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TO: Irene Bueno (CN=Irene Bueno/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])
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TEXT:
LEXIS-NEXIS Universe Update Report: January 13, 2000 at 07:16

Results from this Update: 152

Next Update: January 13, 2000 at 08:00

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Agence France Presse

January 13, 2000, Thursday 02:40 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: International news

LENGTH: 163 words

HEADLINE: MP urges Australia to take 200 boat people from the Philippines

DATELINE: MANILA, Jan 13

BODY:

A Filipino legislator on Thursday urged Australia to take in about 200 Vietnamese boat people who have been stranded for 10 years in the Philippines.

House of Representatives member Heherson Alvarez said in a statement he wrote
an urgent appeal to Australian Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock asking Canberra to help find a "humanitarian end" to the Vietnamese.

"Australia, along with other resettlement countries such as the United States and Canada, can be effective partners in this endeavor. With your support, these Vietnamese families, their relatives and sponsors can be given a chance to live normal lives," he quoted his letter as saying.

The government tried to deport the boat people during the term of Fidel Ramos, President Joseph Estrada's predecessor.

However, the Roman Catholic church intervened and the government later allowed those who refused to return to Vietnam to set up a community in the western island of Palawan.

str/cgm/mba/lh

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 13, 2000

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Copyright 2000 Associated Press

AP Online

January 13, 2000; Thursday 2:28 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

LENGTH: 421 words

HEADLINE: Haitians Seek Immigration Equality

BYLINE: MILDRADE CHERFILS

DATELINE: MIAMI

BODY:

Haitian-American activists say the treatment of 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez highlights an unfair disparity in U.S. policy toward would-be immigrants from Cuba and their island nation.

Haitian-Americans and others staged a mock funeral Wednesday for some of the more than 400 Haitians whose boat ran aground in Florida during a New Year's Day attempt to reach the United States. Survivors told the Coast Guard that

as many
as six people died during the 600-mile voyage and were thrown overboard.

The ceremony was followed by a candlelight march attended by about 3,000 people.

The difference in how immigration officials treat Haitians and Cubans seemed stark to protester Louisiane Valcourt, 60. "They regard the Cubans as people and the Haitians as animals," she said.

Under U.S. immigration policy, Haitians and others who arrive illegally are sent back to their country. The Cuban Readjustment Act of 1966 and the application of a so-called "wet foot, dry foot" policy allows Cubans who walk ashore to stay in the United States.

But Haitians claim they are routinely sent back without being allowed to request a hearing to determine whether they have a "credible fear" of persecution in their homeland.

Jocelyn McCalla, executive director of the New-York based National Coalition for Haitian Rights, said the U.S. disposition is "illegal" and "absolutely unfair."

Protesters contrasted the international custody battle over Gonzalez who survived a Thanksgiving Day boat trip to the United States in which his mother, stepfather and others drowned with the plight of a pregnant Haitian woman whose children were returned to Haiti this month while she remained in the United States.

In the New Year's trip, Yvena Rhinvil, who is four months pregnant, was one of four people brought to shore for medical reasons. But her children, ages 8 and 9, were among those sent back to Haiti, where they are living with an aunt.

U.S. officials said they weren't told Rhinvil's children were with her. "If we would have known that she had children on board, we would have brought the children with her," said Coast Guard spokesman Luis Diaz.

The repatriation of the New Year's Day Haitian migrants is especially unfair given the treatment of Gonzalez, many said.

"We're not asking the U.S. to open its borders indiscriminately," said Leonie Hermantin, head of the Haitian-American Foundation. "When people come here making asylum claims, they should not be turned back without due process."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 13, 2000

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Copyright 2000 Associated Press

AP Online

January 13, 2000; Thursday 1:23 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

LENGTH: 671 words

HEADLINE: Illegal Immigrants Fight Deportation

BYLINE: STEVE KARNOWSKI

DATELINE: MINNEAPOLIS

BODY:

For nine Holiday Inn Express housekeepers from Mexico, U.S. law cuts both ways.

They helped unionize their fellow housekeepers at the hotel in downtown Minneapolis. Soon afterward, the hotel fired them and reported them to the Immigration and Naturalization Service as illegal aliens.

Last week, the nine workers won a \$72,000 settlement from the hotel in the first case in which the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission intervened on behalf of illegal immigrants.

But they still are almost certain to be deported to Mexico.

Though all nine have admitted entering the United States illegally, the housekeepers say they would gladly trade their \$8,000 checks for the right to stay.

"I have nothing in Mexico," said Norma Lerma del Torro, 28, a mother

of
three. She said she might try to start a small business with her
settlement
money and eke out a living if she is sent back.

Another one of the fired housekeepers, Estela Albino, 28, said she
didn't
think her check would go far back home. Two of her sisters and three of
her
cousins are also in the group. "Things are so expensive there I don't
think the
money would last long," she said.

The housekeepers' attorney, Jorge Saavedra F., has asked Attorney
General
Janet Reno and the INS to grant them amnesty. He said they deserve to stay
because they helped investigators from the National Labor Relations Board
and
EEOC build a case against the hotel.

"Now that the federal government is done using these folks as their key
witnesses, then they're calling in a third federal agency in the form of
the INS
to show them the door," Saavedra F. said.

Barring amnesty or a favorable ruling from an immigration judge, the
immigrants will probably be deported in four to five months, said Curtis
Aljets,
director of the regional INS office.

"They're not entitled to pursue employment," he said.

The housekeepers have won supporters in high places, including Sen. Paul
Wellstone, D-Minn., who said he spoke with INS Commissioner Doris
Meissner on
Monday and plans to discuss the case with Reno.

Wellstone said he supports amnesty for the immigrants as "a plea for
justice."

"I think it was very courageous of these workers. They cooperated with
the
EEOC. They cooperated with the Justice Department. They cooperated with
the
NLRB," Wellstone said. "If ever there could be an exception made, I
think it
would be for these workers."

Like many other illegal immigrants, Ms. Albino and Ms. Lerma didn't
have big
ambitions when they came to the United States about two years ago.
Through an
interpreter, both women said they just wanted to find jobs that would
support

them and let them send money home to their families.

At the Holiday Inn Express, they joined the army of immigrant workers legal and illegal that keeps hotels going across the United States.

There they claimed they were subjected to low wages, discriminatory working conditions and exploitation because of their race, so they began organizing. Several of the nine took leadership roles, and won a unionization vote in August.

In October, managers of the hotel fired them and reported them to the INS, which had them arrested.

Hotel general manager Kevin Koenig denied reporting the workers to the INS in retaliation for their union activity. He said that he had a duty to report them after discovering they were in the country illegally, and that he feared possible fines.

After the arrests, Local 17 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union filed a complaint with the NLRB and the EEOC.

That led to the first major test of new EEOC policies meant to protect all employees against discrimination regardless of their immigration status. The EEOC's lawsuit against the hotel was the first under the new guidelines, which were issued in October.

While denying any wrongdoing, the hotel agreed Jan. 6 to settle the case and train its managers on the relevant discrimination and labor laws. It agreed on a contract with the union last month.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 13, 2000

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Copyright 2000 Associated Press

AP Online

January 12, 2000; Wednesday 10:58 PM Eastern Time

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

LENGTH: 485 words

HEADLINE: Haitians Seek Immigration Equality

BYLINE: MILDRADE CHERFILS

DATELINE: MIAMI

BODY:

Haitian activists staged a mock funeral and protest march Wednesday to draw attention to disparities in the treatment of Haitian and Cuban immigrants who seek asylum in the United States.

The protesters pointed to the international custody battle over Elian Gonzalez, a 6-year-old Cuban boy, and contrasted that with the plight of a pregnant woman whose children were returned to Haiti this month while she remained in the United States.

"We are asking for fairness, equality and due process," said Aude Sicard, an activist with the Haitian-American Grassroots Coalition. "Haitian children are children too."

Under U.S. immigration policy, Haitians and others who arrive illegally are sent back to their country. But the Cuban Readjustment Act of 1966 grants any Cuban who reaches American soil the right to stay.

Haitians claim they are routinely sent back to Haiti without being allowed to request a hearing to determine whether they have a "credible fear" of persecution in their homeland.

They claim that the return to Haiti of 407 Haitians attempting to enter the United States illegally on New Year's Day was unfair, especially in light of the fight to keep Elian after he survived an illegal attempt to reach Florida.

In honor of the six people who passengers on the boat from Haiti said died during the journey, the activists staged a mock funeral that was attended by about 300 in Miami's Little Haiti section. The ceremony was followed by a candlelight march attended by about 3,000 people.

