

Obama's speech : Immigration Reform

Context

- a political meeting / in a high school in Las Vegas
- 2nd term of his presidency the week before
- in his inaugural speech : decided to move forward, time to act, time has come for a comprehensive immigration reform

It's time to :

- fix a system that has been broken
- find a way to welcome the immigrants who see America as a land of opportunity
- to strengthen economy : keep the workforce young ...

today ¼ high tech company has been founded by immigrants

Immigration system = out of date

- 11 million immigrants live their life in the shadows.
- Yes, they broke the rules : crossed the border illegally, overstayed their visas ...
- But they've been here for years, aren't looking for any trouble, they are contributing to the country.
- We need a reform for the ones who try to come to the US legally

The shadow economy :

- employers offer less than the minimum wage and employees work overtime without extra pay
- the ones who employ legally are the ones who suffer because they have to compete
- Barack Obama wants to bring the shadow economy into the light, to come to the same set of rules

During his first term :

- security at the border : illegal crossing 80% down
- deportation of criminals at its highest level
- the Dreamers : have a future here

We need Congress to act :

- Good news : both Democrats and Republicans seem ready to tackle this problem together. They are working on a solution, without endless debate.

3 ideas :

- smart enforcement at the security border and penalties if companies employ illegal workers
- the possibility to earn a way to citizenship : background check, learning English, paying taxes ...

It would be a fair process : path to earn a Green Card and eventually a way to citizenship

- bring our legal immigration system into the 21st century because it no longer reflects reality (sometimes you have to wait years for your family to join you)

Those 3 ideas = for the US to be a magnet for the rest of the world

Main question from Obama :

- Are we ready to put this issue behind us ? Who gets the privilege of becoming an American citizen ?

We must remember our history :