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TEXT:
FOX SPECIAL REPORT WITH BRIT HUME

May 16, 2000

BRIT HUME, HOST: Welcome to Washington. I'm Brit

Hume.

President Clinton is engaged this week in an historic struggle against his own party to grant permanent normal trading rights to China. His allies in this fight are congressional Republicans, and his opponents are organized labor, environmental pressure groups and top House Democrats. He needs to win over some of those Democrats, though, to prevail, and he has now gotten one important one, as correspondent Wendell Goler reports.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

WENDELL GOLER, FOX NEWS (voice-over): The most influential undecided member of the House came down off the fence on the president's side, but with his own agenda.

REP. CHARLES RANGEL (D), NEW YORK: A good part of my talk in support of a permanent normal trade relationship with China is going to ask the embarrassing question, "And why not Cuba?"

GOLER: Mr. Clinton didn't answer Charlie Rangel's Cuba question, but he was thankful for his vote.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: Well, I think it's an enormously important decision by Mr. Rangel.

GOLER: The New York congressman is not only expected to shepherd the measure through the Ways and Means Committee Wednesday, one union leader fears Rangel's support may be decisive when the full House votes next week.

CHUCK HARPLE, TEAMSTERS SPOKESMAN: I think what it means is, vote-count-wise, I think he takes two or three votes with him.

GOLER: Votes from lawmakers like fellow New Yorker Gregory Meeks, who met with Chinese dissidents opposed to normalized trade with Beijing but conceded Rangel's sway.

REP. GREGORY MEEKS (D), NEW YORK: But to say that Charlie Rangel does not have influence, you know, would be lying. Charlie does have some influence.

GOLER: Union leaders say they've been losing jobs since NAFTA passed eight years ago over Rangel's and others' opposition. Union leaders fear normalizing trade with China will cost them more jobs to cheap Chinese labor and lead to more free trade deals in South America. So while Rangel's seat may be safe, critics have led an intense lobbying effort targeting other lawmakers. Democratic whip David Bonior says even if the trade agreement looks good on paper, China can't be trusted to follow it.

REP. DAVID BONIOR (D), MICHIGAN: China is sort of like the Bobby Knight of trade deals, you know? They misbehave. They misbehave. They misbehave, and so you let them continue to misbehave.

GOLER: But the president's mounted a strong push, too, talking to every undecided member of Congress, even visiting some of their districts.

(on camera): In fact, the president was headed to Albany for the state party convention that would bless his wife's New York Senate campaign. And Congressman Meeks was on the Air Force One manifest, due for some more high-level arm twisting.

At the White House, Wendell Goler, FOX NEWS.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

HUME: The campaign theme of the week in the presidential race is Social Security, and Vice President Gore is not backing down from his claim that his approach is best. He wants to use the budget surplus to shore up the retirement accounts, and he continues to blast his rival's plan as irresponsible, although he has supported a similar idea in the past. As senior White House correspondent Jim Angle tells us, Gore is hoping the number crunchers will prove him right.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

JIM ANGLE, FOX NEWS (voice-over): Al Gore wanted experts, including former treasury secretary Robert Rubin, to help make his case that stock markets are too risky for Social Security. But Rubin said even letting Social Security itself invest in the markets is a close call.

ROBERT RUBIN, FORMER TREASURY SECRETARY: My own view, for whatever it's worth, is that a moderate portion of the Social

Security trust fund being put in equities is a reasonable plan. You can debate that either way.

ANGLE: Gore has railed against letting people invest part of their taxes in the stock market, rejecting it as stock market roulette, even talking about people being left to live on worthless paper. But at a White House event last year, Gore's views were just the opposite, as he praised investing Social Security funds in the stock markets.

AL GORE, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: You know, during this whole national discussion, one of the single most important, salient facts that jumped out at everybody is that over any 10-year period in American history, returns on equities are just significantly higher than these other returns.

ANGLE: Now, in a session with reporters, Gore argues just the opposite, saying he learned it from Rubin during the roundtable.

GORE: But actually, there have been quite a number of periods longer than 10 years where the equity market did not outperform the returns available in government securities.

ANGLE: At the same time, though, Gore continued his efforts to step back from earlier alarmist statements about the stock market.

GORE: I think that it's a good, sound decision to invest in the stock market.

ANGLE: Gore was delighted to note that Bush economic adviser Larry Lindsay (ph) has told his clients to get out of the market because it's too volatile. When asked about Hillary Clinton, Gore enthusiastically said she's running a great campaign and will win. But President Clinton did not rush to Gore's defense when a reporter pointed

to polls showing him behind and asked Mr. Clinton if he thinks the Gore campaign strategy is working.

CLINTON: I don't want to comment on the campaign.

It's a long time before it's over.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

ANGLE: Now, a White House aide says President

Clinton didn't mean the remarks as a slight, that he was only saying Gore will do better once the debate comes. Of course, there is always the hint that Clinton thinks he could run the campaign better. Said one White House official, ``Sure, he does. And he's right"--Brit.

HUME: With that old quote coming back to haunt him, is it possible, Jim, that Gore's overplayed his hand on this Social Security issue?

ANGLE: Well, there is always a fear that Gore overplays his hands on many of his attacks. Democrats are concerned about that. They think that's one thing that is helping George Bush in the polls. And it is also something, obviously, that the Bush campaign believes that it's helping them. The other thing is that, you know, he went out and criticized the idea of private accounts, even though there are a number of Democrats who have proposed them.

And what happened was, the Gore camp went to some of these Democrats and said, ``How can we criticize George Bush in a way that won't result in you stepping out and saying we're demagoguing the issue?" One of those congressional Democrats said, ``Maybe you should have talked to us before you started ripping apart the idea of private accounts"--Brit.

HUME: Jim, thanks very much.

For his part, Texas Governor Bush isn't offering more details of his plan to save Social Security, but he's sticking by his view that allowing workers to invest some of their Social Security contributions is best. He's making the point that Al Gore once seemed to feel that way. FOX NEWS's Carl Cameron has details.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

CARL CAMERON, FOX NEWS (voice-over): Campaigning in Oregon, Texas Governor George W. Bush added a bit of video ``gotcha" to his crusade for Social Security reform and private retirement accounts that would allow people to invest about a sixth of their contributions to Social Security in equities like stocks.

GOV. GEORGE W. BUSH (R-TX), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE:

... support for investment in the private sector and its reliability from surprising--some--from some surprising place. Why don't you roll that tape.

GORE: ... over any 10-year period in American history, returns on equities are just significantly higher than these other returns.

CAMERON: Reading Gore's remarks aloud several times over, Bush accused Gore of an election-year flip-flop.

BUSH: I hope people in America find it interesting that at one time the vice president was willing to say the salient fact jumped out everybody's over a 10-year period in American history, returns on equities are just significantly higher than other returns. And now that we're in the middle of a campaign, he calls my plan risky.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

CAMERON: Bush's use of Gore's own videotaped words

marks the most effective and aggressive attack on the vice president yet, and the Bush camp says there will be plenty more of it, though they are quick to note that this was not a personal attack, nor did it dig up any past Gore scandal, but it was of substance and policy, the Bush campaign says, and the worst damage to Gore, the Bush campaign maintains, was self-inflicted by the vice president's own inconsistencies--Brit.

HUME: Carl, what do we know about--I mean, all of us should have been aware of that earlier remark by Gore, and we'd all--a number of reporters had pointed out that the administration, including him, had looked more favorably upon such a plan in the past. But how did this particular piece of tape, which the Bush people were pointing to today, come to light?

CAMERON: This is probably the best example of the cooperation between the Republican National Committee and the Bush campaign in Austin to date. The Bush campaign had the quote down in Austin down on paper for some time, but it wasn't until very late the night before the speech and the night before Bush revealed the videotape that the RNC sent an email of the clip of the vice president's comments down to the Bush campaign, and they scrambled all day long in order to get this together.

The RNC is doing the bulk of the research on various different legislative policy positions that the vice president has taken. When it comes to these types of things, the Bush campaign believes there is a lengthy congressional record to mine, and they've got their picks and shovels ready--Brit.

HUME: All right, Carl. Thanks very much.

Coming up next, the latest in the New York Senate

race. Find out what is being said about Rudy Giuliani.

Stay tuned.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

HUME: As was noted earlier, President Clinton changed his schedule so he could be with his wife when New York Democrats officially nominate her to be their Senate candidate. The state party is meeting in Albany. FOX NEWS correspondent Catherine Herridge is at the convention and joins us now live from Albany.

Hi, Catherine.

CATHERINE HERRIDGE, FOX NEWS: Hi, Brit.

That's right, the president will be here tonight. We do not expect him to speak, but we are told that he will make some comments afterwards at a private reception in Albany. And this event is really a coronation for the first lady. She arrived about an hour ago. She waved to the crowd. She also took a couple of minutes to sign autographs with young Democrats.

It's interesting what a big draw Mrs. Clinton is for the party. The best estimate we have so far is that more than 8,000 people are here. Now, to put that into perspective, at the last convention in 1998, they only had 1,200. Now, they've attracted officials from the local, state and, of course, national level, in addition to the president. We're also expecting a speech from Secretary Andrew Cuomo.

Now, the vice president, Al Gore, could not be here this evening because his daughter is graduating from law school, but he did tape remarks last week in Tennessee. We'll describe them this way. Seems part tribute, part campaign pitch.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GORE: First, we're going to honor the remarkable service of your senior senator, Pat Moynihan. And we're going to elect a great national leader to take his Senate seat, my great friend, America's first lady, Hillary Clinton. We're going to win some of the seats that enable us to take back the House and the United States Senate from the Republicans. And by the way, I could use your help here in the Empire State in November.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HERRIDGE: Of course, the main event this evening will be the nomination of Hillary Rodham Clinton. The speech will be given by Senator Chuck Schumer. Party officials describe him as a rising star within the party. The seconding speech will be given by Representative Charlie Rangel, who, of course, is a very strong supporter of the first lady. And another seconding speech will be given by Representative Nita Lowey, who is from the suburban New York City area.

I think that's quite interesting. She's in her sixth term. She was mentioned as far back as '98 as someone who might be a Senate candidate. But of course, she stepped aside when the first lady expressed an interest in the office.

Right now, we're about an hour and a half away from Hillary Clinton's acceptance speech, and of course, this will be a very important moment for her--Brit.

HUME: What are we expecting, Catherine, in her speech? Will this be an attack on her prospective opponent, what?

HERRIDGE: At this point, I don't think we will hear any attacks on Rudy Giuliani. We spoke to her campaign aide this afternoon, Howard Wolfson, and he told us there will be no surprises. She

will stick to very familiar issues from her campaign--children, women, education. They feel these are issues that are resonating with New Yorkers, Brit.

HUME: All right, Catherine Herridge, thanks very much.

HERRIDGE: Sure.

HUME: And coming up next, more on that New York Senate race and Rudy Giuliani's future. We'll talk to ``The Weekly Standard''s Bill Kristol.

Stay tuned.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

HUME: New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani seems at the moment to be leaning toward making the race against Hillary Clinton, but polls suggest his recent troubles may have hurt him with voters. The latest from Quinnipiac College puts Mrs. Clinton ahead by just a point. The same poll, however, suggests that if Giuliani were to give way to Governor George Pataki, the governor would start out with a 5-point lead.

The latest on the mayor and his decision now from correspondent Eric Shawn.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

ERIC SHAWN, FOX NEWS (voice-over): For Rudy Giuliani, it's decision time on how he will treat his prostate cancer and if he will stay in the Senate race against Hillary Clinton. For now, he's keeping a low profile, huddling with doctors, reviewing his options: surgery or radiation. Either would put him on the sidelines for a couple of months.

MAYOR RUDOLPH GIULIANI (R), NEW YORK CITY: I need

this period of time to make a responsible decision, responsible for me, responsible for all the people that I work with, responsible for my family, the people that I care about.

SHAWN: His comments at a Monday night fund-raiser that he's, quote, ``very much inclined to run," were enough to keep New Yorkers talking.

JULEANNA GLOVER WEISS, FRIENDS OF GIULIANI

SPOKESMAN: He's telling reporters and people across the state exactly what he's telling us. Yes, he is inclined to run, but he has to determine whether whatever procedure he chooses to best cure his prostate cancer makes it so that he can run the way he would like to.

SHAWN: Visiting her parents in California, his estranged wife, Donna Hanover, was a little more circumspect than when she last faced cameras and talked about her husband.

UNIDENTIFIED REPORTER: Has Rudy discussed this decision of the Senate race with you?

DONNA HANOVER, RUDY GIULIANI'S WIFE: You know, I'm--we have talked about that. But I'm not going to make any more comments about that.

SHAWN: She returns to New York with her children on Wednesday. A recent Quinnipiac poll shows the Giuliani marital split will have little impact on his chances, with 78 percent saying it makes no difference. Only 16 percent think it makes them less likely to vote for Rudy.

ALFONSE D'AMATO (R), FORMER NEW YORK SENATOR: No one could create a plot like this, and this is real life. And so when they say, you know, truth is stranger than fiction, that is what's taking

place. And no one knows.

SHAWN (on-camera): Sources say Giuliani will disclose his plans by week's end, that he's still staying in the race no matter what course of treatment he picks. That may be wishful thinking. For right now, the mayor's made clear his cancer not his candidacy comes first.

In New York, Eric Shawn, FOX NEWS.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

HUME: Suddenly, many of the very same Republicans who were pushing Rudy Giuliani to run just a while ago are now lining up to bail out on him, claiming that between his illness and his marital break-up, he can't possibly win. It's not clear whether this will discourage the mayor or merely reawaken his famous combative instincts.

For thoughts on this we turn to Bill Kristol, publisher of our sister publication, "The Weekly Standard," and a Republican strategist in his own right. He joins me from our studios in New York.

Hi, Bill. What are you hearing?

BILL KRISTOL, "THE WEEKLY STANDARD": Well, I've seen a bunch of Republicans here in New York today, Brit. Saturday, when I talked to Republicans in New York on the phone, they almost all thought Rudy would have to get out and would get out. Today most of them think he will run. That's the signals they're picking up from his own people. His own people say they don't know. Rudy hasn't confided in them.

But this Quinnipiac poll is a big deal. He's had a horrible week. His--you know, his wife attacks him, basically, and he's

down by 1 point, 44-43? That tells Rudy Giuliani that this is a winnable race. And the other reason I think he will run now is that he does not want it said that he was driven out of this Senate race by a scandal. Even if the truth is that the prostate cancer is what would have driven him out or could drive him out, he had this scandal at the same time. He's a proud man. He does not want it written that he was running against Hillary Clinton and then he had a personal misfortune in his private life, and that drove him out of the race.

So I think his stubbornness and his pride could lead him to run, and if he wants to run, he's the candidate.

HUME: Were you surprised at the extent of Republican criticism of him as a weakened candidate and the apparent sincerity of the criticism that suggested that they thought he was weakened because he'd been, in their eyes, a really bad guy?

KRISTOL: Well, they never liked him, Brit. We forget that. You know, he endorsed Cuomo in '94. He's been difficult to get along with. That's, I think, maybe somewhat to his credit, given the character of the state Republican Party here. And maybe, in some respects, he's been headstrong, too. You got a lot of headstrong characters here in New York, Brit.

But Rudy, I think, will ignore them. And as I say, I think he's very struck--his people today were very struck by that poll. You know, Pataki's running a little stronger, sure, but Pataki is not going to run. That I think he is pretty certain. So it's Rick Lazio or...

HUME: So you take--you take Pataki at his word...

KRISTOL: ... Rudy Giuliani.

HUME: ... really?

KRISTOL: Yes. There was a little bit of movement yesterday. Someone who say him said, ``Oh, maybe he could be persuaded." And his people today are really putting out the word it is out of the question. It is Rick Lazio, the congressman from Long Island, who will run if Rudy gets out. But I've got to tell you, an amazing number of Republicans, both fans of Rudy and enemies of Rudy's, today think he will go ahead and announce that he's running probably Thursday night at this town meeting at the 92nd Street Y here in Manhattan.

HUME: Now, there's been some argument about whether this whole episode would really enduringly damage him with voters, or whether the voters who may have thought that Rudy was a truly hard-hearted guy, almost machine-like in his approach to things, would be somehow--what's the phrase everybody--humanized by this. What's your take on how all this affects the politics of this race?

KRISTOL: It's hard to believe that it helps him. But look, I am struck again by the fact that Mrs. Clinton, even in the best of circumstances, seems unable to get above 44 or 45 percent in these ballot tests against any Republican. Pataki holds her down to around 42. She goes up to 44 against Rudy. It just may be that only 45 percent of New Yorkers want to vote for Mrs. Clinton. Others, some of them may disapprove of Rudy's conduct with regard to his wife, but at the end of the day, they will vote for him against Mrs. Clinton. At least, that's what his people think.

HUME: Well, there is--it is a little difficult, I suppose, to imagine that there are a lot of, you know, hard-core Republicans who, whatever they think about Rudy Giuliani on issues like his endorsement of Cuomo, his stand on abortion, other issues, would not

want to cast a vote against Mrs. Clinton, given the way Republicans feel about her.

KRISTOL: That's true. On the other hand, the one real, I think, drawback Giuliani has is that he will not get the Conservative or the Right to Life lines. Bobby Abrams (ph) would have beaten Al D'Amato in 1992 if D'Amato had not had the Conservative and Right to Life lines. That can make a difference in a close race. That's probably 4 or 5 or 6 percentage points. Someone like Lazio would get the Conservative line. That's a bit of a drawback.

But still, what is most startling is that Mrs. Clinton has had a pretty good couple of months here in New York. The Republicans have been shooting at each other and shooting themselves in the feet, and there she is, 1 point ahead of Rudy Giuliani. Or think of it this way, Brit. Al Gore is 15 or 18 points ahead of George W. Bush in New York. Mrs. Clinton is running 15 points behind Al Gore.

HUME: Oh, that's a point. Speaking of that, by the way, what is your--what is your sense about the--the risk that everyone believes George W. Bush is taking by coming out with a Social Security plan with the privatization element embedded in it?

KRISTOL: I think for now he's winning on it. He's shown leadership. That's the criterion he's clobbering Gore on in the new ``New York Times" poll today. He will have to be able to defend it. Gore will attack him, and this is a real test of George W. Bush. I think if we look up--if we're talking on this show three weeks from now and Gore has not dented Bush's lead with the attacks on Social Security, Bush will have passed the first really formidable hurdle of the general election campaign and it will be an awfully good sign for Governor Bush.

HUME: Very quickly, Bill, lot of people liken this--Democrats liken this to George W. Bush's father in 1988 trailing the putative Democratic nominee then by quite a bit. And he seemed easily to win in the end. Very quickly.

KRISTOL: Gore's favorable/unfavorable in ``The New York Times'' today is 36-38. He has a higher unfavorable than favorable. I don't believe Vice President Bush ever was in that situation in 1988.

HUME: Bill Kristol, great to have you. Hope you'll come back soon.

Got to take a quick break for news headlines. Be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

HUME: Latest now from the political grapevine.

Financially troubled UPI has been bought by News World Communication, the company founded by the Reverend Sun Myung Moon, which also owns the conservative ``Washington Times." The acquisition immediately cost UPI the services of its biggest star, veteran White House correspondent Helen Thomas, who issued a statement saying she won't stay on. The 79-year-old Thomas is dean of the White House press corps, having covered every president since John F. Kennedy. Her decision drew this reaction from President Clinton.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CLINTON: Whatever she decides to do, I'll feel a little better about my country if I know she'll still be spending some time around here at the White House. After all, without her saying, ``Thank you, Mr. President, at least some of us might never have ended our

news conferences."

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HUME: State Department reporters are on the warpath over the department's reaction to last week's testimony that there may be foreign spies posing as journalists in their midst. They are particularly furious over one security official's statement that he would prefer there be no journalists in the building at all. That same official will be on the carpet before Congress again on Wednesday.

Capitol Hill Police are refusing to release their official report on the traffic accident in which Democratic Congressman Tom Lantos struck a 13-year-old boy outside the Capitol building and then drove off. "Roll Call" says Lantos, who was fined \$50, claims the boy was horsing around in a crosswalk when he hit him. Eyewitnesses, however, dispute that, saying Lantos failed to yield and drove slowly over the boy's foot, pinning it beneath a tire until the boy screamed in pain.

The Los Angeles city attorney says there will be no charges filed against Democratic Congressman Patrick Kennedy of Rhode Island over allegations he roughed up an airport security guard. The congressman admits he was rude to the woman when she told him his bag was too big to be X-rayed, but denies her charge that he grabbed and shoved her. Her lawyer, he says, is seeking a monetary settlement from the congressman.

With the presidential nominations locked up, the action outside this summer's political conventions may be more compelling than what's happening inside on the floor. In Philadelphia, protesters are planning to disrupt the GOP convention. And as FOX NEWS correspondent William La Jeunesse reports, the homeless are planning to hold their own

convention in Los Angeles during the Democrats' affair.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

TED HAYES, HOMELESS ADVOCATE: A lot of people coming down (INAUDIBLE) tiny (ph) hotel, going over convention. They're not going to let these foreigners (ph) come and see this (INAUDIBLE) event.

WILLIAM LA JEUNESSE, FOX NEWS (voice-over): When Democrats picked Los Angeles for their convention, they didn't plan on Ted Hayes.

HAYES: They're bringing the world to my front yard. I have to say something about the most oppressed people or the poorest people in this country, the homeless.

Look at this.

LA JEUNESSE: An activist, Hayes will use the Democratic national convention to stage one of his own, hoping, he says, to force party leaders to reconcile what they say inside the Staples Center with what they see outside.

(on camera): Is this an embarrassment to the administration?

HAYES: I would think it is an embarrassment to the administration and all that it stands for.

I think Republicans know what's better than they do.

At least Republicans straightforward. You know, Republicans look at me and say, "No." And I say, "OK, cool." (INAUDIBLE) But the Democrats look at me and say, "Yeah. Yeah. We support you. Oh, yeah." But when it comes time to putting the rubber to the road, you look for the Democrats, you can't find them.

LA JEUNESSE (voice-over): The administration

disagrees. It takes credit for increasing federal aid and assisting 400,000 homeless get off the street.

CLINTON: When I came to Washington, I wanted to do something about homelessness.

LA JEUNESSE: Prior to high-profile events like a convention or Super Bowl, many cities sweep the homeless off the street and out of the public eye. L.A. is promising not to do that.

FRANK MARTINEZ, LOS ANGELES MAYOR'S OFFICE: The city of Los Angeles understands that the homeless are part of our community. We want to work with their organizing groups to allow them to conduct their demonstration.

HAYES: I'm not intent on embarrassing this president, this country, this party, anybody. That's not my intent at all. They've already done that.

LA JEUNESSE (on-camera): That stark contrast of rich and poor may not be the image that Democrats want broadcast while celebrating one president and trying to elect another. Yet if Ted Hayes has his way, that is exactly what the country will see.

In Los Angeles, William La Jeunesse, FOX NEWS.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

HUME: And coming up next, we'll talk about George Bush's election strategy with the man some are calling his secret weapon with young voters, his nephew, George P. Bush.

Stay tuned.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

HUME: If George W. Bush has any hope of winning the

state of California, he will need to win over Hispanic voters there, much as he has in his home state of Texas. In that effort, he may have a secret weapon in the person of his nephew, George Prescott Bush, son of Florida Governor Jeb Bush and his Mexican-born wife, Columba (ph). The youngest George Bush is headed for law school, and in the meantime is working for a lawfirm in Los Angeles, where he's also doing what he can for his uncle in California.

He joins me now from our bureau there.

How are you?

GEORGE P. BUSH, GOVERNOR GEORGE W. BUSH'S NEPHEW:

Not too bad. How about yourself, Brit?

HUME: Very well, thanks.

BUSH: Excellent.

HUME: Tell me about the--what's--what your sense is about that Hispanic vote in California? I have a sense that it may be harder to win over than was the case in Texas and--what's your feeling for it?

BUSH: Well, I think the Latino vote will prove this time around, I think, in election year 2000, to be a very pivotal voter group. I think, you know, whether looking at--looking at it from a Republican or a Democratic perspective, I think Latinos will finally take their place in the national spotlight when you're talking about presidential politics.

I think, as you mentioned before, my uncle was highly successful in the state of Texas by winning 49 percent in his reelection bid, and I think there are many parallels that can be drawn between Texas and California, and I think he will be able to transplant

that winning strategy in Texas to here to California.

HUME: But doesn't he start out at more of a disadvantage than he did in Texas, with the--with the attitude of the Latinos or Hispanic voters there toward the Republican Party?

BUSH: I think--I think so, but I think that that's a challenge that we're willing to take on. We know that there are...

HUME: What is--what is the reason for that, by the way?

BUSH: Well, I think...

HUME: For the disadvantage.

BUSH: There are certain--there's a certain perception that Republicans are monolithic as it relates to our perspectives on immigration, as it relates to education, as it relates to issues that face the Latino community. Basically, for us, within the campaign, we're showcasing my uncle's record as it relates to Latinos in the state of Texas to California. I myself have encountered, you know, some stiff resistance at first, but then when you sit down and (INAUDIBLE) espanol con--with Latino leaders here in the state of California, they're actually very surprised to hear about such a positive record and about his positive record of accomplishment in the state of Texas.

HUME: Now, what--what--what are you doing? I mean, what--what do you do when you go out to work for your uncle?