Encel Alcime, a 75-year-old retired Miami-Dade County water department worker, said his fellow Haitian immigrants are treated differently than Cubans because they are black.

"Haitians are taken from the water and sent back right away, which means that they don't need us here," Alcime said.

In the New Year's trip, Yvena Rhinvil, who is four months pregnant, was one of four people brought to shore for medical reasons. But her children, ages 8 and 9, were among those sent back to Haiti, where they are living with an aunt.

U.S. officials said they weren't told Rhinvil's children were with her. "If we would have known that she had children on board, we would have brought the children with her," said Coast Guard spokesman Luis Diaz.

Activists didn't believe it.

"That's a big lie," Sicard said. "All during the trip down back to Haiti, they thought that their mother had died. This is inhuman."

Rhinvil, 33, has passed the "credible fear" standard and is applying for political asylum, a process that can take months.

Cheryl Little, an attorney with the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center, who is representing Rhinvil, wrote to Attorney General Janet Reno and INS Commissioner Doris Meissner, urging them to reunite the family.

Immigration and Naturalization Service spokesman Russ Bergeron said immigration officials were considering the request.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 12, 2000

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CNN

SHOW: CNN THE WORLD TODAY 20:00

January 12, 2000; Wednesday 8:49 PM Eastern Time

Transcript # 00011211V23

SHOW-TYPE: PACKAGE

SECTION: News; Domestic

LENGTH: 1017 words

HEADLINE: Haitians Want Same Immigration Rights Granted to Cubans

BYLINE: Jim Moret, John Zarrella

HIGHLIGHT: Miami's Haitian community took peacefully to the streets, their intent to draw attention to what they believe is a double standard, that Cuban refugees are treated one way and they are treated another. Haitian people say all they are looking for is equal treatment, not special treatment, from the U.S. government.

BODY:

THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT. THIS COPY MAY NOT BE IN ITS FINAL FORM AND MAY BE UPDATED.

JIM MORET, CNN ANCHOR: When it comes U.S. Immigration laws, being Cuban is one thing, being Haitian quite another.

With a look at how south Florida's Haitian community views the flap over Elian Gonzalez, here's CNN Miami bureau chief John Zarrella.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

JOHN ZARRELLA, CNN CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): The Elian Gonzalez saga has created a huge international stir, but this old weather-beaten freighter with its human cargo got barely a mention when it sat off south Florida January 1st with more than 400 mostly Haitian refugees on board.

Late Wednesday, Miami's Haitian community took peacefully to the streets,

their intent to draw attention to what they believe is a double standard,
that

Cuban refugees are treated one way and they are treated another.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We are taking a stand. This is the year 2000. We
are
tired of being treated unequally.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: If we keep on it, if we keep letting people know
how we
feel and what we are not going to stand for, we will see a change.

ZARRELLA: Haitians say they are constantly reminded that the rules are
different for them. The 1966 Cuban Adjustment Act gave Cuban refugees a
near-guarantee they would be allowed to stay in the United States.

Haitians,
whether they are stopped on land or in U.S. waters, are generally sent
home,
like those on the freighter, with only a token hearing of their asylum.

CHERYL LITTLE, HAITIAN ATTORNEY: Yes, I think groups that are similarly
situated should be treated equally, and I think when we treat groups who
have so
much in common, like the Cubans and Haitians do, and treat them so
differently,
it's very divisive. It pits one group against the other.

ZARRELLA: For Haitians, the problem has been both perception and lack of
clout. They have been labeled economic refugees. Refugees from
communist Cuba
are called political refugees. And Miami's Haitian community simply has
never
had the political strength to win immigration concessions from
Washington. (on
camera): Haitian people say the American ideal that all men are the
created
equal has not necessarily been their experience, and they say all they are
looking for is equal treatment, not special treatment from the U.S.
government.

John Zarrella, CNN, Miami.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 12, 2000

Agence France Presse

January 13, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

LENGTH: 618 words

HEADLINE: Reno upholds federal authority in Elian Gonzalez case

BYLINE: Michael Langan

DATELINE: MIAMI, Jan 12

BODY:

US Attorney General Janet Reno on Wednesday upheld a ruling by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) that the father of six-year-old Cuban boy Elian Gonzalez has exclusive custody rights over his son.

"I am not currently aware of any basis for reversing (INS) Commissioner (Doris) Meissner's decision that Juan Gonzalez -- Elian's father -- has the sole authority to speak for his son on immigration matters," she said in a letter to Elian's lawyers.

The boy has been at the center of an international custody battle since he was rescued off Florida's coast after his mother and stepfather drowned along with other Cubans fleeing the communist-ruled island for US shores.

Florida Judge Rosa Rodriguez had ruled Monday that Elian should remain in his great-uncle's custody in Miami until a March 6 hearing to hear the man's motion for temporary custody.

Elian's father, who lives in Cuba, wants the child back.

Reno stressed that the state court lacked the authority to intervene in the case, which she said fell to federal authorities.

The INS ruled last week that Elian should be sent back to his father by Friday, but said Tuesday it had no intention of forcibly deporting the boy. The January 14 date for Elian's return to Cuba was not immutable, the INS said.

The only recourse for Elian's Miami relatives, who want him to remain in the United States, would be to appeal the decision in federal court.

Spencer Eig, a lead attorney for Elian's relatives here, said he would take the case to a federal court early next week.

"The government should have respected the temporary protective order of the Florida family court as it was based on preventing imminent and irreparable harm to the child," he said. "Now we will take the case to a court they cannot ignore."

Reno reiterated that there was no basis for considering an asylum request on behalf of the boy.

"The INS reviewed the asylum application you sought to file on Elian's behalf, considered all other relevant available information, and found no objective basis for overriding the father's wishes for his son." she said.

But she expressed hope that the child's status could be resolved as soon as possible.

White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said the United States would allow the boy's father to come visit him while the courts examine the issue.

"As the State Department has indicated, we have indicated to the Cuban government and communicated to the Cuban government that we would facilitate and expedite a nonimmigrant visa for the boy's father should he wish to come to this country," he said.

Elian's 31-year-old father and the Cuban state strenuously demand the boy's return to Cuba. Gonzalez, who was divorced from Elian's mother, said Elian was taken out of Cuba without his permission.

Several Cuban exile groups were to meet later Wednesday to plan a response to Reno's decision.

"We will be on constant alert," said Ramon Saul Sanchez, president of the Democracy Movement, who has threatened to resume a civil disobedience campaign, including a blockade of Miami airport, "if the Department of Justice for some

reason doesn't let it (the case) play out in courts."

Meanwhile, members of the Haitian community here held protests Wednesday against what they claim is discrimination against Haitian would-be immigrants by the US immigration service compared to treatment given to Cuban immigrants.

Under accords between the US and Cuban governments, Cubans who reach US shores are permitted to regularize their status as immigrants and settle in the United States, but illegal immigrants from Haiti, on the other hand, are repatriated even if they reach land.

mdl/mac/ch

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 12, 2000

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Agence France Presse

January 13, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

LENGTH: 296 words

HEADLINE: Canadian woman has ties to Algerian terrorist groups: US prosecutors

DATELINE: BURLINGTON, Vermont, Jan 12

BODY:

US prosecutors convinced a judge Wednesday that a Canadian woman's alleged ties to terrorists made her a significant flight risk, and he ordered her held without bail on immigration charges.

Lucia Garofalo will remain in a Vermont jail until her February trial because of cellular phone records and other information appear to link her with suspected Algerian terrorists.

The government also asserts that Lucia Garofalo has ties to Ahmed Ressam, an Algerian national arrested last month near Seattle allegedly crossing into the

United States with a carload of bomb-making materials.

In a 58-page document released Wednesday afternoon, government prosecutors said that Garofalo had met and exchanged funds with Said Atmani, a suspected terrorist who was a roommate with Ressay in the fall of 1998.

"Telephone toll records establish an additional, recent link between Garofalo and associates of Ahmed Ressay," said the prosecution documents. "The timing of the link is remarkable in that it occurs during the December period when the defendant and Ressay were committing their crimes."

Judge Jerome Niedermeier agreed that there is a possible link and that Garofalo poses a significant flight risk, despite defense arguments that she had strong ties to her family in Canada.

"This creates a situation where there are no conditions to insure that Miss Garofalo would voluntarily return to the U.S.," the judge said.

Garofalo, 35, was stopped trying to cross the border into the United States on December 19, with a passenger, 20-year-old Algerian Bouabide Chamchi.

