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APRIL 15, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF REMARKS
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT
AND
SAMUEL R. MARTINEZ
UPON HIS SWEARING-IN
AS DIRECTOR
OF THE
COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

THE ROSE GARDEN

2:17 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. and Mrs. Martinez and your family, Secretary Mathews, Secretary Hills, distinguished guests:

Let me welcome you to the White House today for the swearing-in of Sam Martinez as Director of the Community Services Organization and Administration. I spent a good deal of time in Sam Martinez' native State and I feel the next best thing to visiting Colorado is bringing one of its leading citizens to Washington.

Sam Martinez brings to Washington more than a decade of experience in dealing with public policy at many, many levels. At a time when the American people are concerned about maintaining the roles of the State and local units of government, his experience at those levels makes him especially valuable to all of us.

Sam Martinez began his administrative career as a Principal at Fort Lupton High School in Colorado where he had been a teacher as well as a coach. His involvement in helping people at the State and local level began in 1964 when he was named Assistant Director of the Colorado Civil Rights Commission. He served the people of Colorado as a Special Assistant to the Governor and as a State and Regional Director of the Colorado Office of Economic Opportunity.

Since that time, Sam Martinez began his responsibility in managing Federal programs and that role has expanded significantly. In the last few years he has served very constructively as Chairman of the Mt. Plains Federal Regional Council and Regional Director of the United States Department of Labor.

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Sam Martinez and I share a personal commitment to help the poor and disadvantaged Americans served by their Community Services Administration. Its programs demand strong and very effective and very imaginative leadership. I am fully confident, Sam, that you will provide that leadership. And now I ask the Executive Clerk, John Ratchford, to please administer the oath.

(The oath is administered to Mr. Martinez)

MR. MARTINEZ: Mr. President, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Aside from this being a most delightful experience for me personally, my wife, Doris, and our three daughters, I am honored, Mr. President, to be here as one of your appointees in the presence of this most prestigious group. The fact that you have placed your confidence in me to assume this role in your Administration is indeed meaningful, but more importantly, many millions of our citizens whose lives are filled with daily tragedy and struggle take comfort in knowing that in the whirlwind of government operations you have taken stock of their needs.

I assure you, Mr. President, that I am keenly aware of the many viewpoints concerning the Community Services Administration and its programs. I submit to you that for every proponent to the concept there may very well be an opponent, both with seemingly good justification.

My job, as I see it, is to, first of all, get all of those who associate with CSA directly or indirectly to understand clearly the mission and purpose of this agency. My own experiences, Mr. President, dictate that I commit myself totally to the assignment you have given me. My convictions are firm and I will apply my energies with dedication and sincerity.

Secondly, Congressional and administrative mandates will be interpreted with the assistance of many so as to remove the guesswork from our mission.

Thirdly, I believe I understand and appreciate the complexities of providing meaningful experiences for the poor who want a better life for themselves and their families.

In terms of resources, the Community Services Administration plays a small role in this total effort, but a giant role in providing the delivery systems and serving as a catalyst and an advocator for the programs that serve our disadvantaged citizens. Our national resources are abundant, our human resources equally so, and coupled with proper initiatives significant achievements are indeed possible. Of one thing you can be certain, Mr. President, your trust and confidence will receive in return my best judgment, decisiveness and always a dedication to my work.

Thank you very much.