BUSH: Well, basically, I'm--I think I can bring to the table two interesting things, and that is working with the youth vote. I've been traveling to high schools and colleges. In the course of the campaign, I've traveled to 58 high schools and 20 colleges and universities. I...

HUME: In California or just--or elsewhere?

BUSH: In California, New Hampshire, around the country.

HUME: Right.

BUSH: And also, I try to involve myself in the Latino community. I've been mentoring here and there in East Los Angeles. I've been devoting some time to community events and just kind of listening in and getting a perspective of--of California politics. And from there, you just communicate and you sit down, and that's where you learn. This is the process. This is the stage where--where we have to learn.

HUME: Now, it's been said of you that young women seem to like you. And I don't want to embarrass you, but do you feel you have a particular rapport there, that there's a star quality that--I mean, do you find that they respond to you?

BUSH: Well, I mean, some people have said that, but you know, basically, I'm here for one reason. I'm here to support my uncle, to clear up any misconceptions that people may have about him. If people make those comments about me, and those are certainly taken in a complimentary manner, I'm willing to take that. But really, it's all about getting down to business and talking about issues that are important.

HUME: Talk to me a little bit about--about your own feeling about politics. Obviously, your family's filled with it. Your--your dad, Jeb, is the governor there in Florida. Is this the life for you?

BUSH: I'm not sure, to be honest with you. Right now, I mean, I just turned 24. I try to live my life as if I was 24. I

like to have a good time. I'm focused on graduating from law school and pursuing my own dreams. Politics may or may not be a part of that. But I've definitely had a unique perspective, a unique experience being involved, and I think this is my fifth presidential campaign. But for right now, I prefer to be an assistant or to help others pursue their dreams and to pursue their political ambitions.

HUME: And so you've made no decision. But you are going to law school.

BUSH: Yes, I am.

HUME: All right. Well, George Prescott Bush--"P" I gather everybody calls you?

BUSH: Yes, sir.

HUME: If he's "W," you're "P," right?

BUSH: Yeah.

HUME: All right. Well, it's nice of you to join us. I wish you luck.

BUSH: Thank you very much.

HUME: Be well, and thanks very much.

BUSH: Thank you.

HUME: We have to take a brief break here, but folks, stick around because our panel of journalists, the FOX all-stars, will be here next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

HUME: For perspective now on the momentous events of this day, Fred Barnes, executive editor of "The Weekly Standard," Mort Kondracke, executive editor of "Roll Call," and from the White House,

Mara Liasson, White House correspondent of National Public Radio, FOX NEWS contributors all.

Let's talk for a moment about our colleague, Helen Thomas, who had, as far as I know, no immediate retirement plans until UPI, which has struggled for years financially and with--has very few clients, so far as I know, now, was bought by the company that owns the conservative ``Washington Times," at which point Helen let it be known she will not be staying on.

What do you think? She's...

MORT KONDRACKE, ``ROLL CALL": Well, she's--look, she's an institution in her own right. She can go out and make speeches. I don't think she needs the White House...

HUME: That's where she was--that was where she was when this announcement came, by the way.

KONDRACKE: Yeah. No, she can--she's writing--she has a book out right now and...

HUME: She does.

KONDRACKE: ... and I think she can make quite a nice livelihood. She's 79 years old. Why should she schlep around with the president all the time anymore? I don't think she needs it.

HUME: Mara?

MARA LIASSON, NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO: She wasn't schlepping around...

KONDRACKE: It's a convenient time.

LIASSON: ... with the president too much, as it is.

I mean, she definitely--when I first came on this beat, when Clinton came into office, I mean, she was going on those foreign trips, and I saw her

run in and out of vans and across tarmacs. And I was pretty impressed back then, and...

HUME: Well, that's...

LIASSON: And then she was 71 or 72.

HUME: Well, she was--and she's--because she was a wire service reporter, and the senior wire service reporter, it's worth noting, I think, that she was in every pool, which meant...

LIASSON: That's right.

HUME: ... that she had to be everywhere all the time.

LIASSON: That's exactly right.

HUME: And I must say, I was--I was overwhelmed by this...

LIASSON: Yes.

HUME: ... by her--her stamina.

LIASSON: Oh, I think it was incredible. And that's one of the reasons why just that alone, she commanded respect. I mean, she'd covered the White House for 40 years, since John F. Kennedy. She'd worked at UPI for 57. And my understanding is that she planned to come to work every day until she was no longer physically able. But yes, it's true that for the last couple of years, her job was to be Helen Thomas, and that's pretty much why UPI kept the bureau at the White House open.

FRED BARNES, "THE WEEKLY STANDARD": You know, until she started giving speeches and writing books, she was one of those old people--Mort, you remember--Mort and I actually covered the White House back in the Ford years, back in the...

KONDRACKE: Ancient history.

BARNES: ... middle '70s, ancient history. And Helen was there, and she took...

HUME: Henry Ford years?

BARNES: ... offense--she took offense if she--if the president actually did something and she didn't know about it or she wasn't leading the pool that went around with the president. I mean, she would just chew out press secretaries and so on. And she always got the--usually, I guess, half the time, got the first question at press conferences.

HUME: Oh, yeah.

BARNES: And AP got it the rest of the time. She is most famous--Mort and I were recalling this earlier--for questions that were extremely anti-Israel.

HUME: Well, yeah, she's Lebanese...

BARNES: Right.

HUME: ... of Lebanese extraction. And her--she did have strong views on the Palestinian question which were not--she didn't really attempt to disguise in her--in her questions.

BARNES: Well, if she attempted, she failed.

KONDRACKE: And she had this sort of pleasantly cynical attitude toward all kinds of official--and whoever was in and all that. She got along with them fine, but--but she--you know, she didn't believe a word she heard, and that was her--that was her--part of her...

BARNES: Well, you know, if you're...

LIASSON: Yeah, and I think...

KONDRACKE: ... shtick.

LIASSON: ... in that respect, she was the kind of

quintessential reporter. She did have a lot of respect for the presidency. I think she took the presidents that came in and out of it with a grain of salt. But you know, Fred makes an important point. She was a tireless fighter for access for the press corps here, and she always complained if we were cut out of something. And certainly, in the beginning, don't forget, the Clintons came in, remember, and closed off that corridor up to the press secretary's office. Well...

HUME: She about singlehandedly...

LIASSON: ... I don't think the knew...

HUME: ... blew up that idea!

LIASSON: ... what they were--I don't think they knew what they were--they were getting into.

HUME: Well, they were going to move the whole shmaggie (ph), the whole press operation over to the building across the street. And Helen went crazy at that.

LIASSON: That's right. And she pretty much singlehandedly stopped that one.

BARNES: And I always had the opinion that it's up to White House to give the press as much access as the president wants to. And you know, if that--we'll complain about it, but Helen did not take that viewpoint. She said the president--she felt presidents were obligated to give maximum access to reporters.

HUME: All right. She'll be missed by all. Let's move on for a second here. The president had--got a break today in what has been an uphill struggle to win votes to give permanent normal trade relations to China, normal trade status to China, and he got Charlie Rangel.

BARNES: Right.

HUME: How important?

KONDRACK: Well, I think very significant. I mean, if--assuming that Charlie Rangel can bring some of the other members of the Congressional Black Caucus along with him. And you know, he was--he is a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee. He wants to be chairman, in which case he presumably would want to have decent relations with the business community and would like to get campaign contributions from them, as well. So I think that he gets something in return for this, but he is also a labor stalwart, and it's a blow for labor.

LIASSON: Yeah, I think it's important also because, you know, the people that the--the Democrats that the White House is trying to get for PNTR kind of fall into two camps. There are some that are in tough seats that are being lobbied heavily by both sides and who really have a very difficult political decision to make. There are others, like Charlie Rangel, who are--many of them are African-American members of Congress. They have really safe seats. They usually vote with labor, but they can afford this year, if they want to, to side with Clinton. And I think maybe if Rangel leads the way and brings some with him, the president might be able to eke this out.

BARNES: Well, look, I would dispute, Brit, that this is an uphill fight. When you have the entire business community plus the administration, the White House and the president, for something, they're usually going to get it. If this...

HUME: Well, I know, but...

BARNES: If this somehow loses...

HUME: But remember, though...

BARNES: ... this will be a tremendous...

HUME: But that--but...

BARNES: ... an amazing defeat.

HUME: Yeah, but didn't he have everybody, the same group with him on--on...

KONDRACKE: Fast track?

HUME: ... on fast track authority to negotiate trade deals, and he got shot down on that by the...

BARNES: Yeah, but the business community didn't get involved the way they did earlier on NAFTA and now on China. They're more involved on China, I think, than any issue I've seen in the entire Clinton administration. And they're going to win.

HUME: OK, that's...

LIASSON: Well, that...

HUME: All right, Mort, are they going to win?

KONDRACKE: I thought so, yeah.

HUME: Mara?

LIASSON: I think they'll eke it out, with not as many Democrats as they would have liked.

HUME: All right, that leaves us a little time to discuss this development today in which--with the Bush campaign sort of frantically pointing reporters in the direction of something that Al Gore said not too long ago. We all went back and looked in the library, and lo and behold, he had said something about Social Security and whether it's risky or not to invest Social Security money or--or allow people to invest Social Security in the stock market. And for the benefit of those who may have missed it, this is what he said.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP-January 27, 1999)

GORE: During this whole national discussion, one of the single most important, salient facts that jumped out at everybody is that over any 10-year period in American history, returns on equities are just significantly higher than these other returns.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HUME: Now, of course, he's saying that any effort to allow people to invest in the stock market is risky and they may end up with worthless paper. How badly does this undermine that as a campaign argument with him, or is it just a temporary thing?

KONDRACK: No, no, no. I think--I think this--this is a shot at him. I mean, he--this is out of his own mouth. He's defending--he was defending something different from what Bush proposed, but the principle is the same. And he--and this--this helps Bush considerably out of--you know, out of a statement of Gore's own. The logic is correct.

LIASSON: You know, but also, you know, the Gore camp tried to fight back by getting some quotes from Lawrence Lindsay (ph), who's one of Bush's economists, where he said that he pulled all of his earnings out of--all of his investments out of the market. He wants to sleep at night. He doesn't like any risk. He had warned that stocks were overvalued and we're heading for a tumble.

I think to defend the vice president here, the Clinton administration put forward a proposal where Social Security itself, the government itself, would take some of the trust fund and put it into the stock market to get those higher returns. Gore has never said that he is against people investing in the stock market or that he doesn't

recognize the obvious fact that you can get higher returns. What he's objecting to is individual accounts. That's the difference between him and...

HUME: But he's objecting to...

BARNES: Well, wait a minute! Wait a minute! Wait a minute!

HUME: ... Mara--wait a minute--he's objecting to them, isn't he, Mara, because he believes that the stock market is too risky for people to invest in the market.

LIASSON: Oh, I...

HUME: So on the one hand, he's...

(CROSSTALK)

LIASSON: On their own. Now, if you collectivize the risk, which is what the Clinton administration was proposing in 1999, you would--the thinking was at that time that the risk would be--would be lessened.

BARNES: Well, I don't know that...

LIASSON: It wouldn't be just one poor schmoe who invested wrong losing his Social Security...

(CROSSTALK)

HUME: Does the distinction that Mara points out, that the--does that hold up?

BARNES: Well, it's like a mutual fund, if you--if you have a balanced account, you know, you have some technology stocks and a variety of things, then, yeah, there is less risk. And perhaps that's true for the government. But he's talking about the same stock market, though, and says it--and says it's too risky. I think this does kind of

hurt Gore.

KONDRACKE: No, he said it could be made safe by restricting the--the kinds of investments that you could make in index funds and stuff like that, which is exactly Bush's point.

BARNES: You want to have a diversified account, but you know, Bush is right about Larry Lindsay, that probably read your review in which you mentioned that, Brit.

HUME: That's true. Larry Lindsay's been out of the market and has missed the big run-up.

And that's all the time we have for the panel, but stay tuned for a look at a congressman who says he doesn't want any White House kickbacks.

We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

HUME: Finally, whenever a president is lobbying Congress hard before a close vote, there are inevitable questions about what sort of favors the chief executive may be dispensing to win over wavering members. Democrat Charlie Rangel was a big catch for the president on the China trade issue, but he did not have any trouble with the questions about what he got for his support. Watch.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED REPORTER: Mr. Rangel, now that you've announced your decision, and obviously, the administration will be happy with that, are they offering to do anything nice for you?

RANGEL: Yeah, they're going to give me a free plane ride up to Albany so I can endorse the president's wife. Big deal. Huh?

(LAUGHTER)

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HUME: I love that. ``Huh?"

And that's SPECIAL REPORT for this time. Please come again next time, and in the meantime, stay tuned for news, fair and balanced, as always.

END

ARMS Email System

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CREATOR: Maria Alexandra Arriaga (CN=Maria Alexandra Arriaga/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

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SUBJECT: Women's Wear Daily -- Buddy MacKay

TO: David L. Evans (CN=David L. Evans/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Francisco J. Sanchez (CN=Francisco J. Sanchez/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
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TEXT:
Attached is an article on KHM at the AAMA. This is the leading apparel
manufacturers' journal.

----- Forwarded by Maria Alexandra Arriaga/WHO/EOP on

05/31/2000 05:42 PM -----

Steve Lamar <slamar@americanapparel.org>

05/31/2000 05:46:20 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Maria Alexandra Arriaga/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Women's Wear Daily -- Buddy MacKay

NEXT UP: HEMISPHERIC FREE TRADE

5/31 Women's Wear Daily

Byline: Jim Ostroff

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. -- As a top White House envoy lauded American makers for their role in engineering the enactment of a historic law giving Caribbean Basin nations trade incentives to produce apparel in the region, he also urged them to crank up their lobbying efforts again to ensure the creation of a hemispheric free-trade zone by 2005.

"While today is a time for celebrating an important trade success, our work is not done," Kenneth H. "Buddy" MacKay Jr., White House Special Envoy to the Americas, told members of the American Apparel Manufacturers Association

at its three-day annual meeting here.

Makers had sought for seven years since the passage of NAFTA to gain free-trade parity with Mexico for Caribbean Basin nations, where many U.S. firms have set up apparel-assembly operations, but the White House envoy said this was just one piece of a comprehensive plan to build hemispheric trade.

"Beyond the CBI, a larger market is within our reach: the rest of the Americas, which [could present] great opportunities for U.S. manufacturers,"

said MacKay, a onetime Florida congressman who was that state's lieutenant governor from 1990 to 1998.

MacKay said that creation of Free Trade Areas of the Americas, stretching from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, would establish a trade bloc of 800 million people with a \$10-trillion gross domestic product, far surpassing that of the European Union or Asian blocs.

"As the EU continues to consolidate and as China rises in the east, we have to make sure that we do not overlook the market that our closest neighbors provide," MacKay said.

In a separate interview with WWD, Clinton's trade emissary said that the creation of this hemispheric trade zone is "especially vital" come 2005, when apparel and textile quotas end for all World Trade Organization member

countries.

With this free-trade zone, MacKay said, American apparel and textile producers and other industries, "will be more competitive than they could be otherwise" with those outside this hemisphere who still will have to pay import duties.

In seeking to enlist American firms to expand free trade, MacKay asserted that time is of the essence. Negotiations to create this free-trade zone soon will reach a critical point "where the tough issues" will have to be settled.

To do this, it's generally agreed that the U.S. president must have fast-track authority, which permits U.S. negotiators to conclude a trade treaty and submit it to Congress for approval with no amendments permitted. This authority lapsed in 1994.

Meanwhile, the outlook for increased apparel sourcing in the CBI region with parity is especially good, said Donald Planty, executive director of Caribbean/Latin American Action, a Washington lobbying group.

Planty, the U.S. ambassador to Guatemala from 1996 to 1999, noted that El Salvador alone expects to triple its apparel exports here to perhaps \$4 billion in as little as three years.

He said the outlook for increasing apparel manufacture in other CBI countries, and the Dominican Republic in particular, also is upbeat in light of the new law.

AAMA members were told that the Canadian market is a good prospect for U.S. producers, said Jeff Otis, president and chief operating officer of Grand National Apparel Inc., Toronto.

Specifically, Otis noted that Sears, the Bay and Zellers account for more than 27 percent of all Canadian retail sales, and 32 percent with Wal-Mart included.

Consequently, he said this retail concentration makes it easier for U.S. vendors to sell marketing programs in Canada.

Mexico is seeking to increase production and U.S. investment, said Alejandro Faes Noriega, president of Mexico's apparel trade group, the Camera Nacional de la Industria del Vestido.

He noted that his group, in league with the Mexican government, is working to expand programs to train employees for apparel- and textile-industry jobs and is creating even more "textile cities" where fiber, textile and apparel-assembly operations are colocated.

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: maxtrade@baucus.senate.gov (maxtrade) (maxtrade@baucus.senate.gov (maxtrade) [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:14-JUN-2000 19:00:20.00

SUBJECT: Senator Baucus on Trade and Environment Issues

TO: Ira_Wolf@baucus.senate.gov (Ira Wolf) (Ira_Wolf@baucus.senate.gov (Ira Wolf) [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

Amy V. Oberdorfer (CN=Amy V. Oberdorfer/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
Senator Baucus spoke today about trade and environment and the international financial system. I hope you find this useful.
As always, we appreciate any comments you might have. (Please don?t respond with a ?good? or ?right on?.
If you do not want to receive these messages, please let me know. If you want to continue to receive them, do NOT send any reply.
Finally, if you want someone else added to the distribution list, please let me know.
Ira Wolf

Senator Max Baucus
?The Role of the Environment in International Trade and Development?
Conference Sponsored by
The Council of Foreign Relations and the New America Foundation
June 14, 2000

It is a pleasure being here today. I would like to congratulate Walter Mead and Sherle Schwenniger for leading a working group on an important and challenging set of issues. Their paper offers some very useful insights and suggestions.

I think we have all observed that our international economic institutions do not change fast enough to keep up with fundamental shifts in the world economy. As a result, we are witnessing a widening gap between nations that participate fully in the global economy and those that don?t.

Compare West Africa to Southeast Asia.. Forty years ago, they were at the same stage of development, and had similar prospects. Today, West Africa is

visibly
poorer than it was after independence. Meanwhile, countries like
Singapore and
Malaysia are ready to join the club of developed nations. I hope all of
you can
come up with some workable recommendations on how to increase capital
flows to
lift up especially the poorest countries.

I also hope that you can prod the IMF and World Bank into greater openness.
Only two months ago, the DC police arrested 1,300 people just a few blocks
away
from here. That was remarkable, given how little attention the Bank and
the
Fund normally get.

The April protests, as well as the ones late last year in Seattle, were
indicators of the doubts shared by many Americans about whether the Bank,
the
Fund and the WTO help or hurt. This is not isolationism; it is something
else
altogether. It is, in part, a demand that publicly financed bodies be
made
publicly accountable. As a political leader, I am committed to ensuring
that
accountability, and I look forward to hearing recommendations from your
Working
Group.

Role of Economics in Foreign Policy

There is a cliché about how economic issues are becoming more important
than
security issues now that the Cold War is over. Like most clichés, it's not
quite true. Trade and finance have been central issues since America was
founded. When Benjamin Franklin went to France as the first US envoy, he
was
greatly concerned with trade matters. In fact, in a rare instance where we
actually agreed with France on a trade issue, Franklin's 1778 Treaty of
Alliance
covered commerce and navigation as well as mutual defense.

Economic prosperity and security are natural complements. Both are needed
for
national well-being. And if you think back to the end of World War Two,
the
world's economic architecture preoccupied world leaders as much as the
political
architecture.

One thing has changed in recent years. We are faced with a new set of
issues
that did not arise at Bretton Woods, and that did not arise at Yalta.
These

issues include narcotics interdiction, human rights, global terrorism, the environment. They don't fit neatly into our traditional foreign policy categories, and our institutions were not designed with them in mind.

That is particularly true of the environment, which is my focus this afternoon.

The World Bank has made some progress in bringing the environment its policy decisions. The WTO is still struggling with environmental issues, so far without much success. And the IMF is lagging even further behind.

MDB's, IMF and the Environment

Let's look briefly at international financial institutions. For the World Bank

and the multilateral development banks, environmental concerns arise most often

in infrastructure project loans. We've developed a substantial body of knowledge on the potential environmental effects of these kinds of projects, and

there is an army of experts proficient at environmental impact studies.

It is not a question of know-how. It is a question of how seriously the development banks take the environment. The World Bank has an environmental

analysis section. Is its role strong enough? It has a policy to take environmental considerations into account. How is it implemented? The banks

have the know-how. Do they have the institutional will?

Every year USAID reports to Congress on MDB projects with environmental concerns. That latest report lists 161 such projects, representing a capital of

over \$35 billion. It is important to stimulate this investment flow. But we

have to ensure that these projects are not just economically sound, but also

environmentally sound. This is an area where US leadership is critical.

Across the street from the World Bank, the situation is different. The IMF has

an environmental know-how problem. They don't know how to predict environmental

impacts of their long-term structural adjustment program.

Suppose, for example, that under an IMF program, Indonesia opens the palm oil

sector to foreign investors. Can the IMF predict whether palm plantations will

encroach on rainforests? Probably not. The Fund is not equipped institutionally to consider these environmental issues. Fund officials generally talk to treasury officials and central bankers, not environment ministers.

That should change. We are all in the process of re-examining the role of

the
IMF in international finance. The Meltzer Commission, for one, has made
some
controversial recommendations about the Fund getting out of the long-term
lending business altogether. That's a tough call. But one thing is
certain.

If the Fund does continue to run structural adjustment programs, it must
develop a way to ensure the public that our tax dollars don't contribute to
needless environmental damage.

The WTO and the Environment

Let me move from finance to trade and the environment. I believe very
strongly
in the importance of open markets and have been fighting those battles
throughout my political career. I have led the fight for unconditional
normal
trade relations with China for ten years, and am leading the PNTR battle
this
year. At the same time, I am the ranking Democrat on the Senate
Environment
and Public Works Committee. I have been committed to the environment
since I
was a boy growing up in Montana, and I believe it is our moral duty to
leave the
world's environment in as good condition as we found it.

In today's global economy, there is no rational alternative to open
markets.
But we don't increase trade for its own sake. The aim is to improve the
quality
of life. It is a multi-dimensional problem, and the environment is one
crucial
dimension.

There are two extreme schools of thought on the relationship between trade
and
the environment. And both of them are wrong.

The first school holds that more trade means more growth. More growth
hurts the
environment. Conclusion: trade hurts the environment. This is the
?zero-growth
school? which the GATT-zilla crowd adheres to. Their logic is flawed.

The other extreme is the ?trickle-down school? which holds that rich
countries
have cleaner environments than poor countries. Trade makes countries
richer.
Conclusion: trade improves the environment. That logic is also flawed.

The world is much more complex than either school would have it.

These two extreme schools came to loggerheads during the NAFTA and fast

track
debates in the 1990's. As a result, the business and environmental
communities
ended up on opposite sides an issue, and the gap between them has grown
wider
and wider. This is a bad result -- bad for business; bad for the
environment;
bad for America; and, ultimately, bad for the world trading system.

I take a different approach from both the zero-growth and the trickle-down
crowds. In talking to leaders from the business world and environmental
community, I am struck by how close they are on a number of environmental
issues. Unfortunately, when they get together -- something they should do
more
often ? the conversation centers on where they disagree.

My goal over the past few months has been to identify areas where the
business
and environmental communities may agree, and then focus on those areas.
If we
can develop and then expand the ?middle ground?, we may be able,
ultimately, to
reach a domestic consensus on trade and the environment.

In fact, Greg Mastel and Steve Clemons of the New America Foundation have
been
very helpful in this regard. The New America Foundation is supporting a
project
I am spearheading to bring business and environmental leaders together
with a
small group of Senators to firm up that middle ground and expand it.

This is in everyone?s interest. The business community will never see fast
track authority from Congress unless they reach an understanding on the
environment. The environmental community will never make progress on
their core
issues in the trade area unless they reach an understanding with the
business
side.

The United States cannot provide leadership at the WTO unless we have the
support of the American people. This requires a consensus on trade and
environment issues. And without US leadership, there will be no progress
in the
WTO.

Some Concrete Measures on Trade and the Environment

How can we establish a proper linkage between trade and the environment?
Let
me offer two general principles and a few specific examples.

The first principle is that trade does not always trump the environment.
There

is no reason to believe that open trade and free market access must always take precedence over protecting the environment.

The second principle is that the environment does not always trump trade. I've been working on environmental issues for more than two decades now. I have seen numerous occasions where we have been willing to run certain environmental risks and accept certain environmental damage when we determined that economic benefits outweighed environmental costs.

We need to balance trade and environmental goals. Here are four specific suggestions on measures we can take.

First, we have to make the WTO more transparent, especially the dispute resolution process. It is much too secretive. Both business and the environmental groups would benefit from an open process. I am greatly puzzled by resistance to this from our European friends and others.

Second, we have to integrate multilateral environmental agreements ? MEAs -- into the trade system. This is where the ?trade trumps environment? problem arises most often. Actions taken under an MEA should not be subject to a WTO challenge. We should start out by grandfathering existing MEAs, such as the Montreal Protocol and CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. We did this with NAFTA. Then we need to develop rules for deciding which new MEAs will be protected against WTO challenges.