She has been charged with the transportation and attempted transportation of Algerian nationals into the United States as well as conspiracy to use a false French passport.

str/mac/ch

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 12, 2000

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The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

January 13, 2000, Thursday, Home Edition

SECTION: News; Pg. 2A

LENGTH: 795 words

HEADLINE: Q&A ON THE NEWS

BYLINE: Colin Bessonette, Staff

SOURCE: CONSTITUTION

BODY:

Q: With all the controversy surrounding Elian Gonzalez, we're curious:
What has
happened to the other people who survived the sinking of the boat coming
from
Cuba?
--- Beverly Harris, Atlanta
--- Bruce Burnaman, Woodstock

A: In addition to the boy, two adults survived. Both have been released
into
the custody of family members pending hearings before the immigration
court,
said Russ Bergeron, spokesman in Washington for the Immigration and
Naturalization Service. Elian, his mother and stepfather, and 10 others
were
aboard the 17-foot-boat when it left Gardenas, on Cuba's north coast, on
Nov.
21.

Q: For primaries and other elections, can a voter still write in the
name of
a candidate not listed on the ballot?
--- John Tilton, Jonesboro

A: Yes, but for such votes to be counted and reported, the candidate
must
previously have filed public notice with the elections superintendent of
intent
to be a write-in candidate. This requirement is intended to reduce the
number of
non-serious names voters sometimes write in, such as Mickey Mouse and
Donald
Duck, said Chris Riggall of the Georgia secretary of state's office.

The public notice requirement was enacted by the General Assembly
several
years ago. Before then, Riggall said, all the names scribbled onto
ballots by
voters were counted and listed, resulting in pages of pointless data.

Q: A recent article described the plight of a visitor whose van was
impounded
for several violations, among them having no vehicle registration card.
Does
Georgia law require a motorist to keep the registration card in the
vehicle?

--- Edward A. Watkins, Decatur
--- Van Rownd, Woodstock

A: No. A law enforcement officer can check on a vehicle's registration by using the tag or tag decal numbers, said Pam Short of the Georgia Department of Public Safety. So it's not necessary to have the registration card itself. But a valid license plate, valid driver's license and proof of insurance are required.

Q: Roy Kramer, commissioner of the Southeastern Conference, has come out in favor of a ban on the summer recruiting of high school basketball players. I want to commend him for his stand. What is his e-mail or regular mail address?

--- John Morgan, Smyrna

A: Contact him by e-mail at rkramer@sec.org or by regular mail at this address: Southeastern Conference, 2201 Richard Arrington Blvd., Birmingham, AL 35203.

Q: Early in December, the Journal-Constitution published an article asking readers to vote for the best-looking cars of the century. I didn't see a report on the results. Which ones won?

--- Dorothea Millard, Atlanta

A: The results were announced Dec. 31, but since you didn't see the list of winners, here it is again: (1) 1953-54 Studebaker Starliner; (2) '57 Chevrolet Bel Air; (3) '61-67 Jaguar E-type; (4) '32 Duesenberg SJ; (5) '64 1/2-68 Ford Mustang; (6) '65 Chevrolet Corvette; (7) '55-57 Ford Thunderbird; (8) '54-57 Mercedes-Benz 300 SL (gullwing); (9) '97-present Corvette; (10) '70-71 Plymouth Barracuda and '95-98 McLaren F1 (tie); (12) '90-present Lamborghini Diablo.

Q: What specifically did Gen. Colin Powell do militarily to gain recognition as an American hero, as he was called by Vice President Al Gore?
--- Dallas House, Monroe

A: Powell, who was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army after

graduating from City College of New York, was assigned in 1962-63 to a South

Vietnamese infantry battalion patrolling the border with Laos. While marching through a rice paddy one day in 1963, Powell stepped into a Punji-stick trap, impaling his foot on one of the sharpened stakes concealed just below the water's surface. After that wound he was awarded the Purple Heart, and in that same year he was given a Bronze Star.

In 1968-69, Powell returned for a second Vietnam tour of duty with the Army infantry as a battalion executive officer and division operations officer. He was injured in a helicopter crash landing, during which his rescuing of troops from the burning copter earned him a Soldiers Medal.

Altogether, he won 11 medals, including the Legion of Merit in 1972.

Among other positions during his long and distinguished military career, Powell also commanded forces in South Korea, West Germany and the United States, and in 1986 he became commanding general of the Fifth Corps in Frankfurt, Germany. In 1987, President Reagan named him assistant to the president for national security affairs. You know the rest.

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Do you have a question on the news - local, national or international? Colin

Bessonette will try to get an answer. Call 404-222-2002 and follow the instructions or e-mail: q&a@ajc.com

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The Christian Science Monitor

January 13, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: WORLD; Pg. 6

LENGTH: 980 words

HEADLINE: Twins test limits of British law

BYLINE: Alexander MacLeod, Special to The Christian Science Monitor

DATELINE: LONDON

HIGHLIGHT:

A gay British couple's plan to raise their US-born twins challenges

BODY:

Barrie Drewitt and Tony Barlow say they never set out to be pioneers, only parents.

But in what may prove to be a landmark legal case, the two men are engaged in a legal tug of war with British authorities that has embroiled the country in a debate over the changing nature of the family, reproductive rights, and gay parenting.

The couple, millionaire businessmen and partners for 11 years, hired an egg donor and another woman, Rosalind Bellamy, to act as a surrogate mother in the United States. Ms. Bellamy gave birth to Aspen, a boy, and Saffron, a girl, on Dec. 9.

But when Mr. Drewitt and Mr. Barlow - one of whom is the biological father of the twins - brought them home last month, immigration officials at London's Heathrow Airport declared the US-born babies were Americans and could not be considered citizens under the 1981 British Nationality Act.

According to a government spokesman, British law on homosexual couples using surrogate mothers is unclear. Britain, however, does not recognize gay couples as legal parents.

While the men consider their legal options, the children have been granted temporary one-month visas. The visas are renewable, but if an extension were to be rejected they might be required to leave the country.

Differing legal standards and ideas of what is in a child's best interest can pose special difficulties when international borders are involved - witness the current dispute between the US and Cuba over Elian Gonzalez, a six-year-old Cuban boy rescued at sea on Thanksgiving Day.

The arguments are further muddled as science continues to remove obstacles to couples who would otherwise be unable to have children. More and more gay pairs are exercising this option, at least in the US.

Popular singer Melissa Etheridge revealed this week that the two children born to her lesbian partner, Julie Cypher, and raised by the pair, were fathered biologically by veteran rock star David Crosby.

Government agencies in London, however, continue to play "pass the parcel" in the twins' case. Immigration officials referred Drewitt and Barlow to the Department of Health. But officials there said determining the twins' legal parents is not for them to decide. "These are uncharted waters. The matter may have to be tested in the courts," said a Health Department spokesman.

The case is attracting broad attention. Church leaders are weighing in, with some saying it raises fundamental ethical issues on family life and the welfare of children.

The government, child-welfare organizations, and church leaders anticipate further citizenship demands by gay and lesbian couples with surrogate offspring born outside the country. They see Aspen and Saffron as players in an important test case.

The twins were born in California, a state that permits homosexual parenting. In October, a Los Angeles court made legal history by ruling that Drewitt and Barlow would be the twins' "official parents" - they are listed as "Parent 1" and "Parent 2" on the children's birth certificates. Mark Watson, a spokesman for Stonewall, a London-based gay-rights group, says, "It must be best for the child if two people who are bringing up and involved in the parenting of that child are given legal responsibility for it."

But some church leaders claim the case exemplifies a trend toward sexual permissiveness that is both ethically wrong and has adverse effects on children. The Right Reverend Tom Butler, Anglican bishop of Southwark, south London, calls it "another example of the development of the designer child."

"We are producing a generation of children who are mixed up and insecure because they are confused about their identity," Bishop Butler says. "At the end of the day, it is the children who are the casualties."

British charities with an interest in child welfare, however, are leaning toward a more relaxed view. Last July in a major policy shift, the London-based Children's Society, which is sponsored by the Church of England, dropped its opposition to gays and lesbians as adoptive and foster parents. Ian Sparks, the charity's chief executive, says, "We are not going out to recruit gay and lesbian people, but we no longer wish to exclude any groups from consideration."

Richard Kirker, secretary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, says he was "thrilled" by the Children's Society's change of mind.

All the indications are that, by insisting on the twins' rights as British citizens, Drewitt and Barlow are entering a legal minefield.

