached
13 by people in the audience with microphones, so that
14 you will be able to share your thoughts with the
15 entire room.

16 MS. YOUNES: We'd like to start with some
17 of our guests that we're honored to have here, to kick
18 off our dialogue session with some of the stories and
19 experiences that they've had, and I'd like to start,
20 if I could, with Secretary Federico Peña, what stories
21 or examples of stereotypes have you thought of when
22 you were invited to this session.

1 SECRETARY PEÑA: Do you want me to remain
2 seated or standing, or what's your pleasure?

3 MS. YOUNES: Whatever you are comfortable
4 with.

5 SECRETARY PEÑA: All right.

6 Well, first of all, let me say, personally
7 if I might, hello to so many friends who are here in
8 the audience tonight. It's good to be back in Denver
9 and in Colorado, and I want to say what a privilege it
10 is for me to be here, not only with the Chairman of
11 the Advisory Committee, but all the other members,
12 who, by the way, have given an extraordinary amount of
13 their time away from their families in a commitment to
14 our country to do something which I believe is,
15 perhaps, one of the most important things we can do as
16 a nation in preparing ourselves for the next
17 millennium.

18 I also want to thank all of the citizens
19 who are here, and say that I think given the reactions
20 we are getting tonight that they've demonstrated a lot
21 of courage in being on the stage tonight, so I want to
22 thank them very much for being here and being willing

1 to share their thoughts with all of us tonight.

2 Before I share very briefly a couple of
3 stories about stereotypes, let me make one point.
4 This issue is controversial. Any time you make an
5 effort to have this kind of a historic, and difficult,
6 and sensitive dialogue with the American people, there
7 is going to be controversy. This process has not been
8 perfect, but it has been challenging, and I want to
9 say that on behalf of the President I am thankful that
10 he at least had the courage and the sense of vision to
11 at least make the effort to understand the next
12 millennium, to appreciate that our country is going to
13 change significantly and to do his very best to find
14 a way to have one America, and that is why we are all
15 here tonight. And, I want to thank all of you very
16 much for being here tonight in record numbers.

17 Two stories. I've been asked in about three
18 minutes to share first a somewhat humorous anecdote
19 about a stereotyping situation that happened to me not
20 so long ago, and then take a, perhaps, more serious
21 tact. Let me start with what I consider to be the
22 humorous one.

1 A few years ago when I was elected Mayor of
2 Denver, thanks to the support of so many of you, I was
3 invited to a then very glamorous event here in Denver
4 called the Carousel Ball. Some of you may remember
5 the Carousel Ball. It was probably the state's most
6 sophisticated fund raising even put on by a very
7 prominent Denver citizen, and for the Carousel Ball a
8 number of movie stars from Hollywood and people from
9 California were invited to be here at the ball. I'm
10 sorry to say, my good friend, Eddie Olmos, was not
11 invited, he should have been.

12 At any rate, I had just been elected Mayor,
13 it was a Black Tie event, and so I, of course, was
14 very excited, I went out and bought a tuxedo, showed
15 up at the event in my tuxedo, walked into this very
16 wonderful reception with all these very glamorous
17 people from all over the country, was looking forward
18 to welcoming all these folks to Denver, and a very
19 glamorous looking woman came to me, sort of with all
20 this nice jewelry, looking very Californish, maybe I
21 was stereotyping her a little bit, and she walked up
22 to me and said, "Waiter, may I have a drink?"

1 I, of course, was a bit stunned, because I
2 had been accustomed to being addressed a little
3 differently than in that fashion, and, fortunately, a
4 good friend of mine happened to be walking by, put his
5 hand on my shoulder, and said, "Mr. Mayor, how are
6 you?"

7 The woman looked aghast, she obviously was
8 equally stunned, I saw that she was a bit nervous, and
9 I went ahead and helped her get a drink.

10 It was funny, I thought, and as it turned
11 out to be I think she was a little more embarrassed
12 than I. But, I reflected later on upon that evening
13 and remembered that she came from Los Angeles, and
14 probably for most of the social events and Black Tie
15 events she attends, Eddie, I think this is right,
16 that, perhaps, the overwhelming majority of waiters in
17 Los Angeles are probably Latino, and were probably
18 dressed in tuxedos serving drinks. So, she came to
19 Denver, walked into this very nice ball, I was one of
20 the few Hispanics there, I had a tuxedo, she put two
21 and two together and asked me for a drink.

22 We should all learn from that.

1 Let me give you a more serious one, and
2 rather than talk about myself I've been asked to
3 probably talk about a potential stereotype that I had
4 about someone else.

5 Very recently, I was very fortunate to be
6 invited to the White House to listen to an astonishing
7 lecture by a gentleman who is considered to be the
8 Albert Einstein of our century, Doctor Stephen
9 Hocking. Some of you may know about him. I had never
10 met him, I had never seen him.

11 For those of you who have seen him before,
12 you probably know that he is bound to a wheelchair.
13 He, essentially, cannot move, and the way he talks is
14 by moving a finger where he touches a computer and
15 then a computer voice speaks on his behalf, because he
16 cannot talk.

17 When I saw him come into the White House in
18 his wheelchair I was struck by the way he looked, and
19 I thought that had I not known that this was who many
20 scientists believe the leading thinker of the century
21 for the entire world, someone who is being equated
22 with an Albert Einstein, I would have probably thought

1 less of him by simply looking at his physical
2 appearance.

3 How overwhelmed I was to understand that
4 here was this creative genius, who has written
5 voluminous books and who has talked about the cosmos
6 in ways that probably we'll never understand for
7 another half century. I learned a powerful lesson
8 that night, and so, I learned that we all must be much
9 more sensitive before we make pre-judgments of people,
10 irrespective of how they may physically look to us.

11 I hope tonight we will take, from all the
12 experiences and the dialogue we have tonight, to learn
13 from this, to continue this dialogue for many years to
14 come, and to try to find a way to break down these
15 stereotypes to bring our country together, and to
16 continue to pass on to our children and their children
17 a united America in the next millennium.

18 Thank you all very much for being here
19 tonight.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. YOUNES: Thank you, Secretary Peña.

22 Doctor John Hope Franklin, I put the same

1 question to you.

2 CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN: Thank you very much.

3 AUDIENCE: How can you have a national
4 dialogue on race without one American Indian on your
5 board?

6 MS. YOUNES: When we begin the dialogue
7 portion, that is an excellent thing to discuss, and
8 I'm sure we'll get to it when we begin the dialogue
9 portion.

10 AUDIENCE: We want an answer to the
11 question.

12 MS. YOUNES: If we could have Doctor John
13 Hope Franklin share his thoughts.

14 CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN: Thank you very much.

15 MR. GURULÉ: Ladies and gentlemen, you are
16 probably not going to get an answer that is going to
17 be satisfactory to you, but the fact of the matter is,
18 we are going to address that. We would hope that you
19 exercise a bit of civility tonight and allow Doctor
20 Franklin to speak. Respect is what is going to get us
21 through this evening. That includes you, sir.

22 MS. YOUNES: Go ahead, Doctor Franklin.

1 Just go ahead, Doctor Franklin.

2 Doctor Franklin, if we could --

3 CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN: Ladies and gentlemen,
4 look, we are all human beings here, all right --

5 (Applause.)

6 CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN: -- and this is serious
7 business.

8 AUDIENCE: You bet it is.

9 SECRETARY PEÑA: And, if we all give Doctor
10 Franklin an opportunity to speak we will be able to
11 have a dialogue tonight.

12 On behalf of all us here tonight, let us
13 have a constructive dialogue and give the Doctor, the
14 Chairman, an opportunity to present his position to
15 you tonight.

16 Thank you all very much.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. YOUNES: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN: You raised a question
20 which I cannot answer, obviously, because I have no
21 appointed power at all. I cannot make any
22 appointments. I was appointed by the President of the

1 United States myself.

2 AUDIENCE: You could demand it.

3 CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN: And, I didn't have any
4 other opportunity whatever to participate in the
5 decisions that made up the nominations.

6 If I would be permitted --

7 MS. YOUNES: I would guess that most people
8 here --

9 CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN: -- to say so, I would
10 like to give my stereotypes the way the Secretary had.

11 MS. YOUNES: Yes, excuse me.

12 CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN: Mr. Secretary, I'm very
13 happy to be here.

14 MS. YOUNES: We would really like to get on
15 with the first ground rule, listening. It's hard to
16 share ideas or even hear anything if you are
17 screaming.