Third, the United States must conduct a thorough environmental assessment of major trade agreements. President Clinton signed an Executive Order committing the U.S. to this domestically, a good start. Other WTO members should follow the lead of the U.S. and the European Union and look carefully at environmental consequences of trade agreements.

Fourth, we should eliminate all tariffs on environmental goods. Business and environmentalists agree on this one. Developing countries would be able to protect their environment at a lower cost. I have introduced legislation giving the President the authority to do this.

These are four concrete projects that business and environmental leaders can

work on together. I, along with some of my colleagues, will give them the necessary political support. Once we succeed with these projects, we can move on to the more difficult issues.

For example, we need to deal with the so-called "pollution subsidy", that is, the practice of some countries whereby they intentionally weaken environmental standards to support exports or attract investment. Environmentalists and responsible companies oppose this practice. We need to develop a proposal and then work at the WTO for broad agreement on rules.

We must also find a way to handle production processes and methods -- "PPM" in the environmental jargon. We have already done this for intellectual property where we look at how an import was made as well as where it was made. It took a lot of time and energy to succeed in having intellectual property PPMs accepted into the WTO. We should do the same with the very complicated issues of environmental PPMs.

Conclusion

The great American philosopher, Yogi Berra, once complained that the Autumn shadows made it hard to play afternoon games at Yankee Stadium. He said "It gets late early out there."

That's what I see happening with the environmental side of trade and finance. It's going to get late very soon. I applaud the work you are doing to shed some light on the world architecture of trade and finance, and I encourage you to include environmental issues as a core element of your study.

Thank you.

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CREATOR: "LEXIS /NEXIS Print Delivery" <lexis-nexis@prod.lexis-nexis.com> (R) (R) ("LEXIS /NEXIS Print Delivery" <lexis-nexis@prod.lexis-nexis.com> (R) (R) [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 6-JUL-2000 06:25:32.00

SUBJECT: immigration

TO: Irene Bueno (CN=Irene Bueno/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
LEXIS-NEXIS Universe Update Report: July 06, 2000 at 06:19

Results from this Update: 56

Next Update: July 06, 2000 at 12:00

Access your results at:
http://web.lexis-nexis.com/lm.universe/pnews/emailAlert?_pnewsAlert=0x00010130-0x00004b26%2f0x00010130%2f20000706%2f06%3a18%3a24

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July 5, 2000, Wednesday 1:32 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; POLITICAL

LENGTH: 164 words

HEADLINE: Bush Vows to Improve INS to Woo Latino Voters

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, July 5

BODY:

U.S. presumptive Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush
Wednesday

vowed to improve the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to court Latino voters.

Addressing the annual convention of the National Council of La Raza, a Hispanic advocacy group, Bush pledged 500 million dollars in new spending to cut the average time needed to process a citizenship application to six months from three to five years at present.

"We will bring to the INS a new standard of service and a culture of respect," the Texas governor said while campaigning in San Diego, California.

"We've got an INS that is too bureaucratic, too stuck in the past."

Last week before another Hispanic audience, Bush proposed to split the INS into two agencies, one for legitimate immigrants and another for border enforcement.

He also proposed allowing relatives of permanent residents to visit the United States while their own immigration papers are being processed.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 6, 2000

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Copyright 2000 Agence France Presse

Agence France Presse

July 6, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

LENGTH: 662 words

HEADLINE: George W. Bush outlines vision of inclusion for Hispanic Americans

BODY:

SAN DIEGO, California, July 5 - Republican presidential candidate George W.

Bush pitched his vision for a United States that embraces Latinos, speaking here on the final day of the National Council of La Raza's (NCLR) annual gathering.

"I hold such a great respect for the hispanic culture, a culture that honors faith and respects family," said Bush during a luncheon, some two days

after his

Democratic rival and US Vice President Al Gore was hosted at the same event.

"And the interesting untold story, that America needs to know, it's a culture that respects entrepreneurial growth," Bush added, to an audience of some 2,500 people.

The NCLR, set up in 1968, is a non-profit organization that seeks equal opportunities in the United States for Hispanic Americans.

Appearing on the eve of his 53rd birthday in this border city, Texas Governor Bush admitted that he still has "a lot of work to do" in California where the Republican party is perceived as being staunchly anti-immigrant.

During the luncheon, though, he said he gives himself "a good chance."

Bush reminded participants that in Texas, despite initial skepticism, he won his 1998 reelection with the vote of almost half the state's Hispanics -- thanks to his achievements in education and "building new bridges and reaching out to the people."

Making the most of the opportunity to present his nephew George P. Bush, who has just been appointed to a key role in Bush's presidential campaign, he said, to strong applause, "We are very happy to have hispanic blood in my family."

Less than a month ago, he produced the handsome George Prescott Bush, 24, as a trump card aimed at winning the hispanic and youth vote in the November election.

The younger Bush is the son of Florida governor Jeb Bush and his Mexican-born wife Columba. He appeared in a two-day ad campaign on New York television channels recently on behalf of his uncle.

Like his rival Al Gore, Bush dedicated much of the content of his speech to education, saying, "the future of America depends on making sure that every child is educated."

But the issue that appeared to most interest his audience was that of immigration.

"Family values don't stop at the Rio Grande river. People are coming to our country to find work, so they can feed their family. We have to have an INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) that understands that," he said.

Bush said he would split the INS in two if he wins on November 7, putting one division in charge of border issues and the other to focus exclusively on providing services to the "new Americans."

He also promised a wait of no more than six months for immigration paperwork, rather than the years it can currently take.

He also reaffirmed his commitment to free trade, the cornerstone of which, he said, is the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), comprising the United States, Canada and Mexico.

"A strong Mexico is good for the United States of America, a prosperous Mexico is good for our relations," he said.

Almost two thirds of the 31 million Hispanics who live in the United States originate from Mexico.

And Bush, stating that his priority was free and fair trade with the United States' southern neighbor said he would seek fast track authority from Congress to sign new deals with the nation.

Bush has already spoken to Mexico's president-elect Vicente Fox, to congratulate him, he said, on his election Sunday.

He said he looked forward to having the same relationship with Fox as he enjoyed with "my friend," President Ernesto Zedillo.

Promising to "work hard" and "stand on rock solid principles," Bush ended his presentation to less enthusiastic applause than that given to Gore earlier this week, but said he had been "pleased with the response" of the audience.

Bush is still 16 points behind Gore in popularity with US Latinos, with some 50 percent of Hispanics currently saying they will support Gore.

ra/jlp/mac

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 5, 2000

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The Christian Science Monitor

July 6, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: WORLD; Pg. 7

LENGTH: 968 words

HEADLINE: China's other export: human contraband

BYLINE: Kevin Platt , Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

DATELINE: BEIJING

HIGHLIGHT:

Top US official travels through China this week to combat illegal smuggling.

BODY:

The top "border guard" in the United States, INS head Doris Meissner, is traveling throughout China this week to try to drum up support for a joint clampdown on illegal, would-be trans-Pacific migrants.

The Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service partly blames "official collusion" in human smuggling rings here for the skyrocketing number of Chinese who are evading border patrols to enter the US or Western Europe.

Ms. Meissner says she and a large delegation of US immigration officials flew to Beijing to underscore the importance of combating "alien smuggling and the abusive practices involved ... [which were] horrifically demonstrated three weeks ago in Dover, England."

She was referring to the deaths of 58 Chinese who suffocated as they were being secretly trucked into Britain in an underground exodus that began in China's Fujian province and ended just short of the migrants' promised land: the rich, free West.

Meissner says while Beijing has offered help in repatriating Chinese detained in the US as illegal immigrants, it has been less forthcoming in tracking down and punishing snakeheads, or mafia-type gang leaders who run smuggling rings here.

Meissner is now visiting Fujian, on China's east coast, which for the past half year has been the epicenter of a multibillion-dollar corruption scandal. Despite a crackdown on smuggling that has netted top Communist Party, military, and Customs officials, Fujian remains a haven for snakeheads, and US officials imply corrupt communist cadres must be shielding some gang leaders.

Meissner says that while 1,000 illegal immigrants from China were sent back by the US in 1999, the figure is likely to quadruple this year.

China's Communist leadership, meanwhile, is repeating calls for the US to end its policy of granting sanctuary to the politically and religiously persecuted who seek freedom on American shores.

A top Chinese official recently said the US should end its role as a beacon of refuge for dissidents worldwide in order to prevent its beams of freedom from attracting all types of migrants, from political to economic.

The state-run China Daily recently quoted a foreign ministry official here as saying "criminal gangs, taking advantage of flaws in other countries' laws, often get would-be immigrants to apply for political asylum in their target countries," and suggested that ending asylum would stop the flow of illicit migration.

Experts on both sides of the Pacific say the US and other target nations, as the world's leading promoters of free world trade, may have unleashed an unstoppable side-effect of globalization as more humans begin following finance, information, culture, and television signals that criss-cross the planet at ever-greater speeds.

Yan Xuetong, a scholar at the Chinese Institute of Contemporary International

Relations, says that for a growing number of Chinese, the World Wide Web provides navigation tools not only for cyberspace, but also for political havens across the planet for various groups.

Mr. Yan, who works at a government think tank in Beijing, says members of the banned Falun Gong spiritual movement living in exile "are using the Internet to tell fellow practitioners [in China] to come to the US to get asylum."

He says it is somewhat ironic that Washington, which for decades has been pushing Beijing to open up to the world, is now asking China to use police and soldiers to maintain prisonlike controls on its borders.

But rather than echo Beijing's calls for target countries in the West to strengthen their legal fortresses against immigration, Yan says every nation in the world should start dismantling its barriers to cross-border movement as part of a trend toward global rights standards.

"Freedom of movement should be regarded as important as freedom of speech," says Yan. "If you don't have the right to speak out in country A, you should at least have the freedom to move to another country where you do have that right."

To illustrate the point, Yan says "the people of North Korea should have the right to move if they don't have freedom of speech in their homeland."

In taking that stand, Yan is in conflict with his government, which refuses to grant refugee status or asylum to North Koreans who manage to secretly cross into China.

Frank Lu, a one-time Chinese democracy activist who now monitors the mainland's human rights abuses from Hong Kong, says there is another reason the US should not press too strongly for China to erect a bamboo curtain around its borders.

Mr. Lu says that while snakeheads have led countless Chinese into danger or death, they have also on occasion provided invaluable help for dissidents to flee to safety abroad.

Lu should know: He was a student leader during the massive pro-democracy protests that shook China in 1989, and was imprisoned in southern China until he

escaped four years later.

"I paid 3,000 yuan to snakeheads who used a speedboat to take me to Hong Kong,"

Lu says. "And the government quickly gave me political asylum."

But since British rule over Hong Kong ended with China's takeover in 1997,

Lu

says the enclave has stopped providing sanctuary to Chinese dissidents, and adds

that they will in the future be forced to forge pacts with snakeheads to reach

political protection in the West.

The INS commissioner said earlier this week in Beijing, that although Washington

is unlikely to be able to stop the flow of illegal migrants without

Beijing's

help, the US had no intention of bolting American gates to victims of Chinese

repression.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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The Dallas Morning News

July 6, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: NATIONAL POLITICAL NEWS

KR-ACC-NO: K7286

LENGTH: 904 words

HEADLINE: Bush offers plan to speed immigrants' paperwork

BYLINE: By Frank Trejo

BODY:

SAN DIEGO, Calif. _ Aiming for the crucial Latino vote, GOP presidential hopeful George W. Bush on Wednesday revealed more details of his plan to reorganize the nation's immigration service, and said he would spend \$500

million to reduce the time it takes to process immigrants' applications.

Speaking to about 2,000 people at the annual conference of the National Council of La Raza, Bush said that it now can take as long as five years to process the paperwork for immigrants to legally enter the country. The governor said that as president he would institute a six-month standard for completing the process.

"Family values don't stop at the Rio Grande. But sometimes the INS sends a different message," Bush said. "My administration will reform the INS and make it worthy of a nation of immigrants."

Bush said that as president he would provide \$500 million over five years to achieve his goal of cutting the application process to an average of six months. He vowed to beef up personnel and offer incentives to immigration workers to process applications more quickly.

The plan was an expansion of Bush's proposal last week to divide the immigration agency into two separate entities, one for border enforcement and one for services. He also said relatives of permanent residents should be allowed to visit the United States while their immigration papers are being processed.

Cecilia Munoz, vice president of the National Council of La Raza, said the ideas Bush proposed Wednesday are good concepts, "but it's the details where the real work lies."

"It makes sense to divide the INS into two agencies, but Hispanic advocacy groups have in the past opposed similar plans from congressional Republicans because of the way they were written. They would have created even more problems because of a lack of accountability in the service area," Munoz said.

The significance of the Latino vote in this year's presidential election prompted both major presidential candidates to appear at the annual National Council of La Raza conference for the first time.

Vice President Al Gore spoke to a boisterous crowd of about 2,000 people Monday evening in a "town hall" setting that at times resembled a cross between

a pep rally and a religious revival.

Bush's reception Wednesday was, by contrast, warm and polite, but not nearly as enthusiastic.

After his speech, Bush told reporters that he was pleased with the response but acknowledged that "I've got a lot of work to do in California." He said many in California still equate Republicans with the anti-immigration proposition 187, which would have cut government services for undocumented immigrants.

"Initially it's been tough, but slowly and surely we're making progress (with the Latino vote)," he said.

Nationwide, Gore leads in polls among Hispanics, with about 50 percent, though he still fails to have the support President Bill Clinton received in 1996.

While Gore leads among Hispanics in California, Bush has strong support in Texas and Florida, with its heavily Republican Cuban-American population. That means the battle for Latino votes will be especially hard-fought in New York and Illinois, which also have large Hispanic populations.

Mexican-Americans, who make up more than 65 percent of the Hispanic population, traditionally have voted Democratic.

Some of that strong Democratic support was evident at the National Council of La Raza conference, even though the organization is officially non-partisan. California Lt. Gov. Cruz, Bustamante, a Democrat, drew loud cheers, for example, when he referred to candidates who "come, speak a little Spanish and ride in our Cinco de Mayo parades."

"You can't be a Georgie come lately to the barrio," he said, noting that Gore has visited California more than 80 times during this campaign.

Among those who say they strongly support Gore was Aniceto Colunga, who heads a Head Start program for migrant children in Laredo. Colunga called Bush's record in dealing with Hispanic poverty "dismal."

"I think this (Clinton-Gore) administration has done more for children

in
Head Start and other early childhood programs than any other in history,"
he
said.

"The National Head Start Association has requested that Gov. Bush
support
full funding for Head Start and he has yet to even respond to us."

Bush, however, defended his record, saying that during his
gubernatorial term
in Texas, Hispanics have drastically closed educational achievement gaps,
as
well as income gaps.

Patricia Diaz-Dennis, a Texan who served in the administration of Bush's
father, President George Bush, praised Bush, noting that he had opposed
English-only efforts and had been a staunch critic of Proposition 187.

Among those listening carefully to Bush's speech was 18-year-old Eric
Mendez,
a recent high school graduate from Elgin, Ill.

Mendez said he was pleased to hear Bush's proposal.

"Everyone knows that it takes way too long for the paperwork to be
processed," Mendez said. "If something can be done to cut that time, that
would
be great."

"I think Al Gore spoke more freely and more sincerely to us," he added.
"But
they both had good ideas."

Mendez said he probably would support Gore, "but we all have to look
into our
hearts to decide who would be best for the country."

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LOAD-DATE: July 6, 2000

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Financial Times (London)

July 6, 2000, Thursday USA Edition 2

SECTION: WORLD NEWS: US & CANADA; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 866 words

HEADLINE: WORLD NEWS: US & CANADA: Humane plan for Latin migrants SOCCER
AND
POLITICS 'BEAUTIFUL GAME' INSPIRES KINDER SOLUTION TO CALIFORNIA'S
ECONOMIC
REFUGEE PROBLEM:

BYLINE: By CHRISTOPHER PARKES

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES

BODY:

When the AFL-CIO union confederation held a rally in Los Angeles last month to support its call for an amnesty for illegal immigrants, even its most phlegmatic officials were astonished to see more than 15,000 people turning up to whoop their support in the city's Arena soccer stadium.

The rally came on the heels of a moral and financial victory scored by striking city janitors - nearly all of them Latino.

More significantly, both events provided further evidence of growing solidarity within a Latino population traditionally known for its fragmentation and meek acceptance of the status quo.

Peaceful and good natured, the rally also gave heart to a small group of state policymakers and academics seeking a more practical - and humane - response to the ceaseless flow of Hispanic economic refugees than the anti-immigrant legislation launched in the late 1990s.

They believe that the energy and financial resources of Mexicans and other Latinos living in California, reinforced with modest state assistance, can be tapped to bring economic growth to the towns and villages they fled and reduce the pressure to escape.

They also believe that the agents for change are readily at hand. Most obvious is the estimated Dollars 6bn-Dollars 8bn in cash remittances sent home annually by Mexicans living in the US.

Less apparent, but key, are the so-called hometown associations (HTAs)
- 180

of them in Los Angeles - which provide a tenuous lifeline to their members' birthplaces.

Member-hungry unions may claim credit for the spectacular turn-out for their amnesty rally, but most is due to the influence of the associations that saw in immigration reform a common cause as important to them as the soccer clubs from which they evolved.

The "beautiful game" is still their main reason for being, but the objects of the HTAs have grown to embrace fundraising to build clinics, provide educational supplies and fill other social needs for their communities in Mexico.

Almost unheeded, HTAs have emerged as transnational agencies - modest of means but arguably more effective than any governmental body.

Now, researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles believe the associations can provide the missing link in the search for economic regeneration.

According to Luis Escala, one of the UCLA team, the HTAs provide the only organised network of Mexican immigrants, boasting connections individually or as confederations with their counterparts in Mexican villages, states and even the federal government.

Rhonda Moore, one of his colleagues at the university's North American Integration and Development Center, estimates there are about 500 such clubs in the US. Of these, the most influential comprise people from the state of Jalisco, which was one of the earliest sources of Mexican immigrants to the US.

Almost a third of the Mexicans in Los Angeles are Jaliscans. Numbering more than 500,000, people originating in this south-western state send Dollars 1bn a year home, and have formed about 50 clubs with an average of 25 members. Most belong to an umbrella confederation.

In an earlier demonstration of their influence, one of these groups last winter collected almost Dollars 30,000 for a single project to complete an unfinished clinic in its "home" in Talpa de Allende.

"These associations are already organising around social projects (and

are)
just one step away from investing in productive projects,"

Ms Moore reports. She calculates that two-thirds of remittances to Mexico are spent on consumption and only 5 per cent is invested in business ventures, but that may be about to change.

An effort to fund a co-operative for 2,000 Jalisco coffee growers is now under way, and represents a first step to meet a target set by the LA clubs to help 20 funded commercial projects a year in Jalisco.

They will, however, need financial, political and technical help from California and Mexico. One avenue being explored in the state assembly is support for a business-oriented variant of the Florida Association of Voluntary Agencies for Caribbean Action.

Established in the early 1980s in response to a local immigration crisis, its Dollars 350,000 launch budget came from federal and state funds. Its targets are now mostly cultural and social ventures in the home countries of Floridian immigrants, yet its budget last year topped Dollars 1.5m - almost half from private sources.

While Sacramento ponders, Mexican authorities have already reacted favourably to the HTA initiatives. Government funds have been provided for the Talpa de Allende clinic to match the LA clubs' contribution, in the first demonstration of official support for such self-help schemes.

In the state of Zacatecas, which reportedly draws Dollars 1m a day in remittances from emigres in the US, the government encourages club activities by matching funds for mainly social and infrastructural work. Now the US is being asked to respond, for a change, with what the UCLA team calls "positive policies" and to heed its warning that "ignoring the potential of these home town associations and what their networks can offer will never benefit California".

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 5, 2000

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FNS DAYBOOK

July 6, 2000

EDITION: FINAL

SECTION: GENERAL NEWS EVENTS

LENGTH: 102 words

HEADLINE: EVENT: NEWS BRIEFING - NATIONAL PRESS CLUB NEWSMAKER PROGRAM

TIME: 10:00 am

BODY:

SUBJECT: National Press Club Newsmaker Program hosts a news briefing on "America's Diversity and Growth: Signposts for the 21st Century," including effects on U.s. Population Growth, life expectancy, immigration, social trends and information technology.

Martha Farnsworth Riche, former director, U.S. Census Bureau and founding editor, American Demographics magazine

LOCATION: National Press Club, First Amendment Room, 14th and F Streets NW,

Washington, DC -- July 6, 2000

CONTACT: 202-939-5418

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 5, 2000

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Copyright 2000 The Nation Publishing Group

The Nation (Thailand)

July 6, 2000, Thursday

LENGTH: 732 words

HEADLINE: Border raiders to face Thai court

BYLINE: The Nation

BODY:

THAILAND will prosecute the Thais and Laotians captured after a raid on a Lao border checkpoint on Monday before considering a request to extradite the Laotians, Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai said yesterday.

Chuan said a Thai court would consider the extradition request from Vientiane later. He compared the case to that of Cambodian fugitive Sok Yoeun.

Sok Yoeun fled to Thailand last year, and was jailed for six months for illegally entering the country. He is now being detained pending a court ruling on Cambodia's request to extradite him to face charges of trying to assassinate Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Chuan's statement dashed Vientiane's hope of taking quick custody of the group. Some 28 men are wanted by Laos in connection with a failed attempt by a group of about 60 men to seize a customs and immigration office at the Vang Tao checkpoint in Champasak province. The group fled into Ubon Ratchathani province after being repelled by Lao government troops.

Thai military and police sources reported on Tuesday that 11 of the captured men held Thai identity cards.

Chuan said six rebels, including four Thais, were killed during the battle with Lao troops. But Hiem Phommachanh, Lao ambassador to Thailand, said only two of the dead were Thais.

Hiem yesterday reiterated that Laos wanted custody of the 28 men, but did not say what charges they would face in Laos.

Chuan said authorities must determine whether the group was linked to a rebel Lao political group, and whether the attack was politically motivated. So far Thai authorities have given conflicting opinions on this.

If the group is believed to have links to a Lao rebel group, then they could not be extradited, according to the 1929 Extradition Act. Under the act, however, the group could be extradited if Laos can prove they committed a criminal offence.

The Thai Foreign Ministry is gathering information to be used to determine the group's fate based on the extradition act, the Thai constitution and bilateral agreements with Laos.

The extradition act does not cover political cases, while the Thai-Lao Extradition Treaty, which could supersede Thai law, has yet to take effect.

Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan said Vientiane, meanwhile, could share any evidence or documents proving the group was guilty of crimes.

A preliminary investigation and documents seized from the captured group indicated the larger group was funded by exiled Laotians in the United States and backed by Lao Prince Sauryavong Savang. The exiled group seeks to restore democracy and the monarchy in Laos.

Prince Sauryavong has denied a connection to the group, telling a French radio station on Tuesday his followers pursue only peaceful means to restore democracy in Laos.

The 63-year-old prince represents the Lao monarchy abroad following the death of his father, King Sri Savang Vatthana, who was toppled during the 1975 communist takeover.

Thai government sources said Chuan's response to the extradition request was appropriate because it would allow the government to determine the fate of the men locally, while considering Thai interests and the need to maintain good relations with Laos.

Chuan said authorities were confirming the men's nationalities before taking further legal action.

"Those who are found to be Laotians will face charges of illegally entering Thailand and possessing war weapons. The Thais will be charged with illegally possessing war weapons," he said.

A senior army officer said Vientiane initially only wanted to extradite the group's leader, Suang Saengsula, who is suspected of leading the raid on the border post. The officer said Vientiane had quietly asked for his extradition

through the Thai 2nd Army Region.

"They had initially only requested one person. They were testing our sincerity," said the officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

But because the government and the Foreign Ministry was taking a legalistic position regarding the fate of the attackers, Vientiane was forced to "retaliate" by calling for the extradition of all 28 men, he said.

Meanwhile, Ubon Ratchathani provincial police yesterday sought Col Sisouk Saiyasaeng, a Laotian who reportedly supported by Prince Sauryayong, who is suspected of masterminding Monday's raid.

Sisouk's wife lives in the Sirindhorn district of Ubon Ratchathani.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 6, 2000

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USA TODAY

July 6, 2000, Thursday, FIRST EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 10A

LENGTH: 457 words

HEADLINE: Clinton seeks ties to Mexico's president-elect

BYLINE: Mimi Hall

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- President Clinton said Wednesday that it is important to open a relationship with the president-elect of Mexico as soon as possible even though the two leaders will overlap in office less than two months.

Vicente Fox, the opposition leader who won a stunning victory Sunday, takes up his post Dec. 1. Clinton leaves office in late January.

"Most of his term will unfold with the next president, but the relationship that we have with Mexico needs to go beyond individual personalities always,

because we have too much in common and too much of a future to build together," Clinton said.

Clinton, who developed a close working relationship with Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo over the past six years, said Fox is welcome in Washington. A Fox spokesman said the president-elect has accepted the invitation and will set an early date for the visit.

Fox, leader of the National Action Party, said Tuesday that his visit will focus on the two countries becoming "true partners, true neighbors and true friends."

In a move likely to please U.S. officials fighting the flow of illicit drugs from Latin America, Fox also proposed to shake up the corruption-filled attorney general's office. He said he will separate the agency's investigative and prosecutorial duties, similar to the division between the U.S. Justice Department and the FBI.

