

Decision

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Moakley, D-Mass. The Moakley-DeConcini bill would permit Salvadorans and Nicaraguans to remain in the United States on a temporary basis until conditions improve in their homelands.

On July 15 the Senate Judiciary Committee approved legislation sponsored by DeConcini to temporarily suspend deportation of Salvadorans and Nicaraguans.

There are an estimated 200,000 Nicaraguan and 400,000-500,000 Salvadoran exiles currently residing in the United States.

In a USCC statement issued July 14, Monsignor DiMarzio said he found "nothing essentially new" in the government announcement. He added that the attempt to portray a set of existing procedures as "new" policy must be viewed as "an effort to undercut support" for the DeConcini-Moakley proposed legislation.

Many Nicaraguans are seeking temporary respite rather than permanent residency and citizenship and do not wish to apply for asylum, Monsignor DiMarzio said. The asylum process is "both costly and time-consuming" and the approval rate for Nicaraguan asylum applicants "has been historically very low," he added.

Monsignor Walsh said that 92 percent of Nicaraguans who have applied for political asylum have had their applications rejected.

Unless the Immigration and Naturalization Service intends to dramatically improve the approval rate, Monsignor DiMarzio said, "this policy will not be a long-term solution."

Many Nicaraguans fled their homeland as a result of "the shutting down of the private sector," precipitated in large part by a U.S. trade embargo against Nicaragua, said Monsignor Walsh. Others fled to avoid military service or out of fear of persecution by Nicaraguan government forces or U.S.-backed Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, he said.

The priest continues to support legislative efforts to grant extended voluntary departure to Salvadorans who have fled their homeland. "I feel very strongly that our assistance to refugees should be given regardless of whether that person is of the left or of the right, whether they are fleeing a regime that is leftist or rightist," Monsignor Walsh said.

Monsignor DiMarzio said the DeConcini-Moakley proposal addresses the issue in an "ideology-blind manner" and "reflects more closely the interests of both the Central Americans fleeing violence at home and of U.S. citizens who wish their government to respond to compelling humanitarian

Council sponsors group for people caring for elderly

The Regional Council on Aging is sponsoring a support group for those providing care to older people. The group, "Coping Skills for Caregivers of the Elderly," has set its next meeting for Friday, July 24, from 10 a.m. to noon at 34 Meigs St., Rochester, next to the Third Presbyterian Church on East Avenue. The group will meet on the second and fourth Fridays of each month.

Nick Trotto of the Monroe County Office on Aging will speak at the July 24 meeting.

He will discuss recreation services for the homebound, as well as other opportunities offered by MCOFA. After the talk, those who are providing care will be offered a chance to share their feelings and experiences with others in similar circumstances.

No fee is necessary, and all are invited to attend. For information or assistance in getting to the meeting, call Sandra Rakiewicz Pecora at (716) 454-3224, ext. 112.

Head Start seeks volunteers for single parent program


This fall, the ABC Head Start Centers in Rochester will sponsor a program for single parents and their children.

Community volunteers will be needed to provide services that include support groups, children's programs and a parenting course. Volunteers will have the opportunity to choose

from a variety of positions and time commitments and receive professional training.

The program, which is called NEST, emphasizes nurturing as the key to building a stronger relationship between family members.

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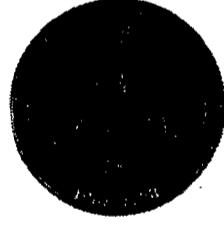
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