18 Would the President's Initiative on Race
19 staff speak up?

20 CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN: I have two experiences
21 which I wanted to narrate to you about my experiences
22 as a victim of stereotypes, but if you don't want to

1 hear them I don't want to give them, you see.

2 I can't answer that question.

3 MS. YOUNES: Okay, thank you, Doctor
4 Franklin --

5 CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN: And, if you don't want
6 to hear me --

7 MS. YOUNES: -- for your grace and your
8 civility. You are modeling grace and civility.

9 CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN: -- I would be glad to
10 give them, but I don't --

11 MS. YOUNES: Thank you very much.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. OLMOS: We can either have a dialogue
14 or a shouting match. I would prefer to have a
15 dialogue instead of a shouting match.

16 Now, a lot of people -- a lot of people --
17 a lot of people are here tonight -- a lot of people
18 are here tonight who have worked very hard on this and
19 they want to make a presentation. Please give Doctor
20 Franklin an opportunity to make a few comments.

21 I think that the reason that people are
22 honestly to this point, it's very simple to

1 understand, okay.

2 Chiopas (phonetic) and the indigenous
3 people in this room -- Chiopas and the indigenous
4 people in this room must be heard. I am hear to speak
5 a solid and straight voice for the indigenous people,
6 since my grandmother, my great grandmother, my great-
7 great-great grandmother, my great-great-great-great-
8 great-great-great-great grandmother, were all
9 indigenous people to this hemisphere.

10 My roots go back 40,000 years in what they
11 call this hemisphere. I go back 40,000 years, so when
12 someone looks at me and says, "Go home," I look at
13 them and go, "Excuse me, are you talking to me? Are
14 you talking to me, my roots go back so far, if it
15 wasn't for the Conquest I would be pure."

16 What's difficult today, Doctor Franklin,
17 what's difficult with all of us here, is that we have
18 been really not able to understand our roots in this
19 hemisphere because the indigenous people have not been
20 given a voice ever.

21 Doctor Franklin, as you know, long before
22 the Conquest of the Americas, and I wish that the

1 Conquest had been one of these, can you imagine,
2 Darius, if the Conquest had been this? It would have
3 been beautiful if the Conquest was like that, but it
4 wasn't, the Conquest was, take all these first two
5 rows, put them up here, and start with their legs and
6 chop them off. And, if they don't tell us where the
7 gold is, then chop off their heads.

8 Now, take all of the ugly women, and all
9 the little boys, and all the old men and old women and
10 put them over here and kill them. Take all the ones
11 that can work, put them over there. Where's the
12 priest? Give me the priest. Bring the priest up here
13 forward, we will march onward. And, the Conquest
14 began.

15 And, you wonder why we are mad? And, you
16 wonder why the anger of the indigenous people is so
17 plain to see. Do you wonder why the Indians and
18 Chiopas are so overwhelmed, because they have no
19 voice. I am indigenous to these roots, I have 40,000
20 years, Federico, 40,000 years my roots go back.
21 Before that, my family Chinese. We came from China.
22 Before I was Chinese, when you look at Edward James

1 Olmos you will remember one thing, I am African first,
2 Asian second, indigenous third, mixed with my
3 Whiteness, and that's what makes me brown.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. OLMOS: The problem, Doctor Franklin,
6 is very easy, Doctor Franklin, the problem is simply
7 this. When you go back to the President of the United
8 States, and he's heard me say this many times, I said
9 it at his inauguration, Jesus Christ is a person of
10 color, he is not White. You know that, and I know
11 that, but what happens is that, because of the anger,
12 because of the frustration, we have not been able to
13 represent Jesus as a person of color. We have had to
14 represent Jesus as a person with blond hair and blue
15 eyes, and all of a sudden the whole world became a
16 racist opportunity, because we would not accept Jesus
17 as a Jew. He was born a Jew, lived as a Jew, and died
18 a Jew.

19 When you go up to heaven and see God, she
20 will be there in her ultimate wisdom, and if you
21 believe that God is a he then be open to the fact that
22 when Jesus stands there and says this is where I come

1 from, it may just be a woman. So, you must be aware
2 of that.

3 All I can say to you is this, the
4 indigenous people of this community, the indigenous
5 people of this hemisphere, the indigenous people of
6 this planet, whether they be African, or Asian, or
7 indigenous, West Indian, whether they be Anglo,
8 because they are indigenous also, to Denmark, Sweden,
9 Germany, very indigenous to that world, but they all
10 come from Africa. So, as long as we remember that the
11 African is the homeland and that the Mediterranean,
12 whether you be a Christian or whatever you come to,
13 then we might.

14 But, one of the last things, and this is
15 it, then I'm going to go because it's really
16 difficult, there's so many people that need to speak,
17 if, if, if only our children were allowed to
18 understand, but we can't, because 92 to 93 percent of
19 all the history we study from the first grade through
20 the 12th grade is European/American studies, period,
21 and it makes it very difficult for us. It makes it
22 very difficult. It becomes this, it becomes irate, it

1 becomes people of color screaming at everybody,
2 because why, because we are not balanced, there's no
3 balance. There's no balance between those that are of
4 color and those that are not, and that balance can
5 only come together if we understand our roots and our
6 history.

7 The only way that we can have our roots is
8 by understanding that the depth of our humanity,
9 there's only one race, and that's the human race,
10 Jesus Christ was a person of color, and most
11 importantly that these school systems in the United
12 States of America must deal with this problem.

13 God bless us all, thank you.

14 MS. YOUNES: Thank you, Edward James Olmos.

15 Edward James Olmos makes an excellent
16 point, that we are all part of the human race, and as
17 part of the human race we are going to move the
18 discussion to include issues of all races, because
19 that's what our dialogue is about tonight.

20 I appreciate Secretary Peña's conversations
21 and his stories, I appreciate Edward James Olmos'
22 view, and we're going to hear the views of other

1 people, all people. The views need to be heard, and
2 the views need to be voiced and clearly, clearly,
3 there is a lot of emotion and passion around this, of
4 people of all races, of all colors, of all walks of
5 life, of all religions.

6 So, let's listen and let's begin listening
7 with the dialogue.

8 MR. GURULÉ: There are a lot of people here
9 who have a point to make. We are going to address
10 this particular part of the crowd.

11 MS. YOUNES: Darius Smith would like to
12 start the conversation.

13 MR. GURULÉ: Please come forward.

14 MS. YOUNES: Thank you, Darius.

15 MR. SMITH: I'm of the Dnai (phonetic)
16 Nation. My creation story was from the Peoples of the
17 Dnai Nation. I have a creation story. I have a
18 language. My language is indigenous, it's not a
19 European-based language, and it was a slap in the face
20 when we were left off the Advisory Board.

21 I appreciate my people out here. We are
22 going to be heard, and we're being heard right now.

1 We need to send a message to the Advisory Board, is
2 that we need indigenous representation right now.

3 However, we are going to go ahead and
4 finish this dog and pony show right now, and we are
5 going to go ahead and go through -- we are going to go
6 through the script, and we're going to go ahead and
7 finish today, but I'm telling you, we're going to be
8 heard from this point on, indigenous people, we were
9 the first nations.

10 MS. YOUNES: We will weave in the
11 discussions of all races throughout this conversation,
12 and I hope that not only indigenous people are heard
13 tonight, but other voices are heard as well.

14 So, with that, we're going to start a
15 conversation about causes, effects and solutions to
16 stereotypes, and we'd like to spend some time on
17 effects and solutions to stereotypes as well.

18 We've already heard some wonderful ideas
19 about solutions, in terms of being heard and Advisory
20 Board membership, but I would like to switch to the
21 panel now and talk initially about why we are here and
22 why we think it's important to talk about this

1 subject. It clearly is, and if we could listen to our
2 panelists we will, like I said, be going to a
3 community dialogue where you will have a chance to
4 speak into the microphones and ask questions and give
5 comments.

6 So, panelists, I'm going to go to Darrell
7 Watson, why is it important that we talk about this?

8 MR. WATSON: My name is Darrell Watson, I'm
9 the Co-Chair of Colorado's Stonewall Democrats. The
10 reason why I'm here on stage tonight is because I
11 believe that injustice anywhere threatens justice
12 everywhere.

13 I understand the anger that's in the crowd
14 tonight, but there are many people on this stage that
15 have faced racism, sexism, and classism also, and our
16 voices also need to be heard.

