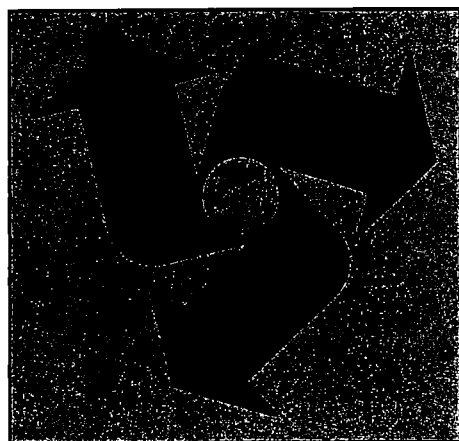

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BALANCING ACTS:



TOWARD A FAIR BARGAIN ON SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

DEMETRIOS G. PAPADEMETRIOU
MONICA L. HEPPEL



C A R N E G I E E N D O W M E N T
for International Peace

18 August 1999

Dear Colleague:

We are pleased to enclose a copy of a recently published monograph, entitled ***Balancing Acts: Toward a Fair Bargain on Seasonal Agricultural Workers***. In this monograph, we take a hard look at the perishable crop agricultural sector and its workforce. We then offer a number of suggestions for retaining the robustness and competitiveness of the industry while improving dramatically the working conditions of those whose hard work is in large part responsible for this sector's success. Among the recommendations we offer are ways to ensure the industry a legal supply of labor *in return for* improved conditions for workers.

For a successful resolution of the impasse between worker and industry advocates should be the following:

1. Legalizing the status of those who have worked and are willing to continue to work in agriculture;
2. Enhancing opportunities for US workers willing to work in agriculture to do so under fair rules and conditions;
3. Addressing the health, housing, and other social needs of participants in a new agricultural worker program; and,
4. Minimizing the level of control over workers exerted by employers and recruiters in the current H-2A program.

We recognize that this is a complicated issue and that the monograph only touches on some of its aspects. Nevertheless, the issue demands attention and we urge you to engage the debate about immigration policy in a way that includes an effort to craft an appropriate worker program for agriculture that is experimental (and hence, time-limited) and that will be monitored and evaluated.

We hope that you find this monograph of interest.

Sincerely,

Demetrios G. Papademetriou
Senior Associate & Co-Director
International Migration Policy Program

Monica L. Heppel
Research Director
Inter-American Institute on
Migration & Labor

Gohl Earl

From: msk@cis.org[SMTP:msk@cis.org]
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 1999 2:33 PM
To: CISNEWS@cis.org
Subject: U.S. immigration news

[For CISNEWS subscribers: Five items --

- * Proposal for new Bracero program to focus on illegals already in U.S.;
- * INS is criticized for jailing asylum-seekers;
- * Conference talks of increase border crossings between Canada, U.S.;
- * Union advocates attack non-union low-wage supermarkets in LA; and
- * Man who married 16 women to help them get green cards gets probation.

-- Mark Krikorian]

New push for a 'guest-worker' bill
Proposal to focus on those already in U.S.
By Michael Doyle
Sacramento Bee, September 28, 1999

WASHINGTON -- Tens of thousands of illegal immigrants now tending Central Valley fields could secure legal status under a plan that will seek the congressional fast track as early as Thursday.

In their latest bid for a foreign guest worker program, growers and their congressional allies have found a new spin on an old -- and for decades unsuccessful -- concept.

The basic idea is to grant temporary visas to farm workers now living illegally in the United States; in time, those farm workers could claim permanent green cards and, eventually, citizenship.

"Once and for all, farmers would be able to have a reliable supply of labor," Manuel Cunha, president of the Fresno-based Nisei Farmers League, said Monday, adding that "most of the workers just want a work visa, they don't want to live here permanently."

By tweaking past guest worker proposals to provide legal status to illegal workers, the growers hope to win over congressional skeptics. In a related move, the growers hired as a new lobbyist a former official with the National Immigration Forum, one who enjoys good relations with the immigrant groups long opposed to guest worker plans.

