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Folder Title:
AFL-CIO Immigration Resolution

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Union's Immigration Stance Leaves GOP Congress Cold

Thorp staff without Ronald Akpan-Zahara and Richard Sherry complained to the clerk.

EMPLOYER SANCTIONS

Q: Do you support the repeal of current I-9/Employer sanctions system as a tool of workplace immigration enforcement since it has failed to stop employers from hiring undocumented workers and has resulted in discrimination and is used as a retaliatory tool against workers seeking to organize?

A: We are a country of laws and have an obligation to enforce our immigration laws including employer sanctions. The Administration is committed to enforcing the nation's immigration laws while respecting the civil rights and labor rights of all people, including the right to organize. However, we will take a look at the issues raised in this resolution.

AMNESTY

Q: Do you support a new amnesty program for undocumented workers?

A: The past experience with amnesty programs has not reduced the undocumented immigrant population and has not always resulted in improved working conditions for workers, has not stopped employers from hiring undocumented workers, and such programs can be interpreted as unfair to immigrants who have played by the rules waiting their turn to immigrate lawfully to the US and rewarding illegal behavior. Having said that, the Administration is concerned about the vulnerability of these undocumented workers and we will take a look at the issues raised in this resolution.

Q: Do you support amnesty for Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Hondurans and Haitians who fled civil war and strife during the 1980s and 1990s and were unfairly denied refugee status?

A: The Administration is committed to providing equal treatment to similarly situated Central Americans and Haitians. Under a 1997 law, Nicaraguans and Cubans were given amnesty but many Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Hondurans, and Haitians who also fled human rights abuses or unstable political and economic conditions in the 1980s and 1990s were not equal benefits under this law. Therefore, the Administration has proposed legislation that would treat the groups the same under immigration laws. In addition, returning migrants to these countries would place significant demands on their fragile economic and political systems, the Administration is committed to even-handed treatment of nationals from these countries and to the strengthening of democracy and economic stability among these important neighbors.

Q: Do you support providing approximately 350,000 long-resident immigrants who were unfairly denied legalization due to illegal behavior by the INS?

A: It is unfortunate that legal interpretations of the 1986 amnesty law by prior administrations deprived thousands of people of the opportunity to legalize their status. I know that the Department of Justice and INS have tried very hard to see if there is an administrative fix for this problem. Unfortunately, we will need Congress to help these people, almost all of whom have been in this country for almost two decades with deep ties to their communities.

Q: What's your position on providing amnesty to 10,000 Liberians who fled their homeland and have lived in the US under temporary legal status?

A: Since 1991, Liberians have had temporary immigration status but this status expired in September 28, 1999, and the President authorized Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Liberians that will provide them to stay in the U.S. with work authorization until September 30, 2000 due to foreign policy reasons. The Administration has not taken a formal position on the proposal to provide amnesty to these Liberians but will consider this proposal.

GUESTWORKER PROGRAMS

Q: What's your position on the expansion of guestworker programs?

A: The Administration has not taken a formal position on guestworker legislation that currently is pending in Congress, however, we generally oppose legislation to create or expand guestworker programs. We believe that such programs increase undocumented immigration, reduce job opportunities for authorized workers; and depress wages and working conditions for authorized workers.

APPLICATION BACKLOGS AT THE INS

Q: What are you doing to address the delays facing more than one million people seeking to adjust their immigration status?

A: Due to the unprecedented demand for citizenship that began in the mid-90s, INS last year embarked on a two-year effort to reduce backlogs and processing time for naturalization applicants. Last year, the agency met its goal of completing 1.2 million applications and reduced processing times from 28 months to 12 months, and is on track to complete 1.3 million applications and further reduce those times to six months by the end of this fiscal year. The agency has also now begun a multi-year effort to take on other immigration benefit caseloads more effectively, primarily adjustment of status applications. This year, INS plans to complete 500,000 of these applications, which is a 67 percent increase from the number of applications completed during FY1999. And, with resources proposed in the President's 2001 budget, the agency plans to continue to reduce the adjustment backlog by completing 600,000 applications. Furthermore, the Administration is pushing Congress to enact legislation to restructure to create a better, more effective and efficient

immigration service that can control the Nation's borders and serve the immigration community in an efficient and timely manner.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

Q: What do you think about creating education programs and centers for immigrants?

A: Immigrant adults – and other adults who have limited-English proficiency–need access to opportunities to master English literacy in order to further their education, obtain good jobs, know their legal rights and become full participants in American society. To this end, the Administration is proposing an increase for the English Language/Civics Initiative, an innovative program to help states and communities provide limited English proficient (LEP) individuals with expanded access to high-quality English-language instruction linked to civics and life skills instruction. This important initiative is a powerful tool in building a stronger American community. For FY2001, the Administration's budget request \$75 million for this initiative, a nearly \$50 million increase from FY2000 enacted level to help an additional estimated 250,000 LEP individuals.

WELFARE REFORM RESTORATIONS

Q: Do you support efforts to restore safety net protections that were taken away through Federal legislation in 1996?

A: Upon signing the 1996 welfare reform law, the President made a commitment to reversing unnecessary cuts in benefits to legal immigrants that had nothing to do with the law's goal of moving people from welfare to work. In 1997, the President fought for and ultimately was successful in ensuring that the Balanced Budget Act protects the most vulnerable. In 1998, the President continued his proposals to reverse unfair cuts in benefits to legal immigrants. The Administration's FY 2001 budget continues to fight for restoring important disability, health, and nutrition benefits to additional categories of legal immigrants, at a cost of \$2.5 billion over five years.

Press Release

February 17, 2000

New Orleans, LA

Union Leaders Stand With Immigrants Workers

The AFL-CIO Executive Council on Feb. 16 took a stand in solidarity with immigrant workers, calling for reforms that will protect workplace rights and freedoms and hold employers accountable when they exploit immigrant workers.

Meeting in New Orleans, council members unanimously passed a resolution that calls for replacing the current system of employer verification of workers' eligibility to work in the United

States. It also urges a new amnesty program and full workplace rights and freedoms for all workers—immigrant, native born, documented and undocumented.

"Immigrants have played an important role in building democratic institutions," said Linda Chavez-Thompson, AFL-CIO executive vice president. "The current system of immigration enforcement in the U.S. is broken. If we are to have an immigration system that works, it must be orderly, responsible and fair."