17 I represent a part of my community which is
18 the gay, lesbian and bisexual and transgendered
19 community. We have a voice on this stage because I
20 believe that prejudice against our people, not only
21 African-American, but also gay people, is wrong. I am
22 here to speak on their behalf, and to say that the

1 Administration needs to listen to all people, that it
2 needs to listen to all of us, and I believe that
3 that's what they are trying to do tonight, and I ask
4 everyone to please respect each other and allow
5 everyone to be able to speak their mind and have their
6 point.

7 MS. YOUNES: Thank you, Darrell.

8 MODERATOR GURULÉ: Darrell, thank you.

9 Not every single person up here is going to
10 give a presentation immediately, but we are going to
11 try to give an opportunity to a few people up here.

12 I'd like to stress unequivocally, civility
13 is the first step toward any kind of solution. We are
14 not going to reach an ultimate solution here tonight,
15 but that is where it begins, ladies and gentlemen,
16 once we learn to respect one another we have solved
17 the most rudimentary key.

18 We are going to turn to members --

19 AUDIENCE: We want respect, too.

20 MODERATOR GURULÉ: -- we acknowledge that
21 -- we are going to turn to some of the members of our
22 group tonight, simply so you can have the opportunity

1 to hear from a different point of view what they may
2 have to say.

3 We are not here to solve every problem, we
4 are here to take the first step towards solving the
5 problem that we are addressing tonight.

6 Esteven?

7 MR. FLORES: My name is Esteven Flores, and
8 I'm Director of the Latino Research and Policy Center
9 here at the City of Denver, and one of the reasons
10 that I'm here tonight is to talk about the anti-
11 immigrant, the anti-Mexican sentiment that is around
12 our country, and this anti-Mexican, anti-immigrant
13 sentiment, which played itself out here in Denver
14 recently because an immigrant was the one that was
15 shot and killed downtown, is all too real for us here
16 in Denver.

17 The same sort of attitudes that we see
18 about immigrants, however, are true of the attitudes
19 that are reflected by the lack of Native American
20 Indian participation on this panel. I mean, I'm
21 baffled by it myself. I'm baffled by it.

22 And, you know, it makes sense when you

1 think about it, if the President wants to exclude
2 Indians that the policy towards Chiopas in Mexico
3 follows, they send troops, they send money down to
4 Mexico, in order to perpetuate that government.

5 So, I'm making sense of it, and I
6 understand it, I don't like it, and one of the reasons
7 that I'm here is to try to talk about solutions to it,
8 and I would ask Federico at this point if he could
9 give us an answer to the question, why couldn't, even
10 now, even tomorrow, doesn't appoint someone from the
11 nations to this Commission. I would bet that if it's
12 a matter of resources, and they only need another
13 \$100,000.00, that could be passed and you'd have
14 \$100,000.00 tomorrow by noon at the White House.

15 But, let's -- if we could have an answer to
16 the question.

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: Let me try to
18 answer the question.

19 AUDIENCE: Federico.

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: My name is
21 Judith Winston, I'm the Executive Director of the
22 President's Initiative on Race.

1 We have heard everywhere that we have gone
2 with this Advisory Board and the Initiative on Race
3 the distress, the misunderstanding about what this
4 Advisory Board is.

5 It was not intended to reflect the
6 composition of the United States. It could not have,
7 it could not have, it could not have with seven
8 persons.

9 This Board was selected -- you see, what
10 we've learned over the last many years is that the
11 problems we have as African-Americans, Latinos,
12 American Indians -- what you are doing tonight does
13 not begin to address the problems that we have had in
14 this country.

15 MODERATOR GURULÉ: Would you stop and
16 listen to yourself. We are getting nowhere. We are
17 here to try to take some steps. Your behavior is not
18 helping us take those steps. Please, show a little
19 respect.

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: I'm sorry, I
21 thought I was asked a question.

22 MS. YOUNES: Could I have a round of

1 applause from people who came to hear a dialogue?

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. YOUNES: Thank you.

4 I'd like to ask the audience to help us
5 gently, gently challenge to keep us to the ground
6 rules.

7 Let's hear from the people on the stage.

8 One of the things that we need to discuss
9 is institutionalized racism. Clearly, it's a topic of
10 conversation.

11 We are going to start with
12 institutionalized racism, and I think there are some
13 people on stage that have some experiences with
14 institutionalized examples of racism.

15 So, where, in terms of our government, our
16 business and our non-profit organizations, do we see
17 examples of institutionalized racism, and we're going
18 to ask the very same question to the people in the
19 audience, if they will listen to the people on the
20 stage first. That's all we ask.

21 MS. BENAVIDEZ: Nadia.

22 MS. YOUNES: Yes, please, Celina Benavidez

1 has an example.

2 MS. BENAVIDEZ: Well, I'd like to make a
3 suggestion if I may.

4 (Whereupon, Spanish-speaking portion.)

5 Now, I'd like to make a suggestion here.
6 I really honestly believe that we are not going to be
7 able to go forward, and so I would like to make a
8 suggestion, and I think Federico, first of all,
9 welcome, it's good to have you home, but I would like
10 to make a suggestion, because both you and the
11 Advisory Board are here to listen to the people of
12 Denver, so if we could turn on the lights and allow
13 the citizen participation and people to voice, along
14 with the -- we are all citizens here, we're part of
15 this together.

16 Well, you are right, you are very right,
17 you are right, you are very right, so that I meant of
18 Denver, of Denver, so that we can have a dialogue,
19 because we are not going to be able to go forward, and
20 if you would turn on the lights and allow people to
21 have this conversation.

22 And, if the people could come to the mic

1 one by one, and we, along with our communities, have
2 a dialogue.

3 MODERATOR GURULÉ: Celina, thank you. Can
4 we have a representative from the group that is most
5 vocal, would you come forward?

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. YOUNES: We need a little leadership
8 here.

9 MODERATOR GURULÉ: We want to have citizen
10 participation. There is a microphone for you to use
11 to address this audience. It is far easier to sit
12 there and remain disruptive than to come up and
13 communicate. We are asking you, inviting you, to
14 please come up. This is the moment when we begin the
15 citizen dialogue, because there are far too many
16 people here who came here with respect and civility,
17 if that decorum cannot be met we will be forced to ask
18 you to leave.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. YOUNES: There will also be people with
21 mics on the side, so find a person with a mic on the
22 side, and please, as we begin the community dialogue,

1 if we could reinforce again that we'd like to hear the
2 voices, but hearing is two parts, speaking and
3 listening, so if we could listen as well that would be
4 very helpful.

5 LINDA: Ms. Benevidez, thank you very much
6 for that very brilliant suggestion. You are right, we
7 are a community in Denver. I think it is extremely
8 important that this be a community dialogue with the
9 people in the audience participating now. Am I right?
10 I think it is so crucial that we all share what the
11 experience it is to come from a different perspective.

12 I don't want to hear from the people up on
13 the podium, I think we need to hear from people out
14 here, and that is my suggestion, is let's open it up,
15 and as native people we are taught to be respectful,
16 and we will do that, but I think it is extremely
17 important that our community be heard one by one, and
18 that's what my suggestion is tonight.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. NEWCOMB: My name is Steve Newcomb with
21 the Indigenous Law Institute. I'm sure there are
22 those of you who must be frustrated by hearing all

1 this anger out in the audience, but you have to
2 understand, we've been dealing with 500 years of
3 conquest, that racism against American Indian nations
4 and peoples has been institutionalized in the laws of
5 this country, specifically, federal Indian law and
6 Supreme Court decisions, that the United States is in
7 a colonial relationship with our nations and peoples.

8 Now, how do you think that makes us feel?
9 Do you think that we share a common foundation with
10 Americans, who don't share that history, and that we
11 are supposed to consider ourselves to be the citizens
12 of this empire called the United States of America?

13 Thomas Jefferson said, "No Constitution
14 than our's was better calculated for extensive
15 empire," and they've taken their empire building
16 process across the continent, and they've taken it
17 from the northern-most part of this hemisphere to the
18 southern-most part, and our nations and peoples have
19 been crushed under the wheels of that legacy.

20 And, how do you think that makes us feel?

21 Now, I understand that a lot of you may be
22 frustrated with this, but try to delve deeply into the

1 psyche of this hemisphere. Our ancestors are present
2 in this room through our voice. We are not destroyed,
3 we are still here, we are still the nations that we
4 were.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. NEWCOMB: And, we are recommending that
7 a red ribbon commission be established by President
8 Clinton, the President who dist (phonetic) this
9 community, okay, he should have thought about these
10 implications when he formed this Advisory Board. When
11 you go to another country, it's the very first
12 principle of protocol that we understand that you
13 respect and you honor the people of that country you
14 are visiting. Did he do that with us? No.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. NEWCOMB: This country, for whatever it
17 claims as its greatness, was made on the trillions
18 upon trillions of dollars and resources that have been
19 stolen from our nations, and that continue to be
20 stolen today. This is not an ending. Slavery was
21 ended, our colonialization has not been ended and
22 continues to this very day.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. YOUNES: Thank you.

