

## *A Note from the Editor The Unspoken "A" and "I" Words*

A campaign for another mass amnesty for the aliens (estimated at six million, perhaps, many more) living illegally in the United States has been quietly gathering steam for some months now, promoted by a coalition of liberal and conservative politicians, racial and religious particularists, and business interests (who benefit from cheaper foreign labor, especially in the agricultural, construction, meat-packing, high-tech, and higher education fields). Leaders from both major political parties endorse recently introduced legislation that would provide amnesty for illegal aliens from Central America and the Caribbean, as well as any illegal aliens residing in the U.S. who have been living here since the end of 1985. Given that, as legal residents, the beneficiaries of a new amnesty could bring in dependents, there is no telling just how many millions of people would be added to the U.S. population base.

Note that in the statements by Vice-President Al Gore and leading Republican Jack Kemp, the words "amnesty" and "illegal alien" or "illegal immigration" are

nowhere used. This is hardly surprising, since the proponents of "regularizing" the standing of the millions of foreigners who live here in violation of our laws want to slip the enabling legislation past the unsuspecting American majority.

What is wrong with another amnesty? First, it is wrong in principle, since it rewards lawbreakers. As far back as 1977, when President Jimmy Carter proposed granting the first amnesty, Pennsylvania Senator Richard Schweiker pointed out that an amnesty "puts the government squarely behind the lawbreaker, and in effect says, 'Congratulations, you have successfully violated our laws and avoided detection — here is your reward.'"

A lesson we should have learned from the 1986 amnesty is that this is not the way to resolve our illegal-immigration problem. It encourages more illegal immigration, as individuals realize that if they manage to elude the U.S. Border Patrol, or over-stay a tourist or student visa and remain underground for a while, eventually they will be allowed to remain here legally.

### **Statement By Al Gore: Ensuring Fairness and Equity for Immigrants**

NASHVILLE, July 27 — Today, I am announcing my support for recently introduced legislation, S. 2912, to ensure fairness and equity for certain immigrants and their families already in the United States. I call upon George W. Bush to make clear his stance on this issue and join me in challenging Congress to pass this essential legislation.

Specifically, the bill amends the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act, which allows Nicaraguans and Cubans fleeing human rights violations to become legal immigrants, but does not allow similarly situated Central Americans and Haitians to do so. I believe we should correct this longstanding injustice, and I urge Congress to pass this legislation to ensure equitable treatment for other Central Americans and Haitians who fled human rights abuses or unstable conditions. This will not only ensure equitable humanitarian protections, but also advance our commitment to the stability of emerging democracies.

The legislation also amends section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), allowing qualified long-term migrants who have resided in the United States since 1986 to become legal permanent

residents. This provision, also known as the registry date, has existed since 1929 and has enabled many long-time migrants in the United States to deepen their ties to this country, including the establishment of families, homes, and communities. Congress should pass this legislation to revise the 1972 registry date and allow qualified long-term migrants who have lived in the United States since 1986 to become lawful permanent residents.

Finally, the legislation reinstates section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act allowing certain immigrants who are eligible for residency to have their papers processed here in the United States rather than force them to return to their home country. Families who are in this country legally should be allowed to remain together in the United States while immigration applications are pending.

I am committed to the overall fair and even-handed treatment to immigrants with substantial ties to this country. This legislation will give them the fair and just treatment they deserve. I urge Congress to give this important legislation prompt and favorable consideration.

There is nothing inhumane about enforcing our immigration laws and expelling illegal aliens. Another mass-amnesty is likely to precipitate a new immigration crisis.

WAYNE LUTTON, Ph.D., Editor