In light of President Bush's speech last week proposing a new program that would provide temporary visas for undocumented workers, and the response it has generated, I would like to devote a portion of our first class to discussion of the proposal and some of the immigration policy issues it highlights. I have attached below links to the White House announcement/fact sheet; several news articles and analyses; and statements issued by various organizations. I realize that this is short notice, but if you have a chance to take a look at some of these before our class, I think it will make for a more interesting discussion.

In reviewing this material, please think about the larger policy issues raised by the proposal, many of which we will be returning to throughout this semester. More generally, what do you think should be the basic principles guiding our country’s immigration policies? (Note that the White House fact sheet lays out a set of principles.) And what role do you think the courts should have in reviewing and/or enforcing these policy decisions?

I look forward to meeting you all tomorrow and to a lively discussion.

* the White House announcement/fact sheet:

* several news articles and analyses:


Jobs Americans Won't Do: Voodoo Economics from the White House," The National Review
http://www.nationalreview.com/comment/krikorian200401070923.asp

* and various organizational responses:
American Immigration Law Foundation
http://www.aiff.org/ipc/CostOfDoingNothingPrinst.asp

American Friends Service Committee (website features statements by many other organizations as well)