Those immigrant advocate groups have previously joined the Clinton administration in fighting guest worker proposals that crop up almost every year. Though the White House has talked with farmers about the proposed program, skepticism remains.

"If a bill is introduced, we'll look at it," a Labor Department official said, speaking on condition of anonymity, but "the president is not going to sign any legislation that increases illegal immigration or undermines wages or working conditions."

Influential Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., likewise has not publicly embraced the proposal, though she, too, has kept the door open to farmers. The guest worker plan is backed by some Valley lawmakers, including Rep. George Radanovich, R-Mariposa, and others are listening.

"I think this bill actually has some merit, because it's talking about farm workers who are already here," said Rep. Cal Dooley, D-Tulare County. "This might have the components of a compromise that might bring everyone together."

The last time a similar proposal reached the House floor, in 1996, it was defeated on a 242-180 vote.

Last year, the Senate, following quick debate, approved an alternative guest worker plan, but it died in the face of presidential veto threats. Since then, groups such as the Nisei Farmers League and National Council of Agricultural Employers have tried to come up with something that would work.

"We've opened the door to work with everybody, from church groups to advocacy groups," Cunha said. "The industry went to the greatest extent possible to work with other groups."

The new plan remains subject to change, but essentially would cover illegal immigrants who have worked in agriculture at least six months out of the past year.

As many as 600,000 illegal immigrants are believed to work on farms. Under the proposed law, the farm workers could apply for temporary visas good for five years, during which time they would have to keep working in agriculture at least six months a year.

The proposal, being groomed for Senate introduction by Florida Democrat Bob Graham and others, also would streamline the Labor Department's much-criticized H-2A program. Each year, the program brings in about 7,000 foreign shepherds, tobacco and sugar cane pickers and others.

"I think it's the reintroduction of indentured servitude in America," said Bruce Goldstein of the Farmworker Justice Fund.

"Every organization we've talked to finds these proposals totally anathema."

Independent groups that have analyzed the farm labor market, including the bipartisan Commission on Agricultural Workers and the more recent Commission on Immigration Reform, consistently have recommended against a guest worker program, saying it is unnecessary.

Also weakening the farmers' chances: congressional resistance recently forced California's high-tech companies to shelve their plans for bringing in more foreign workers. The chairman of the House immigration subcommittee opposes guest worker plans, even though House Speaker Dennis Hastert represents an Illinois district where nursery owners favor the idea.

With only about a month left for Congress to act, farm-friendly lawmakers have two tacks from which to choose.

One is to fold the guest worker plan into one of the must-pass spending bills that keep the federal government running; this was the approach last tried in the Senate. The other is to try to speedily move stand-alone

legislation.

"We're hoping it's this year," Cunha said.

Rights Group Criticizes Jailing of Asylum-Seekers

+Immigration: Some are treated like criminals, Amnesty International charges. INS says it is committed to a humane policy.

By Anne-marie O'Connor

Los Angeles Times, September 29, 1999

Chinese refugee won asylum but was held in a California jail for 17 more months until her health broke down. A Sri Lankan--detained by the Immigration and Naturalization Service since 1997--fears he will be raped by inmates at Kern County Jail in Bakersfield. A Liberian asylum-seeker who spent 10 months in detention in Texas attempted suicide before winning asylum.

According to a human rights report released Tuesday, these immigrants are among the asylum-seekers who have been held indefinitely while their cases are considered by U.S. immigration officials.

Asylum-seekers who cannot be housed at overcrowded

Immigration and Naturalization Service facilities are sent to county jails across America to live alongside accused murderers and other criminals, the report said.

"Detention is a disproportionate and harsh measure to apply to those seeking asylum," said Nick Rizza, the refugee program director of Amnesty International USA, which wrote the report, "Lost in the Labyrinth."

"Congress needs to take a look at this," Rizza said. "The INS needs to establish national standards, identify all prisoners who are asylum seekers and take detention power away from the authority of district directors."

An INS statement on the report contended that the vast majority of asylum-seekers are never detained. Of 3,200 immigrants requesting protection at U.S. ports between October 1998 and May 1999, 13% are still in detention, but 67% have been released and 20% of the cases resolved.

