

## **LATINOS MARCH ON D.C.**

Daily News (New York)

October 13, 1996, Sunday

Copyright 1996 Daily News, L.P.

**Section:** News; Pg. 2

**Length:** 378 words

**Byline:** By DAVID EISENSTADT Daily News Washington Bureau

### **Body**

---

WASHINGTON Hispanic-Americans by the tens of thousands converged on the nation's capital yesterday to protest crackdowns on immigrants and to push for easier citizenship procedures and a \$ 7-an-hour minimum wage.

Waving flags of various Latin countries, the huge throng gathered midmorning at a park in a largely Hispanic neighborhood and marched to the mall in front of the White House for a rousing rally.

The marchers, many decked out in colorful ethnic costumes and dancing to Latin music, stretched for seven blocks and sent up a deafening cry in Spanish that "united, we will never be defeated."

The protesters came from 39 states, with big groups traveling from New York, Chicago, Phoenix, Los Angeles and other major cities with large Hispanic populations. "E.T. is an alien. I'm not," read one of the many protest signs.

"We're not here to be bashed around like pinatas," said Juan Jose Bocanegra of Seattle, a member of the march organizing committee.

The event, the largest march by Hispanics for a variety of rights issues, was initially formed as a protest against recently passed immigration and welfare bills, both of which place new restrictions on legal and illegal aliens.

But the protest expanded to cover working class and civil rights issues as well, among them calls for a \$ 7-an-hour minimum wage, more free health services, a new amnesty for undocumented workers and police review boards made up entirely of civilians.

"The effect of this march is so the government understands that we are America's largest ethnic group," said Michael Rosero, 20, of Queens.

Ken Figueroa, 21, of Manhattan, showed up "to make a statement for my people. Both my parents are immigrants, and I'm really concerned about how people from other countries are represented by our politicians."

California Gov. Pete Wilson was a prime target for marchers due to his support of a state bill to ban public assistance for legal immigrants.

Many protest signs urged: "Deport Wilson."

Organizers said the event was important for **Latinos** who have never developed a strong national network. "I've never seen my community so focused," said Rep. Jose Serrano (**D**-Bronx). "As a Puerto Rican I'm touched by the number of Puerto Ricans here."

## Graphic

---

AP ARM IN ARM: Talk-show host Geraldo Rivera links arms with fellow demonstrators at yesterday's march.

## Classification

---

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (90%); HISPANIC AMERICANS (90%); IMMIGRATION (89%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (78%); CITIZENSHIP (78%); DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS (78%); CITIZENSHIP LAW (78%); ETHNIC GROUPS (78%); CIVIL RIGHTS (77%); WAGES & SALARIES (77%); INCOME ASSISTANCE (77%); MINIMUM WAGE (77%); AMNESTY (73%); FOREIGN LABOR (73%)

**Person:** JOSE E SERRANO (56%)

**Geographic:** NEW YORK, NY, USA (91%); SEATTLE, WA, USA (79%); LOS ANGELES, CA, USA (79%); CHICAGO, IL, USA (71%); NEW YORK, USA (79%); WASHINGTON, USA (79%); **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,** USA (79%); CALIFORNIA, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (93%)

**Load-Date:** October 14, 1996