The current system not only has failed to stop the flow of undocumented immigrants into this country—it also has led to discrimination and does not punish employers who exploit undocumented workers, "thus denying labor rights for all workers," the Executive Council statement said.

A new system should prevent employer discrimination against individuals who look or sound foreign and allow workers to seek a voice at work by joining a union regardless of immigration status.

Union leaders noted that the recent case of undocumented hotel workers in Minneapolis who came together to form a union and now are faced with deportation shows why such workers should be provided protected immigration status.

"Employers often knowingly hire workers who are undocumented, and then when workers seek to improve working conditions, employers manipulate the law to fire or intimidate workers," Chavez-Thompson said. "This subverts the intent of the law and lowers working standards for all workers. The law should criminalize employer behavior, not punish workers."

Resolution
February 16, 2000
New Orleans, LA
Immigration

The AFL-CIO proudly stands on the side of immigrant workers. Throughout the history of this country, immigrants have played an important role in building our nation and its democratic institutions. New arrivals from every continent have contributed their energy, talent, and commitment to making the United States richer and stronger. Likewise, the American union movement has been enriched by the contributions and courage of immigrant workers. Newly arriving workers continue to make indispensable contributions to the strength and growth of our unions. These efforts have created new unions and strengthened and revived others, benefitting all workers, immigrant and native-born alike. It is increasingly clear that if the United States is to have an immigration system that really works, it must be simultaneously orderly, responsible and fair. The policies of both the AFL-CIO and our country must reflect those goals.

The United States is a nation of laws. This means that the federal government has the sovereign authority and constitutional responsibility to set and enforce limits on immigration. It also means that our government has the obligation to enact and enforce laws in ways that respect due process and civil liberties, safeguard public health and safety, and protect the rights and opportunities of workers.

The AFL-CIO believes the current system of immigration enforcement in the United States is broken and needs to be fixed. Our starting points are simple:

Undocumented workers and their families make enormous contributions to their communities and workplaces and should be provided permanent legal status through a new amnesty program.

Regulated legal immigration is better than unregulated illegal immigration.

Immigrant workers should have full workplace rights in order to protect their own interests as well as the labor rights of all American workers.

Labor and business should work together to design cooperative mechanisms that allow law-abiding employers to satisfy legitimate needs for new workers in a timely manner without compromising the rights and opportunities of workers already here.

Labor and business should cooperate to undertake expanded efforts to educate and train

American workers in order to upgrade their skill levels in ways that enhance our shared economic prosperity.

Criminal penalties should be established to punish employers who recruit undocumented workers from abroad for the purpose of exploiting workers for economic gain.

Current efforts to improve immigration enforcement, while failing to stop the flow of undocumented people into the United States, have resulted in a system that causes discrimination and leaves unpunished unscrupulous employers who exploit undocumented workers, thus denying labor rights for all workers.

The combination of a poorly constructed and ineffectively enforced system that results in penalties for only a few of the employers who violate immigration laws has had especially detrimental impacts on efforts to organize and adequately represent workers. Unscrupulous employers have systematically used the I-9 process in their efforts to retaliate against workers who seek to join unions, improve their working conditions, and otherwise assert their rights.

Therefore, the AFL-CIO calls for replacing the current I-9 system as a tool of workplace immigration enforcement. We should substitute a system of immigration enforcement strategies that focuses on the criminalization of employer behavior, targeting those employers who recruit undocumented workers from abroad, either directly or indirectly. It should be supplemented with strong penalties against employers who abuse workers' immigration status to suppress their rights and labor protections. The federal government should aggressively investigate, and criminally prosecute, those employers who knowingly exploit a worker's undocumented status in order to prevent enforcement of workplace protection laws.

We strongly believe employer sanctions, as a nationwide policy applied to all workplaces, has failed and should be eliminated. It should be replaced with an alternative policy to reduce undocumented immigration and prevent employer abuse. Any new policy must meet the following principles: 1) it must seek to prevent employer discrimination against people who look or sound foreign; 2) it must allow workers to pursue legal remedies, including supporting a union, regardless of immigration status; and 3) it must avoid unfairly targeting immigrant workers of a particular nationality.

There is a long tradition in the United States of protecting those who risk their financial and physical well-being to come forward to report violations of laws that were enacted for the public

good. Courageous undocumented workers who come forward to assert their rights should not be faced with deportation as a result of their actions. The recent situation at the Holiday Inn Express in Minneapolis highlights the perversity of the current situation. Therefore, the

AFL-CIO calls for the enactment of whistleblower protections providing protected immigration status for undocumented workers who report violations of worker protection laws or cooperate with federal agencies during investigations of employment, labor and discrimination violations.

Such workers should be accorded full remedies, including reinstatement and back pay. Further, undocumented workers who exercise their rights to organize and bargain collectively should also be provided protected immigration status.

Millions of hard-working people who make enormous contributions to their communities and workplace are denied basic human rights because of their undocumented status. Many of these men and women are the parents of children who are birthright U.S. citizens. The AFL-CIO supports a new amnesty program that would allow these members of local communities to adjust their status to permanent resident and become eligible for naturalization. The AFL-CIO also calls on the Immigration and Naturalization Service to address the shameful delays facing those seeking to adjust their status as a result of the Immigration Reform and Control Act.

Immediate steps should include legalization for three distinct groups of established residents:

- 1) approximately half-a-million Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Hondurans, and Haitians, who fled civil war and civil strife during the 1980s and early 1990s and were unfairly denied refugee status, and have lived under various forms of temporary legal status; 2) approximately 350,000 long-resident immigrants who were unfairly denied legalization due to illegal behavior by the INS during the amnesty program enacted in the late 1980s; and 3) approximately 10,000 Liberians who fled their homeland's brutal civil war and have lived in the United States for years under temporary legal status.

Guestworker programs too often are used to discriminate against U.S. workers, depress wages and distort labor markets. For these reasons, the AFL-CIO has long been troubled by the operation of such programs. The proliferation of guestworker programs has resulted in the creation of a class of easily exploited workers, who find themselves in a situation very similar to

that faced by undocumented workers. The AFL-CIO renews our call for the halt to the expansion of guestworker programs. Moreover, these programs should be reformed to include more rigorous labor market tests and the involvement of labor unions in the labor certification

process. All temporary guestworkers should be afforded the same workplace protections available to all workers.

