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RE ROM NARUM

LABOREM EXERCENS

[11-18-1981]

[11-18-1981] Int'l Annual Convention
AFL-CIO, NYC
11-28-81

May I bring to all of the delegates here today best greetings from the University of Notre Dame, a place where we are really building character these days.

May I also bring special thanks to all of you who joined the monumental effort that Lane Kirkland and I, as co-chairmen, launched last year to save the people of Cambodia or Kampuchea.

There is a special historical event that ~~for~~ makes me feel welcome here today. A century ago, when ~~you~~ the

labor movement was being organized, my paternal grandfather, whose name I have inherited, was a young Columnist here in N.Y. city. He valiantly upheld the efforts of the laboring class to organize - and suffered great criticism for his backing. Pope Leo XIII, who wrote the first great labor encyclical, Rerum Novarum, sent a special legate here, ^{named Settele,} to study the labor movement and the Catholic participation in it. My ~~great~~ grandfather's stance was vindicated as he used to tell me proudly when I visited him here in N.Y. city -

Our new Holy Father, Pope John Paul II has just written another strong labor encyclical - Laborem Exercens on ~~The~~ the dignity of work + workers.

The central theme is that the worker as a human person, his dignity, his rights, his fair compensation, his organizations are all far more important than economics, supply side or any other side. Anything that threatens the worth of the worker threatens all of humanity for we all work to create a better world.

Love Krabland who co-Chairs with myself and

Others, a ^{new} national Commission for the Reform of American Immigration Policy, asked me to say a few words about the ^{recent} report of the Select Commission on Immigration ^{& Refugee} Policy. Tom Donohue seconded the invitation, and as an honorary Doctor of N. D., I could not refuse him either.

Jack Otero represented labor on our select commission. So did Ray Marshall. ~~So~~ Ted Kennedy and ~~four~~ ^{three other} senators, Peter Rodino and ~~for~~ three other Congressmen served with us as did the Secretary of State by Vance and

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The Attorney General Ben
Civiletti.

I cannot comment on
our more than 100
recommendations, but will
say a word or three key
over relating to illegal
immigration and its ~~best~~
impact on labor.

The Commission unanimously
recommended the legalization
of undocumented or illegal
workers ~~who~~ who have
been here since ^{Jan} 1980, who
are in good standing with
the law and are working. We
wanted to free these several

million people who, ~~are~~
~~hidden~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~shadow~~
 live in the shadows, often
 working long hours for less
 than the minimum wage
 and no overtime, who cannot
 join a union, who pay ^{of} taxes
 without benefits, who are
 victimized by unscrupulous
 employers in sweat shop
 conditions, horrible housing
 and no legal recourse. Their
 condition depresses wages
 and working ~~standards~~ ^{conditions}
 generally. America has no
 place for this ^{depressing} double standard.
 We can and should regulate
 it by legislation.

demagogues the magnet that
brings them here - jobs

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The price of legalization
is to cut the flow of illegals
across our borders. Most
of them come, understandably,
as our forebears did, to find
work and a better life. The
only way to stop the flow
is to ~~regulate~~ ^{regulate} that only
those legally admitted to this
Country can work ^{here}. This means
two things: first, employer
sanctions to ~~not~~ penalize
employers who employ
undocumented workers,
and secondly, some form
of new and non-counterfeitable
evidence that applicants
for work are here legally.
The Commission did not

Agree on what this new form of identification should be, but a ~~too~~ slim majority agreed we needed something new. I personally favored an upgraded social security card since we all have one anyway. If we can produce millions of ^{secure} credit cards we should be able to certify who is legally eligible for work. Without it, I do not believe the program ~~is~~ ^{will work} ~~feasible~~.

The present administration policy seems to favor legalization but under such harsh conditions ^{that no one will seek it:} - 5 years of temporary condition renewed each three years, without

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family, taxed without
employment compensation or
most other benefits, and then
five more years before
citizenship is possible. Before
facing that, illegal aliens
will stay in the shadows, I
believe and the current bad
situation will continue.

The present administration
also favors employer sanctions
but without new and non-
~~count~~ counterfeitable credentials;
again it won't work - since
we already have totally
ineffective employer
sanction laws in a dozen
states, ineffective because

↑
false identification
The documents are readily ⁽¹⁰⁾
available from computers
everywhere.

On another issue, the
administration wants an
expanded experimental
temporary worker plan. We
~~must~~ don't have to
experiment because we
already tried ~~and~~ it from
1942 until 1964. It was called
the Braceros program and
it was rightly cancelled in
after 22 years of problems.
The French have a good
saying: "Il n'y a rien
qui dure comme le provisoire"
Nothing lasts so long as

the temporary. They just
found that out in France,
Switzerland and ~~from~~
especially Germany, with
their so called Gastarbeiter
guest worker program.

The Administration
did rightly, I think, ⁱⁿ speaking
of enlarging a bit, the ^{immigration}
quotas of our nearest
neighbors, Canada and
Mexico. If that would
help with family reunification,
we our Commission would
favor it - Wives and Children
should ~~be~~ not have to wait
eight years to join their
husband and father.

The Congress, under sub-
Committees of the Judiciary
Chaired by Congressman Ron
Mazzoli and Senator Alan
Simpson are presently
considering all these issues.

I personally am grateful
for the leadership given
in this, and so many other
national issues, by your
Chairman Lane Kirkland and
your Council. Again we are
not talking about economic
units but about human
beings.

I would finally hope we
can write some flexibility
into our new immigration law.

Also, George Meany, to whom we gave Duke Dime's highest honor, the Laetare Medal.

In times of economic prosperity, we can afford to be more generous with immigrants and refugees. ~~at times of~~ ~~with~~ ~~with~~ high unemployment, our first obligation is to find work for our own people, especially our minorities who are, sadly, still bearing the heaviest burden of unemployment.

Thanks again for the courtesy of your invitation and congratulations on a century of achievement. I'm sure that from eternity, my grandfather is smiling about this meeting.