One option reportedly being considered would be to ask the government to waive normal immigration rules and allow the twins to remain in Britain as legal dependents of the two men.

Another option might be to legally adopt what they consider to be their own children - something no court would have sanctioned only a few years ago.

Leading family-law judge Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss supports the adoption of children by gay couples. "Some time ago I was doubtful about the stability of children living in a family with two parents of the same sex," she says. "But over the years research has shown that for some children that is the best that is available to them."

"We should not close our minds to suitable families who are clearly not within the old-fashioned approach."

Drewitt says that if legal remedies in Britain fail, he and Barlow may have to take the case to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France.

Britain has lost a string of human rights cases in Strasbourg lately, but litigation can take years. So the question arises: Where would the twins live

while European judges mull over a decision on their status and fate?

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 12, 2000

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Financial Times (London)

January 13, 2000, Thursday USA Edition 2

SECTION: SHORTS; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 32 words

HEADLINE: SHORTS: Reno disputes Florida ruling

BODY:

Reno disputes Florida ruling

US attorney general Janet Reno said a Florida state court had no right to intervene in the immigration case of the shipwrecked Cuban boy, Elian Gonzalez.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 13, 2000

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January 13, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: COMMENTARY

KR-ACC-NO: K1329

LENGTH: 847 words

HEADLINE: The rights of Elian Gonzales: Parents have no right to consign their

children to the slavery of totalitarianism _ and Castro should let the father go free

BYLINE: By Peter Schwartz

BODY:

Is communism physically harmful to human life?

That should be the fundamental question in the Elian Gonzalez's case. Elian is the 6-year-old boy whom the Immigration and Naturalization Service has ordered back to Cuba. Elian's mother and stepfather fled Cuba with Elian almost two months ago, but they (and eight others) drowned at sea.

Elian was rescued and taken to live with relatives in Florida. His father remains in Cuba and has been demanding custody of the boy. The INS ruled that in the name of "family reunification" Elian must return to Cuba. And most media commentators have praised this decision (which a Florida state court is now trying to stay).

But would such a decision be tolerated if it involved, say, a young black boy who had escaped to the North from a Southern plantation 150 years ago? Or a Jewish boy who had come to America from Nazi Germany during the 1930s? Would he have been sent back if the father _ with a gun to his back _ declared his desire to have his child returned to slavery or to a concentration camp? Would editorialists argue that the child's best interests are served by "family reunification"?

Certainly not. Why, then, is Elian's situation any different? Life in totalitarian Cuba, after all, is life in slavery.

Yes, a parent has the right to determine his child's upbringing _ but not to inflict physical harm. A parent has no right to beat up a child, or to keep a child imprisoned in a cell. That becomes a violation of the child's individual rights. But a communist state is simply one huge jail, where the citizens are under the physical control of their wardens. That is what Elian faces if he goes back.

It is absurd for the INS commissioner to assert that the father is "expressing his true wishes" regarding his son. Mr. Gonzalez is not free to say anything else. If he displeases the state, his job, his home _ his life _ can be summarily taken from him. If Castro orders him to ask for the return of his son _ or, conversely, to renounce any interest in the boy _ the father has little choice but to obey. Like the slaves on a Southern plantation, the citizens of Cuba exist at the whim of their rulers. . Some make the accusation that Elian's plight is being "politicized" by outdated Cold Warriors. But it is actually these accusers who are using Elian to push a destructive, fossilized ideology. It is the INS and its supporters who are still trying to pretend that communism is not a system of enslavement, and that the difference between America and Cuba is merely one of "lifestyle." It is this administration that orders the Coast Guard to physically repel Cuban refugees who approach our shores, resulting in the disgraceful sight of American officials firing water cannons upon Cubans to keep them from reaching U.S. soil. It is the zealous advocates of Elian's deportation who are clinging to a discredited philosophy that refuses to acknowledge the tyrannical nature of life under socialism.

Keeping Elian in America is no violation of the rights of the father (who _ if he has any genuine affection for the boy and were free to express it _ would announce his fervent desire to have his son live in freedom).

Anyone concerned with the actual rights of the father should be demanding, not that Washington return Elian but that Havana let the father go. It is Castro who is preventing family reunification by keeping his borders closed to those who wish to flee his dictatorial rule. Let Castro permit Mr. Gonzalez to leave Cuba permanently and unconditionally (along with all his relatives, so that none can be held hostage against him). He can then live here, or in any free country he chooses, and take custody of his son. Both his and his son's rights would thereby be upheld.

Elian's mother willingly risked death on a desperate voyage to liberty

_ not
on a "migrant smuggling trip," as a New York Times editorial despicably
described it. She was drawn by the American principle that each
individual has
an inalienable right to be free. It would be tragic if the politicians
and the
judges in America failed to grasp the essence of this country as well as
she
did.

Eliau's future should not be determined by the liberal's desire to
whitewash
communism, nor by the conservative's desire to promote "family values."
This
issue should be decided by the standard of individual rights _ a standard
that
precludes anyone from sending a 6-year-old into slavery.

ABOUT THE WRITER

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Primitive:
The Anti-Industrial Revolution by Ayn Rand," is chairman of the board of
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ARCHIVE PHOTO of Elian Gonzalez available from PressLink Online.

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JOURNAL-CODE: KRT

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The New York Times

January 13, 2000, Thursday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 9; Column 1; Foreign Desk

LENGTH: 576 words

HEADLINE: Hastily Passed Law Delays Travelers at Czech Border Posts

BYLINE: By The New York Times

DATELINE: PRAGUE, Jan. 12

BODY:

A hastily prepared immigration law is causing enormous delays on the borders of the Czech Republic, one of Europe's most popular tourist destinations.

To the embarrassment of customs officials, many foreigners trying to enter since Jan. 1 have waited up to eight hours at the border. Some have been asked to produce certain documents and fill out forms available only in Czech. Badly briefed, the guards did not know what to require and have faulted the legislators for passing the law at the last minute and requiring instant enforcement.

"We did not know about any border law until New Year's Eve," a guard was quoted in a newspaper, Lidove Noviny. "How could foreigners know?"

The law was signed on Dec. 23. But the holidays apparently interfered with sending out the information. The delays were caused by requirements intended to filter "suspicious" foreigners. The measure is a part of an effort to gain the Czech Republic's entry into the European Union. Illegal immigrants trying to go to Germany often pass through here.

Under the law, customs officials can ask any traveler to fill out a border pass available only in Czech. In addition, the person has to produce two photographs, a letter of invitation and prove he has health insurance, a place to stay and \$30 a day for the length of the visit.

Unofficially, the guards were instructed to require such documents only from citizens of so-called "problem countries" of Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa, said a Foreign Ministry official. Travelers from Western and Central Europe, North America and Japan will generally be asked just for their passports

and
visas, where applicable, the official added.

Still, travelers from that group have been caught up for hours at the
border
and at the airport as officials demand photos and insurance cards from
"problem"
tourists. Because the government failed to inform other countries about
the law,
most visitors do not have the proper papers.

A group from Daewoo of South Korea complained of discrimination after
they
had been kept at the Prague airport for several hours on Saturday. "Our
colleagues were offended that South Korea was qualified as a problem
country," a
spokesman for Daewoo here, Jiri Kyncl, said. "I personally wonder who
made this
division and on what basis. I am not aware of any South Korean mafia or
illegal
workers here."

Tourists were not the only people affected. Many long-term foreign
residents
woke up to the new year only to find out they were illegal.

Kathleen Knox, a British citizen who has lived and worked in Prague
since the
early 1990's, found out that she would not be able to extend her long-term
residency permit, which expired on Jan. 6. When she tried to renew it last
month, she was told to wait for the new bill. But when she returned, the
clerk
told her that the law required her to apply at least two weeks ahead of
time.

With her permit expired, Ms. Knox is required to go back to Scotland and
apply for new permit at the Czech consulate. The process can take up to
six
months. She and her boyfriend have jobs in the Czech Republic.

"Nobody explained to me why I should risk losing my job just because
it's a badly written law," she said. "There is no provision for people who want
to
extend their residency here."

She said she would remain illegal for the moment, hoping that the
authorities
resolve her problem. "Meanwhile," Ms. Knox said, "I can only stay here as
a
tourist."

