

To the Honorable Sherri Greenberg and others at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, I want to thank-you for inviting me to be a part of this esteemed panel and ladies and gentlemen in the audience, thank-you for being a part of this discussion of ideas.

My family is a testament to living the belief that the content of our character will determine our lives and our fortunes without looking to the government to provide for our sustenance. My grandfather emigrated here legally from Spain and was a successful small businessman. My grandmother legally emigrated from Mexico and was a teacher in El Paso. My parents did not gain a college degree but they had six children all whom earned a college degree and my father became the publisher/owner of a newspaper company. My wife emigrated from Taiwan and has demonstrated excellent business acumen. My African-American brother-in-law who dropped out of high school has become a successful 14-year police veteran in North Texas. His son Jordan recently was accepted into the Naval Academy, because of his academic accomplishments at Jesuit Academy in Dallas and earning in excess of 100 hours of service to the community.

The content of character that each family member exhibited was a result of the following values: work, family, faith, service, and patriotism. It is these ideals that can and do shape our communities and our nation when exercised. Ideas no matter how radical should never be tempered otherwise we will fail to speak out against some social or moral ills in our society.

Over the years, the Republican Party has done a terrible job in promoting its successes in Civil Rights. Why this is so, I cannot say.

So let me begin by outlining just few of the Republican achievements:

- Senator Henry Wilson introduced the District of Columbia Emancipation Act, which freed all slaves in the nation's capital in April 1862 – five months before the first Republican President; Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.
- The first 22 African Americans elected to the House and Senate were Republicans during the post-Reconstruction period of 1867-1900.
- The first African Americans elected in the modern period also were Republicans:
 - Sen. Edward William Brooke – MA
 - Cong. Oscar DePriest – IL

1932 is considered a seminal period when the voting pattern of African Americans and other groups voted for FDR and the Democrats and allowed Democrat dominance for the next 20-years. Despite this shift, forward thinking Republicans have been leading the charge through the following actions:

- 1954 - Republican Chief Justice Earl Warren who was appointed by a Republican President, Dwight Eisenhower, wrote the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision.
- 1957 - President Eisenhower won passage of his landmark Civil Rights Act.
- Republican, U.S. Senator Everett Dirksen of Illinois authored and introduced the 1960 Civil Rights Act. In 1964, this bill eventually overcame tenacious Democratic opposition despite a Democrat President's urging. Why do I say this? Well, the Democrats controlled the House with 261 votes and could only muster 164 votes. It was 80% of the House Republicans or their 138 votes that took the first big step. In the Senate, the Democrats could garner only 46 of 68 Senators, thereby falling short of the needed majority. Here too, it was 82% of the Republicans or 27 of 33 Republican Senators who voted for it.
- Justice Sandra Day O'Connor of Arizona was the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court. She was also the first woman to be Majority Leader in the legislature of any state; and
- Republican Judge Paul McCormick on Feb 18, 1946 struck down the segregation of Hispanic-American children in Orange County, California public schools. His ruling stressed "a common cultural attitude among the school children, which is imperative for the perpetuation of American institutions and ideals."

On March 29, 1995, the Honorable Barbara Jordan addressed the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations stating, "The Commission believes it is essential to control illegal immigration if we are to have a credible immigration policy."

What did she mean by this? She laid out four recommendations. Ms. Jordan said, "First, we need improved border management," which included additional personnel and the strategic use of technology. Secondly, "reduce the magnet that jobs currently present for illegal immigration...by enhancing our enforcement of both employer sanctions and labor standards." Third, "...**illegal aliens** should be eligible for no public benefits other than those of an emergency nature, in the public health and safety interest, and constitutionally protected. On the other hand, we urge the Congress to retain for **legal immigrants** eligibility for our safety net programs" and the fourth area addressed the removal and deportation of criminal aliens.

Ms. Jordan concluded by saying, "Citizenship should be reserved for those who understand and are committed to American fundamental values, and who stand ready to follow in the footsteps of patriots. Anything less diminishes us and our precious gift of citizenship." Her speech is something I as a conservative and other conservatives can agree to and work cooperatively with the other side. The question now is, will the other side agree to this?

Since Reconstruction, the Democrat Party of Texas never elected or appointed an African American to statewide office and elected one Hispanic in the late 1980s/early 1990s. Since, the Republicans took power in Texas just a mere 14 years ago, the GOP

has elected two Hispanics, appointed three others to statewide office as well as electing three African-Americans to statewide office. Also during this time, two Hispanic Republicans were elected to the State House, one person switched parties and there are currently six Republican Latinos running for the State House.

Across the U.S., there is an increasing number of Hispanic and African American leaders who have held office or ran for office and will continue promoting the conservative agenda on jobs, education, health care, and the environment such as: NFL legend and ex-Pennsylvania Gubernatorial candidate, Lynn Swann; former Lt. Governor of Maryland, Michael Steele; Secretary of State, Condoleeza Rice; former FCC Chairman Michael Powell; U.S. Hispanic Chamber Foundation President, Massey Villarreal; former Public Utility Commission Chair, Becky Armendariz-Klein; and Honduran emigrant, and former DC Court of Appeals nominee, Miguel Estrada. These people are making things happen and can lead this state and nation toward that shining city on the hill.

The challenge for civil rights leaders should be this - will we move on to a 'post civil-rights era' where political equality is firmly established and racial divides erased so that there is post-racial politics? The conservative view has been consistent: We fully support equality of opportunity, but are opposed to **equality of result**, which increase racial divisions and does not break them down. After all, the **goal for everyone to be measured by should be Martin Luther King's hope of being measured by the 'content of our character.**