The statement said the INS "strives to minimize the detention of asylum-seekers to the extent possible."

"While we welcome constructive studies and recommendations on how we can improve our administration of U.S. immigration law, we do take issue with some of the points raised in this report," the agency said. "The [INS] is committed to fair and humane administration of the U.S. asylum system."

Rizza said that detention procedures isolate immigrants and frustrate their efforts to get a lawyer, effectively denying them due process, Rizza said.

Chinese applicant Sai Quing Jiang was granted asylum but held anyway at the Kern County Jail for 17 additional months while INS officials appealed. She was released in late 1998--against INS counsel--after her health collapsed and a judge reaffirmed the asylum decision, Rizza said.

09/30/99 THU 16:20 FAX

UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION
SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510
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AMENDMENT NO. _____

Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To provide for a report on ~~reducing illegal immigration to the United States and improving the compensation and working conditions of agricultural workers.~~

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—106th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 1650

Making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____
and ordered to be printed

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AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by
Sens. Wyden, Graham, Gordon Smith

Viz:

- 1 On page 19, line 8, insert before the period the fol-
- 2 lowing: "*Provided further*, That funds made available
- 3 under this heading shall be used to report to Congress,
- 4 pursuant to Public Law 85-67 (29 U.S.C. 563) ~~and in~~
- 5 ~~conjunction with the Department of Agriculture and other~~
- 6 ~~relevant departments and agencies;~~ with options that will
- 7 ^{promote} ensure a legal domestic work force in the agricultural sec-
- 8 tor, and provide for improved compensation, longer and
- 9 more consistent work periods, improved benefits, improved

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2

- 1 living conditions and better housing quality, and transpor-
- 2 tation assistance between agricultural jobs for agricultural
- 3 workers, and address other issues related to agricultural
- 4 labor that the Secretary of Labor determines to be nec-
- 5 essary'.

August 6, 1999

Dear Representative:

The undersigned 173 organizations write to you out of our deep concern for the plight of migrant farmworkers in the United States, to urge you to oppose any new agricultural "guestworker" proposals offered this year that would worsen already abysmal work terms and conditions for migrant farmworkers.

Lobbyists for agricultural employers have pressed for major "guestworker" legislation over the last several years. They succeeded in the 105th Congress in attaching a proposal to the Senate-passed Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary bill that would have worsened farmworkers' wages and working conditions, reduced labor law enforcement, increased already high employee turnover in the industry, and discouraged modernization of labor practices in agriculture. We write today in anticipation that they may again try to convince the Congress to adopt a similar proposal. We would urge the House to reject any such effort.

As we end this century, the people who cultivate and harvest our fruits, vegetables, tobacco and greenhouse crops continue to be the poorest of the working poor. Most farmworkers experience sub-poverty-level wages, poor working conditions, inadequate access to health care, exposure to dangerous chemicals, and high rates of violations of minimum wage and other legal obligations. Most studies show that, despite low unemployment and rising incomes in other sectors of our economy, seasonal farmworkers have been experiencing declining real wages and high unemployment and underemployment. Recent government studies of the agricultural labor force have been unanimous in finding a farm labor surplus in the United States.

Employers who fear labor shortages should seek to attract and retain farmworkers by improving wages and working conditions. The employers' guestworker proposals of the recent past, by contrast, have been designed to add temporary foreign farmworkers to the labor supply under wages, working conditions and recruitment procedures that would be worse than those under the notorious Bracero program, which ended in 1964 and remains a stain on our nation's history.