3 LINDA: Our second recommendation is that
4 this Advisory Board take their dialogue to an Indian
5 Reservation in this country. It is absolutely
6 imperative that our people from the local grassroots
7 level be heard, and our third recommendation is that
8 an Indian person be employed in the White House to
9 perform the government-to-government tribal
10 sovereignty that we have in our nations today. Those
11 are the recommendations that I want this Advisory
12 Board to take back to the President.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. YOUNES: I'm encouraged to see a line
15 of people willing to share their voices. This is a
16 good thing. I think we need a round of applause first
17 for the people willing to share their voices.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. YOUNES: And, what we are going to try
20 to do, with your help, is we are going to try to get
21 as many voices as we possibly can, and so I'm going to
22 just ask that we try to keep the comments to about a

1 minute and a half for each person, and when it gets to
2 a minute and a half I'll ask you to kind of wind it
3 down so that we can hear the voices of all of you.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. MORRIS: My name is Glenn Morris. I'm
6 with the American Indian Movement of Colorado.

7 This Board can have dialogues about
8 stereotypes until the cows come home. It's not going
9 to change the institutionalized racism that they were
10 going to pretend to talk about here, one wit, and I'm
11 going to tell you that what Steve Newcomb was talking
12 about, the doctrines of conquest and empire building,
13 and the doctrines of discovery, until boards like this
14 are willing to wrestle with those questions there will
15 be no resolution. There can be no national dialogue
16 on race without dealing with the first peoples of this
17 hemisphere.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. MORRIS: In the American Indian
20 Movement, we had a couple of other recommendations in
21 addition to the ones that Linda talked about. If
22 President Clinton is serious about this dialogue, he,

1 as the President of this country, can do a few things.
2 He can release Leonard Pelquier (phonetic) from
3 federal prison.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. MORRIS: He can appoint solicitors
6 general and attorneys general who believe that the
7 doctrine of conquest, the doctrine of empire building,
8 and the doctrine of discovery are wrong and they
9 reject them. He can order the Department of State of
10 this government, of his government, not our
11 government, his government, he can order the
12 Department of State to endorse and advance the
13 declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples at the
14 United States as it was passed in 1993.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. MORRIS: And, we understand the racism
17 of U.S. foreign policy against our indigenous peoples
18 outside of the borders that are claimed by this
19 country, and he can cut off military aide to Mexico
20 tomorrow.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. MORRIS: Until objective human rights

1 observers ensure that the people of Japes (phonetic)
2 and the other indigenous peoples of Mexico are safe
3 from that tyrannical government.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. YOUNES: Thank you very much for your
6 patience.

7 AUDIENCE: Good evening, everyone,
8 Honorable Peña, Chairman Franklin, Mayor Webb, my
9 children -- my children, I have two, they are -- it's
10 hard to say, they are direct descendants of the
11 (inaudible) nation. Their grandmother was one of the
12 first Indian people to be here, in fact, their great-
13 great grandparents are half-breed descendants of the
14 tribes that lived here.

15 There was a trading company that came from
16 Kansas that settled here. Their family is named Maga
17 (phonetic) and Brown, and there's a street, I think
18 it's called Wastay (phonetic) or Wazee (phonetic),
19 that was named after the first half-breed baby who was
20 born here in Denver. And, I guess the point is, is
21 that when she grew into adulthood she was moved out of
22 the city, she was excluded from the Denver society,

1 probably the descendants of the people you met.

2 What I can say about that is that the
3 trouble with exclusion is that you don't get to
4 solutions. I'm happy to live here in the city. I'm
5 happy to have the best health care probably in this
6 country, but if my kids lived at home they would be
7 subject to infant mortality, breast cancer, cervical
8 cancer, diabetes, which is three times the general
9 population, yet the President's budget provides one
10 third of what's available to a person who would be on
11 Medicaid, and for 450 million acres of land we have
12 prepaid health care that we are guaranteed.

13 And, what I would suggest is that everybody
14 needs to become concerned about the institutional
15 racism that exists, I don't think it's President
16 Clinton's fault, it's very much probably the
17 Republican Congress and Corporate America.

18 (Applause.)

19 AUDIENCE: And, I'm happy that my children
20 are accepted and welcomed here, but I would hope that
21 they would never be excluded from the 21st Century in
22 the human race.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 AUDIENCE: Good evening. I am an American
4 Indian of Palestinian expulsion. I am very lucky to
5 do business for the last 16 years with the Indians,
6 and I did also business for another eight years before
7 that, American Indians of the southwest. I understood
8 their humanity and their suffering like I understood
9 my own.

10 I appeal to the American public to
11 influence our government not to surround its advisors
12 only with (inaudible) Nazis that only see the Israeli
13 point of view and distort American foreign policy in
14 a very immoral way.

15 (Applause.)

16 AUDIENCE: Thank you.

17 I would like to appeal to our leaders in
18 the community, and I was living in Denver since 1972,
19 and in Colorado since 1962, I appeal to the leaders of
20 the community to understand the suffering of young
21 American Arabs living in this country, and, in
22 particular, Denver. We have young Arabs that have

1 seen the monopoly of Jewish producers distorting the
2 Arab image, dehumanizing the whole culture that gave
3 to the world lots of culture, and education, and
4 science, and medicine, and arithmetic.

5 The Arabs did not cause wars, Israel came
6 to the scene and there was unfortunate conflict. We
7 appeal to you all to influence Mr. Clinton and
8 consecutive governments to, not for the sake of
9 Palestinians over there, and the Arabs and the world
10 peace, but for our community. In every community in
11 America that moral standards should be set to our
12 Washington zionist highers that they should not see
13 only the Israeli point of view, but they should see
14 the human face of the Palestinians.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. SHORTING: Hello, my name is Nathan
18 Shorting. I work with the National Conference of
19 Christians and Jews.

20 About a month ago, 1,200 people, 1,200
21 youth and what, they were teachers, convened in Denver
22 for a National Diversity Conference on Youth. Now, the

1 greatest thing about that is that we all sat together
2 on the floor to meet and discuss about what we were
3 going to do with our future, because for the past 19
4 years we have all heard that we are going to inherit
5 this country as leaders of this country.

6 And, the one thing that stood out was this
7 one Indian youth came up to me and said, about 150
8 years ago two great Indian Chiefs said, "Let us put
9 our minds together, so that one day we can all stand
10 together."

11 Now, I really enjoy listening to all of the
12 shouting, and it really does get a lot done, but I
13 came here today to make sure that my future, for not
14 only myself, but for my children, gets somewhere, and
15 I sure wish that all of you would help me in doing
16 that.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. MCKENZIE: My name is John McKenzie.
20 I came here from the Recovering Racist Network, and I
21 actually am Irish-American, thank you, I also came
22 here from California, so I want to thank -- first

1 thank and honor the elders and the ancestors of this
2 native land here for allowing me to speak as a White
3 European-American guest here.

4 I would like to speak to the White
5 European-Americans here who are listening to this
6 anger and suggest something to you that you can do to
7 take responsibility for making a change. Join with me
8 in saying, I have come to understand that I'm living
9 in a racist culture. I have learned to be a racist,
10 and I want to work diligently to end racism in myself
11 and be an example to others. I have come to realize
12 that I've directly and indirectly taken part in
13 perpetuating racism. I have come to realize that I
14 have directly benefitted from living in this racist
15 culture. I wear this badge of racism as a reminder to
16 myself and others that we need to consciously and
17 deliberately acknowledge racism and take the required
18 steps to relinquish and end it.

19 I wish my actions to be for my own growth
20 and the common good, and I will not try to seek praise
21 from others or absolution from other racists for my
22 actions or principles.

1 As I learn to free myself from my racist
2 shortcomings, I will share this knowledge and join
3 with others of like mind towards the elimination of
4 racism in people and institutions and governments.

5 Thank you very much.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. YOUNES: Thank you very much. That, I
8 think, was excellent commentary for all people, and
9 thank you very much.

10 We have some people on the stage that
11 addressed that, over the last couple weeks they've
12 been thinking about it, and to model inclusive
13 behavior I'd like to ask that we tag team between the
14 people on the stage and the people in the community.

