



A young Haitian refugee leans against a fence at the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service detention camp near Miami, awaiting his release. The government began releasing the aliens last Friday, July 23. (RNS)

## Haitian Aide Resigns, Praised by Committee

Citing a rumor that he misappropriated money from the Cuban/Haitian Emergency Refugee Fund, and despite the vehement defense against those charges by officials of the fund, Lionel Honorat last week resigned from the group aiding the Haitian refugees.

"My decision is irrevocable," he said, even after the committee responsible for the fund signed a letter praising him for the work he has done, the personal expense he has gone to and his accomplishments for the Haitian refugees.

Honorat, himself a Haitian, is continuing his volunteer work for the Rochester Haitian community, however.

The accusations were made late last week by two young

## Haitians' Release

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director of Catholic Charities, Maurice Tierney, testified on behalf of the Haitians at that trial. Although the government still has avenues of appeal open, the judge ordered the Haitians now in detention to be released.

The first ten Haitians were released in Miami last Friday.

Tierney congratulated the Rochester group on the success of its effort at a special meeting to begin preparations for receiving Ray Brook Haitians here.

The Haitians now face exclusionary hearings to determine if they may stay in the U.S. It is the government's contention that they cannot claim refugee status because

Haitian immigrants whom he has helped, and were made not to authorities, but at a gathering of the local Haitian community.

According to Maurice Tierney, diocesan director of Catholic Charities, Honorat has received "not a cent" that was not due for his work; and there is "not a cent" of the money raised by the group that can't be accounted for.

"I go from here to eternity in defense of Lionel and the expenditures," Tierney said. "The money was handled by an outside organization, the Propagation of the Faith. CFC (Catholic Family Center, a direct service organization through which the committee worked) would provide material assistance (to the Haitians) and support Ralph 'Kimba' Cherry and Jocelyn

they are "economic refugees," rather than political refugees. That point is contested by both Haitians and advocates for them.

The exclusionary hearings will be the forum for examining those claims. If the Haitians are found to be economic refugees, they will be deported back to Haiti.

The Rochester group is trying to have the hearings held in Rochester (rather than in Buffalo), and have enlisted the help of a number of lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union to defend the refugees.

In addition, the group has agreed to provide training for the lawyers handling the Haitian cases.

Gregoire with salary and fringe benefits, and bill the Cuban/Haitian fund for reimbursement."

Cherry and Miss Gregoire are on the CFC staff expressly working for the Haitians.

Honorat's work "has involved a great deal of his personal time and energy, and personal expense, and it has been completely on a volunteer basis. His expenses and his meals and some other local expenses were paid for on one trip to Ray Brook Prison in Lake Placid," a memo from Greg Zuroski stated. Zuroski, a leader in the Inter-Church Refugee Assistance Project, also was a witness to the accusations being made. His memo, eventually seconded by such leaders in the Haitian effort as Tierney, G. Stanford Bratton, pastor of Parsells Community Church; Father Laurence Tracy; Catherine Wobus, casework director of CFC; James Maloney, executive director of CFC; and Dr. John Walker, executive secretary of the Office of Black Ministries, among others, also stated:

"Beginning with the arrival of a busload of Haitian migrants two years ago, Lionel Honorat has been the most important, visible, and reliable volunteer to work on their behalf... The success of the original group of Haitians in Rochester has been due in large part to Lionel's work. We have constantly documented that success and used it to help in the nationwide campaign to free other Haitians from prison. In this way, Lionel's contribution has not only been felt on the community level — it has had a great impact on the national scale."

### Sarah Child

All in the Family



our concern, one of us said playfully, "Back already?"

She fixed us with the eagle eye we've come to know so well. "No," she said coolly. "I just forgot the car keys."

### Flying the Coop Via Automobile

"I was just a little bit homesick one night," confessed the youngest upon returning from a couple of weeks in Pennsylvania.

"You weren't!" I said, trying not to show my surprise and gratification.

Since they've been big enough to pack an overnight bag, our three have been willing — nay, frantic — to spend as much time as possible with any friend or relative willing to take them in, giving the impression upon departing home that they were leaving a maximum security prison.

A few years ago when our son was forcibly brought home after spending what was obviously a halcyon summer with his grandparents and uncles (all of whom treated him much better than we did), he took to his room refusing to come out for meals or treats and howled in a plaintive rhythm for several nerve-wracking hours. When his father and I refused to take notice, he raised the decibel level several notes higher until the neighborhood kids, assuming mayhem, started gathering under his window.

The oldest, who has been threatening to leave for college (on the West Coast) since she was 11, began rattling her cage when she was not yet three years old.

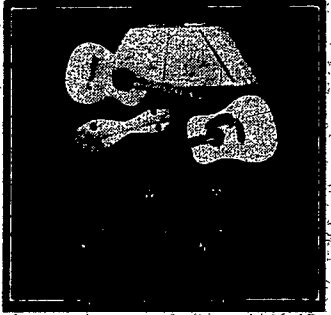
Still an only child, she confronted us with displeasure one summer evening and announced that she was running away from home.

Wide-eyed with wonder (where HAD we gone wrong?), the head of the house and I sat in the living room and watched her go

out the front door into the dusk and head for the garage.

A few moments later we breathed a collective sigh of relief as the small figure opened the screen door and stepped back inside.

Determined not to show



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