The rights and dignity of all workers can best be ensured when immigrant and non-immigrant workers are fully informed about the contributions of immigrants to our society and our unions,

and about the rights of immigrants under current labor, discrimination, naturalization and other laws. Labor unions have led the way in developing model programs that should be widely emulated. The AFL-CIO therefore supports the creation of education programs and centers to educate workers about immigration issues and to assist workers in exercising their rights.

Far too many workers lack access to training programs. Like all other workers, new immigrants

want to improve their lives and those of their families by participating in job training. The AFL-CIO supports the expansion of job training programs to better serve immigrant populations. These programs are essential to the ability of immigrants to seize opportunities to compete in the new economy.

Immigrant workers make enormous contributions to our economy and society, and deserve the basic safety net protections that all other workers enjoy. The AFL-CIO continues to support the

full restoration of benefits that were unfairly taken away through Federal legislation in 1996, causing tremendous harm to immigrant families.

Irene Bueno
02/22/2000 01:04:11 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
bcc:
Subject: REMINDER - CONFERENCE CALL TODAY AT 2PM ON THE AFL-CIO RESOLUTION 

Irene Bueno

Irene Bueno
02/18/2000 01:39:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc:
bcc: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP
Subject: Re: AFL-CIO Resolution and Qs and As 

The conference call code is 456-6777 or 456-6799 code 8710. Unfortunately, we will need to complete our call by 2:30 pm so please be prompt.

Also, I had planned to legislative update call at end of this call but it will need to be rescheduled. I will try to reschedule Wed, 2/23 morning at 10 am. I hope this works for everyone. I will send conference call numbers shortly.

Irene Bueno

Irene Bueno
02/17/2000 03:20:59 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
Subject: AFL-CIO Resolution and Qs and As

Two things related to the AFL-CIO resolution:

1. I would like to schedule a conference call to discuss some issues raised in the AFL-CIO resolution in particular employer sanctions, amnesty, and guestworkers and what if anything we should do to follow up

and/ our position on these matters. **Let's plan our conference call for Tuesday, 2/22 at 2pm.** Please confirm that you are able to do this call. Attached is the press release and resolution.

2. Please review the attached qs and as and please e-mail your comments to me (send as a redline version) or fax 456-5581 **your comments by COB Friday 2/18.** Note the first two qs and as were cleared for the WH press office this morning but I would like to get the others cleared since I expect there to be further questions on the others issues raised in the AFL-CIO resolution.

I will send another e-mail to confirm and with the phone numbers. Thanks.



afl-cioresolution&pressrelase02170immigration-unionsQs&As021700

Message Sent To:

gohl-earl@dol.gov @ inet
Cathy.St.Denis@usdoj.gov @ inet
James.E.Castello@usdoj.gov @ inet
Mark D. Magana/WHO/EOP@EOP
Brian A. Barreto/WHO/EOP@EOP

Message Copied To:

Bradford.Glassman@usdoj.gov
Barbara.L.Strack@usdoj.gov
Patricia.A.First@usdoj.gov
Gerri.Ratliff@usdoj.gov
Reynaldo Valencia/WHO/EOP@EOP

Message Sent To:

gohl-earl@dol.gov @ inet
cathy.st.denis@usdoj.gov @ inet
james.e.castello@usdoj.gov @ inet
mark d. magana/who/eop@eop
brian a. barreto/who/eop@eop
bradford.glassman@usdoj.gov
barbara.l.strack@usdoj.gov
patricia.a.first@usdoj.gov
gerri.ratliff@usdoj.gov
reynaldo valencia/who/eop@eop
Mark D. Magana/WHO/EOP@EOP
Joel K. Wiginton/WHO/EOP@EOP

Message Copied To:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 17, 2000

CONTACT: KELLY WERNER
(202) 225-1766

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS APPLAUDS AFL-CIO'S NEW STAND ON IMMIGRATION POLICY

Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), issued the following statement on the AFL-CIO's endorsement of initiatives to grant amnesty to immigrants now living in the United States without documentation:

"The Congressional Hispanic Caucus applauds the AFL-CIO's decision to support proposals that would provide much-needed relief and protection to many immigrants who have been living and working in the United States. The endorsement of the labor community is a welcome addition to our efforts.

We look forward to working with the AFL-CIO and the business community to reform our immigration policy and ensure fair treatment of all America's workers."

The CHC has been working to highlight the plight of two classes of immigrants who have been unfairly treated by the immigration system.

The first group, called late amnesty applicants, consists of people who were eligible for amnesty during the mid-1980s, but were wrongly turned away by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Many immigrants successfully sued the INS over the issue. However, in 1996, federal legislation stripped these immigrants of their right to resolve the issue in court. They now face immediate deportation. The CHC supports measures to legalize the status of the late amnesty immigrants.

The second group is made up of immigrants from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti who entered the United States in order to escape political violence and persecution in their home countries.

The AFL-CIO called for immediate action to legalize the status of late amnesty individuals and the Central American and Caribbean refugees.

"The CHC recognizes that many immigrants have come to the United States seeking refuge from instability and political unrest in Central and Latin America and throughout the world. We believe that these immigrants have made impressive contributions to our workforce and to our nation.

We appreciate the AFL-CIO's support of relief for late amnesty individuals and for the Central American and Caribbean refugees. The labor community joins a chorus of other concerned voices who believe that our nation's immigration policy must ensure fairness for all."

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HEADLINE: UNION'S IMMIGRATION STANCE LEAVES GOP CONGRESS COLD;

LABOR: SURPRISE PROPOSAL TO GIVE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AMNESTY IS A BETRAYAL OF AMERICAN WORKERS THAT WOULD COST THEM JOBS AND WAGES, KEY REPUBLICAN SAYS.

BYLINE: ART PINE, TIMES STAFF WRITER

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Organized labor's unexpected call for amnesty for 6 million illegal immigrants and repeal of the federal sanctions against employers who hire them may result in changes if Democrats win the November elections, but it is unlikely to sway the GOP Congress in the interim, lawmakers and analysts said Thursday.

The call, adopted unanimously by the AFL-CIO's executive council Wednesday, is expected to bolster repeal efforts by some business groups. But many Republicans are considered likely to view the organization's turnaround as a move to recruit more immigrants as union members.

