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## APPENDIX THREE: Journal: Research Trip to Washington, D.C.

### Monday, 21 July 2003

Flew to Washington, D.C. Arrived at Dulles International Airport at approximately 4 PM. Arrived at Super 8 Motel – Downtown DC at approximately 8 PM.

### Tuesday, 22 July 2003

Called offices of 19 Members of Congress whose districts lay at least partially within Los Angeles County to set up appointments to drop off questionnaires the following day. It is the policy of Capitol Hill Security that appointments must be made one day in advance for anyone wishing to drop off materials of any kind at the offices of Congress Members. By calling in advance, I confirmed questionnaire drop-offs at 14 of the 19 offices I consulted. One office advised me to mail the questionnaire to the Member of Congress' district office in California. One office requested that I send the questionnaire to an office staffer via email. Three offices refused to review the questionnaire at all; they advised me of their observance of a "no surveys" policy.

Questionnaires were dropped off at the following district offices:

22<sup>nd</sup>: William M. "Bill" Thomas (R)  
25<sup>th</sup>: Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (R)  
26<sup>th</sup>: David Dreier (R)  
27<sup>th</sup>: Brad Sherman (D)  
28<sup>th</sup>: Howard L. Berman (D)  
29<sup>th</sup>: Adam B. Schiff (D)  
30<sup>th</sup>: Henry A. Waxman (D)  
31<sup>st</sup>: Xavier Becerra (D)  
33<sup>rd</sup>: Diane Watson (D)  
36<sup>th</sup>: Jane Harman (D)  
38<sup>th</sup>: Grace F. Napolitano (D)  
39<sup>th</sup>: Linda T. Sanchez (D)  
42<sup>nd</sup>: Gary G. Miller (R)  
46<sup>th</sup>: Dana Rohrabacher (R)

Questionnaires were mailed/mailed to the following district offices:

34<sup>th</sup>: Lucille Roybal-Allard (D) (mailed questionnaire)  
37<sup>th</sup>: Juanita Millender-MacDonald (D) (mailed to L.A. office)

### Wednesday, 23 July 2003

Dropped off 14 questionnaires at offices of Members of Congress in the three office buildings that comprise Capitol Hill: Canon, Longworth, and Rayburn. This activity took approximately three hours to complete, as several of the addresses I had taken from the Internet were not current and I had to hunt down the new offices by consulting with building security personnel. In each Member of Congress' office, I made arrangements with staffers to telephone their office on the following Tuesday to inquire as to the status of my questionnaire. I received several warnings that it might be difficult for the Member of Congress or a responsible staffer to attend to the questionnaire that week as it was the final week of the current Congressional session. However, I also received several assurances that my questionnaire would be filled out and returned to me promptly.

### Thursday, 24 July 2003 – Monday, 28 July 2003

Checked out of the Super 8 Motel and took an Amtrak train to New York City to visit New York University and Columbia University. Returned to D.C. by train on Monday afternoon and checked in to

the Hilton Towers Hotel on Dupont Circle. (I did not return to the Super 8 Motel as its accommodations were paltry and I found a better deal on a much nicer hotel at Priceline.com.)

### **Tuesday, 29 July 2003**

Called the 14 offices on the Hill at which I had dropped off questionnaires the previous Wednesday to arrange for next-day pick-up. Was unable to speak with my contacts at most of the offices, so I left messages and waited in my hotel room for responses. Several staffers (in offices of Buck McKeon, Henry Waxman, and Xavier Becerra) told me that the questionnaires would be mailed to the California address I provided for them. All three of those questionnaires remain pending. I received a call from one senior legislative aide who invited me to his office to chat off the record about the themes in my questionnaire; I gladly accepted the invitation for the following day at 11 AM.

### **Wednesday, 30 July 2003**

Made my way back to Capitol Hill Wednesday morning to meet with the senior legislative aide previously mentioned and we talked for approximately 30 minutes off the record about my questionnaire and the stance of the Member of Congress for which he works on issues surrounding the Mexican-American community in her Congressional district. I dropped in on all 10 of the offices from which I had not received an update on the status of my questionnaire. Upon doing so, I learned that my contacts were either out to lunch, they didn't know where the questionnaire ended up, or they offered apologies as it was the policy of their office to not respond to surveys in any way (why couldn't they have told me that over the phone in any of our previous phone conversations?). For those contacts who were "out to lunch" or who didn't know where the questionnaire was or who was handling it, I left messages at reception requesting that they send the completed questionnaire to my California address whenever it was completed. I consider those questionnaires to be essentially a lost cause.

### **Thursday, 31 July 2003 – Monday, 4 August 2003**

With tail between my legs after my barely fruitful Congressional experience, I took another side trip, this time to North Carolina to visit family. I returned to Washington on Monday evening, checked in to the Wyndham City Centre Hotel near Capitol Hill, for one last night in D.C. before flying back to Mexico City. (Again, I staid at a different hotel as I found a better deal online than the last hotel.)

### **Tuesday, 5 August 2003**

Slept in late, got dressed, grabbed some lunch at McDonald's, caught my Super Shuttle to the airport, and flew back to Mexico City in the evening. Aside from one interesting conversation with a legislative aide – off the record, no less – my trip to Washington, D.C., to administer short questionnaires to 19 Members of Congress has until now not yielded spectacular results. Further communications with my mother – whose address in California I gave to Congressional staffers – will reveal if anyone on The Hill took pity on my scholastic soul following my departure from my nation's Capitol. Stay tuned...