We ask that you support farmworkers and oppose efforts, such as last year's, that would revise the current H-2A temporary foreign agricultural worker program in ways that worsen already meager protections or create a new one. Our nation's labor laws and the existing H-2A program's worker protections already are too weak to protect farmworkers and their families from unfair treatment. We will be back in touch with you as specific legislative proposals emerge.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

August 6, 1999

Page 2

American Friends Service Committee
Americans for Democratic Action
Cuban American National Council, Inc
Farm Labor Organizing Committee
Farmworker Housing Development Corporation
Farmworker Justice Fund
Hermandad Mexicana Nacional
International Labor Rights Fund
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
League of United Latin American Citizens
Mennonite Central Committee U.S., Washington Office
Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Social Workers
National Center for Latinos with Disabilities
National Consumers League
National Council of La Raza
National Farmworker Ministry
National Immigration Law Center
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium, Inc.
National Labor Committee in Support of Worker and Human Rights
National Lawyers Guild, Cross Border Litigation Committee
National Lawyers Guild, Labor and Employment Committee
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Union of Needletrade, Industrial and Textile Employees, UNITE
United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society

STATE & LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Friends Service Committee, Fresno, CA
Arizona Interagency Farmworker Coalition, AZ
Arizona Latin American Medical Association, AZ
Asian Committee Mental Health Services, CA
Asian Law Alliance, CA
Audubon Partnership Economic Development, NY
Border Agricultural Workers Program, TX
Border Association for Refugees from Central America, TX
Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation, CA
California Association for Bilingual Education, CA
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc., CA
Campesinos Unidos, Inc., CA
Casa de Maryland, MD
Casa Familiar, San Ysidro, CA
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY

August 6, 1999

Page 3

Catholic Charities, Fresno, CA
Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network, ID
CAUSA, OR
Centro 16 de Septiembre, TX
Centro Hispano de Hawaii, HI
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles, CA
Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organizations, FL
Coalition of Immokalee Workers, FL
Colonias Unidas, TX
Colorado Migrant Coalition, CO
Colorado Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers Program, CO
Columbia Basin Health Association, WA
Comité Hispano de Virginia, VA
Committee for Hispanic Children and Family, NY
Community Alliance of Lane County, OR
Consejo Counseling & Referral Service, WA
County Judge Dolores Briones, TX
Darin M. Camarena Health Center, Inc., CA
DC Immigrant Coalition, DC
Department of Social Work, Florida Atlantic University, FL
Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services Catholic Diocese of El Paso, TX
East Bay Citizenship Network, CA
ECO-Action, Orlando, FL
Environmentally Challenged Group, Chapter of H.E.A.L., FL
Escuela de La Raza Unida, CA
Esperanza Peace & Justice Center, TX
Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network/Jobs with Justice, OR
Everglades Community Association, Inc., FL
Farmworker Advocacy Project, IL
Farmworker Association of Florida, FL
Farmworker Coordinating Council, Palm Beach County, FL
Farmworker Legal Services, NY
Florida Consumer Action Network, FL
Florida Impact, FL
Foro de la Comunidad, OR
Friendly House, AZ
Guadalupe Social Services, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Venice, FL
Hands Across Cultures, Corp., NM
Harvest America Corporation, KS
Hawaii Hispanic News, HI
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights, IL
Hispanic Community Center, Lincoln, NE
Home Education Livelihood Program, Inc., NM
Housing Opportunities of Houston, Inc., TX
Houston Esperanza CDC, TX
Houston Immigrant and Refugee Coalition, TX
Idaho Migrant Council, ID

