

Haitians Arrive, Face Deportation

By John Dash

The Haitian refugees arriving in Rochester from Ray Brook Federal Penitentiary are on trial. Rochester is only a way-station for the men who have trekked the past 14 months through the physical and internal wilderness of separation, isolation, incarceration in search of a better life.

Each of them now faces, during this brief respite, a hearing to determine whether he is a "political" or "economic" refugee, the distinction being critical in U.S. immigration law.

If the men are found to be economic refugees they will be sent back to Haiti, their only taste of American life, with the exception of the next couple of months, would be life behind barbed wire.

Last Wednesday, Roger Blonde, Frank Bryol, Jean-Claude Desardouin (who said he had just turned 18), and Janvier Cherime flew into Rochester's airport from Albany, uniformed in dark blue jackets labeled with bright yellow stickers initialed USCC, United States Catholic Conference.

They looked better than they did a year ago in Ray Brook, facing their first northern winter in the penitentiary near Saranac Lake. They seemed readier to smile, perhaps heavier, stronger and more alert.

As of presstime, a second group of Haitians was slated to arrive in Rochester tomorrow, Sept. 23. The men are being housed temporarily at the Triangle Center, and each of them not only has an institutional sponsor, the nation's bishops, but in-

dividual sponsors in the Rochester community.

According to Angelina Boella of the Catholic Family Center, the agency which is serving the men, also available are an apartment and rooms, and a drive is under way to locate furniture for the refugees when they settle in this area.

She also said that local attorneys, members of the American Civil Liberties Union, have volunteered to represent the Haitians at their hearings and will be trained in immigration law.

In addition, she said, area companies are being approached to provide jobs for the men.

The Haitians who were imprisoned at Ray Brook were part of a group who set out from their Caribbean island in boats during the period last year when Cuban refugees were being welcomed to U.S. shores.

No sooner had the Haitians arrived, however, than they were put into detention.

Haiti is the island governed by Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, a rule bequeathed him by his father, the infamous Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, whose government was so riddled with corruption that the U.S. cut off aid for a decade in the Alliance for Progress program.

Last year, when word filtered through that the U.S. was opening its borders to Cubans fleeing by boat from the regime of Fidel Castro, Haitians also took advantage of the moment.

But when they arrived at least 1,500 of them were put into detention by Im-

migration and Naturalization Service under an executive order by President Reagan who also gave permission to shoot the refugees while still on the seas.

Culled from the detained group were about 150 men who were sent to Ray Brook Federal Penitentiary.

With the exception of a group of Haitians being held at the Brooklyn Naval Yard, all of the imprisoned Haitian refugees were ordered released recently by Judge Eugene Spellman. The Brooklyn group is involved in separate litigation.

During the trial in Judge Spellman's courtroom, attorneys for the Haitians argued, among other issues, the U.S. demonstrated a racist attitude in its treatment of the refugees. No other group had been so treated by INS since the end of the second World War.

Although the judge did not find for that argument, it is accepted in many quarters and is frequently voiced at meetings of the Cuban/Haitian Emergency Refugee Committee, the predominantly Catholic group in Rochester which has worked extensively for the Ray Brook Haitians.

At a meeting last week, Father Charles Mulligan, director of the Division of Social Ministry, said that the primary intention of Immigration and Naturalization Service is to deport the Haitian refugees and that the impending hearings are only a tool to that end.

The United States Catholic Conference has subscribed to medical insurance for all the Haitians refugees who were imprisoned and will provide \$600 per month for food and housing for each Haitian while he awaits his hearing.



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

Catholic Family Center caseworker/interpreter Jocelyn Gregoire greets Jean-Claude Desardouin on his arrival at the Monroe County Airport.



Meeting at the Monroe County Airport are (left to right) Jocelyn Gregoire, caseworker for Catholic Family Center; Rev. John Walker, executive secretary at the Office of Black Ministries; Angelina Boella, Catholic Family Center; Jean-Claude Desardouin, Roger Blonde, Janvier Cherime, and Frank Bryol, all of Haiti.



Special Report

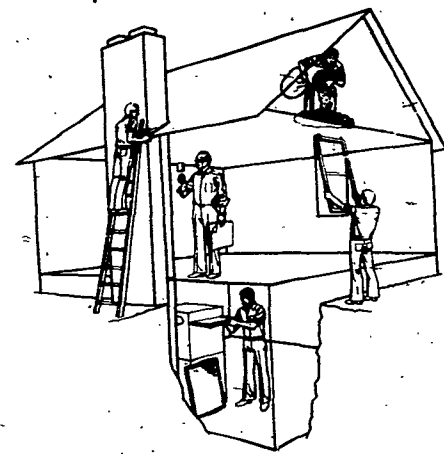
Hicks
Home Heating Inc.
HEATING-COOLING
424-4848 271-4850

St. Charles Borromeo
DEWEY AVE. PHARMACY
Prescription Specialists
Cosmetics-Toiletries
Photo Finishing
2910 Dewey Ave. 865-2210

GREECE Residential Improvement Program

Home Repairs Now
Cost up to 90%
Less With GRIP

The Town of Greece has initiated the Greece Residential Improvement Program for its 6th year. Under this program you may be eligible for a subsidy that will pay up to 90% of your home repair and improvement costs. A 90% subsidy would mean that the Town could pay you \$2250 on improvements costing \$2500. Note: Maximum total that can be paid for all repairs is \$2500.00.



YOU QUALIFY IF:

The home to be improved is in Greece, is owner occupied, used only as residence and the taxes are current. Also, your gross household income* cannot be over the amounts listed below:

INCOME* ELIGIBILITY

Household Size** No. of Persons	MAXIMUM HOUSEHOLD INCOME		
	Very Low 90%	Low 60%	Moderate 35%
1	\$5700	\$8500	\$13,100
2	6500	9500	15,250
3	7300	10500	17,000
4	8250	11550	18,700
5	8650	12350	19,150
6	9100	13200	20,250
7	9500	14000	21,900
8+	10000	14850	23,050

HOW DO I APPLY

If you are going through a lending institution you must bring 3 estimates for each type of work you want done to one of the participating banks and fill out an application at the bank.

However, if your improvement is small (less than \$1000) or you want to use your personal savings you should submit 3 estimates for each type of work to the GRIP Program Office at the Greece Town Hall along with a completed application. The program is open to small families as well as large.

*Includes income from all sources including Social Security for all persons, related or unrelated residing at the applicants address who are over 18 and not full time students.

**Number of members in applicants household.

Ask for GRIP today! Call GRIP PROGRAM
Greece Town Hall 225-2000, Ext. 282 or 280