

if they are just given a chance. You don't want a crutch. You want a ladder, a ladder of opportunity to a better future. And that is what we are determined to provide.

Most Members of Congress, you know, say they want to revive our cities. And now we can test them. We can put them to the test. I call on the Congress to support our HOPE program fully. I call on the Congress to pass the Enterprise Zone and Jobs-Creation Act of 1991. And I call on the Congress to enact the Community Opportunity Act of 1991 right now.

Bertha, Bertha Gilkey—I've got this quote of hers: "We don't want to be taken care of; we want to take care of ourselves." That is, to be treated like human beings, not numbers in a housing project.

And people all across this country said: Yes, we want dignity, we want independence, we want responsibility, and we want to own our own homes, and we want to control our destinies. And I would say to the Congress: Congress, you ought to start thinking anew. Give the people a chance now, and pass this new legislation, and don't go back to the old answers that have failed the people of St. Louis year in and year out. It's time to think anew. So, I am con-

vinced that together we can build upon your success. We can offer new opportunity, new optimism, new hope to people condemned to daily bleakness and hardship.

So, please join me. You do have some power in your hands. Get ahold of your Congressman; convince him to think anew and give these new ideas a chance. Because Bertha is right: homeownership builds dignity. Homeownership offers people a real bite of the apple, a chance for the great American dream to come to everybody.

Thank you all, and God bless you, and may God bless our great country, the United States of America. Thank you very much.

*Note: The President spoke at 12:40 p.m. in the Cochran Gardens Community Center. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. John D. Ashcroft of Missouri; Bertha Gilkey, president of the National Tenant Union and chairperson of the Cochran Gardens Tenant Management Corp.; Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf; Senators Christopher S. Bond, John C. Danforth, and Joseph I. Lieberman; and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Jack Kemp.*

## Message on the Observance of Cinco de Mayo May 3, 1991

I am delighted to send warm greetings to all those celebrating Cinco de Mayo.

As you recall the events of the Battle of Puebla, it is fitting that you pay tribute to the brave individuals whose tenacious love of freedom helped to secure independence for Mexico. Through your parades, festivals, dances, and speeches, you not only celebrate their victory but also ensure that every generation continues to learn about Mexico's perseverance on the long road to freedom.

Today, the United States and Mexico are determined to follow a path that will promote greater opportunity and prosperity for our two peoples.

As we celebrate Cinco de Mayo, we reaffirm our friendship and our commitment to the successful conclusion of the North American Free Trade Agreement. By working together to remove barriers to trade and investment, we can promote growth and prosperity for our countries and throughout this hemisphere.

Barbara joins me in sending our best wishes for your celebration.

GEORGE BUSH