August 6, 1999

Page 4

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, IL
Immigrant Legal Resource Center, CA
Immigration Law Enforcement & Monitoring Project, AFSC, CA & TX
Iniciativa Frontera, TX
Karen Woodall & Associates, FL
Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, TX
Latin American Solidarity Organization, WA
Latin Americans for Social and Economic Development, MI
Latino Concern Group, KY
Latino Learning Center LULAC Council 688, TX
Latino Legislation Day-2000, WA
Latinos Unidos Siempre, OR
Lawyers Committee For Civil Rights Under Law of Texas, TX
Louisville Area Council on Latin Americans, KY
Maine Rural Workers Coalition, ME
Mano a Mano Family Center, OR
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, MA
Mexican American Legal Defense, TX
Mexican American Unity Council, Inc., TX
Michigan Migrant Legal Assistance Project, MI
Migrant Farmworker Justice Project, FL
Migrant Legal Action Program, DC
Multicultural Area Health Education Center, CA
NAF Multicultural Human Development Corporation, NE
National Council of La Raza, Regional Office, TX
National Lawyers Guild, San Diego Chapter, CA
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest, NE
Nebraska Mexican American Commission, NE
Network for Immigrant Justice, OR
Nevada Hispanic Services, Inc., NV
New York Immigration Coalition, NY
North Carolina Farmworkers Project, NC
North Carolina Justice and Community Development Center, NC
North Texas Immigration Coalition, TX
North Texas Immigration Coalition, TX
Northern California Coalition for Immigrant Rights, CA
Northwest Community Education Center, WA
Office for Farmworker Ministry, FL
Oregon Action, OR
Oregon Latino Voters Education Project, OR
Oregon Law Center, OR
Otero County Housing Authority, CO
Palm Beach County Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, FL
Peace and Justice Commission, Holy Spirit Catholic Parish, TX
Peace and Justice Committee, Saint Raphael's Church, Inglewood, FL
Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste, OR
Portland Learning Outreach & Worship, OR

August 6, 1999

Page 5

Portland Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, OR
Project PPEP, Inc., AZ
Proyecto Azteca, TX
Proyecto de Trabajadores Agricolas, NC
Proyecto Libertad, TX
Public Justice Center, Inc., Baltimore, MD
Ramona Casas, Co-Director, Project Arise, TX
Religious Leaders Concerned, FL
Rocky Ford Jobs Services, CO
Rural Opportunities, Inc., NY
Rural Organizing Project, OR
San Francisco Sanctuary Covenant, CA
Sea-Mar Community Health Center, WA
Sisters of Charity and Nazareth, KY
South Puget Sound Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, WA
South Texas Civil Rights Project, TX
Southern Oregon Economic Development Coalition, OR
Sparks Housing Development Corporation, TX
Student Action with Farmworkers, NC
Texas AFL-CIO, TX
Texas Appleseed Advocacy Fund, TX
Texas Catholic Conference, TX
Texas Immigrant and Refugee Coalition, TX
Texas League of United Latin American Citizens, TX
The ECO-Store, Orlando, FL
United Farm Workers (AFL-CIO) of Texas, TX
United Farm Workers of America, WA
United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc., WI
United Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, TX
Virginia Justice Center for Farm and Immigrant Workers, VA
Voz Hispana Causa Cesar Chavez, OR
Washington Alliance for Immigrant and Refugee Justice, WA
Washington Association of Churches, WA
Watts/Century Latino Organization, CA
Western Arizona Center for Child Education, AZ
Worker's Rights Project, University of North Carolina School of Law, NC
Worker's Organizing Committee, OR

Gohl Earl

From: msk@cis.org[SMTP:msk@cis.org]
Sent: Monday, October 04, 1999 2:34 PM
To: CISNEWS@cis.org
Subject: U.S. immigration news

[For CISNEWS subscribers: Five items --

- * More on the push for a neo-Bracero program;
- * INS sets up special office for green card renewals;
- * Minnesota campaigns for "niceness" towards immigrants;
- * Calif. Gov. Davis's wife listens to Central Americans' concerns; and
- * Rep. Kennedy claims constituents' criticism of immigration is racist.

-- Mark Krikorian]

U.S. lawmakers plan migrant farm worker law reform
By Barbara Hagenbaugh

WASHINGTON, Oct 1 (Reuters) - U.S. lawmakers plan another attempt to reform the program that regulates the employment of foreign farm workers, saying growers are desperate to clear away legal obstacles to finding hired hands in a tight labor market.

Although their efforts were defeated last year, U.S. senators and farm groups are hopeful they will be able to pass legislation this year to make the so-called H-2A program more farmer-friendly.

The program allows farmers to bring in foreign workers for up to ten months with U.S. government approval.

The nation's farm work force is being depleted by a low unemployment rate, a crackdown on illegal immigrants by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the high-tech efforts of the Social Security Administration to chase down illegal workers, said advocates for altering the program.

"A lot of farmers are having a really tough time finding an adequate labor force," said American Farm Bureau lobbyist Bryan Little. "There just aren't enough people to go around."