Reacting to those plans, Mexico Attorney General Jorge Madrazo said such reforms "could be for the better" at the federal law-enforcement agency.

Fox also said that he will strip the powerful Interior Ministry of its oversight of federal police. He said he will create a security and justice secretariat responsible for upgrading the federal police, rooting out police corruption and improving public security.

On drug trafficking, he called on the U.S. government to abandon the politically contentious "certification" of other countries' anti-drug efforts and join in a regional anti-narcotics organization -- an idea Fox said he had already discussed with Colombia. "We can check on each other," he said.

In a move to ease tensions over illegal immigration from Mexico, Fox began outlining plans for long-range economic development that he said will create jobs and reduce the incentive for displaced Mexicans to seek economic refuge in the USA.

Fox, who promised new, straight talk on border and immigration issues, said both countries appear to have lost sight of the goal of closing the "development

gap."

"The United States' goal has been to put up walls, police and soldiers to stop immigration. That can't work," he said.

Mexico's goal, Fox said, had been to allow 350,000 young people to cross the border each year and "wash its hands of responsibility."

GRAPHIC: "True neighbors": President-elect Vicente Fox says he wants Mexico and the United States to focus on being "true partners."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 06, 2000

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Copyright 2000 Gannett Company, Inc.

USA TODAY

July 6, 2000, Thursday, FIRST EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 6A

LENGTH: 606 words

HEADLINE: Bush battles GOP image in Calif. Tells Hispanic group he'd cut delays on legal immigration

BYLINE: Jill Lawrence

DATELINE: SAN DIEGO

BODY:

SAN DIEGO -- Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush on Wednesday made his second appearance in 10 days before a Hispanic group and for the second time called for reforms in how the United States handles immigration.

Bush, the governor of Texas, said he would require U.S. authorities to process applications for work visas and legal residency status within six months. It now takes three to five years to secure such documents, Bush said in a speech here to the National Council of La Raza, a 20,000-member advocacy group for Hispanic Americans.

Bush is cultivating California's Hispanic community. "It is definitely important for my candidacy for president to reach out to voter groups that don't necessarily believe the Republican Party's message is meant for them," he said Wednesday after his speech. "I know I have an image to battle."

The GOP's image, which Bush characterized as "anti-newcomer," stems in a large part from California Proposition 187, a Republican-backed initiative in 1994 that would have ended education and other state services for undocumented immigrants. Bush said last year that he was "against the spirit" of the plan and that he believed every child should be educated, regardless of their parents' status. California voters approved the initiative, but courts have blocked it.

On Wednesday, Bush also cited the conservative-backed "English-only" movement as a source of problems for Republicans. "It was too divisive. It pitted people against each other," he told La Raza. He said he supports "English-plus," which involves teaching English while respecting Hispanic heritage.

Vice President Gore, speaking to La Raza on Monday night, urged his audience to compare Bush's "record and rhetoric" on issues important to Hispanics, such as health care. Gore spokesman Douglas Hattaway said Wednesday that Bush "had a chance to make a difference" as governor of Texas but did not.

Last week, in an appearance before the League of United Latin American Citizens, Bush proposed dividing the Immigration and Naturalization Service into two separate agencies: one to enforce borders, the other to welcome and provide services for immigrants.

On Wednesday, he said he would spend \$ 500 million over five years on personnel and performance incentives to speed up immigration paperwork. He also said he would allow people with pending applications to visit family members living permanently in the USA.

Bush's foray into traditional Democratic turf has forced Gore to fight for voters Democrats have been able to count on in the past two presidential elections.

The Gore campaign released a statement Wednesday that accused Bush of trying to "mask his neglect" of Hispanics in Texas. The campaign said that the Texas-Mexico border, which has 1,500 unincorporated Hispanic neighborhoods called "colonias," is the most poverty-stricken region in the nation. It also said Bush has never visited a colonia.

Two hours before Bush spoke, a Texas state senator castigated his record at a news conference here. Gonzalo Barrientos, chairman of the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus, said Bush "fought Democrats every step of the way" when they tried to expand health care for children. He also said that only 12% of Bush's appointments are Hispanic in a state where Hispanics are 30% of the population.

Bush said his state spends more than \$ 3 billion a year on health care for the poor. He said his is the first administration to install an ombudsman for border issues and said he is working on a plan to bring water to border communities and homes. The ombudsman was named last year.

GRAPHIC: Contesting Calif.: George W. Bush is welcomed to San Diego's airport
Wednesday by Christina Bersamira of Maria Clara Filipinas sorority.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 06, 2000

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Copyright 2000 U.S. Newswire, Inc.

U.S. Newswire

July 5, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: NATIONAL DESK

LENGTH: 721 words

HEADLINE: President, First Lady Celebrate Independence Day 2000

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, July 4

BODY:

The following was released today by the White House:

--
**PRESIDENT CLINTON AND THE FIRST LADY CELEBRATE
INDEPENDENCE DAY 2000
AND WELCOME NEW CITIZENS TO AMERICA**
July 4, 2000
--

Today the President and the First Lady will celebrate Independence Day at the 6th International Naval Review in U.S. history from aboard the U.S.S. Hue City and officially commence the OpSail 2000 Parade of Sail aboard the U.S.S. John F. Kennedy in the New York Harbor. In recognition of the freedoms enjoyed by American citizens, the President will witness

a naturalization ceremony led by Attorney General Janet Reno to swear in twenty new U.S. citizens from 14 different countries across the globe.

Thousands of other individuals across the country will be sworn in as U.S. citizens this week. To help expand opportunities for new U.S. citizens and recent immigrants, the Clinton-Gore Administration will announce the award of \$25.5 million to states for English language and civics instruction to help communities provide these important skills to limited English proficient individuals; the President will direct INS to develop a plan to redesign and standardize the citizenship testing process

to guarantee consistency nationwide; and finally, the President will urge Congress to pass legislation that would provide humanitarian relief to American immigrant families.

AWARD \$25.5 MILLION TO STATES FOR THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE/CIVICS INITIATIVE. The Administration will announce the availability of \$25.5 million to states for the English Language/Civics Initiative, an innovative

way to help states and communities provide limited English proficient (LEP) individuals with access to high-quality English-language, civics, and life

skills instruction. This initiative will offer LEP adults opportunities to master English literacy in order to further their education, obtain good

jobs, and help build a stronger American community. The high demand for these programs has resulted in waiting lists of thousands of adults across

the country looking for the chance to fully participate in American society. The Clinton-Gore Administration has proposed \$75 million in FY 2001 to help an estimated 250,000 LEP adults access these critical opportunities -- an increase of nearly \$50 million from the FY 2000 enacted level.

ENSURE CONSISTENCY AND EFFICIENCY IN THE CURRENT NATURALIZATION SYSTEM. Today, the President will direct the INS to develop a plan to redesign and standardize the current citizenship testing process and report

back in 60 days with their proposal. Currently, different areas of the country use different tests or testing methods for reading and writing of the English language and U.S. history and government. This plan will

help

guarantee a consistent test and testing process is available and administered nationwide. From 1993 through 1999, 4.37 million individuals

became new Americans; however, there continues to be backlog of applications. The INS is on track to meet its goal of reducing this backlog by completing 1.3 million applications this fiscal year while maintaining the highest levels of quality and integrity.

PROVIDE FAIRNESS TO ALL IMMIGRANTS. The President will urge Congress to pass two pieces of legislation to correct injustices currently affecting

many immigrants already in our country. The proposed Registry Date legislation would allow certain long-term immigrants of good moral character who have been living in the United States for a long time (fifteen years or more) to apply for legal resident status. The Central American and Haitian Parity Act of 1999 would amend the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) to provide certain nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Haiti an opportunity to apply for adjustment of status under that Act. This parity provision would not only provide compassion and fairness for the affected immigrants,

but also contribute to the development of stability and peace in these emerging democracies.

CONTACT: White House Press Office, 202-456-2580

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 5, 2000

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The Associated Press

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July 5, 2000, Wednesday, BC cycle

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 284 words

HEADLINE: Chinese province tightens exit rules to target human smugglers

DATELINE: BEIJING

BODY:

China's Fujian province has tightened border controls in a bid to stop human smugglers, following the deaths of 58 Chinese illegal migrants during an attempt to reach Britain last month, state media reported.

Authorities in coastal Fujian, where the smuggling trade is based, have intensified their crackdown on the smugglers, known as snakeheads, since the migrants were found dead in the back of a truck in the British port of Dover, the government's Xinhua News Agency reported.

It said the provincial government has tightened control on exit applications and "called for rapid development of the economy to solve surplus labor and to improve people's living standard," the report said. Stricter supervision of shipping and fishing vessels off the Fujian coast has also been enforced, Xinhua said.

But Xinhua added that the numbers of human smuggling cases investigated so far this year are down from the first half of 1999, despite a pair of three-month long crackdowns leading to the arrests of 289 people on suspicion of organizing illegal passages.

The report follows the visit to Fujian this week by Doris Meissner, commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, who said she hoped to improve communication and cooperation between the United States and China in combatting illegal migration. Prior to her visit, Meissner said in Beijing that snakeheads were becoming increasingly sophisticated and had largely abandoned crude methods of cramming would-be-migrants aboard creaky vessels for the sea passage.

Last year, Fujian courts handled 296 cases involving illegal migration. Ninety-seven people were sentenced to two years or more in prison, Xinhua said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 6, 2000

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The Associated Press

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July 5, 2000, Wednesday, BC cycle

SECTION: Domestic News; Political News

LENGTH: 677 words

HEADLINE: Bush pledges \$500 million over five years to cut INS waiting periods

BYLINE: By PAUL SHEPARD

BODY:
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) - Expanding on a proposal to improve the Immigration and Naturalization Service, George W. Bush on Wednesday pledged \$500 million in new spending to cut the average time needed to process an immigration application to six months.

Addressing the annual convention of the National Council of La Raza, Bush said the process now takes between three and five years. Late last year, the INS announced that average times had been reduced from two years to 12 months - and were headed lower.

"We will bring to the INS a new standard of service and a culture of respect," the Republican presidential contender told about 2,500 members of the Hispanic advocacy group.

The new spending, to be doled out over five years, is the latest part of a proposed INS overhaul that Bush's campaign believes will resonate with the influential Latino voting bloc.

"We've got an INS that is too bureaucratic, too stuck in the past," he said.

Back in Washington, Sen. Dianne Feinstein's office noted that the California Democrat is the prime sponsor of a bill aimed at reducing the backlog of naturalization and visa applications.

"I would hope Governor Bush would endorse this bill and urge prompt passage of this legislation by Congress," said Feinstein, who is pushing for \$127 million for the agency to hire staff and boost computer operations without increasing application fees.

Last week before another Hispanic audience, Bush announced to the League of United Latin American Citizens conference in Washington that he wants to split the INS into two agencies: a welcoming one for legitimate immigrants and a tough one for border enforcement.

The Texas governor also proposed allowing relatives of permanent residents to visit the United States while their own immigration papers are being processed.

Cecilia Munoz, a La Raza immigration expert, said Bush's proposals sounded good, but that she needed the details to determine whether Latinos would benefit.

She noted that Hispanic advocates largely oppose a similar plan for the INS, sponsored by Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, on grounds that it would weaken accountability on the border enforcement side while providing less attention to the service side.

"As currently designed, it would make things worse," she said.

Munoz added that the Clinton administration began to reduce processing times in 1996, but was slowed by congressional Republicans who accused the administration of politicizing the process.

On other subjects, Bush reiterated his call for improved schools, free trade with Mexico and his pride in running a state with a strong Latino influence and entrepreneurial spirit.

He also hailed California for being home to more than 600,000 Latino-owned small businesses and added, "That fact says the American dream is available for every willing heart."

On Monday, Vice President and likely Democratic presidential nominee Al Gore criticized Bush's record in Texas, saying his policies had worsened living

conditions for Hispanics there.

Bush fired back, saying at a news conference after his speech that Gore is interested solely in knocking down his opponent without putting forward solutions of his own.

"This is the campaign of a man who would rather diminish an opponent's record than talk about his vision," Bush said.

On education, among the most critical national issues for the 31 million Hispanics making up America's fastest growing minority group, Bush said local educators would be given greater authority on teaching decisions and would also be held accountable for their success or failure.

Just 62 percent of Hispanic adults aged 25-29 completed high school compared with 87 percent of blacks and 93 percent of whites, according to federal figures.

"My vision says that every child in America can be educated and that no child should be left behind," Bush said.

Bush, who turns 54 on Thursday, received a red-white-and-blue frosted birthday cake and a rendition of "Happy Birthday" from the audience.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 6, 2000

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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July 5, 2000, Wednesday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 386 words

HEADLINE: Naturalized citizens embrace their new country on Independence Day

DATELINE: RENTON, Wash.

BODY:

When 5-year-old Dashpreet Kaur goes to kindergarten this fall, she'll do so as an American citizen.

Kaur was one of the youngest new citizens attending swearing-in ceremonies Tuesday at the Seattle Center. About 2,000 people attended the annual event.

Under the shadow of the Space Needle, Kaur put her hand over her heart and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. She's been practicing, too, so she wouldn't forget.

Her father, Amrik Singh, did the same thing last year. A native of India, he arrived in this country eight years ago. Her mother, Kashmir Kaur, must live in the United States for three more years before taking the pledge herself.

But her little 1-year-old sister doesn't have to take such a pledge: She was born here.

"I want both my daughters to have a good education and I want a better life for them and my wife," Singh told the South County Journal newspaper, adding that he expects his daughter Dashpreet "will become a good American."

More and more immigrants like Singh and his family have avoided the larger cities, settling in suburban cities like Renton and Everett, which have both seen an influx of new citizens and immigrants in recent years.

The city of Everett honored its own new citizens on Tuesday, giving them certificates and American flags. Snohomish County has seen a major increase in Ukrainian refugees - 3,500 to 4,000 a year, according to a report in The Herald newspaper of Everett.

Thuy Vu, director of the state Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance, said that Washington state has absorbed more than 120,000 political and religious refugees since 1975. The state ranks seventh in overall immigration, behind California, New York, Texas, Florida, Illinois and New Jersey.

Vu said the new immigrants have helped keep employment high and have brought new talents with them in their quest for economic, political and religious freedom.

"Freedom is the most important part in our people's lives," said Victor Litovchenko, a Ukrainian Pentacostal who once spent two years in a Siberian labor camp for refusing to fight a Soviet war in Afghanistan on religious grounds.

"I'm sorry about my children," Litovchenko said. "They will never know what we went through in Ukraine, and sometimes I get upset because they don't know what (freedom) is."

GRAPHIC: With AP Photos

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 6, 2000

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

The materials in the AP file were compiled by The Associated Press. These materials may not be republished without the express written consent of The Associated Press.

July 5, 2000, Wednesday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional; Sports News

LENGTH: 422 words

HEADLINE: U.S. soccer team denied entry to protest fingerprinting of Iranians

DATELINE: TEHRAN, Iran

BODY:

A soccer team from North Carolina has been banned from Iran in retaliation for the fingerprinting of Iranians visiting the United States.

Bahram Afsharzadeh, deputy of Iran's Physical Education Organization, said

Wednesday that the Foreign Ministry intervened to bar the Charlotte (N.C.) Eagles from playing in a July 9-11 tournament on Kish, a resort island in the southern Gulf and one of three Iranian free-trade zones.

Afsharzadeh said Iran would hold the tournament at a later, undisclosed date without the American team.

The Eagles are a member of the men's D-3 Pro League, which is two divisions below Major League Soccer. General Manager Tom Engstrom said Wednesday that team officials learned a while ago that the Eagles would not be allowed to participate in the Iranian tournament.

"It's not a big issue for us," Engstrom said. "We didn't have (our) visas to go in. ... From our point of view, it's not a big deal."

Afsharzadeh said Iran wanted improved sports contacts with the United States but said "America's unfriendly behavior" was an obstacle.

"We would like to welcome American teams and treat them in a friendly and civilized way. We expect the same from the Americans. Fingerprinting Iranians is considered an insult against the Iranian nation. We expect the United States to waive the fingerprinting formality and show respect for Iranians to allow improved sports contacts," he said.

U.S. immigration officials waived the fingerprinting formality in January to allow a soccer match between the two countries in Pasadena, Calif., but only after Iran threatened to cancel the match.

Last month, seven Iranian women refused to be fingerprinted upon arriving in New York to attend a U.N. conference and returned home after U.S. immigration officials insisted on the procedure.

Several Iranian groups have called on the Iranian government to retaliate by fingerprinting Americans upon their arrival in Iran.

U.S. law requires nonimmigrant visitors from four countries with whom it has strained ties - Iran, Iraq, Libya and Sudan - to be fingerprinted and photographed on arrival in the United States.

U.S.-Iran ties were severed after militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979 and held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.

Relations have thawed somewhat since the May 1997 election of the moderate President Mohammad Khatami, who has encouraged people-to-people contact between the two nations. American wrestlers took part in the world championships in Tehran in 1998.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 6, 2000

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

The materials in the AP file were compiled by The Associated Press. These materials may not be republished without the express written consent of The Associated Press.

July 5, 2000, Wednesday, BC cycle

SECTION: Political News

LENGTH: 774 words

HEADLINE: Some Bush policies raise the question: What's new?

BYLINE: By CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

George W. Bush's presidential campaign presents him as "a different kind of Republican," yet there's a ring of the familiar in his plans for the country.

Health-insurance tax credits for the working poor? His father proposed similar ones as president. Partial privatization of Social Security? The idea is a longtime favorite on Capitol Hill. On education, Bush's voucher plan is a limited edition of what conservatives have championed for years and brother Jeb is experimenting with as Florida governor.

One his latest proposals, to split the federal immigration department to make enforcement against illegal aliens more effective and treatment of legal immigrants fairer, was already raised and shot down in Congress.

To be sure, Democrat Al Gore isn't reinventing his party, either, but largely seeking to expand - sometimes greatly expand - what President Clinton has done or tried to do.

But much is being made of Bush's outreach to constituencies normally ceded to Democrats. And his appeals to the political center appear to be having an effect.

It's a source of frustration in the Gore campaign that Bush is being seen as a new Republican despite a program that Democrats contend is shopworn in its substance and conservative to its core.

"His real agenda is the same old Republican rhetoric," said Gore spokesman Doug Hattaway. "He could be running this campaign in the 1980s."

The Bush campaign points to the Texas governor's slogan - "compassionate conservative" - as the starting point in arguing that he represents a change both in substance and style from the way Republicans in Washington have been operating.

"It's a philosophy that the best solutions are conservative solutions but that Republicans need to be concerned with compassionate results," said Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer. It's the approach of "someone who comes from outside the Beltway and makes his living forging bipartisan agreements."

The results are a synthesis of Republican approaches and some bipartisan ideas favored both inside and outside the circular highway that symbolically divides Washington from "real" America. Bush adds some new twists and overlays everything with a tone Fleischer says is "different from a lot of the sights and sounds heard from Washington."

While Bush supports school vouchers - under another name - his plan to let parents use tax money to help pay for private schooling or other choices is

limited to the relatively small proportion of public schools that are judged chronic failures.

At the same time, he favors a stronger federal role in public education than conservatives have wanted. He has insisted the GOP platform lose its plank urging the federal Education Department to be shut.

Hattaway argues any plan embracing vouchers belies Bush's claims to being a different Republican on education. "He may have other bureaucratic layers on top of it but the crux of the idea is to take money away from public schools."

Policy watcher Kathleen Hall Jamieson of the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania says Bush is retooling party policy in a few areas but keeping its usual principles while giving the rhetoric a centrist but cosmetic makeover.

That's precisely what Clinton did in two elections, she said. "There were some signals of a new Democrat," she said, "but under that was a very traditional Democratic social agenda."

So, too, with Bush, who talks more than Republicans normally do about poverty and social programs but would have the market or states solve some of the problems that Democrats would assign to the federal government.

"This is an artful rhetoric," Jamieson said, "but it is an artful rhetoric pioneered by Bill Clinton."

Bush's across-the-board tax cuts offer ammunition to both sides - to those who say it's a typical Republican giveaway to the rich and to those who say it is sensitive to the poor.

Some of his departures from GOP touchstones are matters of degree.

For example, he is at odds with many congressional Republicans in wanting to make health-insurance tax credits refundable - meaning recipients with very low taxes not only have their tax liability wiped out but get the balance of the credit paid to them by the government.

Yet he shares the conservative goal of using tax breaks instead of bigger government to expand health coverage, even if that leaves a lot of people

out.

Jamieson faults neither candidate for pitching proposals that have been tried or chewed over before. "Most ideas in politics incubate for decades," she said.

"Originality should not be a test of political office."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 6, 2000

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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July 5, 2000, Wednesday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 658 words

HEADLINE: Cuba keeps Elian out of public eye, but using saga to fight U.S.

BYLINE: By ANITA SNOW, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: HAVANA

BODY:

Cuba says Elian Gonzalez gave a human face to its four-decade political battle with the United States, giving many ordinary Americans their first close look at the communist nation.

But even as the Cuban government used the boy's case to push for change in U.S. attitudes, on Wednesday it continued to fulfill its promise to keep Elian out of the spotlight as he readjusts to life at home.

"With Elian, coverage has been given to an affair that habitually was a theme only for political scientists and specialists," Ricardo Alarcon, president of Cuba's National Assembly, said in an interview published in a special newspaper supplement Wednesday.

"Millions of people, housewives, people with nothing to do with this, soon began to see the story of a Cuban boy as the daily top news event," he said of how Americans followed the case. Over time, he said, many U.S. citizens grew to sympathize with the child and question American immigration and other policies toward Cuba.

In the supplement, which wrapped up events up to and including Elian's return last week, the government kept its promise to protect the 6-year-old old from the public while continuing to promote its political agenda.

There were no details about what Elian has done since his homecoming on June 28. The only new photograph was one of the boy dancing in a circle with other children his age the evening of his return.

Entitled "Elian in the homeland," the supplement was published by Juventud Rebelde, the daily newspaper of the Communist Youth Union.

An overview, it included a chronology and A look at those involved in the battle: the judges, Elian's grandmothers, and the Miami kin and their supporters.

The only real news about what Elian has done since his return was reported late Tuesday on state television, which said the boy and his family made a stealth visit to their hometown of Cardenas earlier that day.

Accompanied by his father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, his stepmother and his baby half brother, Elian visited the homes of his paternal and maternal grandparents in Cardenas, 90 miles east of Havana, state television reported.

Elian also visited his school he will return to in the fall. He played with several schoolmates before he and his family returned to Havana.

Elian also swam in a pool at a national park in the nearby tourist resort of Varadero, where the elder Gonzalez worked when the national custody dispute began seven months ago.

Cuban officials long promised to prevent the kind of massive media

coverage
the child experienced during the five months he stayed with his Miami
relatives
while they fought to keep him in the United States.

The Miami kin were given temporary custody of the boy after he was
rescued
off the Florida coast. Elian's mother and 10 others perished during a sea
journey from Cuba to the United States.

For the first time since their return, Elian's father was to appear in
public
Wednesday night to receive a special award for his fight to bring his
child
home. The ceremony was to be broadcast live on state television, but
foreign
journalists were barred from the event itself.

Castro has said that the fight sparked by the protracted custody
dispute over
the boy did not end with the child's return. Rallies, marches, special
television programs will continue to attack American policies toward the
island.

Communist officials said that most importantly, Americans now know
about the
Cuban Adjustment Act, a 1966 U.S. law that Havana says violates Cuba-U.S.
migration accords. Havana says the law encourages Cubans to illegally
emigrate
to the United States because it lets them to seek permanent residency if
they
reach U.S. soil. Until a few years ago, the law applied even to those
picked up
at sea.

Americans now know that "only those who come from Cuba have special
privileges," Alarcon said, noting that would-be immigrants from other
nations
are immediately deported.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 6, 2000

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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July 5, 2000, Wednesday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 356 words

HEADLINE: Former official admits helping Irish man sneak past immigration

BYLINE: By MIKE ROBINSON, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: CHICAGO

BODY:

A former federal customs inspector pleaded guilty Wednesday to helping an Irish citizen enter the United States illegally and said the man once asked similar aid on behalf of members of the Irish Republican Army.

Patrick Noonan, 56, admitted he advised William Rushe on how to get by immigration officials and walked him through an O'Hare International Airport speed line usually reserved for airline crews.

In 1996, Rushe, who had been in the country illegally for some time, wanted to return to Ireland for a brief visit and then sneak back into the United States where he had a job, prosecutors said. Noonan admitted that, urged by a mutual friend, he agreed to help Rushe, meeting him in a Chicago bar and advising him on how to ensure that he'd get no more than a quick once-over from immigration officials.

Noonan said he told Rushe to carry a round-trip ticket to make it appear that he was just visiting the United States and enough cash to cover his whole supposed U.S. visit.

"Be dressed well, don't be drunk and if you have problems, call me," Noonan admitted saying, addressing the court in a rich Irish brogue.

As part of his signed plea agreement with federal prosecutors, Noonan acknowledged that Rushe offered him money in 1997 to help sneak two "IRA men," or members of the Irish Republican Army, into the U.S. The plea agreement said that Noonan did nothing to help the two men but that he also did not report the matter to federal authorities.

Defense attorney Kenneth L. Cunniff told reporters he did not know if Rushe was an IRA member or where he might be found.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel W. Gillogly said the government believes Rushe has left the country.

