

November 30, 2007  
(On the Nile, Egypt)

## *Sidebar*

### **IMMIGRATION SOLUTIONS**

**I We Are A Nation Of Immigrants.** I am a first generation immigrant. (I am Cuban-American.) I entered the USA legally (with a tourist visa and, later, with a green card—from El Salvador). I am a US citizen (1964). Most first generation immigrants became US citizen. I speak English and Spanish. Most first generation immigrants speak English (and their native languages). Most first generation immigrants have worked hard in search for the American Dream—freedom, a home, a car, savings, etc. But not all “arrivals” came legally (meaning, *undocumented*). Thereafter, some got green cards via diverse legal means (e.g., marriage, asylum, amnesty, etc.). Others were deported for violating the “law”. That brings us to the rule of law. Immigrants are not below or above the law—they must abide by the law (applicable to the times).

**II The Immigration Debate.** The immigration debate is now a political issue—it rages on and on. How will it end? I am troubled by the separation of families (e.g., deporting parents who are illegal immigrants, but law abiding people) while permitting their children, born in the USA, to remain, and by not permitting *jornaleros* to come and go (as needed by the economy). The debate centers on (1) “securing the borders,” (2) “a long path to citizenship,” (3) “amnesty,” and (4) “punishing companies that hire illegal workers.” I hear voices: Viva la Migra! Born in the USA! Some demand amnesty (Reagan did it!) and others yell: “Kick them out!” But most agree on “sealing the borders.” In the present state of *insecurity* (threats from Jihad), Homeland Security is paramount. Let us be fair and humane on a case by case basis—no matter how long it takes. But we must keep America safe.

**III Solutions.** What are the solutions? The US has 12 – 20 million of “undocumented” persons onboard. (They are *illegal* aliens, right?) So, the answer rests with applicable law. Some says: “Deport them!” Others are more lenient, humane. They would only deport the “bad apples”—the criminals! That sounds good to me. What do we do with the “good” undocumented aliens? Most of them are well integrated into the American way. Most speak American English. Most are hard working individuals. Most have American born children. *Query*: How do they get jobs? By illegal means—flashing false documents? Some yell: “Kick them out!” Others want a *new law* that would permit them (the “good ones”) to have a fair chance—get a green card and begin the long road to US citizenship. (Get in back of the line.) Should these aliens pay a penalty (pecuniary and stand at the end of the line) for having entered or stayed illegally or used false papers? Some say yes. Others say no. Do Americans really want to deport the “good illegal aliens”? Are they, as *laborers* not helping our economy? Are they not good persons? What is the answer? Not many popular ones are on the table, but for “locking the borders.” Finally, to help solve the quagmire, we need a visionary and compassionate

leader on immigration policy. Will it be a (D) or a (R)? You have the vote (meaning, *choice*). Do the right thing—vote your conscience.