Rep. Lamar S. Smith (R-Texas), chairman of the House Judiciary subcommittee on immigration and a key decision-maker on such issues, all but closed the door on labor's hopes of seeing such legislation passed soon.

"The union bosses have betrayed American workers," Smith said in a statement issued by his office Thursday. "Legalizing millions of illegal aliens to compete with American workers will cost them jobs and reduce their wages."

House and Senate Republican leaders were no more receptive. "Labor isn't even at the table on this issue," an aide to one senior lawmaker said. "We're not expecting to see any changes just because they AFL-CIO leaders have reversed their stand."

Even the Clinton administration was conspicuously noncommittal on the AFL-CIO proposal.

Maria Echaveste, the deputy White House chief of staff who serves as President Clinton's top liaison to the Latino community, called the AFL-CIO's action "an important recognition of the participation of undocumented workers in the labor force" that "needs to be reviewed."

Officials expressed concern, however, that providing amnesty for the illegal workers and repealing the employer sanctions would encourage more illegal immigration and exacerbate a problem that already is proving touchy for Democratic candidates.

The AFL-CIO policy shift marks a dramatic turnabout from the organization's long opposition to amnesty for illegal immigrants and efforts to force employers to help keep them out.

It was pressure from labor that helped push through the original sanctions against employers about 15 years ago. And until Wednesday night, the AFL-CIO had been unrelenting in its opposition to accepting more immigrants.

Lawmakers have put forward dozens of major proposals for changing immigration laws in recent years, including some that would ease quotas for workers in specialty occupations, such as computer programming, and others that would let more farm workers into the United States.

A bill allowing more high-tech workers into the country is expected to pass soon. But the administration has serious qualms about a proposal to require farm workers who obtain green cards to work in the agriculture industry for five years.

"We really had concerns about trying to require workers to remain in a particular industry," an administration official said. "It was almost like indentured servitude."

Despite the seeming rejection by GOP leaders, some analysts suggested that it may take some time to sort out the real effect of the AFL-CIO turnabout. "There's a wait-and-see attitude," one Capitol Hill strategist said. "We'll have to see how the election plays out."

Paul Donnelly, a spokesman for the Immigration Reform Coalition, said that, although the consolidation of business and labor on the immigration issue is expected to intensify pressure for amnesty legislation, it could be months or next year before any effect is felt.

"The real question is whether this latest AFL-CIO action will cause lawmakers to give higher priority to amnesty legislation and repeal of the sanctions law than they were planning for the guest-worker issue," he said, referring to the

special visas for high-tech workers.

"This will take a while to sort out," Donnelly said.

Meanwhile, the congressional Hispanic Caucus welcomed the AFL-CIO shift. Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Los Angeles), the group's chairwoman, said that members would "look forward to working with the AFL-CIO and the business community to reform our immigration policy."

Roybal-Allard said the caucus "recognizes that many immigrants have come to the United States seeking refuge from instability and political unrest in Central and Latin America."

"We believe that these immigrants have made impressive contributions to our work force and to our nation," she said.

*

Times staff writers Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Richard Simon contributed to this story.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: February 18, 2000

6 of 19 DOCUMENTS

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Unions Reverse On Illegal Aliens

Policy Seeks Amnesty, End to Sanctions

By FRANK SWOBODA
Washington Post Staff Writer

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 16—In a significant policy shift, organized labor today called for amnesty for an estimated 8 million illegal immigrants and repealing current law that imposes sanctions on employers that hire them.

Labor helped enact the original sanctions program 15 years ago as part of the last major amnesty under the federal immigration act, and business lobbyists reacted favorably today to the policy resolution, which was approved unanimously by the AFL-CIO executive council.

The AFL-CIO's announcement coincides with an extremely tight job market, with labor unions finding that their best chance to boost union membership is among recent immigrants. An estimated 40 percent of the population growth in the 1990s has been the result of immigration, the bulk of it legal. Other estimates indicate as many as 20 percent of the entrants to the work force last year were immigrants, in occupations as diverse as meatpacking, construction and computer science.

The AFL-CIO said it would continue its opposition to the proliferation of guest-worker programs that have allowed a variety of corporations to bring skilled workers into the country, particularly in high-tech industries. Officials said they want fewer guest-

worker programs and greater scrutiny of claims by corporations that they can not find appropriate workers in the United States.

Still, the broader policy shift represents a remarkable turnaround for the American labor movement and points it back toward its roots, when the sons and daughters of turn-of-the-century immigrants became the leaders of the nation's industrial union drive in the 1930s.

"I think we've really come full circle," said John Wilhelm, president of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union, where 75 percent of the 250,000-strong membership are immigrants. The labor movement is on the side of immigration in this country. The goal is to make it clear which side the labor movement is on."

Business lobbyists called the labor plan a positive step.

"It's a welcome embrace of amnesty from an employer's perspective, since we do have a shortage of workers in this country and will continue to have a shortage of workers for several decades," said Bruce Josten, executive vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Congress. Josten and Ali Cleveland, the chamber's manager of labor policy, said concerns about a shortage of high-tech workers have spread to industries such as the hotel and restaurant business.

Lee Culpepper, senior vice president of the National Restaurant Association, said he was encouraged that labor "recognizes that there are problems with the current system" and said, "I think that the AFL-CIO position is significant, but it is just one step toward what should be broader reform."

On Capitol Hill, though, at least one key member of Congress on immigration issues, Rep. Lamar S. Smith (R-Tex.), chairman of the Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on immigration, called labor's announcement a cynical ploy.

"What a betrayal of American workers," Smith said. "Apparently union bosses are so distraught about declining enrollments they will stoop to exploiting illegal workers."

Union leaders, who plan to hold public forums starting in April to build support for the plan, were quick to stress today that they were not advocating a new open-border policy. Instead, they said, they were trying to fix an immigration policy that clearly wasn't working.

The labor proposal outlined today has three basic components: an end to the "I-9 Employers Sanctions" program, which penalizes employers who hire illegal immigrants; amnesty for illegal immigrants now living in the United States; and the granting of full workplace rights to prevent intimidation and exploitation of illegal workers.

The AFL-CIO would leave the business of tracking down illegal immigrants to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. But it said it would not take employers completely off the hook.