Sentencing was set for Sept. 28, and U.S. District Judge John F. Grady gave Noonan court permission to make what Cunniff described as his client's annual summer visit to Ireland.

Grady noted that, while the maximum sentence is 10 months in prison and a \$ 250,000 fine, the fine could be considerably less and that half the minimum sentence of four months could be served at a halfway house under a work-release program.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 6, 2000

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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July 5, 2000, Wednesday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 308 words

HEADLINE: Meeting held to clarify rules for Hmong veterans to become citizens

DATELINE: ST. PAUL

BODY:

Hmong veterans who fought with the CIA during the Vietnam War still have to

take a civics test and meet other requirements before becoming a U.S. citizen,
officials said Wednesday at a meeting organized to clarify a new law.

The law simply waives the English language requirement for some veterans,
allowing them to have an interpreter translate the questions and answers.

"It is important that we get the word out," said Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn.

The bill, enacted May 26, was the culmination of a decade-long effort to make
it easier for Hmong and other veterans who fought for the United States in Laos
from Feb. 28, 1961 to Sept. 18, 1978. Spouses who were married to a qualified
veteran on the day the veteran entered the U.S. as a refugee also may qualify
for special consideration.

Misinformation about the law prompted the meeting, attended by about three
dozen people, including Immigration and Naturalization Service representatives, immigration lawyers, staff for Wellstone, Rep. Bruce Vento,
D-Minn., other officials and Hmong residents.

John Keller, an attorney with the Immigrant Law Center, warned people who may
have "red flags" on their records to contact a lawyer before applying or they
might be denied or even deported. Some of these include having been arrested,
failing to pay child support or voting illegally in the United States.

The deadline for filing under the Hmong Naturalization Act is Nov. 26, 2001.
A limit of 45,000 veterans and spouses can qualify for special consideration.

The Immigration Law Center will hold a training session from 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. on what documents are needed and how to apply.

For more information, call the Immigration and Naturalization Service at 1-800-375-5283, the Immigrant Law Center at 651-291-0110 or Sen. Paul Wellstone's office at 651-645-0323.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 6, 2000

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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July 5, 2000, Wednesday, BC cycle

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 585 words

HEADLINE: Chinese human smugglers' methods increasingly sophisticated

BYLINE: By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: BEIJING

BODY:

Chinese gangs are adopting increasingly varied and sophisticated methods of smuggling illegal migrants into the United States, the chief of the U.S. immigration service said Monday.

All but gone is the crude but common method of packing migrants into decrepit boats for long sea voyages ending in night-time landings along the U.S. coastline, said Doris Meissner, commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

No such vessels have been found this year, she said, though some immigrants have been found in cargo ships docking at West Coast ports.

Faced with tighter law enforcement and greater vigilance, people-smugglers now take migrants out of China overland or by air to Europe and South and Central America.

Small groups typically enter at major U.S. airports using doctored passports that are recycled and sold to other hopefuls, Meissner said.

"So it has branched out and in some ways it's more difficult because the groups are small and routes are rather widespread," Meissner said.

Chinese migrant smuggling attracted international concern following the discovery of the bodies of 58 illegal immigrants from southeastern China

in an
airtight truck compartment at the English port of Dover on June 18.

The United States has traditionally been the primary destination for Chinese migrants, although Meissner said no hard figures on the numbers of arrivals are available.

Several boats carrying immigrants in soft-top cargo containers were intercepted earlier this year on the West Coast, including Seattle, where three people were found dead in a ship intercepted Jan. 10.

Scores of Chinese stowaways who crossed the Pacific in such containers have been arrested at West Coast ports in the United States and Canada this year. Fifteen were apprehended in Los Angeles in the last U.S. incident reported, in April, and immigration officials say the smugglers have likely switched to other methods.

Despite fees of up to dlr\$ 60,000 charged by smuggling ringleaders, or "snakeheads," large numbers of Chinese, mostly from coastal Fujian province, attempt the long, dangerous trip for the chance of working in an American restaurant or factory.

Money sent home pays for flashy new houses, stoking the desire to work abroad among others.

But to pay back their passage, some migrants are forced into prostitution. Others risk rape, kidnapping or murder.

According to INS officials, about 200 illegal Chinese immigrants a week are stopped just at Los Angeles's airport, and 2,700 Chinese illegals who arrived by air have been repatriated this year.

Many enter the United States using stolen passports from Japan and Singapore, whose citizens do not need a visa to enter the United States.

Meissner, who will visit Fujian this week, said her meetings with Chinese officials focused on finding ways to improve the sharing of information for prosecuting snakeheads, uncovering document fraud, and analyzing trends in people smuggling.

While China has helped speed the repatriation of many who attempted to reach the United States by boat, such cooperation still occurs chiefly on a case-by-case basis, Meissner said.

"It is difficult. We would like to see better cooperation, not only from China but all over," she said.

Ensuring speedy repatriations is especially important, said Meissner, who called quick returns the strongest message that can be sent to convince would-be migrants that the risk and large amounts of money paid are not worth it.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 6, 2000

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July 5, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: International news

LENGTH: 222 words

HEADLINE: Immigration officer took bribes to help Chinese illegal immigrants

DATELINE: HONG KONG, July 5

BODY:

An immigration officer was convicted here Wednesday by a court of accepting bribes for helping mainland Chinese, including an alleged triad leader wanted in the US, to enter Hong Kong illegally.

Kwan Che-ping, 51, was found guilty of accepting bribes totalling 27,000 Hong Kong dollars (3,500 US dollars) and 2,000 yuan (240 US dollars) between 1990 and 1998 to assist five mainlanders travelling on illegally obtained Brazilian and Peruvian passports to enter Hong Kong, the Independent Commission Against Corruption said in a statement.

One of the mainlanders was suspected to be the head of a triad (Chinese secret criminal gang) society in Hong Kong

and was wanted in the United States for alleged conspiracy to murder and arson, the court heard.

The authorities have cracked down on illegal immigrants and the use of forged travel documents, amid fears criminal syndicates were turning Hong Kong into a key trans-shipment point for human smuggling.

On June 21 police and immigration officers arrested 30 people for various immigration-related offences including overstaying their visits and possession of forged travel documents.

The crackdown came after British police found the corpses of 58 stowaways from southern China's Fujian province in a tomato truck at the English port of Dover last month.

mtp

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 5, 2000

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July 5, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

LENGTH: 597 words

HEADLINE: Twenty-nine illegal Cuban immigrants reach the Florida coast

DATELINE: MIAMI, July 5

BODY:

Twenty-nine Cubans arrived Tuesday on Islamorada beach in the extreme southern tip of Florida, Joseph Mellia, spokesman for the Coast Guard said Wednesday.

Authorities arrested two Cubans traveling with the group, one illegal immigrant and one in the process of gaining legal status, who will be charged with trafficking of immigrants.

The 14 men, 10 women and five children left Sunday night from Caibarien, in northern Cuba. They are in good health and were taken to a detention center in Krome, where they will receive medical attention and be questioned by immigration authorities.

Under the 1994 and 1995 immigration accords, some 20,000 Cubans are allowed to immigrate to the United States legally.

In line with those accords, Cubans trying to enter the United States illegally who are intercepted at sea must be returned to Cuba.

But unlike other illegal immigrants, Cubans who manage to evade the Coast Guard and reach US shores are allowed to seek legal residency and work permits under a US law passed in 1966.

Cuba has accused the United States of using the policy to encourage illegal immigration from the communist island nation.

Coast Guard data shows a recent steep rise in the number of Cubans illegally migrating to the United States. From October 1998 to September 1999, 2,254 Cubans reached Florida coasts, compared to 615 the previous year.

am/tjf/rl

Nine illegal Cuban immigrants intercepted off the Florida coast five days ago were repatriated Wednesday to Bahia Cabanas, Cuba, the US Coast Guard said.

Four of the illegal Cuban immigrants, two men and two women, were picked up Friday afternoon from a raft 40 kilometers (26 miles) south of Big Pine Key, in southern Florida.

The other five, all Cuban men, were intercepted in another raft 20 kilometers (12 miles) to the south of American Shoal, also in the southern-most part of Florida.

Both rafts were destroyed during the journey, and the nine were lifted onto a Coast Guard boat, where they received medical attention and food and water.

US immigration officials interviewed them there, before they were repatriated back to Cuba on Wednesday.

Also on Wednesday, Coast Guard spokesman Joseph Mellia said 29 illegal Cuban immigrants arrived one day earlier on Islamorada beach in the extreme southern tip of Florida.

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am/sba/gs

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 5, 2000

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Copyright 2000 Associated Press

AP Online

July 5, 2000; Wednesday

SECTION: National political

LENGTH: 777 words

HEADLINE: Bush Backs Traditional GOP Ideas

BYLINE: CALVIN WOODWARD

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

George W. Bush's presidential campaign presents him as "a different kind of Republican," yet there's a ring of the familiar in his plans for the country.

Health-insurance tax credits for the working poor? His father proposed similar ones as president. Partial privatization of Social Security? The idea is a longtime favorite on Capitol Hill. On education, Bush's voucher plan is a limited edition of what conservatives have championed for years and brother Jeb is experimenting with as Florida governor.

One his latest proposals, to split the federal immigration department to make enforcement against illegal aliens more effective and treatment of legal immigrants fairer, was already raised and shot down in Congress.

To be sure, Democrat Al Gore isn't reinventing his party, either, but largely seeking to expand sometimes greatly expand _ what President Clinton has done or tried to do.

But much is being made of Bush's outreach to constituencies normally ceded to Democrats. And his appeals to the political center appear to be having an effect.

It's a source of frustration in the Gore campaign that Bush is being seen as a new Republican despite a program that Democrats contend is shopworn in its substance and conservative to its core.

"His real agenda is the same old Republican rhetoric," said Gore spokesman Doug Hattaway. "He could be running this campaign in the 1980s."

The Bush campaign points to the Texas governor's slogan _ "compassionate conservative" as the starting point in arguing that he represents a change both in substance and style from the way Republicans in Washington have been operating.

"It's a philosophy that the best solutions are conservative solutions but that Republicans need to be concerned with compassionate results," said Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer. It's the approach of "someone who comes from outside the Beltway and makes his living forging bipartisan agreements."

The results are a synthesis of Republican approaches and some bipartisan ideas favored both inside and outside the circular highway that symbolically divides Washington from "real" America. Bush adds some new twists and overlays everything with a tone Fleischer says is "different from a lot of the sights and sounds heard from Washington."

While Bush supports school vouchers under another name his plan to let parents use tax money to help pay for private schooling or other choices is limited to the relatively small proportion of public schools that are judged chronic failures.

At the same time, he favors a stronger federal role in public education than conservatives have wanted. He has insisted the GOP platform lose its plank urging the federal Education Department to be shut.

Hattaway argues any plan embracing vouchers belies Bush's claims to being a different Republican on education. "He may have other bureaucratic layers on top of it but the crux of the idea is to take money away from public schools."

Policy watcher Kathleen Hall Jamieson of the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania says Bush is retooling party policy in a few areas but keeping its usual principles while giving the rhetoric a centrist but cosmetic makeover.

That's precisely what Clinton did in two elections, she said. "There were some signals of a new Democrat," she said, "but under that was a very traditional Democratic social agenda."

So, too, with Bush, who talks more than Republicans normally do about poverty and social programs but would have the market or states solve some of the problems that Democrats would assign to the federal government.

"This is an artful rhetoric," Jamieson said, "but it is an artful rhetoric pioneered by Bill Clinton."

Bush's across-the-board tax cuts offer ammunition to both sides to those who say it's a typical Republican giveaway to the rich and to those who say it is sensitive to the poor.

Some of his departures from GOP touchstones are matters of degree.

For example, he is at odds with many congressional Republicans in wanting to make health-insurance tax credits refundable _ meaning recipients with very low taxes not only have their tax liability wiped out but get the balance of the credit paid to them by the government.

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LOAD-DATE: July 5, 2000

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Copyright 2000 Associated Press

AP Online

July 5, 2000; Wednesday

SECTION: International news

LENGTH: 285 words

HEADLINE: Chinese Target Human Smugglers

DATELINE: BEIJING

BODY:

China's Fujian province has tightened border controls in a bid to stop human smugglers, following the deaths of 58 Chinese illegal migrants during an attempt to reach Britain last month, state media reported.

Authorities in coastal Fujian, where the smuggling trade is based, have intensified their crackdown on the smugglers, known as snakeheads, since the migrants were found dead in the back of a truck in the British port of Dover, the government's Xinhua News Agency reported.

It said the provincial government has tightened control on exit applications and "called for rapid development of the economy to solve surplus labor and to improve people's living standard," the report said. Stricter supervision of shipping and fishing vessels off the Fujian coast has also been enforced, Xinhua said.

But Xinhua added that the numbers of human smuggling cases investigated so far this year are down from the first half of 1999, despite a pair of three-month long crackdowns leading to the arrests of 289 people on suspicion of organizing illegal passages.

The report follows the visit to Fujian this week by Doris Meissner, commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, who said she hoped to improve communication and cooperation between the United States and China in combatting illegal migration. Prior to her visit, Meissner said in Beijing that snakeheads were becoming increasingly sophisticated and had largely abandoned crude methods of cramming would-be-migrants aboard creaky vessels for the sea passage.

Last year, Fujian courts handled 296 cases involving illegal migration. Ninety-seven people were sentenced to two years or more in prison, Xinhua

said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 5, 2000

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Copyright 2000 Associated Press

AP Online

July 5, 2000; Wednesday

SECTION: National political

LENGTH: 1062 words

HEADLINE: Bush Pledges To Cut INS Wait

BYLINE: PAUL SHEPARD

DATELINE: SAN DIEGO

BODY:

Expanding on a proposal to improve the Immigration and Naturalization Service, George W. Bush on Wednesday pledged \$500 million in new spending to cut the average time needed to process an immigration application to six months.

Addressing the annual convention of the National Council of La Raza, Bush said the process now takes between three and five years. Late last year, the INS announced that average times had been reduced from two years to 12 months and were headed lower.

"We will bring to the INS a new standard of service and a culture of respect," the Republican presidential contender told about 2,500 members of the Hispanic advocacy group.

The new spending, which would be doled out over five years, is the latest part of a proposed INS overhaul that Bush's campaign believes will resonate with the influential Latino voting bloc.

"We've got an INS that is too bureaucratic, too stuck in the past," Bush

said.

Last week before another Hispanic audience, Bush announced to the League of United Latin American Citizens conference in Washington that he wants to split the INS into two agencies: a welcoming one for legitimate immigrants and a tough one for border enforcement.

He also proposed allowing relatives of permanent residents to visit the United States while their own immigration papers are being processed.

The Texas governor reiterated his call for improved schools, free trade with Mexico and his pride in running a state with a strong Latino influence and entrepreneurial spirit.

Bush hailed California for being home to more than 600,000 Latino-owned small businesses and added, "That fact says the American dream is available for every willing heart."

On education, among the most critical national issues for the 31 million Hispanics making up America's fastest growing minority group, Bush said local educators would be given greater authority on teaching decisions and would also be held accountable for their success or failure.

Just 62 percent of Hispanic adults aged 25-29 completed high school compared with 87 percent of blacks and 93 percent of whites, according to federal figures.

"My vision says that every child in America can be educated and that no child should be left behind," Bush said.

Bush's rival, Vice President Al Gore, addressed the La Raza convention on Monday.

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"We've got an INS that is too bureaucratic, too stuck in the past," he said.

Back in Washington, Sen. Dianne Feinstein's office noted that the California Democrat is the prime sponsor of a bill aimed at reducing the backlog of naturalization and visa applications.

"I would hope Governor Bush would endorse this bill and urge prompt passage of this legislation by Congress," said Feinstein, who is pushing for \$127 million for the agency to hire staff and boost computer operations without increasing application fees.

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The Texas governor also proposed allowing relatives of permanent residents to visit the United States while their own immigration papers are being processed.

Cecilia Munoz, a La Raza immigration expert, said Bush's proposals sounded good, but that she needed the details to determine whether Latinos would benefit.

She noted that Hispanic advocates largely oppose a similar plan for the INS, sponsored by Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, on grounds that it would weaken accountability on the border enforcement side while providing less attention to the service side.

"As currently designed, it would make things worse," she said.

Munoz added that the Clinton administration began to reduce processing

times

in 1996, but was slowed by congressional Republicans who accused the administration of politicizing the process.

On other subjects, Bush reiterated his call for improved schools, free trade with Mexico and his pride in running a state with a strong Latino influence and entrepreneurial spirit.

He also hailed California for being home to more than 600,000 Latino-owned small businesses and added, "That fact says the American dream is available for every willing heart."

On Monday, Vice President and likely Democratic presidential nominee Al Gore criticized Bush's record in Texas, saying his policies had worsened living conditions for Hispanics there.

Bush fired back, saying at a news conference after his speech that Gore is interested solely in knocking down his opponent without putting forward solutions of his own.

"This is the campaign of a man who would rather diminish an opponent's record than talk about his vision," Bush said.

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Bush, who turns 54 on Thursday, received a red-white-and-blue frosted birthday cake and a rendition of "Happy Birthday" from the audience.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 5, 2000

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Copyright 2000 Associated Press

AP Online

July 5, 2000; Wednesday

SECTION: International news

LENGTH: 2702 words

HEADLINE: Cuba Keeps Elian From Public View

BYLINE: ANITA SNOW

DATELINE: HAVANA

BODY:

Cuba says Elian Gonzalez gave a human face to its four-decade political battle with the United States, allowing many ordinary Americans their first close look at the communist nation.

But even as the Cuban government used the boy's case to push for change in U.S. attitudes, on Wednesday it continued to fulfill its promise to keep Elian out of the spotlight as he readjusted to life at home.

"With Elian, coverage has been given to an affair that habitually was a theme only for political scientists and specialists," Ricardo Alarcon, president of Cuba's National Assembly, said in an interview published in a special newspaper supplement released Wednesday.

"Millions of people, housewives, people with nothing to do with this, soon began to see the story of a Cuban boy as the daily top news event," he said of how Americans followed the case. Over time, many U.S. citizens grew to sympathize with the child and question American immigration and other policies toward the Caribbean country.

In the supplement, which wrapped up events up to and including Elian's return last week, the government kept its promise to protect the 6-year-old old from the public while continuing to promote its political agenda.

There were no details about what Elian has done since his homecoming on June 28. The only new photograph was a happy one of the boy dancing in a circle with other children his age the evening of his return.

Entitled "Elian in the homeland," the supplement was published by Juventud Rebelde, the daily newspaper of the Communist Youth Union.

An overview, it included a chronology, and look at those involved in the battle: the judges, Elian's grandmothers, and the Miami kin and their supporters.

The only real news about what Elian has done since his return was reported Tuesday night on state television, which announced that the boy and his family made a stealth visit to their hometown of Cardenas earlier that day.

Accompanied by his father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, his stepmother and his baby half brother, Elian visited the homes of his paternal and maternal grandparents in Cardenas, 90 miles east of Havana, state television reported.

Elian also visited his school, where he will resume studies in the fall. He played with several schoolmates before he and his family returned to Havana later in the day.

Elian also swam in a pool at a national park in the nearby tourist resort of Varadero, where the elder Gonzalez worked when the national custody dispute began seven months ago.

Cuban officials long promised to prevent the kind of massive media coverage the child experienced during the five months he stayed with his Miami relatives while they fought to keep him in the United States.

The Miami kin were given temporary custody of the boy after he was rescued off the Florida coast. Elian's mother and 10 others perished during a sea journey from Cuba to the United States.

The government forbade large public displays for the homecoming and journalists have been kept away since then from the seaside Havana house where Elian is temporarily staying with his family.

For the first time since their return, Elian's father was to appear in public Wednesday night when he was to receive a special award for his courage during the fight to bring his child home. The ceremony was to be broadcast live

on
state television, but foreign journalists were barred from the event
itself.

Despite efforts to protect him and his family, the government admits
that
Elian will always be special.

"He will always be, rather than a normal citizen, a symbol, an example
and a
glory for all the children of Cuba and pride for all the teachers of
Cuba,"
Havana said in a statement as the boy flew back to his homeland last week.

Castro has said that the fight sparked by the protracted custody
dispute over
the boy did not end with the child's return. Rallies, marches, special
television programs will continue to attack American policies toward the
island.

Most importantly for communist officials, Americans now know about the
Cuban
Adjustment Act, a 1966 U.S. law that Havana says violates Cuba-U.S.
migration
accords. Havana says the law encourages Cubans to illegally emigrate to
the
United States because it allows them to seek permanent residency if they
reach
U.S. soil.

Americans now know that "only those who come from Cuba have special
privileges," Alarcon said, noting that would-be immigrants from other
nations
are immediately deported.

The government announced Wednesday that Juan Miguel Gonzalez will
receive
one of Cuba's top civilian awards for his fight to bring his son Elian
back to
Cuba.

The elder Gonzalez was to receive the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes Medal
late
Wednesday in his first public appearance since he and his son returned
home a
week ago.

The award is for "extraordinary behavior in the tough battle for the
liberation of Elian," state media reported.

The ceremony was to be broadcast live on television from Havana's Karl
Marx
theater, and be attended by Communist Party leaders, government officials
and

others who participated in the more than 100 rallies, marches and other events held over seven months in Cuba's fight to bring Elian back to Cuba.

Government officials characterized the medal as one of several equally important national honors. Cespedes was a hero in Cuba's war for independence and the father of the country.

Cuba says Elian gave a human face to its four-decade political battle with the United States, allowing many ordinary Americans their first close look at the communist nation.

But even as the Cuban government used the boy's case to push for change in U.S. attitudes, on Wednesday it continued to fulfill its promise to keep Elian out of the spotlight as he readjusted to life at home.

"With Elian, coverage has been given to an affair that habitually was a theme only for political scientists and specialists," Ricardo Alarcon, president of Cuba's National Assembly, said in an interview published Wednesday in a special newspaper supplement.

"Millions of people, housewives, people with nothing to do with this, soon began to see the story of a Cuban boy as the daily top news event," he said of how Americans followed the case. Over time, many U.S. citizens grew to sympathize with the child and question American immigration and other policies toward the Caribbean country.

The supplement wrapped up events leading up to and including Elian's return last week.

There were no details about what Elian has done since his homecoming on June 28. The only new photograph was a happy one of the boy dancing in a circle with other children his age the evening of his return.

Titled "Elian in the homeland," the supplement included a chronology, and a look at those involved in the battle: the judges, Elian's grandmothers, and the Miami kin and their supporters.

The only real news about Elian since his homecoming was state television's

announcement Tuesday that the boy and his family made a stealth visit to their hometown of Cardenas earlier that day.

Accompanied by his father, his stepmother and his baby half brother, Elian visited the homes of his paternal and maternal grandparents in Cardenas, 90 miles east of Havana.

Cuban officials long promised to prevent the kind of massive media coverage the child experienced during the five months he stayed with his Miami relatives while they fought to keep him in the United States.

The Miami kin were given temporary custody of the boy after he was rescued off the Florida coast. Elian's mother and 10 others perished during a sea journey from Cuba to the United States.

The government forbade large public displays for the homecoming and journalists have been kept away since from the seaside Havana house where Elian is staying with his family.

Cuba has said that the fight sparked by the Elian custody dispute did not end with the child's return. Rallies, marches, special television programs will continue to attack American policies toward the island.

A shy, but joyful Elian Gonzalez was seen riding his bicycle in his hometown and splashing in a pool at a nearby resort as state television Wednesday night aired some of the first images of the boy since his return to Cuba a week ago.

With soft music playing in the background, the video clips chronicled part of the surprise visit Elian and his family made Tuesday afternoon to Cardenas, where the child was born and raised. On the streets of the small port city, scores of residents cheered as a bus carrying the family drove by.

The 6-year-old was shown curiously rummaging through his clothes and toys at the homes of his paternal and maternal grandparents. He looked thrilled to find a pair of inline skates, which he tried on over his bare feet and skated a bit down a hallway.

At his school, Elian was greeted by his classmates, and a teacher
leaned down
to show him pictures and something written in a book.

The clips were shown shortly before Elian's father, Juan Miguel
Gonzalez, was
to receive one of Cuba's top civilian awards for his fight to bring his
son
Elian back to Cuba. President Fidel Castro was in the audience as the
ceremony
got under way.

The television images were the first new glimpse of the boy seen by the
Cuban
public since Thursday, the day after he returned. At the time, state
television
showed repeatedly showed images of Elian's airport homecoming and a brief
clip
of him playing with children around his age the evening of his return.

The elder Gonzalez was to receive the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes Medal
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Wednesday in his first public appearance since he and his son returned
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week ago. Elian was not expected to be there.

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received one of Cuba's top civilian awards for his "heroic behavior"
during his
fight to bring his son Elian back to Cuba.

Gonzalez had tears in his eyes when President Fidel Castro pinned the
Carlos
Manuel de Cespedes medal to his dark suit after a two-hour ceremony at
the Karl
Marx theater, attended by about 5,000 people.

"I owe this to all the people of Cuba," Gonzalez said, following a
standing
ovation by the thousands in attendance, including top government
officials and
the Communist Party leadership.

"I have not done nothing out of this world," he said. "I have done
what
any other father would have."

Beforehand, Ricardo Alarcon, president of Cuba's National Assembly and
Gonzalez's main government adviser during the fight for his son, read a
resolution by Cuba's ruling Council of State.