15 So, we're going to start with some people
16 on the stage. I've asked by the White House staff to
17 do this.

18 AUDIENCE: No, no.

19 MS. YOUNES: The people on the stage are
20 people of your community that have been asked to come
21 and participate in a community dialogue. You have
22 community members that would like to speak, just as

1 you would like to speak.

2 MODERATOR GURULÉ: We did not come here
3 tonight -- we did not come here tonight to solve one
4 problem, we have a collective problem in this room.

5 MS. YOUNES: And, we need collective
6 solutions.

7 MODERATOR GURULÉ: It is not the property
8 of one group, there are other people here who have
9 views that we can all benefit from hearing. We would
10 hope that we might be able to take a different
11 direction right now and allow somebody with other
12 opinions about this world that we look at every day to
13 step up and address us.

14 LEVI: My name is Levi, and I'm Mexican.
15 I've been here in the United States since 1975, and I
16 have a message for Washington. Okay? You see, I'm
17 going to tell you a little story, because what
18 happened to me is I was brought over here, and I'll
19 try to make this real brief, okay, I would just like
20 to tell Washington that there is a couple here in
21 Denver who was running a con as a family affair for
22 way too long and it affected and it has ruined my

1 life.

2 I'm standing before you because it's very
3 difficult. The Urban League of Denver helped me very
4 much this last year, they helped me in many, many
5 ways. I've gotten so much strength from the community
6 because of your support, and I thank you very much,
7 and I want to tell you I just want to take advantage
8 of this opportunity here to share with our fellow
9 friends and neighbors, because the Lord said, "Love
10 thy neighbor as thyself."

11 And, another thing is, I'm so tired of
12 people discriminating here in Denver. This is the "I
13 hate" state, and it doesn't need to be. Please,
14 people, it is killing -- we are killing off each
15 other.

16 Now, the other thing I need to say is that
17 to the family that bought me -- what happened with
18 that family, it appears that they bought me into the
19 Black Market as a child, and I was brought over here
20 and separated from a sister of mine, who I haven't
21 seen for about 25 years, and this goes out to her, but
22 I also want to say hi to my family in Mexico, and that

1 I love them, and that I'm sorry I can't be there to
2 help them understand why and who I am today.

3 And, I just thank the community so much,
4 and the final thing is that -- well, let me look
5 through my notes real quick, please, you know, when
6 the President was here he went to the Brown Palace,
7 and what happened is, one of his security people, they
8 were like passing by and everything, and I said, I
9 said, "Hey, can you give this to the President," it
10 was a letter, and he said, "I'm sure this is a
11 legitimate claim."

12 And, I grew up with the President of
13 Channel 9's children, and all these wonderful things,
14 my life sounds like a fantasy, okay, and people think
15 I'm nuts, and I'm tired of it, because they stereotype
16 me and I'm a perfect candidate for all this. What's
17 really going on.

18 Thank you very much.

19 (Applause.)

20 MODERATOR GURULÉ: We'd like to ask
21 respectfully to have somebody from our panel up here
22 speak about the issues that we've come here to hear

1 tonight.

2 We ask that you indulge us with good taste
3 and respect.

4 William Winter.

5 MR. KELIN: I'd like to pose a question. My
6 name is Don Kelin, and I'm of the (inaudible) Nation
7 from Oklahoma.

8 How does the Board that's been appointed
9 not stand up, I guess the question I'm asking is, how
10 do my Black brothers, my Black sisters, my Hispanic
11 brothers and my Hispanic sisters, how do you form a
12 board and not invite also the Native Americans? It's
13 very frustrating --

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. KELIN: -- besides the Administration.

16 The second question that I'd like to ask
17 is, the White community controls the sporting world,
18 though we have people of color that are playing
19 sports, my Black brothers and my Hispanic brothers,
20 that play for the teams that use the Native American
21 symbols, Native American mascots, it's very
22 frustrating.

1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: I'm waiting to
2 see if I will be allowed to speak on this issue.

3 MR. KELIN: Please, go ahead.

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: I attempted to
5 do that earlier.

6 This Board did not appoint itself, this
7 Board has no appointment authority, but it recognized
8 very, very early on, thanks to many of the letters
9 that you sent, many of the comments and calls that
10 were sent from the Native American community, that it
11 was our obligation to reach out and to ensure that the
12 issues that you are concerned about in the Native
13 American communities are addressed.

14 The first thing that we did is that we
15 sought the services and assistance of our now Senior
16 Consultant, Laura Harris, who is an enrolled member of
17 the Comanche Nation. Laura has facilitated many
18 opportunities for this Board to talk with Native
19 Americans. We met in Santa Fe with approximately ten
20 tribal government leaders, who expressed concerns
21 about issues that were subsequently the subject of
22 recommendations by this Board. We met in Phoenix,

1 Arizona with 20 to 25 members, leaders of the tribal
2 governments, who spoke very passionately, as you have
3 this evening, about the issues that you are concerned
4 about. That meeting was followed by a series of
5 recommendations to the President about issues that you
6 are concerned about. We fully expect many of them to
7 be addressed.

8 We have done the best thing that we could,
9 given the authority that we have, to respond to the
10 concerns that have been raised by many communities,
11 and until we begin to understand, as we have tried to
12 understand, that you are all our community and unless
13 we speak with voices that represent more than maybe
14 the particular interests of the racial and ethnic
15 groups that we come from, that we will never have any
16 hope of getting solutions to the problems that are
17 being addressed here.

18 I cannot only speak for the African-
19 American community that is represented by my family,
20 I cannot only speak for the Latino families that are
21 part of my community, I cannot only speak for the
22 Native American families who are part of my community,

1 and unless you hear my voice as representing --

2 AUDIENCE: Just answer the question.

3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINSTON: -- I think I
4 did answer the question -- as to the mascots?

5 Well, I thought I was answering the
6 question. Perhaps, there are others who would like to
7 respond as well.

8 On the sports issue -- on the sports issue,
9 if that's the question you'd like me to go to next,
10 the President is going to be conducting a town hall
11 meeting on ESPN on April the 14th, and that, the
12 issues of participation in sports, the issue of the
13 treatment of Native Americans and other Americans in
14 disrespectful ways, will be addressed there by the
15 people who have some responsibility, who are
16 policymakers, who are decision-makers, and these are
17 the people that we need to talk to and need to hear
18 from. So, I expect that these issues will be answered
19 through that.

20 We are at this for one year. We know that
21 we will not resolve all the issues that you have in
22 one year, but unless we begin talking seriously about

1 what those issues are, and start forming some
2 solutions and making recommendations, and holding
3 people accountable, I think we will not expect to do
4 anything more but talk.

5 Now, we have heard this afternoon, the
6 Advisory Board heard from a number of representatives
7 from Native American organizations and from tribal
8 governments. We are asked to consider, and will
9 recommend to the full Board, that we have a meeting on
10 an American Indian reservation. We have a number of
11 other recommendations which we have pledged to take
12 back to the President for his consideration, and
13 that's why we have these meetings.

14 MODERATOR GURULÉ: Thank you.

15 AUDIENCE: You haven't answered the
16 question yet.

17 MODERATOR GURULÉ: We are going to ask
18 somebody ask, Reverend Ford.

19 REVEREND FORD: One of the things I'd like
20 to say and I'd make this perfectly clear, I can't
21 think of a group being a representative for the NAACP
22 that I have not represented, every group.

1 The problem that I have is when we want to
2 think of our pain as being exclusive, or we want to
3 think of our plight as being exclusive, but any group
4 you go to, any group you go to, feels like they have
5 been left out.

6 The other part of it, and I think this is
7 what they were talking about with the stadium issues,
8 is that there's a lot of pigeon holing that goes on in
9 our society today, in other words, we go and say that
10 somebody is a savage, or we want to degrade or
11 denigrate them, and we use those titles and everybody
12 walks around and they think nothing of it because they
13 are not concerned about other people's feelings. And,
14 it's when we become concerned about how somebody else
15 feels --

16 AUDIENCE: How do you feel about having --

17 REVEREND FORD: How do I feel? I do
18 support you. I have argued causes.

19 AUDIENCE: You are not --

20 REVEREND FORD: And, I've stood up for
21 them, too. And, still sometimes people don't see you
22 everywhere, they see you as a pigeon hole, just like

1 you are arguing with me right now saying why don't I
2 stand up, I'm telling you that I have stood up.

3 (Applause.)

4 REVEREND FORD: But, the other side of it
5 is, is that I've not only stood up for that cause,
6 I've stood up for every other kind of cause, too.
7 When I walk through the schools and watch children's
8 grades and academics, it's not just one group that's
9 doing bad, I can go right down the list of looking at
10 dropouts. A large number of Hispanics are dropping
11 out of school because they are not taught anything
12 about their culture.