In exchange for taking the onus off employers for enforcing the immigration laws, the labor federation would impose criminal penalties against employers that knowingly hired an illegal immigrant and then used the worker's legal status with the INS as a weapon for imposing substandard wages or working conditions.

Once the proposed amnesty program expires—the AFL-CIO did not propose a time frame—new illegal immigrants would be on their own in the workplace. If they were caught by the INS they would be deported, under labor's plan. But those same workers could get amnesty if they blow the whistle on an employer hiring illegal immigrants and imposing substandard or sweatshop conditions.

Although the plan calls for eventual amnesty for as many as 8 million people, the AFL-CIO proposed immediate amnesty for the half-million Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Hondurans and Haitians who fled their countries in the 1980s and early 1990s and have been denied refugee status. In addition, the unions want immediate amnesty for 350,000 long-term resident immigrants they claim were denied legal status because of INS improprieties in the last amnesty program. Labor also wants immediate amnesty for 10,000 Liberians who fled to this country during the civil war in their homeland.

Staff writer Martha Hamilton contributed to this report.

Labor, in Switch, Urges Amnesty for All Illegal Immigrants

By STEVEN GREENHOUSE

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 16 — Adopting a sharp change in policy, the American labor movement today called for blanket amnesty for illegal immigrants and an end to most sanctions against employers who hire them.

In decades past, labor unions often saw immigrant workers as the enemy, accusing them of depressing wages and breaking strikes. But the executive council of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations adopted a more sympathetic approach today, contending that too often the nation's immigration rules had enabled employers to exploit illegal immigrants.

The new policy comes as business groups are pushing for similar legislative changes to help industry cope with a shortage of workers.

Immigrants comprise an ever-larger part of the nation's work force, and labor leaders are stepping up efforts to unionize hundreds of thousands of immigrants who work in farms, hotels, construction, meat packing and many other industries.

Labor leaders complain that unscrupulous employers often fight off unionization drives by threatening to fire employees who are illegal immigrants and support unions, and by calling immigration officials to deport them.

"The present system doesn't work and is used as a weapon against workers," said John Wilhelm, chairman of the labor federation's Committee on Immigration Policy and president of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union. "The only reason a lot of employers want to hire a large number of illegal aliens is so they can exploit them."

Labor leaders said they hoped their new policy would help persuade Congress to pass an amnesty law that would enable immigrant workers to stand up for their rights.

"I think the A.F.L.-C.I.O.'s decision is going to be a shot heard round Washington," said Frank Sharry, executive director of the National Immigration Forum, an immigrants' advocacy group. "You have a variety of employer groups saying, 'We need more immigrant workers and

we want our workers to be legal,' and you have the A.F.L.-C.I.O. saying, 'We want more immigrant workers to be legal and we're willing to talk to employers about their legitimate needs.' You have the makings of a business-labor compact that could draw new immigration policies for the next decade."

The labor federation's resolution calls for blanket amnesty for the estimated six million illegal immigrants in the United States. At the same time the federation, which is holding its annual winter meeting here, called on the federal government to maintain efforts to keep illegal immigrants out of the country.

Just 15 years ago, the federation's support helped in passing legislation creating sanctions for employers who hire illegal immigrants. At the time, unions said such sanctions were needed to keep illegal immigrants from flooding the labor market and undermining union wages.

But union officials said today that a new policy was needed because employer sanctions had failed to stem the tide of immigration and

because immigrants represented such a large part of the work force in dozens of industries.

"It's a very dramatic change in policy that follows a very dramatic change in our world," Mr. Wilhelm said.

Many immigrants have had an ambivalent attitude toward the labor movement because some unions sought to keep out immigrant workers and because of labor's past support of employer sanctions. But union officials view the new policy as a way to make it easier to unionize businesses that employ illegal immigrants by making it harder for employers to intimidate them.

"We, the labor movement, have to put ourselves in a leadership position in immigrant rights," said Arturo Rodríguez, president of the United Farm Workers. "This is a way to help low-wage immigrant workers."

The federation's resolution calls for tougher sanctions against any company that uses advertisements or recruiters in other countries to encourage illegal immigrants to come to the United States to work for them. In support of this measure, the United Food and Commercial Workers distributed copies of a want ad, placed in a newspaper in Juarez, Mexico, on behalf of a chicken-processing plant in Tennessee.

Randy Johnson, vice president of labor policy for the United States Chamber of Commerce, welcomed labor's new policy. "It's certainly a departure from organized labor's traditional position, which was an increased number of immigrant workers is bad for domestic workers," he said. "I think this is an area where the business community and organized labor can work together."

But some advocacy groups criticized labor's change on immigration. Dan Stein, executive director of the Federation for American Immigration Reform, which has taken a hard line against increased immigration, maintained that the call for amnesty, coming after the amnesty granted in 1986, would inevitably encourage more illegal immigration.

"These pronouncements send signals around the world that this country should continue to be flooded with illegal workers," Mr. Stein said.

The labor federation opposed proposals made by some business groups to expand guest worker programs in which tens of thousands of foreigners are allowed into the United States temporarily to work. Union officials said that many guest workers had been exploited and that the best way to deal with any shortage of workers would be to expand job-training programs.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

A12

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2000/NA

Surprise! Immigration Hasn't Ruined Us

■ **Economy:** Quite the opposite, the flow across our borders provides wide benefits, as the AFL-CIO now recognizes.

By ROBERT SCHEER

Time to cheer the much-maligned illegal alien. Illegal immigration has turned out to be a great boon for the American economy. Dire predictions that the millions of workers who crossed illegally into this country would depress wages and increase unemployment have proved to be incorrect.

Indeed, not only has the economy grown to unprecedented levels but unemployment is at its lowest point in decades. It is an impending labor shortage that is the great concern of economists, as reflected in recent remarks of Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan.

Last week, the AFL-CIO dropped the historic opposition of the trade unions to illegal immigrant labor and called for Congress to repeal the law that makes it a crime for employers to hire undocumented workers. This call, supported by many business leaders as well, is a recognition that immigrant workers are vital to the productivity of many sectors of the economy, not to mention an important new source of union membership.

The productive contribution of immigrant labor and the need for more not less in the future challenges the assertion behind legislation such as the infamous Proposition 187, passed several years ago in California, that illegal immigrants represent a drain on the economy. Such measures seek to cut social services to immigrants, including educational opportunities for their children. But the buoy-

ant economy supports the view that immigrants pay more in taxes than they receive in social services.