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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The New York Times

January 13, 2000, Thursday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 30; Column 4; National Desk

LENGTH: 459 words

HEADLINE: Excerpts From Reno's Letter on Cuban Boy

BYLINE: Reuters

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Jan. 12

BODY:

Following are excerpts from the letter of Attorney General Janet Reno to the lawyers for the Florida relatives of a Cuban boy found clinging to an inner tube on Nov. 25 after his mother and 10 others drowned in their flight from Cuba:

I have reviewed your letter of Jan. 5 concerning the case of Elian Gonzalez, as well as the issues that Mr. Bernstein raised when he and others met with me on the evening of Jan. 7, including the fact that you have filed a custody action on behalf of Lazaro Gonzalez in the Miami-Dade County Circuit Court. I understand that court has granted a temporary protective order to Lazaro Gonzalez. While I am always open to considering new information that might arise, I am not currently aware of any basis for reversing Commissioner Meissner's decision that Juan Gonzalez -- Elian's father -- has the sole authority to speak for his son on immigration matters. . . .

The question of who may speak for a 6-year-old child in applying for admission or asylum is a matter of federal immigration law. Nothing in the temporary protective order changes the government's determination that Juan Gonzalez can withdraw applications for admission and asylum relating to Elian and that he has done so. In the department's judgment, the Florida court's order has no force or effect insofar as I.N.S.'s administration of the

immigration
laws is concerned. . . .

Mr. Bernstein said that the I.N.S. itself had originally announced that state courts could resolve Elian's status in the United States. . . . In the first few days after Elian's arrival in the United States, when it was suggested that I.N.S.'s placement of Elian in the care of his great-uncle amounted to a grant of custody, I.N.S. indicated that it could not grant custody and that such a request would have to be put before the state courts. As the case evolved, it became clear that Elian's father, who was still in Cuba, was asserting a parental relationship with Elian and had adequately expressed his wish, under the immigration laws, for Elian's petition for admission to this country to be withdrawn. In these circumstances, I.N.S. was obliged to determine whether the father was the appropriate person to speak for Elian on immigration issues. That question, as I have said, remains one of federal, not state, law. The commissioner's resolution of that question -- as well as of other immigration matters -- may be challenged, if at all, only in federal court. We are prepared to litigate in that forum. Accordingly, Commissioner Meissner has determined that the Jan. 14 date should be extended. . . . This little boy has been through so much, and it is therefore imperative that all of us do what we can to resolve his case as soon as possible.

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January 13, 2000, Thursday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section B; Page 1; Column 2; Metropolitan Desk

LENGTH: 800 words

HEADLINE: Calls Said to Link Woman to Man With Explosives

BYLINE: By JOHN KIFNER

DATELINE: BURLINGTON, Vt., Jan. 12

BODY:

Seeking to sketch out a widespread terrorist plot, federal prosecutors here today said that a woman arrested after illegally crossing the Canadian border was linked by a flurry of telephone calls to an Algerian man charged in Seattle with trying to smuggle in a car packed with explosives and timing devices.

As outlined by the prosecutors, the link between the woman, Lucia Garofalo, and the Algerian man, Ahmed Ressay, rested on a single five-minute call from a cell phone carried by Ms. Garofalo to a cell phone in Queens registered to a man named Raja Aslam. Ms. Garofalo had the number written on a scrap of paper found on her, the prosecutors said.

There were then at least six phone calls from a conventional telephone in Mr. Aslam's name to a third cell phone in New York. Prosecutors said that according to telephone records, that cell phone was used to place 23 calls to a number held under an alias that was used by Abdel Ghani, a Brooklyn man arrested on Dec. 30 on charges of being an accomplice of Mr. Ressay.

In an interview at his Queens apartment, Mr. Aslam, a taxi driver originally from Pakistan, denied any knowledge of Ms. Garofalo, Mr. Ressay, Mr. Ghani or any terrorists. He said he had been questioned by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents for four hours on Tuesday. Eventually, after they asked detailed questions about his bank and phone records, among other things, he said, they told him not to worry.

An F.B.I. spokesman for the New York office, Joseph Valiquette, acknowledged tonight that Mr. Aslam had not been charged with any crime.

The phone calls, along with more detailed information from a "foreign

government" -- believed to be Canada -- that tied Ms. Garofalo more closely to Said Atmani, a former roommate of Mr. Ressim in Montreal, proved sufficient for a federal magistrate judge, Jerome Niedermeier, to turn down a bail request again. But the details did not include a description of what might have been discussed in the phone calls.

In New York, F.B.I. and Immigration and Naturalization Service agents arrested a third man in the spreading investigation there. An I.N.S. spokesman, Mark Thorn, identified the man as Rachid Haouari, one of the three men first detained with Mr. Ghani in the Dec. 30 Brooklyn raid, and said he was being held on immigration charges. It was not clear whether Mr. Haouari was believed to have knowledge of a terrorist plot.

Another man, Abdelwaheb Hamdoche, was taken into custody on Jan. 1 at Kennedy International Airport as he was preparing to board a flight for Paris and is being held as a material witness in the investigation.

The developments revealed more parts of the puzzle that federal prosecutors and investigators in at least three cities -- Burlington, New York and Seattle -- are trying to unravel in what they believe to be a terrorist bomb plot carried out by Algerian Islamic militants affiliated with an organization known as the Armed Islamic Group, which committed widespread atrocities in the civil war in Algeria.

They suspect that there are more members of the group in the United States but have not yet developed a clear knowledge of the operation.

French and Canadian investigators say that Mr. Atmani, who they say was a document forger for the Armed Islamic Group, had been running a ring of mostly Algerian terrorists in Montreal who stole laptop computers and cell phones from cars to finance their activities. The Canadian authorities deported him to Bosnia, which he had listed as his country of origin when he entered the country illegally.

Ms. Garofalo was indicted last Thursday on seven felony counts of alien

smuggling and misuse of identification documents. She was arrested on Dec. 14 trying to cross the border from Canada at a remote point with an illegal Algerian immigrant, Bnouabide Chamchi.

Mr. Aslam, in an interview in the two-bedroom apartment in Long Island City that he shares with two roommates, speculated that the telephone connection might have developed from illegal immigration attempts.

A former roommate, Malik Shaheen Ahmed, he explained, had gone to Canada in December in hopes of gaining asylum, and thus legal status. Within a week, however, he had changed his mind and tried to come back to the United States. But he was detained by American authorities as he tried to cross the border and sent back to Canada.

Mr. Aslam said that Mr. Ahmed called him last month asking for help in coming back to New York. He said Mr. Ahmed told him that he was going to pay a group \$1,000 to smuggle him in. .

"I'm a hard-working man with no links to terrorists," Mr. Aslam said. "I'm very upset. I don't like people who blow up buildings. I'm here for a good life. I'm cooperating with the F.B.I. like a good American citizen."

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January 13, 2000, Thursday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 1; Column 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 840 words

HEADLINE: Boy's Fate Called A Federal Matter

BYLINE: By NEIL A. LEWIS

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Jan. 12

BODY:

Attorney General Janet Reno said today that only federal courts had the authority to decide whether a 6-year-old boy should be reunited with his father in Cuba but said immigration officials had lifted a Friday deadline for his return to allow his relatives to appeal in federal court.

In a letter to lawyers for the boy's relatives in Miami, Ms. Reno said a Florida state court had no jurisdiction in the case. The boy, Elian Gonzalez, was rescued at sea clinging to an inner tube last November after his mother drowned.

In her letter, Ms. Reno emphatically reaffirmed her belief that the law required that Elian should be returned to his father in Cuba.

The Justice Department is considering going to court this week to ask a federal judge to enforce the immigration ruling in hope of speedily resolving a difficult, emotional political and diplomatic problem.

The Clinton administration has adopted a dual approach to dealing with the case. On one hand, officials want to show that their ruling giving Elian's father the right to make the decision for the boy is the product of well-established law that sets a priority on family unification and that they are willing to have it tested in federal court. At the same time, the administration is moving to end the stalemate quickly, possibly seeking a court order that could lead to federal marshals' being sent to fetch Elian from the Miami relatives.

In her letter, Ms. Reno said a separate lawsuit filed in Florida state court by the relatives to gain custody of Elian had no bearing on the case, which she said could only be decided in federal court. Judge Rosa Rodriguez of the Miami-Dade Circuit Court ruled on Monday that Elian must remain in the United States until a March 6 hearing.

Ms. Reno brushed aside that ruling today, saying the state court order "has

no force or effect" on the Immigration and Naturalization Service's decision in the case.

"The question of who may speak for a 6-year-old child in applying for admission or asylum is a matter of federal immigration law," she wrote.

Justice Department officials and legal analysts said they believed that Ms.

Reno had the authority to decide as she did because the immigration issues under federal jurisdiction took precedence over the custody matter before the Florida court.

