

# Senate Passes Comprehensive Immigration Bill

Washington (NC) — The Senate approved a comprehensive immigration bill May 18 which would penalize employers for hiring workers who illegally entered the United States and would offer amnesty to millions of illegal aliens already in the country.

The vote on the bill was 76 to 18. The Senate passed a similar measure last August but it died in the House. This year the House Judiciary Committee approved a different version of the bill May 5 and the full House was not expected to take up the bill until August.

The Senate bill would establish an annual ceiling of 425,000 for immigrations and people granted asylum — the same as the estimated current level. Refugees are counted in a separate category.

It would impose sanctions, including fines of up to \$1,000 per alien, on those who employ at least four persons and knowingly hire illegal aliens.

The bill would provide a two-tiered legalization program for illegal aliens already in the United States. Those who can prove they entered the United States before Jan. 1, 1977, could immediately

become legal permanent residents and after five years, could apply for citizenship. Those who arrived from Jan. 1, 1977 to Dec. 31, 1979 could obtain legal status as "temporary residents," and after three years could become permanent residents, then later apply for citizenship.

Illegal aliens who arrived after 1979 would not be eligible for the amnesty and could still be subject to deportation under the existing law. The Senate proposes to streamline procedures for deportation, asylum and exclusion, mainly by eliminating some layers of appeals and having others handled by administrative officials instead of judges.

The bill also would authorize developing some kind of national identification system to identify legal residency. In its report on the bill the Senate Judiciary Committee said it was "most emphatically not requiring or permitting the development of an 'internal passport' or 'national I.D. card.'"

The bill's chief sponsor Sen. Alan K. Simpson (R-Wyo.) said the legislation is needed because "the first duty of a sovereign nation is

to control its borders and we don't."

A federal commission on immigration and refugee policy estimated that as of 1978 as many as 6 million illegal aliens were in the United States; and sponsors of the current Senate legislation agree that by now the number has risen.

Simpson said he was optimistic about final agreement on the revision this year, in spite of more than a dozen amendments to the bill. "There isn't a thing in here that isn't reconcilable. What we started with, the guts of it, are still there: control over illegal immigration."

The House version of the bill has a one-tiered system which would grant permanent residency since Jan. 1, 1982 but would prohibit non-emergency public assistance for five years.

The U.S. Catholic Conference has backed immigration reform legislation which would include legal residency for all illegal aliens in the United States as of Jan. 1, 1983. The USCC has opposed employer sanctions and opposed barring legalized aliens from federal financial assistance programs.

# Pope Blesses Fatima Statue Sculpted by American Artist

VATICAN CITY (NC) — Pope John Paul II unveiled and blessed a U.S. sculptor's statue of Our Lady of Fatima in the Vatican gardens.

The six-foot bronze statue became the first modern art work displayed in the Vatican gardens and the first sculpture by a U.S. artist to be placed in the gardens.

The statue by Frederick Shradly of Waston, Conn., recalls Mary's first appearance to three shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal, on May 13, 1917. Called "Our Lady of Fatima," it depicts Mary and the three children.

(A duplicate of the bronze statue is scheduled to be unveiled May 29 at the National Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville, N.Y., by Bishop Howard Hubbard of Albany. Auriesville is the site of the martyrdom of St. Isaac Jogues and his companions and the birthplace of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.)

Shradly and several relatives and friends attended the early evening unveiling of his work May 13 near the Lourdes Grotto in the Vatican gardens.

Among the Vatican officials attending were Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, papal secretary of state, who later was host at a dinner for Shradly's party at the Columbus Hotel near the Vatican; Archbishop Eduardo Martinez Somalo, undersecretary of state; and

Archbishop Achille Silvestrini, secretary of the Council for the Public Affairs of the Church.

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# Local Haitian Group Breaks with USCC On Immigration Bills

Rochester's Cuban-Haitian Emergency Refugee Committee, the ecumenical group first convened by Bishop Matthew H. Clark to assist Cuban and Haitian refugees during their extraordinary influx in 1980, and now heavily weighted with representatives of Catholic agencies and convened by the director of Catholic Charities, has sharply broken with the staff of the United States Catholic Conference over the new immigration bills in Congress.

The bills, collectively known as Simpson-Mazzoli after their authors, Sen. Alan K. Simpson (R-Wyo.) and Rep. Romano L. Mazzoli (D-Ky.), represent several years of trying to revamp U.S. immigration law.

The USCC staff has registered support for the proposed legislation, but qualified its support with negative comments on several aspects of the measures.

The local committee has stated that because of those flaws, the whole ought to be rejected.

Chief among the committee's concern is proposed legislation covering employer sanctions, adjudication, summary exclusion, asylum and judicial appeal.

The local group's reaction to Simpson-Mazzoli comes after three years of wrangling with both the State Department and Immigration and Naturalization Service on the treatment accorded Haitian refugees.

"We recommend a system where reasonable basis for legal entry to the United

States is more clearly defined in law, where the power to decide on entry does not rest entirely with the immigration officer on site, and where there is adequate judicial review provided for decisions on summary exclusion and asylum," the committee stated.

"The concept of employer sanctions as found in both bills assumes that illegal migration is caused solely by poverty. Failure to address the numerous political, social, religious and racial concerns, as well as the economic ones, renders the bills ineffective and unjust..."

"The language of this section of both bills is so vague as to be unenforceable. The scope of the bills ranges from large agriculture employers who hire hundreds of farm workers to neighborhood concerns who hire four part-time employees. In addition, liability will encompass employment agencies, unions, contractors, temporary help services and others, since 'employer' is broadly defined. Thus any enforcement will have to be highly selective and discriminatory in its impact," the committee said.

The committee paper, which also listed many more objections to Simpson-Mazzoli, cited as its philosophy, in part:

"We believe in the universality of the human family and a world created by God for everyone's use and benefit. Within this context people have a right to freedom, a right to acquire and own private property,

and a right to provide for their welfare and the welfare of their dependents. Although it would be generally desirable for people to live in freedom in their own communities, people everywhere have a right to migrate, especially in order to acquire the above-mentioned rights..."

## Pope Again Asks Dialogue With Peking

VATICAN CITY (NC) — While honoring two Italian missionaries martyred in China in 1930, Pope John Paul II expressed hope May 15 for progress in dialogue with the Chinese Communist government.

At a beatification Mass in St. Peter's Square for Bishop Luigi Versiglia and Father Callisto Caravario, the pope said the missionary service of the two Salesians showed "the profound accord between the Gospel and the highest values of Chinese culture and spirituality."

"The joyous circumstance of this rite of beatification sustains and reinforces in us the hope for progress in the elaboration of structures and dialogue, destined to favor the demand for harmony, in the Christian people of China, between the dimension of social commitment and national conscience and that of communion with the universal church: a demand intrinsic in the message of Christ and conforming to the deepest needs of nations and cultures," he added.

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