

**Honorable Michael M. Reyna
Chairman and CEO
Farm Credit Administration
Opening Remarks
2003 Combined Federal Campaign Kick-off
McLean, Virginia
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Good morning and welcome to FCA's 2003 Combined Federal Campaign Kick-off event. Thank you for allowing me to make a couple of comments at the outset of today's important event.

Have we really come that far since President Franklin Roosevelt uttered the words, "I see one third of the nation ill housed, ill clad, and ill nourished?" How many of us have looked around our neighborhoods, our communities or the greater Washington, D.C. area and seen folks who are struggling ... maybe they are malnourished, maybe they are homeless, maybe they don't have the best clothes or health care, or maybe they are just trying to make ends meet.

My guess is that if we look closely, we would find thousands and thousands of needs that go unmet every single day in our area. Maybe you don't even need to look around, maybe all you need to do is to look at your own life. And though I am not asking for a show of hands, can you ever think of a time when you or your family members needed a helping hand?

My friends, that is what the Combined Federal Campaign is all about ... people like you and me lending a helping hand to those who need our help the most in our area ... helping address the vast array of needs that exist right here close to home. It is about making a difference in another person's life; and, in doing so, actually making our whole community healthier and stronger.

The theme for this year's campaign is "You Have Got the Power." You know ... I actually believe that you and I have the power to make a difference individually and collectively.

In closing, I want to borrow another quotation ... this time from Robert Kennedy. And though it was said in a different context, I believe it has relevance at today's kick-off. He said "Each time a person stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others or strikes out against an injustice, ... he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy, those ripples will build a current that can bring down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance." His words are a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished, aren't they? However, the true power of his words rests not in the words themselves ... but in the actions taken by people like you and me.

We all know that money alone cannot solve every problem society faces. But let there be no doubt my friends ... with your support of the Combined Federal Campaign, you have the power to make a difference. And, I would suggest that each time you make a contribution you are creating, as Robert Kennedy said, a tiny ripple of hope ... and, when your contribution is combined with the contributions made by other people, the resulting tidal wave can sweep away many of the ill wills that affect individuals and society.

And, did you know that if each of you contributed just one dollar a day, you individually would not only address a wide array of needs that exist in society, but collectively we would break all previous agency contribution records.

I know that many of you are very generous and probably give well in excess of one dollar a day ... and, if you do, I want to thank you publicly and encourage you to continue to give generously. But, the real goal here today is to encourage everyone to contribute something ... to create a ripple ... to make a difference.

Please look into your hearts, and yes, dig into your wallets ... together we can make a real and lasting difference; remember, you've got the power! My friends, that is my message for today ... and now, on with the program.

Thank you.