

Administration Plans for Aliens Draw Fire

Washington (RNS) — Following conclusion of a cabinet-level study on immigration and refugee policy, the Reagan administration has announced what it calls a "realistic" approach to "control of our borders."

against employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens;

is estimated to be between 3.5 and 6 million);

- a new experimental "temporary worker program" for up to 50,000 Mexican nationals annually;

- efforts to negotiate with other countries in the Western Hemisphere to discourage illegal immigration.

Features of the plan include:

- a way to confer legal status on qualifying aliens now living illegally in the United States (whose number

Attorney General William French Smith outlined the administration's proposals before a joint hearing with

members of both the Senate and House subcommittees which deal with refugee and immigration issues. He told the congressmen, "the overriding purpose of the president's proposals is to make our laws and policies more realistic — and then to enforce those laws effectively."

The proposals came under immediate attack by Democrats, who charged that the proposal would legalize the exploitation of alien workers.

The administration's proposals are also at some variance with the recommendations of a Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy which was chaired by Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, president of the University of Notre Dame.

"ridiculous," and "not operable.")

Sen. Walter Huddleston (D-Ky.), who does not serve on the Senate immigration and refugee subcommittee but has studied the problem extensively and drafted legislation on the topic, criticized the plan at the hearing for "marching right up to the problem and marching away again." He faulted the plan for not including specifics and immigration limits, not addressing the definition of "refugee," and not dealing with the issue of 140,000 Cuban and Haitian "un-

desirable" refugees now held at Fort Chaffee, Ark.

The subcommittees will hold hearings in September and October to discuss final legislation on the issue.

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People and Events Of the World and Nation

Are Tuition Credits Sinking Lower in Administration Plans?

Washington (RNS) — Although many "special interest" sweeteners made their way into the administration's tax cut package before it emerged from Congress, a tuition tax credit was not among them.

Catholic proponents of the credits stalwartly insist that they are "confident that tuition tax credit legislation can be enacted in the 97th Congress." Other backers of the credits are less hopeful. Ironically, both views are based on the readings concerning the strength of the measure's support by the president.

After the Senate Finance Committee rejected his attempt to attach a tuition tax credit rider to the Senate tax cut bill, Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan of New York said the bill's chances for passage this session were slim.

In a letter to the proposal's backers, he wrote, "The legislation appears doomed for the 97th Congress and perhaps even beyond, unless the administration decides to press Congress to enact it."

Behind the administration's opposition to including tuition tax credit provisions in the income tax bill was the belief that a "clean tax bill" was needed to permit timely enactment of the administration economic police, according to a Moynihan aide.

But, he added, although the bill cleared the Senate Finance Committee relatively unencumbered, such was not the case after it reached the floor where many amendments were added — special exemptions for racehorse owners, oil company tax breaks and a charity tax deduction — that should have been deferred to a second tax bill, the aide said.

Bishop Thomas C. Kelly, executive secretary of the U.S. Catholic Conference, said recently that "we fully expect that President Reagan will include tuition tax cut provisions in his next budget submission to Congress to allow for early and expeditious action." He based his optimism on "repeated, consistent and very public pledges of support by the president and his administration, together with past congressional support from both Democratic and Republican members."

Cardinal Cooke Hails Hearings on Life Amendment

Washington, D.C. — Cardinal Terence Cooke, chairman of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee for Pro-Life Activities, hailed the announcement by Sen. Orrin G. Hatch of Utah that his Senate Judiciary subcommittee on the Constitution plans hearings on a human life amendment. Cardinal Cooke said the announcement "offers hope for ending a national scandal which now involves the destruction of more than a million lives each year by abortion."

Cardinal Cooke recalled that last March the NCCB Administrative Committee reaffirmed its support for a constitutional amendment to protect the unborn, calling its enactment "a moral imperative of the highest order."

He called the upcoming Senate hearings

"a great support to us as we continue our efforts on behalf of the most basic of human rights — the right to life."

NFP Expansion Urged by Panel Of U.S. Bishops

Washington — A major effort to foster Natural Family Planning services in dioceses has been launched by the NCCB Committee for Pro-Life Activities. The program, to include a five-year organizational commitment by individual dioceses, envisions integrating NFP into the diocesan structure embracing educational, health care delivery and social components.

Commending the work already being done in promoting NFP, Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York noted a need for "a renewal of commitment and effort so that an ever greater number of married couples will have the capability to understand better their own fertility and thus practice responsible parenthood in a manner consistent with the teaching of the Church."

In a letter to bishops, Cardinal Cooke said the plan "is to unify the scientific and practical advances in Natural Family Planning and to coordinate the various approaches through diocesan sponsored programs."

"The Diocesan Plan for Natural Family Planning" was developed by the Human Life and Natural Family Planning Foundation under the sponsorship of the U.S. Bishops. The plan is intended to draw from existing personnel and program experience and to demonstrate how these can expand and improve to meet growing needs.

The plan recommends that each diocese appoint a program administrator and advisory committee and organize married couples experienced in NFP methods into a corps of teachers.

(Natural Family Planning Education, Inc., of Rochester traces its roots back to 1972 when it began working out of the diocesan Office of Family Life. In 1978, NFP was incorporated independent of the diocese and Mrs. Therese Petracca, who had run the office from its inception, became its full-time director. Its office is in the Kearney Building, St. Mary's Hospital, 89 Genesee St., Rochester. NFP Rochester trains and certifies couples to teach the method.)

Abortion Decision: Minor Not Required To Consult Parents

Boston (RNS) — A Massachusetts appeals court struck down a ruling by a Superior Court judge who refused to approve an abortion for a 14-year-old girl unless she consulted with one of her parents.

The appeals ruling involved a Massachusetts parental consent law in effect since April. The law permits an unwed minor to seek a Superior Court judge's authorization for an abortion if her parents disapproved or if she is unwilling to request parental consent.

(Shortly before his commission issued its recommendations, Father Hesburgh, in an interview with the Courier-Journal, characterized the present immigration laws as

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