Farmers say the H-2A program imposes too many restrictions. The manual for farmers participating in the program is a daunting 325 pages.

The program requires farmers to start filling out forms well ahead of the harvest season, before they know how big their crops will be or how many workers they will need. They must also have on-farm housing available and pay a minimum wage some say is set unfairly.

"I don't think there is any doubt that the program is flawed," said Chris Hand, a spokesman for Sen. Bob Graham, a Florida Democrat.

Graham and a group of Democratic and Republican senators are working with the five-million-member American Farm Bureau on legislation that would

remove some of the regulatory hurdles that deter farmers from using the program.

The group is considering many changes, including reforming the minimum wage provision.

Currently, a single wage can apply across several states and is based on the going wage for all kinds of agricultural workers, including those on the high end of the pay scale, such as livestock inseminators.

The senators also want to drop the requirement for on-site housing, and allow growers to instead subsidize housing elsewhere.

The bill is expected to be drafted in the next two weeks.

Last year, reforms to the H-2A program passed the Senate but were dropped in the House, where lawmakers chose to pursue a separate immigration reform proposal instead. A companion bill will likely be crafted by House members this year, Senate staffers said.

The Senate bill is being drafted in consultation with the White House to make sure it will be signed by President Bill Clinton. "We've been talking to them about it pretty much from the beginning," Little said. "By this time last year, we had a veto threat dropped on us and we haven't gotten one yet."

It is estimated that at least half of the nation's more than one million farm workers are illegal aliens.

Opponents of changing the H-2A law say making it easier for farm workers to enter the United States will only lead to a flood of immigrants who will stay in the country illegally after their time is up.

Green Card Renewals May Flood INS
By Bart Jansen
October 1, 1999

WASHINGTON(AP) -- About 660,000 immigrants will need to begin renewing their green cards during the next year and advocates worry that the onslaught could overwhelm federal officials.

"It's a huge problem," said Jeanne Butterfield, executive director of American Immigration Lawyers Association.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service, however, has reorganized to shorten the waits for obtaining and renewing documentation for immigrants to work and live permanently in the United States, officials said. In Los Angeles, the agency set up a special office to handle nearly one-third of the total renewals.

"People should remain calm and not panic," said Elaine Komis, an INS spokeswoman. "We're doing everything possible to make this as quick a process as possible for them."

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Saturday, September 11, 1999

Guest Worker Program Urged

■ Mexico: Border governors support immigration program, but Davis takes no stand on issue, and leaves early.

By KEN ELLINGWOOD, Times Staff Writer

TIJUANA--Two of the thorniest issues in U.S.-Mexico relations--immigration and drugs--took center stage in surprising new forms Friday as governors from states along both sides of the border wound up their yearly get-together.

Arizona Gov. Jane Dee Hull won the support of her counterparts in Texas and New Mexico for a proposal to create a guest worker program that would enable more immigrants to work legally in the United States on a temporary basis.

California Gov. Gray Davis declined to join in calling on the federal government to expand a little-used program under which agricultural workers are issued temporary visas to enter the United States.

An aide said Davis, the only Democrat among the four Southwest border governors, received the Hull proposal Thursday afternoon. A letter supporting the idea bore the names of Hull, New Mexico Gov. Gary E. Johnson and Texas Gov. George W. Bush, who did not attend the conference.

"The governor is not interested in signing it at this point," said Davis aide Michael Flores.

Davis helped kick off the border gathering Thursday evening but returned later that night to Sacramento to tend to state business, Flores said.

Hull said federal legislation addressing the guest worker issue in general terms would be offered in the next two weeks by U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas) and Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.). "We're not talking specifics," said Hull. "We're talking concepts. There are a lot of unanswered questions."

Hull said a new guest worker program could help fill vacant jobs in construction and other industries in states like Arizona, which has become the nation's hot spot for illegal immigrants skirting tougher border controls elsewhere. Those crossings have sometimes turned deadly as migrants succumb to desert heat and arid terrain.