It also bolsters the case for another general amnesty for immigrants who are here illegally in order to allow them to become legally documented workers and eventually U.S. citizens. The last such amnesty was granted by Congress more than a decade ago. The strength of the U.S. economy since supports the view that those people, 6 million total, have been easily absorbed into mainstream life as productive citizens.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service estimates that the number of illegal workers is now at the same level as at the time of the previous amnesty. Clearly, if their status is made legal, these workers could be just as easily absorbed into the economy.

Once workers are here legally, they can act to improve their circumstances by asserting their rights to join labor unions and to otherwise ensure that U.S. labor standards are not eroded. In the process, this country, with its booming economy, could provide a model for the world that workers need not be exploited in the name of national prosperity. As it is now, and as the AFL-CIO resolution noted, the laws against immigrants allow some employers to "knowingly exploit a worker's undocumented status in order to prevent enforcement of workplace protection laws."

A proposal to raise the minimum wage, still stalled in Congress, would be the most effective means of ensuring that the 260,000 new immigrant workers who illegally enter the country each year do not erode labor standards. The evidence is overwhelming that the most recent increase in the minimum wage did not, as opponents predicted, lead to a loss of jobs

but contributed to a more stable work force.

It is a truism to speak of the U.S. as part of a world economy and consequently unrealistic to expect that the flow of workers will not parallel the trade of goods and commerce. Images of the good life in this country have become the staple cultural diet of moviegoers and television watchers throughout the world. Migration to this and other prosperous countries has proved impossible to stop.

But what we can ensure is that those who enter this country to work conform to rather than erode the labor standards that have taken centuries to enshrine in law. If the pay is good and the working conditions decent and we still need more workers, then let them come.

Ultimately the answer is to loosen the immigration quotas so that legal immigration becomes a realistic possibility for those now forced to enter the country illegally. That is particularly obvious as applies to Mexico, which still produces the bulk of illegal immigrants, because the chances for legal immigration from that country are kept ridiculously slim by low quotas.

In the meantime, we should reward those who, like our own parents and grandparents, managed to overcome many obstacles to enter this country and make it the great place that it is. A general amnesty for those undocumented immigrants who have been living stable, hard-working lives under difficult circumstances would be an excellent way to honor the memory of our ancestors while guaranteeing that our economy has the labor force needed for another decade of unprecedented growth.

Robert Scheer is a contributing editor to *The Times*.

THE NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIALS/LETTERS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2000

Hasty Call for Amnesty

The A.F.L.-C.I.O.'s call for the government to grant amnesty to an estimated six million illegal immigrants currently living in the United States and to eliminate most sanctions on employers who hire them in the future was a surprising turnabout. Until now, organized labor has fought hard to keep illegal workers from taking jobs from higher-paid union workers.

The A.F.L.-C.I.O.'s proposal is attractive to many groups. Unions welcome the chance to go after a huge new pool of unorganized workers. Employers welcome the chance to hire cheap labor without fear of criminal liability. And illegal immigrants who have worked hard for years and raised families under harrowing circumstances would welcome access to medical care and other services denied to illegal aliens.

But the A.F.L.-C.I.O.'s proposal should be rejected. Amnesty would undermine the integrity of the country's immigration laws and would depress the wages of its lowest-paid native-born workers.

Back in 1986, Congress granted amnesty to an estimated three million illegal immigrants as part of a law that also promised to crack down on further illegal immigration by imposing sanctions on employers who knowingly violated the law. At that time, this page endorsed amnesty because it was tied to measures that promised to keep further rounds of illegal immigration in check. But 14 years later there are twice as many illegal workers, and

employer sanctions are widely deemed a joke. Workers pretend to show employers proof of citizenship or work visas and employers pretend they do not know the proof is fake.

The primary problem with amnesties is that they beget more illegal immigration. Demographers trace the doubling of the number of Mexican immigrants since 1990 in part to the amnesty of the 1980's. Amnesties signal foreign workers that American citizenship can be had by sneaking across the border, or staying beyond the term of one's visa, and hiding out until Congress passes the next amnesty. The 1980's amnesty also attracted a large flow of illegal relatives of those workers who became newly legal. All that is unfair to those who play by the immigration rules and wait years to gain legal admission.

It is also unfair to unskilled workers already in the United States. Between about 1980 and 1995, the gap between the wages of high school dropouts and all other workers widened substantially. Prof. George Borjas of Harvard estimates that almost half of this trend can be traced to immigration of unskilled workers. Illegal immigration of unskilled workers induced by another amnesty would make matters worse. The better course of action is to honor America's proud tradition by continuing to welcome legal immigrants and find ways to punish employers who refuse to obey the law.

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Immigrants

Metro; Letters Desk
Amnesty Proposal

02/22/2000
Los Angeles Times
Home Edition
Page B-4
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The proposal to give amnesty to all illegal **immigrants** by the AFL-CIO would end all attempts to enforce our **immigration** policy (Feb. 17). We might as well put up a big sign at the border welcoming all who are willing to work cheap to come on over. The first amnesty, in 1986, in which 3.1 million illegal **immigrants** were given amnesty, failed to stop the flow and another amnesty would start a stampede of low-paid workers from every part of the world. It would put illegal **immigrants** in legal competition for jobs and create a threat to our nation's sovereignty.

BYRON SLATER

San Diego

*

The robber barons aren't only in international industries. They're also at the head of labor unions.

Seeing all the factories moving overseas, the big labor bosses realize they need to shore up their membership or the bosses will be out of cushy positions. "What to do? Hmm. I know, let's rope in the illegal aliens who are working in the service industries that can't move overseas." One more screw in the coffin of America.

H. MILLARD

Costa Mesa

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Labor Champions Immigrants Area leaders back AFL-CIO call for amnesty for undocumented 6 million

By Mae M. Cheng. STAFF WRITER

Local labor and religious leaders came together yesterday to herald the decision by the AFL-CIO to seek legalization for an estimated 6 million undocumented immigrants nationally.

"Today is a very important day because the AFL-CIO has taken that very important first step to make sure we're going to be part of the family," said Jose Peralta, who heads the Commission on Dignity of Immigrants.

The commission was established last year by the New York Central Labor Council and the Archdiocese of New York to help newcomers exploited in the workplace.