13 (Applause.)

14 REVEREND FORD: Young people -- let me tell
15 you what thing that is excluded and nobody is saying
16 anything about it hardly, there are no young people up
17 here.

18 AUDIENCE: All right.

19 (Applause.)

20 REVEREND FORD: Where is the high
21 schoolers?

22 AUDIENCE: Right here, right here.

1 REVEREND FORD: There you go, you see what,
2 we forget one thing, and when I saw this first issue
3 I'll tell you what we did about it. Mr. Surrell
4 (phonetic) and I went and got an immediate
5 conversation because there was a young lady from East
6 High School that was in our meeting. That's why on
7 Wednesday they are going to meet with some high
8 schools.

9 AUDIENCE: All right.

10 REVEREND FORD: But, standing around here,
11 or sitting around here complaining isn't going to
12 change a thing.

13 (Applause.)

14 AUDIENCE: All right, all right.

15 REVEREND FORD: We haven't changed one
16 thing today in this time we've been up here for these
17 several hours, because we haven't been able to look
18 beyond our own self, and when you want to look at me
19 and you want to say, why, he's just African-American,
20 let me explain something to you, that shows your own
21 prejudice.

22 AUDIENCE: All right.

1 REVEREND FORD: Because I'm also Jewish, my
2 mother spent time in a concentration camp. If we want
3 to talk about prejudice, let her explain to you what
4 it's like being a White female married to a 6'2" Black
5 male in the '50s, when they got married in a state
6 where they have to state it was illegal to perform an
7 interracial marriage.

8 AUDIENCE: That was her choice.

9 REVEREND FORD: And, she loved her choice,
10 too.

11 (Applause.)

12 REVEREND FORD: But, if we're going to talk
13 about dealing with issues, we need to quit pigeon
14 holing people, we need to quit disrespecting each
15 other, and we need to make up in our minds that we
16 really want to make a difference in the country,
17 because our children are learning from our ignorance.

18 (Applause.)

19 REVEREND FORD: We have children at the age
20 of elementary school talking about racism and not
21 liking certain people, they didn't learn that from
22 television, they learned it from mommy and daddy.

1 (Applause.)

2 REVEREND FORD: We've got to go around and
3 to see what's really going on. There are a number of
4 people with issues, but let the world talk, because
5 not everybody up here is from Washington, and I'm not
6 from Washington. I live here. I'm involved, and I've
7 been beat up enough.

8 (Applause.)

9 REVEREND FORD: So now, let some other
10 folks talk.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. YOUNES: Thank you.

13 I think one of the points that the Reverend
14 makes is modeling the behavior we seek, and we'll
15 start with modeling the behavior we seek with this
16 lovely woman right here.

17 MS. TYO (phonetic): Good evening. My name
18 is Margaret Redshirt Tyo, and I'm a reporter from the
19 Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Don't tell me about
20 racism, because I lived through it 100 percent.

21 You talk about your family, you should have
22 been raised on the reservation back in the '30s.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. TYO: (Indian language). My friends,
3 I want you to all listen to what is being said to you,
4 and I hope that you will listen to us. I know that we
5 get out of hand and we scream and carry on --

6 AUDIENCE: Let her hold the mic.

7 AUDIENCE: Let her hold the mic.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. TYO: I hope that you listen closely,
10 and I hope all of us listen closely. I was concerned
11 because as American Indians we were taught to respect
12 and we were taught to listen, and some of our young
13 people got out of hand, but what can I do?

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. TYO: I know that Mr. Peña, when he was
16 running for Mayor, I looked at his picture and I said,
17 now this man should be a good Mayor, so silently I
18 campaigned for him, and the Indian community, so see
19 where he got?

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. TYO: I will now translate what I told
22 you in the Lakota language. I asked my relatives that

1 understand the Lakota language, I asked them to go
2 home and think about all the things that were said and
3 handle it in the right way like we were taught, and I
4 hope that they respect more, like we were taught, and
5 sometimes I can't really speak English because I would
6 rather speak Lakota.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. TYO: But anyway, I want to thank you
9 for giving me the time, and I just hope that, you
10 know, like I said before, I hope everybody thinks
11 about everything like you up here, and you up there,
12 and if you want me to tell you about racism I'll stand
13 here all night.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. YOUNES: We're going to take one up
16 here, I think you motivated some thoughts up here.

17 MS. BURETTA: Yes. I think Margaret and I
18 have known each other for some time. I am a Minority
19 Affairs Specialist with AARP, also represent the
20 Asionos (phonetic), but I've been to the Indian
21 Center, and Margaret knows that, I've been there many
22 times, and I think it's beautiful to have -- and, of

1 course, I'm part Indian, I have family that are
2 Spanish and French, but I love my roots.

3 And, I feel that I am trying to reach out,
4 I have been to Margaret to the Indian Center, and I go
5 -- I also go to the Jew T (phonetic) on Jews with the
6 Black, I think it's beautiful.

7 I had a beautiful childhood that I grew up
8 where we had all the different cultures, it was a
9 mining town, and we had people, all the parents spoke
10 a different language, but we spoke English to each
11 other, and it was beautiful. You know, you don't have
12 to travel all over the world to find the different
13 cultures, they are right here, and they are beautiful.

14 And, I think that what we need to do is we
15 should all become advocates for equality.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. BURETTA: I think that what we should
18 all do is if we get the address, maybe we could all
19 write to the President and tell him how we all feel.

20 MS. YOUNES: What are some ideas that the
21 rest of you have about how we can become advocates for
22 each other?

1 AUDIENCE: Representation.

2 AUDIENCE: I think one way, my name is
3 (inaudible) I'm a musician, I promote multi-
4 culturalism in schools using music, and one thing
5 that's dawned upon me tonight is that there's a lot of
6 negativism going on, and I think it's probably
7 warranted, but look around, we are very fortunate, we
8 are very fortunate in this country, and I've been
9 fortunate to travel abroad through Brazil, and live in
10 Venezuela and Mexico and other countries, and if you
11 go there and look at their conditions and the
12 oppression that those people are suffering, you might
13 think twice, you might think twice about how fortunate
14 we have it here in the United States, how lucky we are
15 really are, to appreciate what you have.

16 MS. YOUNES: I'm sorry, Father Dan Hopkins,
17 you had some comments.

18 FATHER HOPKINS: You know, I, like
19 everybody here, understands and hears what is being
20 said, and certainly my heart is with you in terms of
21 representation. We understand that that needs to
22 happen, and I certainly would encourage the President

1 to relook at the Board situation as well.

2 (Applause.)

3 FATHER HOPKINS: We know that everyone
4 needs to be represented, and so I absolutely agree
5 with that.

6 And, one of the things I'd also like to say
7 is, one of the groups that's not been mentioned that
8 all of us have lived with and dealt with are people
9 with disabilities. I'm blind.

10 (Applause.)

11 FATHER HOPKINS: And, I work at the Pueblos
12 in New Mexico, I've been to Pine Ridge Reservation, I
13 worked in different communities across this country
14 trying to find opportunities for people with
15 disabilities.

16 We live in a state with 2.9 percent
17 unemployment, in a country with 4.7 percent
18 unemployment, but the unemployment rate for Latinos
19 with disabilities is 78 percent.

20 AUDIENCE: Wow.

21 FATHER HOPKINS: For African-Americans,
22 it's 83 percent. For Native Americans, it's 87

1 percent. So, when we start talking about issues, we
2 have to make sure that those things are raised.

3 Just this past week, March 13th, an
4 Executive Order was passed concerning the employment
5 of adults with disabilities, and no mention in that
6 whole Executive Order was there of diversity or
7 ethnicity in all the ten points. I have copies of
8 that here that I'm asking the President's Initiative
9 to make sure that the Advisory Board gets.

10 The Section 21 of the Rehabilitation Act
11 talks about the adverse conditions that people with
12 disabilities from minorities communities live with.
13 Racism, minority ethnicity and unemployment and
14 poverty are inextricably connected. If we want to
15 deal with some issues, we need to make sure that the
16 54 million, that's one sixth of the population of this
17 country, of people with disabilities gets treated
18 fairly as well.

19 And, too, the incidence of disability, in
20 case you don't know, the incidence of disability for
21 Native Americans, for Latinos, and for African-
22 Americans is two times that of the majority

1 population.