Spencer Eig, a lawyer for the Florida relatives, said in a telephone interview that the family would soon take up Ms. Reno's invitation to file a challenge to the immigration ruling in federal court. But he said the relatives would also maintain efforts to have a state court award them legal custody of Elian. "We are not removing this case from the state court," he said. "We will seek protection for Elian's civil rights in federal court as a separate action."

The lawyers for the Miami relatives will ask the court to reinstate an asylum petition on behalf of Elian and argue that immigration officials wrongly decided that the boy's father was in a position to make a decision in the child's best interests.

No clear end appears in sight.

Officials said today's action in lifting the deadline was part of the effort to demonstrate that the decision to rule in favor of the father was a product of the law. One official said the deep fear behind all the legal maneuvering was that the situation would deteriorate to a stage where the federal government would have to use marshals to assume physical custody of the boy. "We are still hopeful that we can resolve this matter soon," a senior official said today.

Since last week's ruling, hundreds of Cuban-Americans have protested in the streets of South Florida. The administration has been sensitive from the beginning to the political implications of the case. And while reluctant to

offend Cuban-American voters, senior officials have been eager to end the situation to prevent any worsening of relations with Havana.

Today, several members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans, sent a letter to Ms. Reno urging her to respect the role of the Florida courts. The signers included Representative Dan Burton, an Indiana Republican, and Senator Robert G. Torricelli, a New Jersey Democrat.

Mr. Eig said today that the family would abide by any court decision and fully understood that it would not be in the best interests of the child to have any confrontation with the federal authorities in which Elian would be forcibly taken from them. But he left open the possibility that the relatives might feel that a state court ruling in their favor on custody might trump the federal authorities.

"I was surprised that Ms. Reno would not respect a state court ruling on what is essentially a state matter," he said, adding it was common for federal courts to look to state courts to determine a person's status in making immigration rulings.

Ms. Reno today made it clear that she believed otherwise. She also offered a long rebuttal to the lawyers' contention that immigration service guidelines mandated that Elian should be given a full hearing.

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St. Petersburg Times

January 13, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: NATIONAL; Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 1274 words

HEADLINE: Reno upholds father's custody rights to Elian

BYLINE: DAVID ADAMS, Times Latin America Correspondent

BODY:

COURT OVERSTEPPED: The attorney general says the Florida court had no business ordering a custody hearing.

MIAMI - U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno on Wednesday upheld an immigration order to return the shipwrecked 6-year-old Cuban boy, Elian Gonzalez, to his father in Cuba.

In a letter addressed to lawyers for the boy's Miami relatives, Reno said a Miami-Dade Circuit Court had overstepped its bounds Monday when a judge granted Elian's great-uncle temporary custody.

"The question of who may speak for a 6-year-old child in applying for admission or asylum is a matter of federal immigration law," Reno wrote. "The Florida court's order has no force or effect, insofar as (federal) administration of the immigration laws is concerned."

In order to permit expected legal challenges, Reno said the Friday deadline for Elian's return, originally set by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, had been extended indefinitely.

But it remained unclear Wednesday what effect this would have on the legal wrangles over Elian, or how soon he might be reunited with his father.

Lawyers for Elian's Miami relatives said Reno had it all wrong and said they were prepared to take the case to federal court if necessary.

"We are not going to turn this boy over," said Jose Garcia-Pedrosa, one of the family's pro-bono legal team. "We are disappointed that she (Reno) is not going to respect the court order."

However, legal experts heralded Reno's letter as a welcome sign that the government was determined to bring Elian's fate to a swift conclusion.

"She is putting the family's attorneys on notice that they have exhausted all of the administrative remedies," said Bernard Perlmutter, director of the University of Miami's Children and Youth Law Clinic. "The decision of the INS is now final."

Cuban-American leaders who organized street demonstrations last week, put Miami's large exile community on alert Wednesday but have yet to call for more protests.

The exiles thought they had won a significant victory Monday when Judge Rosa Rodriguez gave Elian's relatives temporary custody of the boy until a full hearing on March 6.

That ruling was immediately challenged by a host of legal experts who said the local judge lacked jurisdiction and also had violated state laws that recognize the father's exclusive right to custody over his child.

The judge's ruling was further tainted by revelations that she failed to disclose a prior business interest with a prominent Cuban American political consultant advising Elian's Miami relatives.

Arguing that communist Cuba is no fit place for any child to grow up, the city's exile activists have vowed to campaign to the bitter end to prevent Elian's return.

Their cause received a boost Wednesday when one of only two other survivors from Elian's November boat trip from Cuba gave the first witness account of the tragedy that claimed the life of the boy's mother and 10 others.

Nivaldo Fernandez, 33, said Elian should be allowed to stay in the United States.

"He has a more possibilities, a future here," he said.

His description of the dying moments of Elizabet Broton - Elian's mother - added strength to exile claims that her efforts to bring her son to the United States should be respected.

"We all fought to save ourselves, but she only wanted to save the life of her son," Fernandez said.

Elián's mother wrapped her own coat around Elián to keep out the nighttime cold and gave her small supply of water to the boy.

"The only one who drank water was Elián. At every moment she looked

after the
boy until she lost her life," Fernandez said, describing how they finally
lost
touch with each other during the night when the three inner tubes they
were
clinging to drifted apart.

Cuban-American exile leaders also sought to capitalize Wednesday on a
statement made by Elian himself, captured by radio and television
microphones as
he played in his great-uncle's back yard.

All day, Spanish language radio stations repeatedly broadcast the voice
of
Elian saying: "I don't want to be returned to Cuba."

Exile activists seized on those words to demand that the courts
recognize
Elian's right to speak for himself.

"Elian has spoken," said Maximino Perez, 62, one of a group of exiles
who
gathered Wednesday outside the home where Elian is living. "What more do
the
courts need to know."

But Reno's letter made it clear Wednesday that Elian's views on his
future
are irrelevant.

"Elian is too young to make legal decisions for himself," she wrote,
pointing
out that the INS had already ruled his father has the sole legal
authority to
represent him.

"It really turns on the age and maturity of the child and his ability to
speak for himself," Perlmutter said. "In this case we have a very, very
young
child of tender years who is incapable of speaking for himself. He should
be
heard from, but only through his father, unless there is conclusive
evidence
that the father is unfit and incapable of speaking on behalf of his son."

The INS interviewed the father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, in Cuba last
month and
determined that he enjoyed a "very close relationship" with Elian.
Gonzalez has
repeatedly expressed his desire to be reunited with his son.

Reno said she hopes the issue can be resolved quickly. "This little boy
has
been through so much, and it is therefore imperative that all of us do

what we
can to resolve his case as soon as possible."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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January 13, 2000, Thursday, Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A02

LENGTH: 730 words

HEADLINE: Reno Discounts Ruling on Elian; Fla. Court Has No Standing,
Lawyers
for Miami Relatives Told

BYLINE: Karen DeYoung; Sue Anne Pressley, Washington Post Staff Writers

BODY:

Attorney General Janet Reno said yesterday that a Florida court order granting temporary custody of Elian Gonzalez to his great-uncle in Miami "has no force or effect" on a federal government decision that the 6-year-old should be returned to his Cuban father.

In a letter to attorneys for Lazaro Gonzalez, the great-uncle who is seeking to keep the boy in this country, Reno also said she saw no reason for reversing last week's Immigration and Naturalization Service ruling.

The question of who has legal authority to speak for the child regarding his immigration status in this country "remains one of federal, not state, law," Reno said. If the relatives want to challenge the INS decision, she said, the Justice Department is prepared to litigate the matter in federal court.

But Reno's letter, while continuing to call on relatives to cooperate,

gave
no indication of how INS intends to enforce its ruling. In the meantime,
she
said an INS deadline for compliance Friday had been extended, and said
there was
no intention to forcibly remove the boy from the Miami home of his
great-uncle.

In response to the letter, Spencer Eig, an attorney for the boy's Miami
relatives, said, "The government continues to deny Elian his legal and
constitutional rights." He said the custody order by Miami-Dade Circuit
Court
Judge Rosa Rodriguez was "based on protecting Elian from imminent harm"
if he is
returned to Cuba.

Elian has been the subject of a tug of war between his father in
Cuba--who
wants him sent home--and relatives in Miami--who want him to stay in
Florida--since he was found adrift in the Atlantic Ocean on Nov. 25.