"Let us make this a reality," Peralta said at a Manhattan news conference.

The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations adopted its new immigrant policy at a meeting in New Orleans earlier in the week. This is a turnabout from its decades-old ideology that accused undocumented immigrants of depressing wages.

"We want to try to work closely with Congress and the administration on this," said David Smith, the director of public policy with the AFL-CIO. "We want to begin making the case for this." The AFL-CIO intends to hold four regional forums to elevate the dialogue on amnesty to give legal status to undocumented immigrants. The first of these forums will be April 1 in New York City. Immigrant workers will be invited as well as community and union leaders.

The union's amnesty proposal is already facing stiff opposition from some members of Congress.

"The union bosses have betrayed American workers," said Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Texas), the chairman of the House Immigration Subcommittee, in a prepared statement. "Legalizing millions of illegal aliens to compete with American workers will cost them jobs and reduce their wages." There is currently no amnesty legislation before Congress. The last time such an amnesty was given was in 1986, when the United States provided legal status to undocumented immigrants.

Among those who applied for the protection was Jerry Dominguez,

who spoke at the news conference. The union organizer emigrated illegally from Mexico and worked on a tomato farm in the south. He said he was harassed by his bosses and was paid about \$12 to \$20 a day picking tomatoes. He recalled the days when rumors of immigration raids on the tomato farms would send him and other workers fleeing to the north seeking other work illegally.

"I feel more secure now," said Dominguez, 33, the founder of the Mexican-American Workers Association. "You don't have to run or hide or not give your right name or address."

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02/18/2000
Friday - Page A 3

A26 YNE

Amnesty for Illegal Immigrants?

To the Editor:

Contrary to your Feb. 22 editorial "Hasty Call for Amnesty," the A.F.L.-C.I.O. is correct to call for a general amnesty for illegal immigrants. United States immigration laws are far too strict, and thousands of good people are prevented from contributing to American economic growth.

With the increasing isolationism displayed by the protesters at the World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle and by anti-immigration groups, it is refreshing to see that organized labor has finally come to understand that globalization is good for this country.

Even the least skilled immigrants contribute to our economy. They do the jobs that many Americans are unwilling to do. The United States should open its doors to all immigrants.

GARRY PERKINS
Ithaca, N.Y., Feb. 22, 2000

To the Editor:

You are absolutely right to oppose the self-serving call for amnesty for illegal immigrants by the A.F.L.-C.I.O. (editorial, Feb. 22). Amnesty would destroy our immigration policy and tell millions who wait patiently to enter the country legally that if you cheat, you win. It would also signal billions around the world who want economic benefits that it's O.K. to cheat.

If we continue our path of unlimited immigration, we will have a population of nearly half a billion by 2050. With nearly twice as many people, how will we cope with pollution, urban sprawl and overcrowded schools, hospitals and jails? We owe future generations the right to a decent quality of life, and cutting immigration is the best way to stabilize our population growth.

BYRON SLATER
San Diego, Feb. 22, 2000

THE NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIALS/LETTERS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2000

A24 YNE +

Immigrant Amnesty

To the Editor:

You say the proposal by the A.F.L.-C.I.O. to grant amnesty to undocumented immigrants should be rejected (editorial, Feb. 22). But the proposal would not only end the abuse by exploitative employers of thousands of hard-working laborers; it would also provide a humane solution for their undocumented children.

These children are educated in our public schools and are encouraged to become good citizens. But no matter how successfully they have internalized these lessons, they cannot enter the legitimate labor market, obtain loans for college or openly participate in society.

Amnesty would provide both laborers and their families with the opportunity to achieve the goals that drove them to undergo hardship to find a better life in this country.

CATHLEEN CLEMENTS
Legal Director, Policy Office
Children's Aid Society
New York, Feb. 22, 2000



The Fax on Immigration

A Nation of Prosperity. . . A Nation of Immigrants

National Immigration Forum

February 25, 2000
Vol. 1, No. 3

Contact: Angela Kelley (202) 544-0004, ext. 19
2 pages

Message to Congress: Modernize Immigration Policies or Threaten Nation's Continued Prosperity

The nation's lawmakers continued to hear this week that the country's economic prosperity is seriously threatened if the labor shortage problem is not resolved. In testimony and letters to congressional committees, (including another warning by Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan), lawmakers were told that immigration plays an important role in meeting this rising demand for workers in order to keep the current prosperity going.

Reverberations continue to be felt about the AFL-CIO's dramatic turnabout on immigration last week. (See attached *Washington Post* editorial of February 20, 2000.)

"(A)s we are creating an ever more complex, sophisticated, accelerating economy, the necessity to have the ability to bring in resources and people from abroad to keep it functioning in the most effective manner increasingly strikes me as relevant elements and policy."

Alan Greenspan, Chairman, Federal Reserve Board, Testimony to the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, February 24, 2000

"I know that this committee will be working hard to establish public policy that will help address this issue [of the labor shortage.] Therefore, I suggest consideration of the following ... (E)xpanding the labor pool through rethinking immigration policy."

Edward D. Barlow, Jr., President, Creating the Future, Inc., St. Joseph, Michigan, Testimony to the U.S. House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation, February 17, 2000

"From our nursing homes to our hotels, we are feeling the pinch of little or no workforce options... When companies can not fill jobs with U.S. workers, hiring foreign nationals should be a viable alternative. However, current immigration law and recent tightening of federal immigration policy have greatly curtailed this potential source of workers."

Letter sent to the U.S. House and Senate by the Essential Worker Immigration Coalition (EWIC), February 14, 2000

B6 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2000

The Washington Post

Labor's New View

THE AMERICAN labor movement, which 15 years ago helped draft laws to punish employers who hire illegal immigrants, this week reached out to immigrant workers, proposing amnesty for those illegally in the country and an end to most employer sanctions.

On one level this new attitude is simply a response to reality. The immigration reforms of 1986, which extended amnesty to roughly 3 million illegal residents and tried to cut off the supply of jobs for illegal immigrants by making employers responsible for hiring legal workers, have failed to stem the tide. Millions of illegal workers are here and are filling a need in the booming labor market. In some cases those workers are being deliberately exploited by employers who wave the threat of deportation to discourage complaints about wages or working conditions—and to hamper union organizing, even among legal immigrants.