2 Therefore, we are more disabled, poverty is
3 real among people with disabilities, that means
4 transportation, health care, housing, employment,
5 whatever it is, it's all worse for people with
6 disabilities. They need to be added to this dialogue
7 and any policy that comes out of Congress that impacts
8 people must include disabilities.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. YOUNES: We'll take one from the floor.

11 MR. TINKER: My name is Tim Tinker. I want
12 to say first of all thank you to the young people who
13 are here, the young people whose energies make this an
14 interesting and exciting moment and a time to be
15 heard, a time especially Indian and Chicano young
16 people who are here.

17 (Applause.)

18 AUDIENCE: Yes, that's us.

19 MR. TINKER: As brother preacher said in
20 his sermon, which was a little too long, we don't have
21 young voices up on the stage, and maybe the only way
22 to be heard is the way you all have been heard

1 tonight.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. TINKER: So, thank you.

4 Now, I've got a problem with what's going
5 on here. See, the problem isn't whether people in the
6 United States will change the name of the Washington
7 Redskins to the Washington Negroes instead, or the New
8 York Jews, or the Houston Chicanos, that's only window
9 dressing, my friends, what we've got to deal with is
10 this slogan up here.

11 AUDIENCE: Give the man a mic.

12 MR. TINKER: Is this slogan up here that
13 says, "One America," because already that's the lie
14 that we are trying to speak to tonight.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. TINKER: We need one America, there
17 hasn't been one America, even though the attempt has
18 been made, you see we Indian people know this One
19 America, it was called for 200 years manifest destiny.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. TINKER: The real problem is that there
22 cannot be one America until every last Indian is

1 either killed or derascinated because you see,
2 friends, we will not settle for a government-to-
3 government relationship, this is the one thing that
4 this Board needs to understand, that a government-to-
5 government relationship is what the City of Denver
6 has, as Secretary Peña knows full well.

7 What Indian people insist on is a nation-
8 to-nation government.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. TINKER: (inaudible) that listens to
11 who we are, it's not enough to hit us with some slick
12 media types who present us with an agenda that
13 squeezes out anything we had to say and leaves us once
14 again isolated on dreary, dry, arid reservations,
15 where even those resources are being pirated off by
16 major corporations --

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. TINKER: -- (inaudible) you see, my
19 friends, what we've got to begin to talk about is how
20 we can dream a whole new dream, a dream that we want,
21 it's time to begin being really creative and thinking
22 of a new way of doing business that really respects

1 one another in a new way.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. YOUNES: Lots of references in what I
4 heard you say about young people, and I think there's
5 some young people that want to be heard.

6 Toby Cho.

7 MS. CHO: Hi, good evening, my name is Toby
8 Cho. I'm a junior at the University of Colorado. I'm
9 also Asian American.

10 What I would like to say is that as a youth
11 we are the future, we recognize that, and who we look
12 to for our leadership is every single one of you out
13 here.

14 I want to tell you that I see a lot of
15 passion, a lot of emotion, and what I hope, what I've
16 been taught my whole entire life is to remain positive
17 and to know that each and every person can make a
18 difference, and we do every day. Just by being here
19 we are making a difference, and I hear a lot of
20 negativity out there, as lots of people has said, and
21 it needs to come out, but we also need to look forward
22 and we need to say, how can each one of us make a

1 difference in each one of our lives, and how can we
2 work together, because that's the only way it's going
3 to happen.

4 (Applause.)

5 AUDIENCE: I'm representing a voice of
6 biracial background. My father is from Chippewa
7 Indian Reservation in upper Wisconsin. I was raised
8 by my White grandparents, and have spent my life
9 trying to get back to my blood, to my roots.

10 (Applause.)

11 AUDIENCE: As a result of that, I am
12 sitting on this stage as representation of the
13 nations, different nations that are in the United
14 States, but I am biracial, and that means I am not
15 accepted by the Whites and sometimes accepted by my
16 Indian people.

17 I just want to know that my voice has been
18 heard, and I also want to know that everyone knows
19 that there is a biracial voice for us children who did
20 not choose to be biracial.

21 (Applause.)

22 AUDIENCE: And, I will spend my life trying

1 to get back to my Indian roots.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. YOUNES: Thank you.

5 It sounds like you have a lot of work to do
6 as a community and it sounds like we also have a lot
7 of work we can do within our communities.

8 Some comments from the community members.
9 Ernest.

10 MODERATOR GURULÉ: We're scheduled to end
11 this at 9:00, but there are people in line, there are
12 people up here who have to catch planes, make
13 schedules, we are going to extend this for the next 15
14 minutes. We'd ask that you keep your comments brief
15 and to the point.

16 AUDIENCE: Hello, hello, my name is Leroy
17 (inaudible). I'm going to try some positive
18 positivity. I just have a couple of quick comments.
19 I want to apologize to Linda Chavez-Thompson, a lot of
20 times when people first hear the name Linda Chavez
21 automatically they think it's the racist paid
22 Republican Linda Chavez, and this isn't, of course,

1 comments at the end, but I'm going to make them now.
2 The purpose of this meeting, the reason the President
3 has asked us to do this all over the county, is to do
4 precisely this, and that is to get your ideas, your
5 thoughts, your feelings about this issue.

6 As I said in my opening statements, this is
7 a controversial issue, and it takes courage to discuss
8 it publicly. You have a President who is willing to
9 do it. No other President has been willing to do it,
10 but all the suggestions, all the ideas that were
11 presented tonight, and earlier at a meeting with Ms.
12 Winston, are going to be taken back to the President
13 and others, and at that time, and as a number of these
14 are held around throughout the country, decisions will
15 be made about how to respond to all the issues that
16 you present.

17 That's the process, we will do that, and
18 that is our commitment, take all these ideas back.

19 MS. YOUNES: Are there any voices from the
20 majority culture that would like to be heard as well?

21 AUDIENCE: First of all, Madam Chairman,
22 and the rest of the panel, please get a Native

1 American on this panel.

2 I am from a small community called Brush,
3 about 100 miles from here, you think you've got
4 problems in Denver, come down to where we are at.

5 One of the things I'd like to address to
6 the panel, pull the people out of the civil rights
7 offices and send them out in the field where they are
8 needed.

9 (Applause.)

10 AUDIENCE: We have to come to Denver, today
11 I had to call Denver, it took me three -- not Denver,
12 Washington, it took me three hours to get through.
13 This is not a government for the people, this is a
14 government for itself.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. EGGER-BELANDIEA: Hello, (inaudible),
17 shalom, buenos dias, (inaudible), all of them, we all
18 speak one language in this country, English. We
19 should all unite on that.

20 My name is Dan Egger-Belandiea, I am
21 Arabian origin. Like Nadia Younes, I come from the
22 Middle East, like (inaudible) I was a Palestinian. I

1 publish the Arab-American Business Journal in Denver,
2 and the Metro Business Journal here.

3 Like many of you, I am discriminated
4 against every day. Yet, I have -- there's more
5 discrimination against me than most of you. I am
6 labeled a terrorist because of my looks.

7 AUDIENCE: Stereotype.

8 MR. EGGER-BELANDIEA: That's correct,
9 stereotype.

10 Some (inaudible) somewhere in D.C. paint a
11 picture of terrorists, black hair, moustache, brown
12 eyes, all that, accent too, for sure. That's my
13 handicap, I call it.

14 At every security check point, whether
15 it's the airport, the City Council Office, the courts,
16 schools in town, wherever we go they look at us
17 labeled evidently as terrorists, common guys, we are
18 human beings. We are people, we are productive. We
19 are business people, we are educators, we are parents,
20 we live here, we pay taxes, we are part of this
21 community, we are (inaudible) like anybody else.

22 (Applause.)

1 MR. EGGER-BELANDIEA: I have an inspiring
2 story to tell here after what I said so far.

3 Beyond being a publisher, I am also a real
4 estate broker. Some time ago, an employee of the Real
5 Estate Commission, after they had an argument about
6 some business related to my company, accused me of
7 wrongdoing, it was a minor misdemeanor charge, which
8 I had the choice either to admit guilt or plead not
9 guilty, pay a fine and go about life. I elected not
10 to, but to fight it.

11 It took me 13 months and at least three
12 days, or over three days in trial. At that time, the
13 judge figured out the fabrication and the lies of the
14 Real Estate Commission's lies in Denver here. The
15 judge finally found otherwise and dismissed the case.
16 That really make me feel special here, that due
17 process in this country exists, that we are all equal
18 under the eyes of the law, and at least where I come
19 from there's nothing as such, not only discrimination,
20 there's also no human rights, no due process, come on,
21 guys, let's work together here. I see all kinds of
22 colors and different people here, we should all be

1 united for One America.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. YOUNES: We have a courageous panel
5 member that's willing to speak up, Lynn Ellins,
6 please.

