

# Filipino Reporter

**FAIR, FEARLESS, FACTUAL**

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## LETTERS

### Good case for Filipinos

Dear Editor:

The proposal of the Carter administration to grant amnesty to undocumented aliens should merit the concern of all Filipinos now residing in this country. No other issue is of greater significance to the foreign born than the question of whether those who do not have valid immigrant or non immigrant visas should be allowed to stay here and work.

The proposal of amnesty is actually a part of one big package of controversial measures about to be submitted to the Congress by President Carter. Already, a prominent journalist has called it a new Marshall Plan. Aside from the amnesty, the other important proposals are: (1) Punishment of employers who hire illegal aliens; (2) Institution of non-counterfeitable Social Security cards; and (3) Redefinition of the present immigration numerical system of limitation.

There is more than meets the eye in the amnesty bait which individuals, committed to civil liberties and human rights, should look into. How will they go about penalizing employers without prejudicing the employment opportunities

of foreign-looking individuals? Or, how will they guarantee the individual right of personal privacy with the institution of identity cards?

Of broad implications to Filipinos is the redefinition of immigration quotas. Ironically, the proposal comes at a time when Filipino doctors and nurses are being pushed further to the brink of deportation. The imposition of the Visa Qualifying Examination to foreign medical graduates and the removal of doctors and nurses from the so-called Schedule A are but two of the recent immigration laws that are now harshly affecting Filipinos, more than any other class of aliens.

I would like to see Filipino organizations all over the United States to give the issue utmost priority in their agenda of activities. And I wish Filipino newspapers, other than the **Filipino Reporter**, devoted more space to emphasize the importance of immediate action. This is one big issue that should be endorsed by all Filipinos regardless of political ideology or inclination. Every Filipino has something at stake, either because he is being exploited in his job or because

he has a relative or a friend who would like to live here and work.

We should demand no less than amnesty to all Filipinos now in the United States. The foreign residence requirement and the Visa Qualifying Examination should be abolished to pave the way for our doctors to remain here. We should also try to speak for the thousands of Filipinos in the Philippines whose visa petitions have been approved, but who have been waiting for years because of the limited number of visas available.

We, Filipinos, have a good case to present to President Carter and the US Congress. Most of us are educated and we possess skills that would undoubtedly benefit the American nation. But, unless we work hard in unity to paint the real good picture of ourselves, we will end up getting less than what we deserve. Let not our children blame us in the future for not speaking out our plea for fair treatment today.

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