"Current border policy isn't working," Hull said in remarks closing the two-day session. "Something must be done to acknowledge the fact that U.S. businesses need workers. Something must be done to acknowledge the fact that workers follow work."

Hull's counterparts from Mexico voiced support for her suggestion, saying that it would match demand with supply.

"We have the work force here and they have the need for workers there," said Patricio Martinez Garcia, governor of Chihuahua.

Johnson raised eyebrows by using his closing remarks to lambaste the U.S. war on drugs as "a miserable failure." He proposed studying legalization of drugs as an alternative to a soaring prison population.

Johnson, a conservative Republican, has acknowledged past use of marijuana and cocaine in the 1970s but said he is now personally opposed to drug use.

"We are locking up tens of thousands of people in the United States on drug crimes and we have to look for alternatives," he said.

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1
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News



Site Index





News

Saturday, 11 September 1999

New guest worker plan of Hull's gains support

By Howard Fischer
Capitol Media Services

Gov. Jane Hull picked up support yesterday for a plan to revamp and enlarge the nation's guest worker program as a method of cutting down on illegal immigration.

Hull persuaded New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson, also a Republican, to sign a letter supporting changes in the process employers must go through to bring in workers from Mexico and elsewhere.

The plan would revive the "bracero" agricultural program of the 1940s, '50s and '60s and extend it to other industries with seasonal labor shortages, notably hotels and restaurants.

Hull, in Tijuana, Mexico, for a conference of border governors from the United States and Mexico, said she believes Texas Gov. George W. Bush, a Republican and presidential contender who was not at the session, will join in support.

Aides to Calif. Gov. Gray Davis, a Democrat who also was not there, were evaluating the plan, Hull said.

Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., said he supports Hull's efforts.

But Kyl, who is pushing various immigration bills in Congress, held out little hope for its success: He said the labor unions will persuade President Clinton to veto any meaningful reform.

Kyl also said more needs to be done to seal off the border.

He said enforcement works, with major decreases in illegal immigrants along the California and Texas borders.

That move, however, has pushed illegal immigration elsewhere - notably near Douglas - and helped create the flood that inspired Hull's program.

The governor's move was greeted with skepticism by Bob Park, an advocate of cutting down on both legal and illegal immigration.

Park, best known for his 1988 English-only initiative approved by Arizona voters and later overturned by federal courts, said none of this will do any good until the government enforces laws making it illegal for employers to hire illegal immigrants.

He said it would be very simple to set up a system to allow employers to verify someone's legal status, not unlike what shoppers go through when a merchant runs a credit card through a scanner to get authorization for a purchase.

Employers would have to use that system before hiring someone.

"Then this magnet of jobs would dry up," Park said.

Hull said her plan would increase penalties for those who fail to comply with the new, streamlined program.

The governor said, though, that she is unwilling to dry up the supply of cheap foreign labor.

"There are jobs employers can't fill," the governor said.

Francie Noyes, Hull's press aide, said the other side of having a strong economy is low unemployment.

That means U.S. citizens are unwilling to take certain jobs - at least, not for minimum wage, she said.

Park said it's not a lack of people who need jobs. "It's good American workers won't work for Third World wages," he said.

But Hull rejected the idea employers could pay more to attract U.S. citizens and those here legally.

"You're not going to run a business where you lose money," the governor said.

Hull's plan would revamp the temporary visa program, which currently is rarely used.

She proposes eliminating what she called "extensive administrative requirements, paperwork and regulations" of the current system.

"We believe that an effective guest labor program would provide a reliable, expedient system in which employers can contract guest

workers," says the letter crafted by Hull and signed by Johnson.

The letter also complains that "without an available labor pool, our industries suffer or are forced to relocate out of the United States."

Park said, though, that there is another answer, particularly for agriculture.

He said if the supply of low-cost foreign labor dries up, farmers will be forced to develop more ways to harvest crops through automation.

Noyes said the issue extends far beyond farming.

She said foreign help is a mainstay of other seasonal industries, especially those linked to tourism.

Workers come here during the peak season, make some money and then go back to Mexico or Central America when the job ends.