Both in their Florida court petition, and in federal asylum claims, the
attorneys for the Miami relatives had argued that returning Elian "to
Fidel
Castro's communist regime . . . would place [him] in an environment which
will
cause the child's mental and emotional [and] physical health to be
significantly
impaired . . . [and] he would be deprived of food, clothing, shelter and
medical
treatment."

Reno said that neither the attorneys, nor Lazaro Gonzalez, had any
standing
to seek asylum for Elian, since the INS had decided that only his father
could
represent him. In any case, she said, while the law allowed for asylum on
the
basis of "possible torture or persecution in the child's home country,"
the INS
had "found no objective basis" for such a conclusion.

The Justice Department, while rejecting state court intervention, is
eager to
see the matter brought before a federal court, where it is confident of
prevailing. Eig said such action would be taken "in the near future, after
observing Martin Luther King Jr. Day" next Monday.

Officials in Washington puzzled yesterday over the holiday reference,
some
speculating that the attorneys were merely delaying, while others
suggested that
Miami's Cuban American community was trying to placate African Americans
and

Haitians there who have long protested what they see as special immigration treatment for Cubans and who have been increasingly disgruntled over the ongoing dispute.

One indication of the volatile feelings in south Florida came when a Miami television station, WPLG, on Tuesday night broadcast footage of Elian and a friend playing. An airplane passes overhead and Elian, looking up, is heard to say in Spanish, "Yo quiero que tu me regresas a Cuba," or "I want you to take me back to Cuba," the station said. Off camera, adults can be heard saying "No, no," amid some scattered applause.

The report caused an immediate upheaval because many relatives and supporters have maintained Elian wants to stay in the United States. But when the passage was rebroadcast on the city's Spanish-language stations this morning, emotional callers were divided among those who agreed with the station's translation and those who insisted Elian had really said "Yo quiero que no me regresas a Cuba," or, "I don't want you to take me back to Cuba."

The station submitted the passage to numerous linguistic experts and native speakers yesterday, and, as protesters including Rep. Iliana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.) gathered outside the station, even played the passage for passersby before a live camera on the street. It concluded in its evening broadcast that it was impossible to be certain.

Pressley reported from Miami; DeYoung from Washington.

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January 13, 2000, Thursday, Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A05

LENGTH: 954 words

HEADLINE: 2100 Census Forecast: 2000 x 2; Minorities Expected to Account
for 60
Percent of U.S. Population

BYLINE: D'Vera Cohn, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

A century from now, the United States will have twice as many people,
the
young will no longer outnumber the old and members of today's minority
groups
will be in the majority, according to Census Bureau forecasts to be
released
today.

Immigration will still drive population growth, but fewer new Americans
will
come from Central and South America, and more will come from Asia, the
Middle
East and Africa, the forecast says. And even amid this roiling racial and
ethnic
change, different groups will become more alike in important ways,
according to
a variety of demographers.

The Census Bureau forecasts, issued at the dawn of a new century, are
the
first to propose a glimpse of the future 100 years away. By mid-century,
the
United States will have about 404 million people, and 571 million by 2100,
compared with today's 275 million. Members of today's minority groups will
account for 60 percent of the population. The numbers of people under 18
and
people over 65 will be about the same, whereas now there are twice as many
children.

Census Bureau demographers say they used trends already in motion, such
as
immigration, the aging of society, the tendency toward smaller families
and
advances in longevity. But forecasting is a flawed art, especially so far
into
the future. Even a small change in government policy or individual
behavior, not
to mention a disaster of some kind, could swing the numbers dramatically.

The new projections, some say, raise concerns that growth will strain the environment, public facilities such as highways and schools and the public's patience. Census Bureau demographers, though, offered reassurance that a doubling of the population is not necessarily cause for alarm.

"Our projections for 2100 will give us a population density one-quarter of the United Kingdom," said Frederick W. Hollmann, a Census Bureau demographer. "We'll still be a sparsely populated country among the industrialized countries of the world."

Census Bureau forecasters did not estimate which regions would see the most growth, but some said the increase is sure to worsen sprawl, traffic congestion and other urban ills.

"It's just amazing," said Steven Camarota, research director for the Center for Immigration Studies, which advocates controls on immigration. "Unless one postulates massive high-rises, you have got to have an enormous amount of rural and undeveloped land converted to suburban land."

Jeffrey Passell, a demographer at the Urban Institute, said much depends on where the new jobs are, which is especially important in attracting immigrants.

"Depending on the micro- and macroeconomic conditions, we might see some new centers," he said. "That having been said, the bulk of the immigrants go to where the immigrants already are."

Just as it has in past projections, the Census Bureau says the nation's population will age quickly, especially as the baby boomers reach their sixties over the next three decades. By 2100, there will be more than 5 million Americans who are at least 100 years old; today, there are about 65,000. The number of children will grow, the projections say, but not as quickly.

Census Bureau experts continue to forecast that growth of the nation's minority groups will outstrip that of its non-Hispanic white population, due to immigration, larger families among minorities and improved life expectancy.

Latinos are predicted to be the nation's largest minority group by 2005.

No
single minority group will outnumber non-Hispanic whites over the next century,
however.

The nation's mix of immigrants will change radically in coming decades, the
Census Bureau predicts. The huge influx from Central America is predicted to
slow within the next two decades, when current U.S. residents have brought over
all the relatives the law permits.

After 2020, the Census Bureau predicts higher immigration levels, in part to
supply enough workers to balance the aging baby boom. As in recent years, the
new immigrants will not come from Europe, but from other parts of the world,
Census Bureau experts predict.

Immigrants are now 10 percent of the U.S. population but are predicted to
grow to 13 percent in 2050.

Overall, Census Bureau and other demographers predict that the nation's racial and ethnic groups will grow more alike in time. For one thing, intermarriage will blur identification lines, possibly making today's racial
categories irrelevant. But demographers also say it's part of the assimilation
process for immigrants to want smaller families and move up the economic ladder.

"There are a lot of things going on," Hollmann said, "to occupy the attention
of planners."

Populating the Century

The Census Bureau has released new predictions that say the nation's population could more than double by the end of this century, and that there
could be major changes in the country's racial and ethnic makeup.

Population predictions

In millions

2000 275

2050 404

2100 571

(In millions) 2000 2050 2100

Non-Hispanic whites 197 213 230

Black/African American 35 59 86

Asian 11 38 75

American Indian 2 4 6

Hispanic (all races) 32 98 190

Children 70 96 130

People 65 and over 35 82 131

NOTE: The racial and ethnic groups above do not add up to the total population because Hispanics can be of any race.

SOURCE: Census Bureau

GRAPHIC: IG,,TWP
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 13, 2000

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The Associated Press

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January 12, 2000, Wednesday, PM cycle

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 845 words

HEADLINE: Hong Kong will work to curb human smuggling

BYLINE: By MARCOS CALO MEDINA, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: HONG KONG

BODY:

Hong Kong officials and shipping executives insisted today they will try harder to stop the trafficking in people who try to escape mainland China for a better life in the West after three Chinese were found dead in containers that landed in Seattle.

The problem is widespread in a region where many people flee for economic reasons. Merchants, known as "snakeheads," offer illicit passage for huge fees, often forcing those fleeing to work in slavlike conditions to pay off their debts.

Although shipping and customs officials said they couldn't search every container, they promised to target those with soft canvas tops, favored by some smugglers because they allow air to filter to people inside. Officials also will use sensing devices to check containers for extra warmth or carbon dioxide that could indicate human cargo.

In addition, Hong Kong authorities plan to step up coordination with their counterparts in the United States, Canada and mainland China.

In several recent cases, smuggled immigrants were intercepted through information received by Hong Kong officials after the ships had left the territory, said Richard Law, a spokesman for Hong Kong's Customs Department.

Dozens of Chinese immigrants, mostly men in their 20s and 30s, have been caught since 1998 on ships arriving at West Coast ports from Hong Kong, including 88 this month - 63 on four boats in Seattle and 25 in two containers on a Seattle-bound vessel in Vancouver, British Columbia.

This week, 19 immigrants were caught early Tuesday in a container aboard the Hanjin Yokohama, and 18, three of them dead, were found Monday in a container on the Cape May.

Some say rival smuggling gangs may be anonymously tipping off authorities, trying to drive each other out of business.

Human rights activists say authorities could be doing more to stop the smuggling, which is facilitated by Hong Kong's status as a busy international port and the lack of precautionary measures to check containers individually.

Hong Kong has always been used "as a channel for getting people out of China" for political or economic reasons, said Law Yuk-kai, director of the Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor. Chinese immigrants pay up to \$50,000 to make the trip to America, and they often end up working off their debts as virtual indentured servants.