"Juan Miguel Gonzalez stoically endured the most cruel suffering of
his son,
of himself and of his family," it said. "Resisted with his entire being
the
threats, the pressures and the slanders and rejected with honor the
intentions to
bribe and of force, always maintaining his fidelity to the nation."

The resolution compared Gonzalez to Cespedes, an important hero who
fought
for Cuba's independence from Spain and the father of the country.

After a string of musical and dance performances leading to the
awarding of
the medal, a huge portrait of Elian was lit up at the back of the stage. A
military band and color guard in dress uniforms marched around the inside
of the
theater and up onto the stage.

The television images of Elian shown in the hours before the ceremony were the first new glimpse of the boy seen by the Cuban public since Thursday, the day after he returned. At the time, state television repeatedly showed images of Elian's airport homecoming and a brief clip of him playing with children around his age the evening of his return.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 5, 2000

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SUBJECT: immigration

TO: Irene Bueno (CN=Irene Bueno/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TEXT:
LEXIS-NEXIS Universe Update Report: July 28, 2000 at 06:40

Results from this Update: 37

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Newsweek

July 31, 2000, Atlantic Edition

SECTION: LETTERS; Mail Call; Pg. 8

LENGTH: 2384 words

HEADLINE: The High Risks of Illegal Immigration

BODY:

Our July 3 Special Report on the smuggling of migrants prompted readers to take sides. Conceding that the Dover deaths were a tragedy, one reader wrote, "Governments must crack down hard on illegal immigration." But politicians can't solve the problem, explained another: "Immigrants give more than they take and that is far from sinking in with most Europeans." A third simply insisted, "It's

dangerous to lure people from poor countries with hype about our need for workers."

Smuggling Migrants Your July 3 Special Report, "The People Trade," was special indeed. The terrible loss of life in Dover, England, is a dreadful tragedy.

Human smuggling is an evil crime motivated purely by financial greed. To prevent any similar tragedies in the future, the British and European governments must crack down hard on all forms of illegal immigration and asylum-seeking. For too long, Britain and Western Europe have been seen as a "soft touch" by economic-asylum seekers wishing to exploit the generous welfare systems of these countries. Most asylum seekers coming to the United Kingdom, for example, are found to be seeking economic betterment, and though their asylum claims are bogus, precious little is done to deport them because "host" governments fear being branded racist or fascist. Genuine refugees, fleeing real persecution, should of course always be helped, but the bogus ones, of whatever color, should be swiftly removed.
Dominic Shelmerdine
London, England

The appalling deaths of 58 chinese refugees discovered in Dover reflect a dilemma that European politicians have no way of resolving. European countries can't maintain their socioeconomic standards without large numbers of immigrants; but the ability to convince electorates of this necessity is another matter. The awareness that immigrants can give more than they might take is far from sinking in with most Europeans. Unless and until that happens, ultranationalist parties can expect big successes and immigrants will enter Europe at the risk of their lives.
Werner Radtke
Paderborn, Germany

Your report on immigration to Europe is interesting. But how reliable is "Closing the Employment Gap," your chart on the work force's needs? Unemployment in Western Europe is still three times as high as in America. We're not in the '60s. It's dangerous to lure people from poor countries with hype about our need for workers.

Bernard Ferrandon
Nantes, France

Pastors to the Rescue I was pleasantly surprised by your article on Brazil's crime crisis and what evangelical churches have been doing to solve the problem ("Deliver Us From Evil," World Affairs, July 3). As a longtime NEWSWEEK reader, I've always been pleased with your serious, unbiased reportage. Once again, you were original: you did not show our urban violence as most publications do with sensational and half-truthful pieces. You described the situation and what a prejudiced but powerful part of our society actually does.
Alessandra Silva
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Many Brazilians are concerned about the press coverage their country receives abroad. Stories covering the "slash and burn" methods destroying the Amazon region, sex and hedonism during Carnival, and the rising violence in Rio's favelas have become cliched headlines in international media. But your last two issues had two original, unique and positive stories: one about "Gugamania" over Guga's victory in the French Open, another about evangelist Demetrio Martins' religious-conversion work among Rio's drug rings. I shared these with English students, who were elated. At last, the jungle, dental-floss bikinis and guns aren't the focal points of Brazil's image. Obrigado! (Thank you!)
Casey Frid
Juiz de Fora, Brazil

Fat for Life? I'm 12 years old and weigh 145 pounds. I'm obviously overweight and depressed. While I was reading your story "Generation XXL" (Society the Arts, July 3), I cried. But I learned many different things, such as the fact that 75 percent of adolescents don't come out of this. I decided that is not going to happen to me. I am going to be one of the 25 percent who can lose the weight. Every day since then, I have ridden a stationary bike for 20 minutes in the morning and 20 minutes at night. So far I have lost a pound and a half. I am taking on the issue of my weight and I'm going to win this battle because I

believed you, and so I didn't sit there and finish watching television.

Instead

I got off my fanny and went and rode that bike for another 20 minutes.

Name Withheld

Atlanta, Georgia

Bravo to NEWSWEEK for finally focusing on fat kids. Childhood obesity is growing (please excuse the pun) out of control at an appalling rate. Your

story

was exceedingly well written--and what it reflected about us as parents

and

caregivers, and as a society, was quite pathetic. In America we have

known for

decades about the correlation between obesity and heart disease, certain

cancers, diabetes, high blood pressure and stroke. And it is understood

that a

fat child runs a greater risk than a child of normal weight of becoming a

fat,

ill adult. Are adults who permit their children to eat as they please

(meaning

anything and everything) supremely ignorant or genuinely abusive? My

daughter is

now 4 1/2 and honestly chooses fish and broccoli over burgers and fries.

Why?

Because that is how I am bringing her up. It's called self-control and

self-education, and it can't start early enough--for kids or the

grown-ups who

raise them.

Amanda Uhry

New York, New York

Thank you for your very timely article on childhood obesity. As a pediatrician, I am dismayed at the increasing number of fat children I

see on a

daily basis. I find it sadly ironic that parents bring in their children

for

such minor problems as colds, while the biggest threat to the future

health of

their children, obesity, is usually ignored until it is too late. While

your

article frequently mentioned the lack of physical-education classes, the

real

solution lies in a lifestyle change for the entire family; 45 minutes of

kickball will not turn a Big Mac-eating couch potato into a healthy

person.

Aparna Kambhampati, M.D.

San Diego, California

A Hollywood Enigma Not only does Hollywood gets its facts wrong, but you

state

("History Hurts British Pride," Periscope, June 19), that the seizure of

the

German naval Enigma was carried out by the British submarine HMS Bulldog.

The

latter was not a sub but a destroyer. As a 19-year-old seaman aboard the
Bulldog
when it captured the German U-boat U-110 on May 9, 1941, I'm appalled
that, once
again, Hollywood is distorting history to its advantage. That a British
boarding
party managed to seize a German naval Enigma machine intact, along with
confidential codes, papers and daily rotor settings--the acknowledged
turning
point in the Battle of the Atlantic--would seem to be of little
consequence.
Instead, moviegoers are being fed a gung-ho Hollywood-U.S. naval version
lacking
any authenticity whatsoever. Audiences will not know that the most
advanced and
complex coding machine of its time was, in fact, captured by the British
and its
codes broken by the British even before America entered the war. "Hurts
British
Pride" is an understatement of fact.
Colin Fairrie
St. Albans, England

Not many people know that in the World War II battles of Midway and
Leyte
Gulf, the Japanese fleet was severely mauled by a task force led by the
capital
ships HMS Prince of Wales and Repulse. This has been a closely guarded
secret
for over half a century and can only be revealed now that we know the
truth
about the capture of U-571 as so memorably recorded by Hollywood. It
would of
course have been unthinkable until now to let it be known that the United
States
Navy was capturing German U-boats before the Nazis declared war on the
United
States.
Alan St. George
Sintra, Portugal

I was surprised by the headline you gave the little snippet about the
revisionist submarine flick "U-571"--"History Hurts British Pride." I
take this
to be ironic since, surely, it is the lack of historical accuracy in the
film
that is the blow to British pride? Speaking as a British moviegoer, I am
mildly
outraged and baffled by the premise of the film. Why should a nation like
the
United States of America with its many genuine military achievements in
which to
take pride, feel it necessary to poach the achievements of other
countries like

this? It reminds me of attempts by various totalitarian regimes to rewrite history in a light more favorable to themselves.

Pauline Brand Nelson
Leeds, England

The High Road to Monarchy When we read your recent cover story on Prince William

and his presumed loss of virginity on a cruise, we had two questions ("The Making of a Modern King," Society the Arts, June 26). First, why should the prince's sexual life be anyone's business? And then, what kind of impact is

NEWSWEEK making on young children who may read the article? Do you believe that

your sales depend on discussing the sex lives of celebrities? Why not try the

higher road and devote the space to a discussion of what role the monarchy might

play, for example, in setting standards for alleviating poverty and pollution

around the world, or raising the ideals of young people. Would that be too boring for your advertisers? As long as NEWSWEEK follows the market and focuses

on the trivial or the salacious rather than trying to inform its readers, it

will lose respect--and, believe it or not, over the long run, sales too.

Haynes Mahoney
U.S. Embassy
Cairo, Egypt

Nine pages about William Windsor's taste in rags and fillies and other intimacies is not my idea of an international news magazine.

Andres T. Stepkowski
Santa Cruz, Bolivia

I, for one, congratulate the House of Windsor on its limitless capacity to

surprise, baffle and outrage the nation.

N. Hukk
Dudley, England

Not Brits, by Jove I was annoyed to read your June 26 item "Battle in Belgium"

(Periscope), blaming "British" soccer fans for the mindless idiocy in Belgium.

These were English louts, not British, a distinction that you seem unable to

make. As a Scots supporter who travels to watch his country play soccer contests

whenever he can, I find this nonsensical labeling frustrating. Far from being a

nation of hooligans, Scots have frequently received praise for adding to the

carnival atmosphere that these occasions are supposed to create. Britain

is made
up of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. We each have our
separate
national teams. In fact, England had to beat Scotland in a playoff to
reach the
finals. Please stop tarnishing the rest of the United Kingdom's
well-behaved
supporters as louts. It's an English thing.
James Noble
Via Internet

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 27, 2000

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Copley News Service

July 28, 2000, Friday

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

LENGTH: 454 words

HEADLINE: Gore calls for support of refugee amnesty bill

By Leonel Sanchez

BODY:

Vice President Al Gore Thursday urged legislation that would allow
hundreds
of thousands of Mexicans, Central Americans and others to permanently
legalize
their status in the United States.

Gore, the Democratic presidential candidate, voiced support for the
amnesty
bill introduced earlier in the day by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

Gore challenged his Republican presidential rival, Texas Gov. George W.
Bush,
to support the legislation, which would benefit mostly Latino immigrants.

"I call upon George W. Bush to make clear his stance on this
legislation and
join me in challenging Congress to pass this essential legislation,"
Gore said
in a statement.

A spokesman for the Bush campaign said Bush "does not support blanket

amnesty at this time." Bush supports focusing more attention on improving the processing of immigration applications, he said.

Gore threw his support to a bill that is strongly backed by Democratic members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

"I am committed to the overall fair and even-handed treatment to immigrants with substantial ties to this country," Gore said.

The Kennedy bill would offer permanent residency to 500,000 political refugees from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Haiti, who were not included in a law that provided such a provision for Cubans and Nicaraguans.

"I believe we should correct this long-standing injustice," Gore said.

In addition, it would grant amnesty to hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants, mostly Mexicans, who have resided in the United States continuously since 1986.

It also would reinstate a rule, known as 245 (i), that allowed immigrants in the process of legalizing their status to apply here instead of returning to their native country.

Gore focused on the immigration issue at a time when polls continue to underscore the significance of the Latino vote this year.

A national poll released Thursday showed Gore leading Bush among Latino voters by nearly 20 percent. The survey by the Public Broadcasting Latino Poll 2000 also showed immigration was an important issue to Latinos.

Bush also has campaigned aggressively for the Latino vote, including a high-profile appearance last month at the National Council of La Raza in San Diego, where Gore also made an appearance.

Bush said he would require the Immigration and Naturalization Service to process all immigration documents within six months and give it the resources to do so. Bush said he supports family reunification through legal immigration.

"Al Gore should be behind Governor Bush's plan to reform the INS and make sure that America is more welcoming to new immigrants," said Bush campaign spokesman Scott McClellan.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 28, 2000

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Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service

The Dallas Morning News
July 28, 2000, Friday

SECTION: NATIONAL POLITICAL NEWS

KR-ACC-NO: K6718

LENGTH: 695 words

HEADLINE: Panel to begin deliberations Friday on GOP platform

BYLINE: By Richard Whittle

BODY:

PHILADELPHIA _ A committee of Republican National Convention delegates will start deliberating Friday on a platform whose draft puts a kinder, gentler face on the GOP.

Borrowing heavily from Texas Gov. George W. Bush's rhetoric and positions, the 68-page draft, released Wednesday evening, is largely devoid of the partisan sniping that characterized the 1996 Republican platform.

The draft 2000 platform doesn't even mention President Clinton or presumed Democratic presidential nominee Al Gore by name.

Bush is referred to on nearly every page. But while the draft would soften the party's stands on education and immigration, it retains the 1996 platform's call for a total ban on abortions. That language is expected to create the only real friction during the scheduled two days of platform writing.

"The issue of abortion is a personal issue. It should not be in a political party platform, period," said Susan Cullman, co-chair of the Republican Pro-Choice Coalition, a band of groups that hope to persuade the platform committee to moderate or even drop the abortion plank.

But just as Cullman's coalition has been lobbying delegates to replace the anti-abortion language in the draft, anti-abortion groups such as the American Conservative Union have been pressing to preserve it. And aides to Bush say he doesn't want the language changed.

The draft says Republicans "support a human life amendment to the Constitution" and the appointment of judges who "respect the sanctity of human life."

The document also opposes any use of public funds for abortions and offers no exceptions to the ban on abortions that it advocates. And it deplores a Supreme Court decision barring states from banning a late-term procedure that its foes call "partial-birth abortion." The draft says the decision "shocks the conscience of the nation."

Bush has said he opposes abortion except in cases of rape, incest or danger to the life of the woman but would not make opposition to abortion a "litmus test" for judicial nominees. Still, the Bush campaign wants the abortion-ban plank left intact.

Asked to explain that apparent contradiction, Bush campaign spokesman Scott McClellan said, "Gov. Bush respects those with differing views, but he believes the plank is an important statement of our pro-life ideals and should not be changed."

Abortion-rights groups contend that Bush is simply trying to pacify anti-abortion forces in the party.

"It's the only part of the platform they're not going to touch," complained Ann Stone, national chairman of Republicans for Choice.

In addition to defending the abortion plank, conservatives also hope to persuade the platform committee to restore a call for abolishing the federal Department of Education _ a stance removed at the behest of the Bush campaign.

"At the end of the day, Gov. Bush is going to win that fight," said Donald

Devine, vice chairman of the American Conservative Union. "But I suspect we'll also arrive at compromise language that'll look pretty good to both sides."

Except on abortion, the draft 2000 platform largely reflects Bush's positions. It backs his proposed tax cut. It also credits Republican control of Congress since 1994 with creating the nation's longest economic boom ever — an achievement Clinton claims.

The document softens the party's 1996 stands on other issues considerably, in keeping with Bush's moderate tone.

Besides abandoning the party's longstanding call for dismantling the Department of Education, the draft drops the 1996 platform's tough stance toward undocumented immigrants.

The '96 document said, "Illegal aliens should not receive public benefits other than emergency aid, and those who become parents while illegally in the United States should not be qualified to claim benefits for their offspring."

That language is gone from the 2000 draft, which declares that "the long-term solution for illegal immigration is economic growth in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean," and advocates free trade to help economies grow.

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St. Petersburg Times

July 28, 2000, Friday

SECTION: CITY & STATE; Pg. 3B

LENGTH: 632 words

HEADLINE: Hearing will pry at secret case against Tampa man

BYLINE: SUSAN ASCHOFF

BODY:

The former USF teacher's accusers, the FBI and INS, must reveal enough of their evidence that he may mount a defense, a judge says.

A Bradenton immigration judge Thursday ordered a hearing to determine whether a Tampa man jailed for more than three years on secret evidence should finally be freed.

The hearing, set for Aug. 11, could force the government to reveal why it wants to keep Mazen Al-Najjar behind bars.

The government says the former University of South Florida teacher must be detained as a threat because he has ties to Middle East terrorists. Al-Najjar, being held in a Bradenton jail, says he is the victim of politics.

The 43-year-old Palestinian has become a symbol in a nationwide fight against the use of secret evidence to detain more than two dozen Arab and Muslim immigrants. Al-Najjar's case has inspired pending legislation to ban the practice.

The hearing was ordered by immigration judge R. Kevin McHugh, who denied bail for Al-Najjar three years ago after reviewing classified government information alleging that Al-Najjar has ties to the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, an organization the U.S. government designates a Middle East terrorist group.

Al-Najjar's attorneys then sought his release in federal court. On May 31, U.S. District Judge Joan A. Lenard in Miami found his constitutional rights had been violated.

With no information on why he was considered a threat, and thus no way to rebut the government's accusations, Al-Najjar was denied due process, Lenard ruled.

Lenard clarified her order this week, saying that the immigration judge, not an Immigration and Naturalization Service official, should reconsider bail. A day later, McHugh set the August hearing.

"What remains to be seen is how the government will respond," said David Cole, one of Al-Najjar's attorneys, on Thursday. "At a minimum, if the government intends to proceed with classified evidence, they're going to have to provide a detailed summary" so Al-Najjar can defend himself.

Ordered deported for overstaying a student visa after coming to the United States almost 20 years ago, Al-Najjar appealed but was denied bail by McHugh on June 23, 1997. While concluding that the information presented by the government in open court was insufficient to warrant Al-Najjar's continued detention, McHugh said the classified information shared with him in chambers showed him to be a threat because of an "association with the Palestinian Islamic Jihad."

That single phrase is all Al-Najjar and his attorneys have been told about the government's case.

Al-Najjar was involved in a Tampa think tank in the early 1990s. One of its employees later assumed leadership of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Syria.

To protect Al-Najjar's rights, Lenard laid out a two-phase process for determining his eligibility for bond that McHugh outlined in his order Thursday.

McHugh first must decide whether the evidence presented in open court in 1997 is sufficient to prove Al-Najjar a threat. He already has said it did not. Unless the government introduces additional information in open court, McHugh said he will move to the second phase, in which the government may present classified evidence.

McHugh noted that he does not have the authority to order the INS or the FBI to disclose secret evidence. Should the government continue to use classified information, it must provide as detailed a summary as possible - enough that Al-Najjar may defend himself - as ordered by Lenard.

Attorneys for the INS could not be reached for comment.

Al-Najjar's attorneys say that if the government introduces any new information, public or private, they want it before the August hearing and in enough detail to remedy what the federal judge found to be, so far, an unfair fight.

@0987

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 28, 2000

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The Vancouver Sun

July 28, 2000, Friday, FINAL

SECTION: News; A1 / Front

LENGTH: 687 words

HEADLINE: Bill for migrants rises to \$36 million: Officials hope Thursday's deportation of 90 - on a flight chartered for \$700,000 - will deter others. But an expert says few in China know about the expulsions.

BYLINE: Chad Skelton

BODY:

Ninety Chinese migrants were shipped home by chartered jet Thursday, the second mass deportation of the summer.

The \$700,000 spent on the transport brings the total amount spent processing and detaining the migrants since they arrived on B.C.'s shores last summer to \$36 million.

Canadian officials expressed hope the move will deter others from hiring smugglers to bring them to Canada.

But an expert in people-smuggling who was in China last month said few people know about the deportations.

While the previous mass deportation on May 10 was front-page news across Canada, it was not reported in Fujian, said Ko-Lin Chin, a professor of

criminal
justice at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

The province of Fujian is the source of most of the 590 migrants who
arrived
on B.C.'s coast last summer.

"People in Canada are assuming it will hit the evening news and be on
the
front page," Chin said.

"Nobody knew that such a large number of people were deported back to
China
from Canada."

Chin said the state-owned media has been virtually silent about the
returns.

The reason, he said, is that Beijing is embarrassed that so many people
have
tried to sneak out of the country.

"The Chinese government doesn't publicize it because it's a loss of
face,"
Chin said.

Officials refused to say where in China the plane was heading, but
confirmed
the last plane landed at the airport in Fuzhou, the capital of Fujian.

A total of 196 of the migrants who arrived in four dilapidated boats
last
summer have now been deported.

Therese Vermette, an immigration department spokeswoman, said an
additional
100 boat people are now "removal ready" and will be deported as soon as
China
provides the necessary travel documents.

Another 171 have been released, most from the first boat before
Immigration
Canada began arguing for the detention of all boat people; 164 remain in
detention.

Arrest warrants have been issued for 138 boat people, including 32
minors,
who have failed to show up for their refugee hearings.

Vermette stressed that those deported "all had access to Canada's
immigration, refugee and legal proceedings."

Of the 576 migrants who claimed refugee status, only 16 have so far been
accepted as genuine refugees by the Immigration and Refugee Board while
415 have

been rejected.

Victor Wong, head of the Vancouver Association of Chinese Canadians, met with many of the 84 men and six women who were deported when they were in a Prince George jail earlier this week. He said many were worried they would be mistreated by the Chinese authorities upon their return.

Wong said the migrants' families have told his group that the 90 migrants returned in May are still in jail.

Chin said migrants returned to China are usually taken to the Border Patrol Education Camp in Fujian province where they are interrogated by Chinese authorities to find out how they were smuggled out of the country.

Most are then given a fine of between 10,000 and 20,000 yuan (\$1,500 to \$3,000 Cdn). Those that pay the fine are released immediately, Chin said. Those that cannot pay are sent to "re-education through labour" for up to a year at a massive prison in the city of Mawei just outside Fuzhou.

Chin said the fines often backfire, because "the reality is if they face more debts then there is more pressure for them to leave again" so they can make money in the United States.

Wong said several migrants asked to be returned to China on regular flights instead of en mass, in the hope they might evade penalty from the Chinese government.

Vermette said returning the migrants on separate flights was not practical. Special arrangements had to be made with the Chinese government, she said, because the migrants arrived without passports or identification.

While most of those who arrived by boat have been detained, hundreds of Chinese migrants who arrive at Canada's airports have been released. From January to June of this year, 147 Chinese migrants have claimed refugee status at Vancouver International Airport.

cskelton@pacpress.southam.ca

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 28, 2000

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The Washington Post

July 28, 2000, Friday, Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A01; CAMPAIGN 2000

LENGTH: 932 words

HEADLINE: GOP's Platform Remakes Agenda; Draft Document Takes Moderate Tack

BYLINE: Thomas B. Edsall , Washington Post Staff Writer

DATELINE: PHILADELPHIA, July 27

BODY:

Under the firm guidance of George W. Bush's campaign, the Republican Party issued a draft platform tonight aimed at halting the GOP's self-proclaimed revolutionary assault on Democratic liberalism and ushering in a new, more positive agenda under the banner of "compassionate conservatism."

All references to eliminating such federal agencies and programs as the National Endowment for the Arts and the Department of Education have been removed from the platform. The document also calls for expanded federal spending and regulation in such areas as education and the environment.

The generally hostile language toward immigration in the 1996 platform has been replaced by a strong endorsement of the role played by new Americans; the draft document also drops the call to make English the "official" language of the nation. The new wording reflects the abandonment of a strategy to appeal to whites fearful of immigration from the south and an explicit attempt to break Hispanic loyalty to the Democratic Party.

And in a bid to reduce the "gender gap" in which women are more likely to vote Democratic than men, the platform contains a specific "women's health"

section, supporting increases in the National Institutes of Health budget for research into "diseases and health issues that disproportionately affect women."

Although the document must still be approved by the Platform Committee and the full GOP convention--there are potential fights looming--the draft language marks a major shift from the Republican agenda of the 1990s. GOP officials said the platform signals the end of a more confrontational approach to politics by such politicians as former House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

"Government does have a role to play, but as a partner, not a rival, to the armies of compassion," the draft states.

Still, the platform draft, which was put together by the staff of the Republican National Committee under the direction of Wisconsin Gov. Tommy G. Thompson and Bush campaign officials, retains some of the most important and controversial policies of the 1990s and 1980s.

Platform language calling for passage of a constitutional amendment completely banning abortion without exemptions for rape, incest and life and the mother, and for the appointment of anti-abortion federal judges, remains completely intact even though Bush supports the exemptions and says he opposes litmus tests in judicial appointments.

In addition, while the draft drops 1996 language declaring the GOP's determined opposition to civil rights laws that "cover sexual preference" [i.e., homosexuality], and uses far more moderate language in its endorsement of a law allowing states to refuse to recognize same-sex unions, the draft does declare that "homosexuality is incompatible with military service."

During the platform subcommittee and full committee meetings scheduled for Friday and Saturday, conservatives say they will try to restore the tough anti-gay provisions that were in the 1996 platform and revive the call to eliminate the Department of Education.

Republican moderates, in turn, are expected to try to eliminate the anti-abortion plank, although their prospects are dim at best, GOP officials said. Bush agreed to keep the existing abortion language while he was shoring up

his conservative base just before the South Carolina Republican primary. Since then, he and his backers on the Platform Committee have used this pledge to win some reluctant support from the party's right wing for moderating other provisions.