"You're not necessarily going to get someone who lives in the United States who has a family to support to take that (seasonal) job," she said.

Kyl agreed.

"There are a lot of jobs that most American citizens won't do . . . even if you double their wage," he said.

Hull acknowledged her plan is only a "concept" and some bugs may need to be worked out.

To that end, she proposes having Arizona serve as a pilot state to test a new system.

The state Department of Economic Security would identify which types of jobs have "demonstrated labor shortages" and should be open to temporary foreign workers.

According to Hull, these could include not only agricultural and tourism trades but also construction and landscape labor and even house keepers.

Hull said there are corollary issues, including housing, transportation, Social Security, income taxes and whether the worker's family would be allowed to enter the country.

The governor also wants to explore whether some of each worker's salary should be withheld until that person returns to their country of origin as an "incentive" to return home.

The pilot program would require congressional authorization.

40

Gohl Earl

From: Dioguardi Paul
Sent: Friday, September 03, 1999 9:29 AM
To: Gohl, Earl

Friday September 3 1:58 AM ET

Mexico, U.S. Consider New Temporary-Worker Program

Full Coverage Immigration News

By Dan Trotta

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - There's a dirty word in the history of U.S.-Mexican relations, and Mexican Foreign Minister Rosario Green does not want to hear it again.

The word is "bracero" -- literally, "someone who uses his arms" -- and it was applied to the millions of Mexican migrant workers who received temporary visas to fill labor shortages in the United States under a program that lasted from 1942 to 1964.

Green said Thursday that Mexico and the United States were negotiating again about a temporary visa program, but she exhorted journalists not to use the B-word, which to many Mexicans is synonymous with deplorable working conditions and other abuses.

Washington finally terminated the program amid the U.S. civil rights movement.

"There has been a kind of distortion. Instead of using a long phrase to explain it, people use 'bracero program,'" Green told foreign correspondents summoned to her office after a routinely scheduled appearance before the Mexican Senate.

"We don't want another bracero program, and we're not discussing another bracero program," she said. Instead, Mexican and U.S. negotiators are working toward an agreement under which Mexicans would be welcomed to U.S. farms at harvest time or hotels during peak tourist season.

Green stressed that negotiations were in the early stages and said more details might be available at next year's annual Binational Commission meeting of high-level officials from both countries, set for Washington.

"It would be a program of visiting workers to fill clearly identified niches," Green said. "From farmers to hotel operators, there is a chorus of voices asking to expand the program of visiting workers."

Aside from filling labor shortages and providing Mexicans with hourly wages many would be lucky to earn in a full day back home, such a program also stands to avoid tragedy.

So far this year, 191 Mexican immigrants have died trying to cross the U.S. border illegally in search of jobs, while another 582 have been gravely injured, Green told senators earlier Thursday.

She pointed out that much of the 2,000-mile (3,200-km) border was river, desert or mountain, where people could drown or die of hypothermia or dehydration, if they did not suffocate while hidden in containers or vehicles.

Though Mexicans still face dangers and abuses in the United States, the situation was far worse in the bracero era, according to migrant-worker advocates.

Many braceros worked long hours for little pay and were exposed to pesticides or other dangers.

Complainers sometimes were deported until famed labor organizer Cesar Chavez won rights for Mexican farm workers in California beginning in the 1960s.

San Diego Article

~~Inside~~ memo review export effort

- Absolutely not true -
- Mexican ~~Officials~~ have been testing water - H2A
Gov. Hall
- No negotiations ~~about~~ on this at any level. ~~is~~
- Mexican Undersecretary - opposed
- Rosario Green - supports a contract Labor program - ruling Party
doing something for worker - ~~political~~ political.
- 2 govt contract mistakes -

Q: +A: ^{US}
We cannot ~~not~~ speak. ~~we~~ are not negotiating this

4 people - discussions if that is Rosario

- New Citizenship Data - speaker ~~is~~ for Citizenship Day - Demographic
for those who naturalize. Don't have a data.
- Ms. Gore - ~~MS~~ MS ~~still~~ still gone