7 MR. ELLINS: I can tell from the passion
8 this evening that it should be the Anglos who should
9 be listening.

10 AUDIENCE: All right.

11 MR. ELLINS: But, you know, they can't hear
12 you, and they probably won't because of the noise.

13 AUDIENCE: Oh, no.

14 AUDIENCE: Boo.

15 AUDIENCE: Hello, my brothers and sisters,
16 my brothers and sisters of color, brothers and sisters
17 of humanity, we have come a little way. We have
18 struggled for peace, we have struggled for freedom,
19 but there is something seriously wrong here tonight,
20 because we are addressing the very things that they
21 are trying to say that we are supposed to address,
22 racism and all the other kinds of racisms, all the

1 other kinds of isms, all the other kinds of
2 negativism, but the real truth of the matter is that
3 we have a President who is in trouble and he needs to
4 show something that will increase his popularity in
5 the polls.

6 (Applause.)

7 AUDIENCE: I used to be very involved in
8 the militancy of my brothers and sisters, and my heart
9 is still there, but as I've gotten older I have
10 decided to find a new way, a new path, and I thought
11 that I would give this system, this American system,
12 an opportunity to let me try to at least infiltrate,
13 at least let me become a small part of this so-called
14 American dream, and all I've ever found is an American
15 nightmare.

16 (Applause.)

17 AUDIENCE: I have went to school, I have to
18 went to school and studied business, and I went into
19 business, and every day I go to work and I work my
20 time, and every day I go to work pretending to be
21 somebody who I'm not, but then I decided one day to
22 let my hair grow and start talking to people, and

1 start educating people the very moment that I walk
2 into the doors of where I work at, and I talked to
3 them about racism, I talked to them about my culture
4 and my people, that we are still prisoners of war.

5 (Applause.)

6 AUDIENCE: And, if there was anything that
7 you could do as a public for us as Native people, and
8 that is for you to pray for our freedom, that some day
9 we will stop being prisoners of war, that some day
10 that we will not have reservations, but we will have
11 actual homelands and that we will have our own places
12 for our children to grow up in freedom and not be
13 Americans.

14 AUDIENCE: All right.

15 (Applause.)

16 AUDIENCE: We have a long way to go, we
17 have a long way to go, but I would just like to say
18 this, I would just like to say this, and I know that
19 there are a few people out here, and in respect to
20 these other people here, I would just like to just say
21 this, and I would like just for you to take just one
22 moment, I would like for all of you just to stand

1 right now, right now, and hold hands, please, stand
2 up, please, and hold hands, and let us show some
3 humanity, let us show some unity in humanity and for
4 world peace, come on, as in the words of Martin Luther
5 King and all of the other people who have sought
6 freedom, all the people in freedom, let us pray for
7 world peace, let us pray for world understanding, that
8 we can stop, we can stop addressing all of these
9 negativisms in this world. We have a long way to go.
10 Let us pray for peace, let us pray for our children.

11 MS. YOUNES: Thank you very much.

12 (Applause.)

13 MODERATOR GURULÉ: As I indicated earlier,
14 we are going to close the dialogue at 9:15, we are
15 going to allow you to be our last speaker.

16 AUDIENCE: No.

17 MODERATOR GURULÉ: But, you are in seconds.
18 Saul Rosenthal, you have the floor.

19 MR. ROSENTHAL: I think until the last
20 speaker spoke I didn't think anything positive and
21 constructive was going to come out of this. At least
22 we got enough people to stand together and make a

1 statement that maybe something will come out of it.

2 My concern is, and I think it's shared by
3 other people, there's been one voice heard clearly,
4 succinctly and justifiably. No one on this stage
5 questions the pain and the suffering of the nations
6 that we have caused as Americans to others, that's not
7 the question.

8 The question is the healing question, and
9 we haven't gotten to that yet. We've spent a whole
10 evening hearing that one voice, and that one voice
11 only, and I wanted to hear what some of these other
12 folks thought, and I wanted to hear what some people
13 out in the audience who were not Native Americans
14 thought, who came here to speak, and to be heard, and
15 to have Doctor Franklin and his committee, as
16 imperfect as we may think it is, carry a message back.

17 I can't even imagine what positive message
18 this Commission can carry back to the President that
19 we have put forward. We've missed, in this community,
20 an absolute opportunity and it's our own fault for not
21 listening to each other. There are more voices to be
22 heard, there is more pain to be understood, and

1 there's more opportunity for change and none of that
2 has happened tonight, and that's the tragic loss of
3 this particular evening.

4 (Applause.)

5 AUDIENCE: Thank you.

6 I'd like to say in the name of God, the
7 beneficent, the merciful, peace be unto you.

8 You know, first of all, if the President
9 wants to talk about race he has to stop ignoring one
10 of the major voices in America today, the Honorable
11 Lewis Faracon (phonetic). In 1995, the Honorable
12 Lewis Faracon called over 1 million Black men to
13 Washington, D.C., and I haven't heard anything from
14 our President about this great Black man and the work
15 that he's doing, and the work of the million man march
16 committees around the country. We are being ignored
17 because we don't fit the image of the decent taxpaying
18 Americans, but we pay taxes.

19 AUDIENCE: All right.

20 AUDIENCE: Don't we pay taxes, brothers and
21 sisters?

22

1 AUDIENCE: Yes.

2 AUDIENCE: We work, we raise children,
3 right, we obey the law, don't we? I mean, so if the
4 President wants to talk about race, we have to start
5 talking about what the Nation of Islam is doing in
6 America, and I want you to listen.

7 People think, well, you know, he's
8 promoting his agenda, well everybody else up here is
9 promoting their agenda. I'm here to promote the
10 agenda of the Nation of Islam, and let you know that
11 the nation is growing and we ain't going no where, but
12 we need to be part of this dialogue. Okay.

13 One more thing, the most under-used
14 resource in the Black community is the Black youth,
15 and we don't vote, between the ages of 18 and 35 we
16 are under-represented in the voting in this country.
17 And, I want to say this, I know that if we stand up
18 and start voting, Black youth, and Brown youth, and
19 youth of color, we can change national policy in the
20 next millennium. We can change this country, and I'm
21 asking you, in 1999, I want to propose something, to
22 hold a million youth march in Washington, D.C., to

1 bring youth to D.C., to deal on issues that affect
2 youth in this country, because we are not being heard.

3 What do you think about that? Can I get
4 some back-up on that?

5 (Applause.)

6 AUDIENCE: So, I'm saying, I'm going to be
7 asking you about it, we want to get the youth to vote,
8 to rock the vote, and make this country here, because,
9 you know, the youth, that's why they are jumping up,
10 because they are tired of hearing people, older
11 people, and we're not going to disrespect you because
12 you are older, we are tired of hearing you telling us
13 how things go. There are issues that are affecting
14 young Black, Brown, White people today that didn't
15 affect you when you were growing up. You know what
16 I'm saying? There are a lot of things that are
17 affecting us. Are you with me?

18 See, and there aren't that many young
19 people here, that's why they are not clapping, I'm
20 watching all of you, a bunch of old folks, and I'm not
21 putting you down, but the youth are not represented,
22 that's one of the main problems.

1 I mean, how do you feel, this young man
2 that killed one of our brothers out here on the bus
3 stop, said he didn't have the right uniform on, that
4 was a young White man killed a young Black man,
5 there's a youth problem in America, and I'm saying, in
6 my conclusion, the median age for Black people in this
7 country is 28.4, the median age for Whites is about
8 34. The Black populations is younger, and I read on
9 this thing they sent me in the mail that in the year
10 2050 the population of the United States will be
11 approximately 53 percent White, 14 percent Black, one
12 percent American Indian and Alaskan Native, eight
13 percent Asian/Pacific Islander, and 25 percent
14 Hispanic. We are going to be able to run this country
15 and put presidents in the White House, and I'm telling
16 the youth now, let's get ready now, let's start
17 working on it now, so we can take over this country
18 and set the policy.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. YOUNES: I know there is a lot more to
22 be said and, hopefully, when the President's

1 Initiative on Race leaves Denver, as a community,
2 we'll continue the dialogues in meaningful ways.

3 We do have to close this evening, and I
4 want to thank you very much for your time, if not your
5 patience.

6 Good night, be safe, be happy.

7 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter was
8 concluded at 9:15 p.m.)

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