Drafters of the platform sought throughout the new document to eliminate all of what they viewed as the "negative" tenor of the 1996 statement of party policy. The earlier platform included many denunciations of the Clinton-Gore administrations, attacks on Democratic scandals and critiques of liberal initiatives.

The proposed platform, in contrast, makes almost no direct reference to Clinton or Gore. "This is who we are as opposed to who we are against," one GOP aide said.

The difference is perhaps nowhere sharper than in the case of the immigration plank.

In 1996, the GOP stressed that immigration must be "set at manageable levels" and declared that "illegal immigration has reached crisis proportions [that] burden taxpayers, strains public services, takes jobs and increases crime." The party called for a constitutional amendment ending U.S. citizenship for children born in this country of illegal immigrants.

In contrast, the proposed 2000 platform declares, "Our country still attracts the best and brightest to invent here, create wealth here and improve the quality of life here. As a nation of immigrants, we welcome these new Americans who have entered lawfully."

While Republicans geared up for public debate on their draft, their Democratic counterparts were putting final touches on a platform largely reflecting the views of Vice President Gore. To their embarrassment, Democratic platform writers had not included substantial sections on veterans and small business, both of which will be added to a draft before the full Platform Committee meets in Cleveland on Saturday.

In addition, the draft is expected to include new provisions further restricting the use of "faith-based" organizations as recipients of government money to ensure that the organizations abide by anti-discrimination laws,

officials said. The only significant controversy that Democrats anticipate as a possibility is a challenge to granting the president "fast track" authority in negotiating foreign trade agreements.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 28, 2000

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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July 28, 2000, Friday, BC cycle

2:21 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 506 words

HEADLINE: Sham marriages common way to establish U.S. residency

DATELINE: CHARLOTTE

BODY:

Sham marriages, like the ones accused between some of the suspects arrested last week in connection with an alleged cigarette-smuggling ring, are the most popular way for illegal immigrants to get approval to live in the United States, officials say.

Federal authorities allege 16 people arrested last week in the alleged operation that authorities say raised money for the Islamic militant group Hezbollah were involved in fake marriages. Six American women and one American man are charged with violating immigration and naturalization laws for marrying Lebanese.

Immigration officials say it's common for aliens to marry Americans

only to
get permanent resident status and eventually citizenship and pay them
thousands
of dollars to enter into the phony unions.

"It's like the path of least resistance," said Richard Gottlieb,
officer in
charge of the N.C. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Authorities allege one of the Lebanese men charged in the smuggling
ring had
two sham marriages while his fiancée lived in Lebanon.

In 1994, immigration officials refused to let Lebanon native Mohamad
Youssef
Hammoud live permanently in the United States after they discovered his
recent
marriage to a woman in New York was bogus, court records say.

Hammoud married again three years later to a different woman and earned
a
green card, or "permanent residence status." Federal officials say the
second
marriage also was a sham.

INS agents try to determine if a marriage is fake by interviewing the
spouses.

They are sometimes asked to show evidence of a real marriage such as
joint
bank account statements, leases and life insurance policies. Sometimes the
couples are separated and asked personal questions such as whether their
spouse
wears boxers or briefs or the color of their toothbrush.

Occasionally applicants for citizenship based on marriage are called
back for
second interviews.

Last year, the INS conducted 382 follow-up marriage interviews in North
Carolina and discovered 14 cases of fraud, Gottlieb said.

According to the federal affidavit, many of the suspects in the case
faked
their way through tricky immigration interviews, and had limited contact
with
their "spouses." Some even lived with their Lebanese spouse and children
in
Charlotte suburbs, the records say.

Mary Denise Covington allegedly was paid \$3,500 to marry Mohamad Atef
Darwiche in March 1996 in Charlotte, according to the federal affidavit
in the
suspected smuggling case.

After an INS interview that went poorly, he paid her more money to live with him because he thought immigration knew the marriage was fake, authorities allege.

Covington, 25 and charged only with marriage fraud, declined to talk about her marriage, though she denied any knowledge of smuggling or terrorist links.

Darwiche, 31, is charged with marriage fraud, cigarette smuggling and money laundering. He is still being held in Mecklenburg County Jail.

Marriage fraud carries up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 28, 2000

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July 27, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: NATIONAL DESK

LENGTH: 517 words

HEADLINE: Immigration Lawyers Urge Senate: Restore Fairness, American Values to Immigration

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, July 27

BODY:

The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), the national voluntary bar association for immigration attorneys, today announced its strong support for S. 2912, "The Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act."

S. 2912, introduced by Sens. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), Harry Reid (D-Nev.), Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) and Robert Graham (D-Fla.), would enhance

family values by helping immigrants remain with their families; continue the longest economic boom in our nation's history by allowing employers to

retain valued workers; recognize the value of long-term residents who have

been treated unfairly; and expand fairness by treating all refugees of

similar circumstances similarly. Specifically, the measure would restore Section 245(i), update the registry date to 1986 and create parity for similarly situated Central Americans and Caribbean refugees left out of NACARA.

"Immigrants, their families and supporters should applaud Senators Kennedy, Reid, Durbin and Graham for introducing S. 2912. This legislation would restore fairness, justice, and family values to America's immigration system," said Jeanne A. Butterfield, Executive Director of AILA.

Butterfield explained that restoring Section 245(i) would allow eligible immigrants who have passed all appropriate INS screenings to apply for green cards here, rather than be separated from their families, their occupations and their communities for up to 10 years. In its last year of existence, Section 245(i) generated approximately \$200 million a year for the INS at no cost to taxpayers. That money could be used to reduce current backlogs.

S. 2912 also would continue the immigration reform initiatives undertaken by the Reagan Administration by updating the registry date, thereby allowing long-time residents to adjust their status. President Reagan in 1986 granted long-time out-of-status residents one year to become lawful permanent residents. But the INS misinterpreted the law and turned away thousands of applicants. The Supreme Court ordered the INS to process those applications, but Congress in 1996 slammed the courthouse door in the applicants' face by stripping federal courts of the authority to review those cases. Updating the registry date for the sixth time since 1929 would allow those people denied justice the chance to have their applications processed.

Finally, Butterfield noted, S. 2912 would extend NACARA parity to certain Central American and Caribbean refugees. NACARA granted some people fleeing civil conflicts the right to become legal residents. But people from other countries facing similar circumstances were not allowed to apply for legal permanent residency. NACARA parity would remedy that injustice.

"These issues are of vital importance to immigrants nationwide. They represent justice, fairness, and family values for thousands of immigrants and their families. We call on Congress to enact this measure and 'just get it done' before this session ends," Butterfield said.

CONTACT: Matt Tallmer of the American Immigration Lawyers Association,
202-216-2404

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LOAD-DATE: July 27, 2000

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July 27, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: NATIONAL DESK

LENGTH: 148 words

HEADLINE: White House Statement on NACARA

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, July 27

BODY:

The following statement was released today by the White House:

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

It is long past time that we correct several injustices in the immigration system by changing the registry date and amending the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA). People who have been living for many years in the United States and have developed strong ties to their communities deserve the opportunity to normalize their immigration status. There is no reason for Congress to stand in the way of a reasonable bipartisan bill to increase H1-B visas, invest in our workers, and correct these longstanding injustices. Congress should not pass H1-B or any other immigration legislation this year without ensuring that these injustices are addressed. The American people deserve no less.

CONTACT: White House Press Office, 202-456-2580 National Desk Contact:
White
House Press Office, 202-456-2580

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 27, 2000

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U.S. Newswire

July 27, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: NATIONAL DESK, POLITICAL REPORTER

LENGTH: 405 words

HEADLINE: Statement by Al Gore: Ensuring Fairness and Equity for Immigrants

DATELINE: NASHVILLE, July 27

BODY:

The following was released today by Gore 2000:

Today, I am announcing my support for recently introduced legislation, S. 2912, to ensure fairness and equity for certain immigrants and their families already in the United States. I call upon George W. Bush to make clear his stance on this issue and join me in challenging Congress to pass this essential legislation.

Specifically, the bill amends the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act, which allows Nicaraguans and Cubans fleeing human rights violations to become legal immigrants, but does not allow similarly situated Central Americans and Haitians to do so. I believe we should correct this longstanding injustice, and I urge Congress to pass this legislation to ensure equitable treatment for other Central Americans and Haitians who fled human rights abuses or unstable conditions. This will not only ensure equitable humanitarian protections, but also advance our commitment to the stability of emerging democracies. The legislation also amends section 249 of the Immigration and

Nationality Act (INA), allowing qualified long-term migrants who have resided in the United States since 1986 to become legal permanent residents. This provision, also known as the registry date, has existed since 1929 and has enabled many long-time migrants in the United States to

deepen their ties to this country, including the establishment of families, homes, and communities. Congress should pass this legislation to revise the 1972 registry date and allow qualified long-term migrants who have lived in the United States since 1986 to become lawful permanent residents.

Finally, the legislation reinstates section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act allowing certain immigrants who are eligible for residency to have their papers processed here in the United States rather than force them to return to their home country. Families who are in this country legally should be allowed to remain together in the United States while immigration applications are pending.

I am committed to the overall fair and even-handed treatment to immigrants with substantial ties to this country. This legislation will give them the fair and just treatment they deserve. I urge Congress to give this important legislation prompt and favorable consideration.

CONTACT: Douglas Hattaway or Chris Lehane, 615-340-3251, both of Gore 2000;

Web site: <http://www.algore2000.com>

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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July 27, 2000, Thursday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 330 words

HEADLINE: Defendant's former secretary testifies in immigration trial

BYLINE: By MELISSA NELSON, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: LITTLE ROCK

BODY:

A Little Rock lawyer's former secretary testified Wednesday about divorce papers she helped prepare for Fordyce dentist Bob Newton Rushing and a Chinese woman.

Attorney Mark Riabie, who is a former state representative, and four others are on trial in U.S. District Court. They are accused of conspiring to evade immigrations laws to bring two Chinese women into Arkansas.

The government claims the group illegally brought the women to the United States for the sexual gratification of David Jewell Jones, a former Little Rock television executive.

Also Wednesday, an FBI agent told U.S. District Judge George Howard Jr. without the jury present - that Rushing failed a lie detector test when he

denied bringing a woman from China for sex.

Riable is accused of performing sham marriages to help the women stay in the country. One marriage was between Rushing and Xiao Ying Wu.

Teresa Robertson testified Wednesday that she notarized and prepared numerous documents for Rushing's 1992 marriage and 1993 divorce from Wu.

Robertson testified that she was not sure if Wu was present at the time she notarized the woman's signature.

"I'm assuming I notarized her signature. I'm not sure if I ever met her," Robertson testified.

Robertson also testified she was unsure why Rushing's divorce was filed in Saline instead of Pulaski County.

Saline County does not require parties in a divorce case to appear before a judge, she added.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Pat Harris asked Robertson if the reason was also to avoid having the divorce appear in Little Rock newspapers. She said she did not know if that was the reason.

Rushing married Wu on Nov. 16, 1992, and divorced her June 3, 1993.

On cross examination by Riable's attorney, Robertson testified Riable was a good boss.

"I think he was a pretty honest man," she said.

On trial with Jones, Rushing and Riable are Little Rock restaurant owner Tony Ma and his wife, Mary Ma, both of Mabelvale.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 28, 2000

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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July 27, 2000, Thursday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 359 words

HEADLINE: Hearing continues for reformed gang member facing deportation

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES

BODY:

The police chief of San Salvador has testified on behalf of a reformed gang member facing deportation after being handed over to immigration officials by police.

A deportation hearing is scheduled to resume Thursday afternoon for Alex Sanchez, who claims officers from the Los Angeles Police Department's embattled Rampart station harassed him for his work with the Homies Unidos anti-gang group. Supporters of the former gang member and car thief claim his arrest violated a department policy that prohibits police from asking about a person's immigration status.

Sanchez, a citizen of El Salvador, is seeking a special visa for government informants. The El Salvador citizen is living in the United States illegally.

San Salvador Police Chief Eduardo Linares traveled to Los Angeles to testify Wednesday on Sanchez's behalf during the first day of the deportation hearing.

"If Alex Sanchez returns to El Salvador, the probability he will be killed is high," Linares said during a news conference. Linares explained that Los Angeles gang members continue their rivalries in El Salvador.

State Sen. Tom Hayden, D-Los Angeles, said Sanchez should be allowed to stay in Los Angeles.

"He has rehabilitated himself," Hayden said. "He has been saving lives."

Sanchez was targeted by police because he testified on behalf of a teen accused of a fatal shooting, Hayden said. Charges against the juvenile were dropped after Sanchez testified that the youth was at a Homies Unidos meeting when the shooting occurred.

Sanchez has said his arrest by Officer Jesus Amezcua of the Rampart station came after months of threats. The Rampart station is at the center of an ongoing police corruption probe.

Police have defended the arrest and have denied targeting Homies Unidos. The department claims that Immigration and Naturalization Service agents put Rampart anti-gang officers on alert that Sanchez, a prior deportee with a felony conviction, was wanted for violations of federal code.

Homies Unidos in June filed a civil rights lawsuit against the LAPD accusing officers of warrantless searches, unjustified arrests and harassment.

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LOAD-DATE: July 28, 2000

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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July 27, 2000, Thursday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 374 words

HEADLINE: Arab-American community decry connection of suspects to Hezbollah

BYLINE: By PAUL NOWELL, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: CHARLOTTE

BODY:

Arab-Americans are being hurt by reports about an alleged

cigarette-smuggling

ring that authorities say was raising money for the Islamic militant group Hezbollah, a coalition of Arab-American and Muslim groups said Thursday.

Spokesmen for the groups complained at a news conference that media coverage has been sensationalized over the Middle Eastern connection, even though none of the defendants is charged with terrorist acts.

"We believe that we are being portrayed and characterized in an extremely unfair and damaging manner, which could lead to discrimination and hate crimes," said Bilal Shammout, Charlotte chapter president of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

"Our communities nationwide have suffered numerous bouts of discrimination fueled by the media, including the notorious coverage of the bombing by Timothy McVeigh of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City," he said, reading from a collective statement.

Eight suspects are being held in Charlotte and one in Michigan on charges of involvement in the ring. Most are being held pending deportation, and U.S. Magistrate Judge Carl Horn said Wednesday he had no authority to override detention orders by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

They were among 18 people named last week in criminal complaints alleging immigration violations, weapons offenses, money laundering and cigarette trafficking. Authorities say some of the profits went to Lebanon to support Hezbollah, which has denied any involvement.

A special grand jury will consider indictments next week.

Rajaie Queain, president of the ADC's North Carolina chapter in Raleigh, said a friend's remark over the weekend illustrated the problem for him. He had told the friend he needed to drop off a package.

"He asked me if it was a bomb," Queain said. "It's going to take years of difficult work to overcome this damage."

Hussein Ibish, communications director of the ADC's national office in Washington, D.C., said the real story was about a local cigarette smuggling racket.

"There's nothing new about that," he said. "Smuggling cigarettes is an old thing in North Carolina. If what they did was illegal, they must be prosecuted. But it's not terrorism."

GRAPHIC: AP Photo

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 28, 2000

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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July 27, 2000, Thursday, BC cycle

SECTION: Business News; State and Regional

LENGTH: 538 words

HEADLINE: Companies sued on behalf of migrant farm workers

BYLINE: By JAMES PRICHARD, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.

BODY:

Two federal lawsuits filed on behalf of Mexican migrant farm workers claim they received less pay than had been promised by Michigan companies and that they weren't reimbursed, as required by law, for travel and other expenses.

The Michigan Migrant Legal Assistance Project Inc. sued in U.S. District Court on Thursday. The lawsuits claim breach of contract and violations of U.S. and Mexican labor laws.

"If the (labor) brokers and farmers bring these workers into the United States, they'd better make certain they do it properly," said Gary N. Gershon, executive director of the advocacy group. "Just because these workers come from

Mexico does not mean that the terms of contracts have no meaning or that statutes for workers' protection do not apply."

In one lawsuit, seven farm workers say they were recruited in Mexico last September and October as H2-A agricultural workers under a program established by the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952.

The program allows U.S. employers to hire foreign workers for temporary farm jobs at a minimum wage equal to the adverse-effect wage rate, the prevailing hourly wage rate, the federal minimum wage rate or the state minimum wage rate.

Program regulations required that H-2A workers in Michigan during 1999 receive at least the adverse-effect wage rate, which last year was \$7.34 per hour.

The rate, determined by the U.S. Department of Labor, is designed to prevent the employment of aliens from adversely affecting wages of similarly employed U.S. workers.

The suit says the Mexicans were promised that wage to harvest Christmas trees in the Sheridan area. Each paid a recruiting fee of about \$80, a visa-processing fee of about \$160 and travel expenses from Guanajuato, Mexico, to Sheridan of about \$150. They were not reimbursed for their expenses, which totaled about \$390 per person.

After arriving in Sheridan, the workers were informed that they wouldn't be harvesting Christmas trees after all and instead would be assembling holiday wreaths as lower-paid H2-B nonagricultural workers, according to the lawsuit.

The applicable minimum wage for H2-B workers is substantially lower than that of H2-A agricultural workers, and the workers were paid \$5.15 per hour instead of \$7.34. In addition, Social Security and Medicare taxes were deducted from their pay as H2-B workers; H2-A workers are exempted from the taxes.

The lawsuit also claims that the Mexicans often worked more than 40 hours per

week while employed in October and November but received no overtime pay, violating the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Among the defendants in the suit are Color Spot Nurseries Inc., based in Pleasant Hill, Calif., and a Sheridan subsidiary, Color Spot Christmas Trees.

Telephone messages seeking comment on the suit were left at both offices on Thursday.

The second lawsuit, filed on behalf of 25 Mexican farm workers, makes similar charges about lower-than-promised wages and unreimbursed expenses. Among the defendants in that suit are two related Newaygo County companies, Veg-Cuts Inc. and Veg-Pro Inc.

R.L. Crow II, an owner of Veg-Pro, said he hadn't seen the lawsuit and declined to comment on it.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

The materials in the AP file were compiled by The Associated Press. These materials may not be republished without the express written consent of The Associated Press.

July 27, 2000, Thursday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 316 words

HEADLINE: Miami federal judge denies change of venue for accused spies

DATeline: MIAMI

BODY:

A judge refused Thursday to move the trial of four accused Cuban spies out of Miami despite guilty pleas by co-defendants, months of news coverage on

Elian

Gonzalez and the conviction of an immigration official on espionage charges.

U.S. District Judge Joan Lenard issued a 19-page decision rejecting the defense request to relocate the Miami trial scheduled to begin Sept. 5.

"She answered everything that we raised and made her decision and now we have

to live with it," said Paul McKenna, defense attorney for accused spymaster

Gerardo Hernandez, who lived in Miami under the name Manuel Viramontes.

"All we

can do now is try the case where she said to try it."

The four are part of a group of 14 people accused of trying to infiltrate

U.S. military installations in Florida for the Cuban government. Five others

have pleaded guilty and agreed to testify at the trial. One man's trial was

delayed until January because of his attorney's illness, and others are still

fugitives.

The spy ring, reputedly the largest Cuban espionage operation uncovered in

the United States in decades, allegedly targeted military bases, anti-Castro

exile groups and tried to manipulate U.S. media and political organizations.

Hernandez is charged with murder conspiracy in the February 1996 attack on

two Brothers to the Rescue planes by providing information to Cuba about the

exile group's flights before Cuban fighter jets shot them down, killing all four

men aboard.

The trial of Hernandez, Rene Gonzalez, Luis Medina and Ruben Campa is expected to take two to four months.

Miami news media have been covering major Cuban-related stories for months.

The international custody dispute over 6-year-old Elian was in the public eye

at the same time Mariano Faget unsuccessfully fought charges that he passed U.S.

secrets to Cuban agents as a high-ranking immigration official in Miami.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 28, 2000

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

The materials in the AP file were compiled by The Associated Press. These materials may not be republished without the express written consent of

The
Associated Press.

July 27, 2000, Thursday, BC cycle

SECTION: International News; State and Regional

LENGTH: 1035 words

HEADLINE: The Associated Press; Chretien plays hooky on politics, tries
whitewater rafting

DATELINE: FORESTERS FALLS, Ontario

BODY:

The joys of summer won out over the drudgery of politics Thursday as
Jean
Chretien added whitewater rafting to his list of athletic exploits,
shooting
down the Ottawa River in a large blue raft.

Chretien, who has long portrayed himself as a fit and fun politician,
sat
mouth agape as he helped paddle the raft through rolling rapids on the
river
west of Ottawa.

He sported a yellow helmet, lifejacket, and shorts, flanked by two RCMP
bodyguards, two local MPs, Hec Clouthier and Bob Bertrand, and some staff
from
Wilderness Tours.

"We had a lot of fun - there was a lot of water, there was turbulence,
but
after 37 years in politics, I'm used to that," Chretien told a group of
about
100 summer pleasure-seekers gathered at the tour center.

Chretien used the venue to muse about a potential election, making a
strong
indication that he is preparing to call one in the spring rather than this
autumn.

The raft trip also provided Chretien, at age 66, with one more

opportunity to
exhibit his physical vigor.

Since he took office seven years ago he has been photographed
snowboarding,
skiing, bicycling, golfing, tossing a softball, dribbling a basketball,
vaulting
over walls and racing up stairs.

Imports of hazardous waste surge, says Environment Department

OTTAWA (AP) - Canadian imports of hazardous waste are rising sharply
and a
growing proportion of that waste is being dumped without treatment rather
than
recycled.

More than 650,000 tons of hazardous waste entered the country last
year, up
18 percent from 1998, says an Environment Department report released
Thursday.

Forty percent of the hazardous waste was recycled, down from 60 percent
the
previous year. Much of the material went untreated into landfills, which
are
prone to leakage, or to incinerators.

The volume of hazardous waste imported last year exceeded all hazardous
waste
produced within Canada. Domestic production is estimated at six million
tons
annually.

Environment Department expert Vic Shantora said imports have risen
partly
because the United States has banned the dumping of untreated hazardous
waste in
landfills while Canada has not.

In addition, U.S. companies face much stricter legal liability for the
wastes
they generate, Shantora said in an interview.

"When we look south of the border we say, 'We've got to upgrade.'"

Ninety Chinese migrants deported from British Columbia

VANCOUVER (AP) - Ninety more Chinese migrants who arrived by boat last summer were returned to China on Thursday, to face jail and fines upon arrival in their homeland.

The move was made with the co-operation of Chinese officials, who confirmed that the Chinese nationals would be accepted.

"All of the individuals have had due process," said Therese Vermette, a spokeswoman for Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Chinese authorities have assured the Canadian government that migrants will face jail terms of less than one year for leaving the country without authorization, she said.

Canadian Immigration Services alerted the migrants Thursday morning they would be leaving, and a few hours later they boarded a 747 charter in Prince George, British Columbia

The decision to deport the migrants en masse is a political move that jeopardizes their safety, said Victor Wong, an advocate for the Chinese migrants. He said he fears Thursday's group will face the fate of another group of 90 people deported May 10, who remain in a Fujian jail.

To date, 196 of the 599 migrants smuggled by ship to British Columbia have been deported.

British Columbia must pay for autism treatment: British Columbia Supreme Court

VANCOUVER (AP) - British Columbia's failure to fund early treatment for autistic children is discrimination, says a British Columbia Supreme Court judge.

The British Columbia government's refusal to pay for the highly effective but expensive Lovaas treatment through Medicare violates the Charter of Rights, Justice Mary Ann Allan said in a ruling released Thursday.

Four parents sued the province on behalf of their autistic children for being refused the behavioral therapy.

The Crown argued alternative treatments were available.

But Allan rejected that.

She ruled the government's refusal to pay was direct discrimination under Section 15 of the Charter and ordered the Ministry of Health to look at how best to pay for Lovaas treatment.

Autism is a neurological disorder that causes developmental problems.

Autistic children are usually very withdrawn, aggressive and have no sense of fear of such things as cars, knives or even fires.

A 1980s study of the Lovaas therapy system revealed that 47 percent of those treated ultimately achieved normal functioning, with most others showing considerable improvement, according to one expert who testified at the civil trial.

Walkerton troubled by grief over past, dread for the future

WALKERTON, Ontario (AP) - Residents of this now-infamous small town poured out their hearts to the man probing Ontario's tainted-water tragedy on Thursday.

Encouraged by the kindly gaze of Justice Dennis O'Connor, they talked in often intimate detail of their past suffering, current hardships, and their dread of what might still be in store following Canada's biggest E. coli outbreak.

In voices that quivered at times, mothers spoke of the remorse they felt over unwittingly giving water poisoned with E. coli to their already ill children because no one had warned them of the lurking menace.

O'Connor said he was moved by what he heard during a second day of informal hearings into the E. coli disaster that killed six and sickened hundreds more.

"It is overwhelming to listen to," he said.

Residents of this town of 5,000, where most everyone knows everyone else, said it was difficult to voice their stories.

But on Thursday, an undercurrent of anger began to surface.

"They were driving our water system," said Pauline Gay, a reference to the managers of the town's public utilities commission.