Labor leaders described the new policy as a return to the movement's roots as an organization built by immigrants and their children. It's also a clear look toward the unions' own future interests. In a strong economy, it's hard to argue as labor sometimes has in the past that immigrants are taking jobs away from U.S. workers. To the contrary, John Wilhelm, president of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union, notes that as unions have become more active in organizing in recent years, they have encountered immigrant workers in every sort of workplace and every location. "We need to be on their side," he said.

While calling for a broad amnesty that could eventually cover as many as 6 million people, including current illegal workers and their family members, labor leaders proposed acting immediately on behalf of some groups with a strong claim for consideration. They include Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Hondurans and Haitians

who fled their countries in the late 1980s and early 1990s and have been denied refugee status. 350,000 long-term residents the unions say were improperly denied legal status in the last amnesty program and 10,000 Liberians who fled that country's civil war. That is a reasonable place to start.

A full or partial amnesty would acknowledge that these workers have become essential in important industries and that there is no national appetite for a wholesale effort to find and deport them. But any amnesty needs to be coupled with a clear and enforceable plan for combating future illegal immigration. It also must be fair to the legal applicants who have waited in line and played by the rules.

The unions want to impose criminal penalties on employers who recruit undocumented workers abroad and those who deliberately take advantage of workers' illegal status to operate substandard workplaces. And for good reason: Many who flout immigration law also break other laws, including those governing safety and minimum wage. A concerted effort to go after those employers could be more effective in the long run than the current broad-based sanctions, which have been gutted by weak enforcement and the wide availability of fraudulent documents.

Another key element of a reformed policy should be a heightened effort to identify and pursue those who arrive on legitimate visas but then stay on after the visas have expired. These overstayers are almost as numerous as those who slip illegally across the border.

The economy's sustained growth has created an opportunity for a fresh look at immigration policy. The goal should be a workable system that takes into account the reality of the marketplace—and that will make sense even when times are not quite so good.

Jobless Rate Falls to 4 Percent in Hot Economy

Dianne Solis

02/05/2000

KRTBN Knight-Ridder Tribune Business News; The Dallas Morning News - Texas
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As the economy galloped ahead, the national labor pool grew ever more shallow in January as the jobless rate dipped to 4.0 percent from 4.1 percent in December, the U.S. Labor Department said Friday.

The latest Labor Department report raised the odds of more interest rate increases in the coming months as a way to brake the economy. The Federal Reserve has raised interest rates four times since last June, including a move this past week. The dwindling supply of workers has been a key concern for the Federal Reserve over the past year because it could push wages higher and trigger inflation.

The U.S. Labor Department said the economy added 387,000 jobs outside the farm sector, the biggest jump in more than two years and many more than the 255,000 Wall Street forecasters had predicted.

On Wall Street Friday, reaction was mixed. The Dow Jones industrial average slipped late in the session to close down 49.64 at 10,963.80.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 33.16 to 4,244.14, a record for the technology-laden index.

Locally, the Texas Workforce Commission is expected to release its unemployment figures later this month. For the last six months, ended in December, the unemployment rate in the Dallas-Fort Worth area has steadily decreased. For December, the unemployment rate was 2.8 percent.

In Plano, the unemployment rate was 1.5 percent, and in Coppell, 1 percent.

Analysts said the series of rate increases by the Fed have failed to cool the economy because of the rate cuts in 1998 -- a year in which economic chaos roiled through Asia and began infecting other countries.

The rate increase this week to 5.75 percent on overnight loans among banks pushed rates above where they had been in mid-1998, when the Fed cut rates three times to calm markets.

While many economists expect another rate increase in March, not all economists share Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan's concern that inflation must be squashed quickly because of the dwindling labor supply.

"We continue to have a lot of growth in productivity, and that allows additional growth without inflation," said Ray Perryman, a Waco-based economic consultant.

In October, the federal government made an attempt to quantify how the technological revolution was impacting business by recalculating the nation's growth rate. In the final quarter, gross domestic product --the total value of goods and services produced in the United States --raced ahead at 5.8 percent.

The monthly employment report is one of the most important indicators of current economic activity in the United States. January data underscored the swelling demand for workers and the pressure to

pay higher wages to attract them.

Labor Secretary Alexis Herman, however, said growth in worker productivity was still outpacing growth in real wages. Increasing productivity helps offset inflation from higher wages.

"When you look at what's happened with real wages, this is an economy that is still in balance," Ms. Herman said in a teleconference with reporters. "It is not as though we saw a spiraling...in wage growth" in 1999.

Ms. Herman said the government was looking hard at other sources of available workers, such as some of the three million part-time workers who could possibly become full-time workers.

The report is also raising hopes among some employers that limits on **immigration** will be relaxed. A hearing on national labor shortages is scheduled for Feb. 17 on Capitol Hill before a subcommittee of the House Education and Workforce Committee. Most recently, high-tech employers such as Texas Instruments Inc. of Dallas were successful in getting visa limits on skilled immigrants temporarily raised to deal with the labor shortage in their booming industry.

"This is the No. 1 issue wherever I go," said **John Gay**, senior director of government affairs for the American Hotel and Motel Association. Mr.

Gay is also co-chair of the newly formed **Essential Worker Immigration Coalition**, whose members include Dallas-based Carlson Restaurants **Worldwide Inc.**, operators of the TGI Friday's chain.

Mr. Gay said the labor pool is so exhausted in some cities that employers are "stealing" workers from hotels. He told of a case in Tennessee where an employer set up a truck outside a competing hotel and offered signing bonuses for workers who switched jobs.

"It isn't just a problem with high-tech workers," Mr. Gay said. "It is everyone from dishwashers to bricklayers to housekeepers to waiters."

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Immigrants

Article 20

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Editorial Desk; Section A
Letters to the Editor
Amnesty for Illegal Immigrants ?

02/24/2000

The New York Times

Page 26, Column 5

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To the Editor:

You are absolutely right to oppose the self-serving call for amnesty for illegal **immigrants** by the A.F.L.-C.I.O. (editorial, Feb. 22). Amnesty would destroy our **immigration** policy and tell millions who wait patiently to enter the country legally that if you cheat, you win. It would also signal billions around the world who want economic benefits that it's O.K. to cheat.

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BYRON SLATER

San Diego, Feb. 22, 2000

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