"They knew there was something wrong and yet they recklessly continued to drive - just like a drunk driver in a car that kills people." ---

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 28, 2000

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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July 27, 2000, Thursday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 991 words

HEADLINE: Canada News Briefs

BYLINE: By The Associated Press

BODY:

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 28, 2000

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Emerging Markets Datafile

HONG KONG IMAIL

July 27, 2000, Thursday

LENGTH: 298 words

HEADLINE: Airline asked why follower had no visa, HONG KONG IMAIL

BYLINE: Zoe Chan

BODY:

THE Immigration Department has asked Cathay Pacific Airways to explain why it allowed a pregnant Falun Gong member to fly to Hong Kong even though she had no valid visa.

"We are looking into the matter with the airline. The case will be handled in accordance with the established policy and procedure," a spokesman for the Immigration Department said. A Cathay spokeswoman said the airline would work closely with the department.

Wendy Fang Minqing was deported back to the United States on Tuesday

night,
three days after her third attempt to enter Hong Kong.

The Immigration Department spokesman would not say if force was used in the deportation.

"Immigration Department officers are under clear guidelines that only minimum and necessary force may be deployed in law enforcement actions," he said.

A Falun Gong member has died in a detention center in northern China after police attempted to end her hunger strike by force-feeding her, the Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy claimed.

An Xiukun, 50, an elementary school teacher in Hengshui city, Hebei province, allegedly suffocated on June 23 in the Hengshui Administrative Detention Center, after six days on hunger strike protesting against her "unjust detention", the human rights group said.

Police in Hengshui refused to comment on the case.

The human rights group has recorded the deaths of at least 25 Falun Gong followers in police custody since the government banned the group in July 1999.

An was detained on June 6 in Tiananmen Square in Beijing for protesting against the ban on the group. After continued protests while in detention, police bound her feet with wire, the center said, resulting in her hunger strike. She had practised Falun Gong for three years.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

COUNTRY: HONG KONG HONG KONG (UK) (94%); UNITED STATES (56%); CHINA (53%);

LOAD-DATE: July 27, 2000

19 of 37 DOCUMENTS

Copyright 2000 National Journal Group, Inc.

National Journal's Technology Daily

PM Edition

July 27, 2000

LENGTH: 461 words

HEADLINE: LABOR: Wh Urges Immigration Provisions In H-1b

BYLINE: Juliana Gruenwald

BODY:

Clinton administration officials and congressional Democrats renewed their call Thursday that if Republicans move a bill increasing the availability of H-1B visas they also must allow a vote on some unrelated immigration provisions favored by Latino groups.

"If this Congress is going to act on immigration proposals, whether it's H-1B or anything else, we should be able to vote on passage of these immigration provisions," said White House Deputy Chief of Staff Maria Echaveste during a Capitol Hill news conference. "It's a simple question of fairness. At a time when Congress is contemplating increasing the number of visas for foreign workers, let's do something for the hundreds of thousands of people who are here."

Echaveste was joined by House and Senate Democrats who urged Republicans to allow a vote on the immigration provisions that include giving some Central Americans and Haitians the same opportunity to apply for permanent residency that was given to Nicaraguans and Cubans. It also seeks to allow immigrants who began residing in the United States before 1986 a chance to remain here permanently.

Echaveste refused to say whether the president would veto an H-1B bill if these other immigration issues were not included or addressed on other legislation.

The issue has held up consideration of the H-1B visa legislation because GOP leaders have refused to bring up the bill as long as Democrats insist on having votes on the other immigration provisions.

After initially insisting that other immigration issues be attached to the H-1B bill, administration officials and some Democrats said they would be open to having the opportunity to attach the provisions to another bill that Congress passes.

If lawmakers can "find another vehicle on which to pass this bill, than that is also fine," said Gene Sperling, the president's national economic adviser. "But the important thing is that we should not be moving forward on any immigration issues this year leaving this behind."

Senate Democratic and GOP leaders came close late last week to working out a deal that would have allowed Democrats the chance to offer the immigration provisions on legislation reauthorizing federal education programs but the deal fell through when Sen. Phil Gramm, R-TX, objected.

Some Republicans have complained that the Democrats' insistence on these other immigration issues is politically charged and aimed at making the GOP look anti-Hispanic, a claim Democrats deny.

The high-tech industry is growing increasingly frustrated by the stalemate and some say they believe the H-1B issue appears more likely to be addressed in an omnibus appropriations bill at the end of the year than in a stand-alone bill.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 27, 2000

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Copyright 2000 Palm Beach Newspaper, Inc.

The Palm Beach Post

July 27, 2000, Thursday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: LOCAL, Pg. 1B

LENGTH: 675 words

HEADLINE: IMMIGRATION PAPERWORK TURNS DREAM TRIP INTO NIGHTMARE

BYLINE: Tim O'Meilie, Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

DATELINE: PALM BEACH

BODY:

As a reward for the way Pius Dawson managed the four Giorgio's clothing stores here, his boss sent him and his wife on a Caribbean cruise.

"It was a wonderful trip," Dawson said Wednesday of the vacation paid for by Giorgio's owner, George Sharoubim.

The trouble began when the ship docked and he went through customs.

During the two months since, Dawson has been handcuffed, spent two nights in a orange jumpsuit in the Krome Detention Center in Miami, been deported and been arrested in Germany. Now he sits in a Milan, Italy, hotel, trying to piece his life back together.

All because the British-born Dawson didn't obtain a green residency card

after he married an American four years ago.

"I never really got around to putting in the paperwork," he said.

His visitor's visa had expired and he said customs agents told him to bring \$120 and some paperwork a month later to the immigration office in Riviera Beach.

When he arrived, he was handcuffed, put in a van and driven to Krome.

"It was shocked out of my socks when he said I was being held and deported," said Dawson, 43, who had told co-workers he would be back in a hour. It's been more than a month.

Dawson spent three days at the detention center for illegal immigrants, calling Sharoubim's lawyer, Ron Kolins, with his single phone call.

"It's an experience I wouldn't wish on anyone," Dawson said. "It was dirty. Cockroaches ran all over. I didn't go to the bathroom the whole time because everyone was watching."

Kolins said he made an agreement with INS officials that would allow Dawson to leave the country voluntarily. Kolins bought the plane ticket, but Dawson, who was not allowed to have anyone but INS agents accompany him to the airport, signed a paper saying he was being voluntarily deported.

The distinction between voluntarily leaving and being voluntarily deported is huge. It means Dawson cannot apply to come back to the U.S. for five years, instead of beginning the process immediately, said INS spokesman Maria Elena Garcia.

Sharoubim, who was in Milan at the time, brought Dawson there and set him up as a liaison between Giorgio's and the factories he buys from in Italy.

"Everything happens for a reason," Dawson said. "George had been telling me that I need to get to Italy to understand the other part of the business."

Then this month, Dawson flew to Frankfurt to obtain a copy of a divorce decree from his first wife, so he could include it in his U.S. immigration application. He was arrested by German customs, who had a warrant, several years old, for his arrest.

"The odd thing was I'd been in Hamburg only two weeks earlier," he said.

The warrant charges Dawson and two other officers of the now-defunct Multicultural Society with spending \$ 20,000 in German government grants on the wrong programs. The other two officers have not been found.

Dawson, who had lived in Germany for 21 years before coming to the U.S. in 1995 to work for Saks, had helped start the now-defunct Multicultural Society, which helped integrate rural former Eastern Europeans into German society with language classes, job training and the like.

He said he left the group before any of the misspending began. Nevertheless, he paid the \$ 20,000 after friends helped him raise it, and a German judge let him leave the country. He said he has a hearing next month to try to persuade a German judge he was not responsible and to get his money back.

Once that is cleared up, Dawson said a Miami immigration lawyer will begin the process to try get him readmitted to the U.S.

Store owner Sharoubim - who is flying Dawson's wife, Jacqueline, to Italy Friday to be with her husband - said he is supporting Dawson because of his loyalty and dedication.

"I can leave the company in his hands," he said.

Meanwhile, Dawson is learning another side of the clothing business.

"If it weren't for George, I wouldn't care about coming back to the United States," Dawson said. "George has been a great friend."

tim_omeilia@pbpost.com

NOTES:

Ran all editions.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO (C, Dawson: 'It's an experience I wouldn't wish on anyone.'
(mug

LOAD-DATE: July 28, 2000

Copyright 2000 PR Newswire Association, Inc.

PR Newswire

July 27, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: DOMESTIC NEWS

DISTRIBUTION: TO NATIONAL AND FOREIGN EDITORS

LENGTH: 250 words

HEADLINE: Voice of Citizens Together: Americans to Protest Open Border Rally

DATELINE: SHERMAN OAKS, Calif., July 27

BODY:

On Saturday, July 29, Mexicans will hold a rally to demand an end to the enforcement of U.S. immigration laws. The rally will be held at Border Field Park south of San Diego.

The Mexicans will be headed by Armando Navarro, professor of Chicano Studies at the University of California at Riverside. Navarro advocates the creation of the nation of Aztlan in which Mexicans will practice self-determination and separatism.

Americans plan to protest this rally. They will gather at the entrance to Border Field Park to display signs and banners supporting the Border Patrol and opposing to the breakup of the United States.

The protest is being organized by the Border Solutions Task Force, the California Coalition for Immigration Reform, and Voice of Citizens Together.

"The United States is being overwhelmed by illegal immigration," said Glenn Spencer, president of Voice of Citizens Together. "This flood of migrants is being encouraged by the government of Mexico as part of a plan to conquer parts of the United States and by Bill Clinton who is sacrificing the United States on the altar of globalism," Spencer added.

Protesters will begin gathering at a model airplane field on Dairy Mart

Road, two miles west of Interstate 5 south of San Diego, at 8 a.m.,
Saturday,
July 29.

SOURCE Voice of Citizens Together

CONTACT: Glenn Spencer of Voice of Citizens Together, 818-501-2061

URL: <http://www.prnewswire.com>

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 28, 2000

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Copyright 2000 The Salt Lake Tribune

The Salt Lake Tribune

July 27, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: Final; Pg. B1

LENGTH: 509 words

HEADLINE: Ex-Staffer Sues USU, Says She Was Fired After Questioning
Handling of
Foreign Students; Foreign student head says she was fired for
whistle-blowing;
Ex-Staffer Sues USU Over Her Dismissal

BYLINE: KIRSTEN STEWART, THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

BODY:

The former director of international students at Utah State University
has
filed a wrongful termination lawsuit against the school, contending she
was
fired after publicly questioning its handling of foreign students.

Jennifer Ewald was hired last August to head USU's Office of
International
Students and Scholars, which monitors the records of the university's
more than
800 international students. The Logan resident supervised a staff of five
and
was responsible for ensuring that the university complied with
Immigration and
Naturalization Service (INS) regulations. She was fired Feb. 25.

USU General Counsel Craig Simper said university officials cannot

comment on
pending litigation. The case has been turned over to the Attorney
General's
Office.

Ewald contends in her lawsuit that shortly after she began working at
USU,
she became aware of "irregularities" with student records, including
fraudulent
immigration documents and outdated or missing student visas.

The lawsuit claims Ewald discovered numerous instances of foreign
students
pursuing degrees at USU without valid visas. The suit cites one instance
where a
noncitizen student obtained employment from the university without proper
clearance.

The suit also accuses the university of "unlawful misconduct" in
assisting a
former foreign student with the renewal of a visa, even though that
student was
no longer enrolled at USU, and hadn't been for seven years.

In addition, Ewald claims she was contacted by Logan residents who
offered
her gifts or money in exchange for fraudulent visas.

One person offered her "as much as" to help get a niece into the United
States, she contends.

"The common factor in all of these requests was that the individual had
heard
that the [university] could help," the suit states.

Ewald claims that individuals who were unsuccessful in their visits
with her
would later return to the office and receive assistance from another staff
member, despite her instructions to employees not to provide the services.

When Ewald reported these irregularities to the university's legal
counsel
and her supervisor, she was fired, the suit contends. The suit, filed in
Logan's
1st District Court, claims that by firing her, the school violated the
Public
Employees, or Whistle-Blower's, Act.

Utah State University is the only defendant in the suit. However, the
lawsuit
names several university administrators and accuses them of wrongdoing.

Ewald is seeking full reinstatement of her job and fringe benefits,
payment

of back wages and the costs of her litigation. Ewald has a master's degree in intercultural administration and has worked with international students at the university level since 1990. Prior to going to USU, she was a foreign student adviser at the University of Central Arkansas.

USU spokesman John DiVilbiss said he doesn't anticipate the university will settle before trial.

Ewald's attorney, Erik Strindberg of Cohne, Rappaport & Segal in Salt Lake City, was unavailable for comment Wednesday evening.

LOAD-DATE: July 27, 2000

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Copyright 2000 The Hearst Corporation

The San Francisco Examiner

July 27, 2000, Thursday FIRST EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A-4

LENGTH: 869 words

HEADLINE: Former contra wins review of U.S. drug ties; Fights deportation to Nicaragua, says CIA knew of cocaine deals

BYLINE: Bob Egelko

SOURCE: OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

BODY:

The former Northern California spokesman for the Nicaraguan contras, facing deportation for cocaine trafficking in the 1980s, will apparently get the chance to convince a federal judge that he was assured the drug deals had U.S. government approval.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Wednesday that a judge should hear and evaluate Renato Pena's claim that a federal prosecutor in San Francisco had told him after his arrest in 1984 that he was at no risk of

deportation for
having carried cocaine and cash to Los Angeles about a dozen times.

In court papers opposing Pena's challenge to his current deportation order,
the U.S. attorney's office said no such assurance was given.

Pena's case recalls the controversy over allegations of CIA-backed drug dealing by the contras, the U.S.-supported guerrillas fighting Nicaragua's leftist government in the 1980s. Accused in a San Jose Mercury News series of connections to the early crack cocaine trade in Southern California,
the CIA hotly denied having anything to do with Los Angeles drug traffickers who claimed contra connections.

Pena said he had been told by Norwin Meneses, a major drug trafficker with ties to the contras, that CIA-connected contra commanders were aware of the drug operation in which Pena took part. The CIA has denied any relationship with Meneses.

The appeals court stopped well short of finding that the government condoned Pena's activity as a drug courier. But the court said Pena's claims about the government's attitude were relevant to his attempt to overturn his 1985 drug conviction, the basis of the current attempt to deport him.

"Pena and his allies supporting the contras became involved in selling cocaine in order to circumvent the congressional ban on non-humanitarian aid to the contras," the three-judge panel said. "Pena states that he was told that leading contra military commanders, with ties to the CIA, knew about the drug dealing. Pena believed that the sole purpose of these drug transactions was to help the contras, and he believed the United States government would not seek to prosecute.

"The circumstances surrounding Pena's case, including his belief that his activity was supported by the U.S. government and his alleged reliance on the assurances of the assistant U.S. attorney regarding his immigration

status,
raise important questions about public confidence in the administration of justice."

The court said a federal judge should hear testimony from Pena and others about what assurances he had been given before pleading guilty in 1985, and about whether his court-appointed attorney had acted incompetently by failing to tell him he risked deportation. The judge would then decide whether to set aside the guilty plea.

Pena's suit, seeking to overturn the guilty plea, had been dismissed by U.S. District Judge Fern Smith in 1997. The hearing ordered

Wednesday would be held before another judge, because Smith now heads the Federal Judicial Center in Washington, D.C.

"He's a credible person," said Pena's current attorney, Stephen Shaiken. "He was good enough for the U.S. government when he was spokesperson for the opposition and when he was an informant (against others in the drug ring). He was telling the truth then, and he's telling it now."

He said Pena, now a San Francisco city employee, was not speaking to reporters about the case.

The U.S. attorney's office, which represented immigration officials who want Pena deported, declined comment on the ruling.

Pena was a member of the security force of Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza, who was overthrown by the leftist Sandinistas in 1979. Pena came to the United States in 1980 and became the chief of public relations in Northern California for the FDN, the contras' political arm.

He applied for political asylum in August 1984 but was arrested three months later on charges of possessing cocaine with intent to distribute it.

Pena said he had been asked by Norwin Meneses' nephew, Jairo Meneses, to travel to Los Angeles with money that would be used to buy cocaine and finance contras, whose U.S. military aid had been cut off by Congress. He was paid about \$6,000 for carrying money and drugs to Los Angeles between March and November 1984, the court said.

Pena said he had agreed to cooperate with prosecutors in exchange for a reduced sentence and been told by a federal prosecutor that he would be taken care of and had nothing to fear about his immigration status. He said he never would have pleaded guilty if he had known he could be deported to Nicaragua, then governed by the Sandinistas. He also said his court-appointed attorney had never spoken to him about the possibility of deportation.

After serving a year in a halfway house and testifying against another Meneses relative in the drug case, Pena was granted asylum in 1987, the court said. But the Immigration and Naturalization Service revoked his asylum in 1996 and moved to deport him to Nicaragua because of his drug conviction.

In court papers, Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Yeargin said Pena's asylum had been withdrawn because he had failed to disclose his conviction on his asylum application.

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The Straits Times (Singapore)

July 27, 2000

SECTION: Commentary Analysis; Pg. 51

LENGTH: 1037 words

HEADLINE: Why Australia still left out of East Asia

BYLINE: Phar Kim Beng

BODY:

MR GARETH Evans, the foreign minister in Mr Paul Keating's government, once lamented that Australia was "the odd man out".

He was referring to East Asia's exclusion of Australia from the regional make-up.

Determined to convince his East Asian counterparts that Australia deserves to

be "in", he even showed a map revealing the proximity of Australia to the region.

Although his sales pitch was somewhat highbrow and forced, it nevertheless underscored the point that Australia was looking forward to being included.

Granted that neither the East Asian Economic Caucus nor the Asia-Europe Meeting had ever spoken of the prospect of including Australia, Mr Evans' concern was justified.

From an objective standpoint, there is no reason why it ought to be excluded.

In fact, on closer scrutiny, one will see that Australia is more intimately linked to East Asia than what have otherwise been suggested.

The flight from Singapore to Perth, for example, is no more than four hours; closer than the flight to Tokyo.

Australia is an economic powerhouse with extensive trade links with almost every country in East Asia except Myanmar.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation also came about because of former Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke's suggestion in 1989.

More importantly, Australia remains an important member of the Five Power Defence Arrangements that also consists of Malaysia, Singapore, Britain and New Zealand.

And, when East Timor was literally wallowing in a state of complete anarchy, it was the Australian-led contingent that stabilised the situation first.

On a more prosaic level, many Asian students continue to study in its tertiary institutions.

And many affluent Asians have Australian permanent residency and even citizenship to boot.

Having jettisoned the "Whites-only" immigration policy practised in the 1960s, Australia has also come a long way to being a part of the East Asian region.

Why then the seeming hostility against it being referred to as a member of East Asia?

More precisely, why the continued stress that Australia is a part of Oceania (whatever that may mean)?

One of the reasons for the derision which Australia often encounters is its inability to articulate a true "Asian vision".

Like an adolescent struggling with an identity problem, it does not quite know where to place its bets.

When Asia was on the ascendant, it wants "in".

In turn, when America is growing at phenomenal rates, one sees Australia latching on to Washington like a schoolboy holding the coattails of his headmaster.

Such foreign-policy flip-flops do not speak well of Australia's Asian-centric conviction.

Nor for that matter does it project Australia as a reliable "member" within the "family" of Asian nations.

If anything, its "opportunism" can easily strike one as beneath contempt.

As is always the case in international relations, "perceptions" matter.

In this context, Australia has been perceived as having an inconsistent Asian policy.

To be sure, there is no earning curve that it can learn from or abide by to be considered an "in" member of East Asia.

Just as India has gradually orientated itself into becoming a member of East Asia -such as by joining the Asean Regional Forum (ARF), in which Australia is also a member -Australia can equally do the same.

Yet, Australia's membership in ARF has not brought about a discernible change in East Asia's perception.

Indeed, to be considered a member of the East Asian region, Australia has to play by the rules set by the house; be they rules originating from the ARF or

even Asean.

And the principles are clear: No apparent effort to intervene in the affairs of the Asian nations. Every attempt must also be made to reach a consensus.

These are the time-honored foreign-policy traditions of East Asia.

In this sense, Japan has done better than what Australia has achieved.

Despite its power and wealth, for instance, Japan has never tried to impose its will on the region since the end of World War II.

In fact, even granted its military alliance with the US, Tokyo has never been so bold and obnoxious as to claim that it is serving as the "deputy sheriff" of the region.

Yet, this is exactly the faux pas made by Prime Minister John Howard last September.

In the wake of Australian troops landing in East Timor, he announced a new strategic doctrine.

Dubbed the Howard Doctrine, it included two core elements. First, Australia would assume a more active role in Asian security matters, including further interventions as needed. Second, it would undertake this role as "deputy" to the US.

Although Mr Howard has since denied that there was anything verging on a doctrine tagged to his name, nor did he ever use the phrase deputy sheriff to describe Australia's impending role in East Asia, latest events have since confirmed the plan initiated by his administration.

At a joint press conference with Australian Defence Minister John Moore in Sydney on July 17, American Defence Secretary William Cohen said that the "alliance between Australia and the United States is, in fact, the anchor to our policy in the Pacific region".

In response to a question on potential US intervention in the conflict-racked Indonesian Maluku province, Mr Cohen further added that Washington "will look

for some leadership on the part of Australia in terms of formulating our own policies in the region".

To be sure, no one is saying that Canberra does not have the prerogative to seek a closer alliance with Washington.

In fact, given Australia's reliance on secure sea lanes in the Straits of Malacca and the Indonesian waters, it is imperative that it does.

But for Australia to latch on to the US without first seeking "internal" solutions through such bodies as ARF or Asean also implies an unwillingness to source for remedies within the region.

In this regard, Australia is once again guilty of foreign-policy opportunism.

While the move will not be fatal, it will nevertheless lose vital brownie points in claiming itself as a part of the East Asian region.

(The writer is a Senior Correspondent of The Straits Times based in Cambridge Massachusetts.)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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University Wire

July 27, 2000

SECTION: COLUMN

LENGTH: 784 words

HEADLINE: Reparations for past a liberal bucket of fish

BYLINE: By Monty Markland, Daily Texan

SOURCE: U. Texas-Austin

DATELINE: Austin, Texas

BODY:

No one can argue that slavery caused long-term irreparable damage to

African

Americans, as a people. But the horror of our predecessors' past deeds does not justify the expedient and inequitable solution of reparations.

Reparation plans, such as the one proposed by U.S. Rep. John Conyers Jr.,

D-Mich., are inherently flawed because they place the burden of reparations upon the shoulders of a society that has little direct connection to the American slave trade of the 19th century.

There are three basic options for reparations cash payments, benefits in-lieu of payments and preferential programs such as affirmative action. All of these possible reparation scenarios are unacceptable at the national, state or local level.

In addition, all of these options are innately unfair when viewed in light of immigration statistics for the past 100 years. According to the Immigration and Naturalization Service Statistical Yearbook, almost 100 million people immigrated to the United States between the end of the Civil War and 1990. There is absolutely no legal standard under which these new Americans should bear any responsibility for slavery, yet under reparations plans they carry an immense portion of the financial and societal burden.

But who bears the cost is only part of the equation. Equally important is who receives the benefits. All African Americans? That is certainly the intent of the majority of reparations advocates. Yet some African Americans have absolutely no ties to slavery in America or any other country. Though the numbers are not large, there is a population of African Americans who migrated to the United States post-slavery, even post-civil rights era. On what grounds should they benefit from the suffering of other men and women, distantly tied simply by the color of their skin?

Even if reparations could be justified, and the burden of payment meted out fairly, who should control the application? The federal government? That makes little sense.

Why? Because the federal government, as an unchanging, static entity, does not exist. The U.S. government is simply a government "of the people, by the people and for the people." As such, the federal government that condoned slavery does not exist today, because the constituents of that government no longer exist -- i.e. every single American directly connected with the slave trade is long dead.

So should the states handle reparations plans? Not without extreme confusion and difficulty. A state-by-state reparations plan is equally unworkable.

Which states pay? Just former slave states? Only the Southern states? Only the states which seceded? What about Maryland, a state which only seceded by default when President Lincoln declared martial law there. What about states that did not exist during the slave years? What about Alaska? Should there be a statistical determination? If more than 50 percent of Alaska's population is descended from Southerners, or slave owners, or Americans who voted against Lincoln, should the citizens of Alaska have to be included in the must-pay column?

So how about local reparations? Local reparations allow the will of the community to be voiced without infringing upon so broad a group as U.S. citizens, or Alaskans.

Mayor Daley of Chicago is leading the reparations and slavery apology charge in that city. But which Chicagoans must pay? All of them?

The whole debate over reparations and affirmative action glosses over the true problem in America, that of equity in educational opportunity.

Liberal champions of minority rights offer a gauzy, subtly racist platform, the basic tenet of which is: Minorities need the help of powerful white people to succeed in bringing themselves out of poverty. Liberal defeatism reigns, and minorities are told that they cannot possibly do it on their own. The liberal argument is not only dangerous in its hinted racism, but in its accepted collectivism. The mantra, advocated loudly by demagogues such as Jesse Jackson, and teachers unions, goes "you can't make it on your own ... you need the

state's help."

Well, you can make it on your own, but the educational system needs to ensure it. America's public school system does nothing of the kind. Reparations, or affirmative action, will not educate children, it will merely stave off the inevitable disaster of public schooling in America.

If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime. Slavery reparations are just another liberal bucket of fish. Solving the education crisis in America would provide the people a sturdy rod, with which to make a living for a lifetime.

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