"We are seeing people smuggled to work outside like slaves, and we should close this door," said Law Yuk-kai.

But the rights campaigner said there was no evidence that the problem was getting worse. It could just be coincidence that authorities have uncovered several high-profile cases in the past few weeks, he said.

U.S. Consul General Michael Klosson said he was shocked when U.S. immigration officials intercepted the Chinese being smuggled aboard the Cape May.

"This reminds us once again of the horrors of this trade in human beings," Klosson said in a statement.

The Cape May is owned by NYK Line, a Japanese company that also owns a ship on which 25 illegal immigrants huddled in two containers before being arrested upon arrival in Vancouver, British Columbia, on Jan. 3.

NYK Line executives said they received the container in Hong Kong, but the illegal migrants could have been loaded in China and the container transferred by land or sea into the territory.

Jonathan Chiu, the company's assistant manager for planning, said cargo checks in nearby mainland Chinese ports are less stringent than those in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong officials wouldn't say where the illegal migrants had boarded the Cape May, which had stopped earlier in mainland China. But the customs

spokesman, Law, said that with 6 million containers passing through Hong Kong's ports every year, it's impossible to check each one.

"It is a worldwide customs procedure not to inspect each and every single cargo container," he said.

Barbara Zigli, spokeswoman for the U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong, said officials must act fast to stay ahead of the smugglers - who have grown increasingly more sophisticated in their methods of moving people illegally.

"Smuggling is not a static thing. Criminals are using new and innovative ways to smuggle and the methods change over time," Zigli said.

Hong Kong shipping executives say there is little they can do apart from alerting officials to suspicious cargo.

Although shipping companies have no right to open containers and check for contraband or people, industry representatives have pledged to investigate the authenticity of exporting companies and demand more comprehensive documentation for what is being shipped.

"Once the container is sealed, we cannot open it," said Elin Wong, a spokeswoman for Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd., whose ships were used by smugglers in two recent incidents of human trafficking.

The company is controlled by the family of Hong Kong's government leader, Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa. Tung has given up all directorships in the company and his 80 million shares are controlled by a trust. He has refused to comment on the human trafficking.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 13, 2000

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The Associated Press

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January 12, 2000, Wednesday, PM cycle

SECTION: Domestic News

LENGTH: 427 words

HEADLINE: First deaths in new illegal alien smuggling trend

BYLINE: By MICHAEL J. MARTINEZ, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: SEATTLE

BODY:

For years, smugglers have brought illegal immigrants to the United States aboard ships, charging as much as \$50,000 each for a cramped, arduous trip.

But the method of transporting human cargo in sealed containers is a relatively new twist - and it is blamed for the deaths of three Chinese stowaways on the Cape May, which left Hong Kong and arrived in Seattle this week.

The deaths are the first linked to the method of smuggling people in canvas-topped corrugated-metal boxes. Immigration officials say the three victims and 15 other survivors spent two weeks on the boat in deplorable conditions and with little food.

Nineteen more immigrants, all in relatively good health, were found Tuesday in a container from a ship that also docked in Hong Kong before arriving here. Hong Kong officials and shipping executives said today they will try to stop the trafficking.

In the past year, 203 people were caught in containers at West Coast ports in the United States and Canada. How many got through is unknown.

"There's certainly a growing sophistication on the part of smugglers," said David Bachman, chair of the University of Washington's China studies program. "I would expect that for each container caught, there must be some multiple that are getting through. Otherwise, it wouldn't be worth it."

On the Cape May, a Japanese-owned freighter which left Hong Kong on Dec. 27, all 15 survivors were barefoot, had only threadbare clothes and needed

medical
care for dehydration and malnutrition. The seven who remained
hospitalized early
today were reported in satisfactory condition.

Preliminary autopsies on the three bodies did not reveal the cause of
death,
said Jason Berman, an investigator in the King County medical examiner's
office.

In the Cape May container, there was barely room enough to lie down and
the
occupants had only the bedding and survival gear they brought with them,
said
Irene Mortensen, a spokeswoman for the Immigration and Naturalization
Service. A
bucket substituted as a toilet, and for ventilation there were only some
holes
cut in the canvas.

Food consisted of slowly rotting vegetables and crackers.

For three to seven days, the survivors, many of them seasick, lay next
to the
bodies of the dead. Despite such conditions, no one expects the smuggling
attempts to stop.

"These are people who are glad and happy to go through something like
this in
order to reach America," said Dan Danilov, an immigration lawyer
representing
three of the latest arrivals. "This means a new life for them."

GRAPHIC: AP Photos SEM101-102

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 13, 2000

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January 12, 2000, Wednesday, PM cycle

SECTION: Domestic News

LENGTH: 306 words

HEADLINE: Government seeks to deport suspected Nazi

BYLINE: By JOANN LOVIGLIO, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: PHILADELPHIA

BODY:

The federal government hopes to revoke the U.S. citizenship of a man they say served as a Ukrainian SS guard and participated in the Nazis' slaughter of thousands of Jews in Poland.

The Justice Department said Fedir Kwoczak concealed his past when he entered the country, failing to reveal he was recruited from the SS-run Trawniki Training Camp in Nazi-occupied Poland to participate in Germany's "Operation Reinhard."

The campaign that led to the killing of 1.7 million Polish Jews and the enslavement of thousands of others in forced-labor camps.

When Kwoczak applied for a visa seeking entry to the United States in 1949, he told immigration authorities he was a laborer in Poland and Germany during World War II.

In a nonjury trial that started Monday and is expected to last two weeks, the Justice Department has asked U.S. District Judge Louis H. Pollak to strip the 78-year-old retired masonry worker's citizenship and ultimately have him deported.

Kwoczak's attorney, John Rogers Carroll, maintains that German wartime personnel rosters from the 1940s are inaccurate and do not link Kwoczak to any particular crime. Kwoczak claims he is not the Fedir Kwoczak identified in the documents, saying his military career ended before the war because of poor eyesight and an injured hand.

The complaint is part of the Justice Department's ongoing efforts to find and take legal action against former Nazi soldiers now living in the United States.

About 63 alleged Nazi persecutors have been stripped of U.S. citizenship and 52 have been deported since the Office of Special Investigations started its operation in 1979.

In addition, about 150 suspected Nazis or collaborators have been blocked from immigrating to the United States because their names appeared on the Justice Department's "watch list."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 13, 2000

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The Associated Press

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January 12, 2000, Wednesday, PM cycle

SECTION: Washington Dateline

LENGTH: 611 words

HEADLINE: Official: Reno upholds father's right to custody of Cuban boy

BYLINE: By MICHAEL J. SNIFFEN, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Attorney General Janet Reno today upheld a decision giving custody of Elian Gonzalez to his Cuban father and said any challenge to the ruling must come in federal rather than state court, a senior government official said.

Reno said a state court ruling that the boy must remain in the United State until a March 6 hearing has no effect on and does not overrule the federal decisions in the case, said the official, who requested anonymity. Reno made the declaration in a letter being sent to lawyers for relatives with whom the 6-year-old boy is staying in Florida.

Reno said any challenge to the ruling by the Immigration and

Naturalization

Service and her upholding of it must come in federal rather than state court.

To accommodate any challenge to the decision, Reno said the federal government would not insist on its original Friday deadline for turning the boy over, the official said.

The letter did not spell out exactly what steps the federal government might take next.

Miami-Dade County Circuit Judge Rosa Rodriguez ruled Monday that the boy, who is the subject of an international custody battle between his relatives in the United States and Cuba, should remain here until March 6.

Rodriguez's ruling was designed to give her court time to hear arguments from Lazaro Gonzalez, Elian's great-uncle, who is seeking temporary custody. It defied an Immigration and Naturalization Service order to send the boy to Cuba by Friday to live with his father.

Meanwhile, the boy expressed a desire to return to Cuba, according to a tape made by WPLG, a television station in Miami.

Elian was wrestling with a friend outside Tuesday as a film crew photographed him.

As a plane flew overhead, the friend exclaimed, in Spanish, "Look, a plane, a plane!"

Gonzalez responded in Spanish: "A plane! A plane! I want you to take me back to Cuba."

Judge Rodriguez said Tuesday her link to the boy's family spokesman did not require her to remove herself from the case.

On Tuesday, some were asking whether past business ties between Rodriguez and Armando Gutierrez, the spokesman for Elian's relatives in Miami, could have influenced the judge's decision.

Gutierrez said he earned \$10,000 as a political consultant for Rodriguez during her 1998 election campaign. State records show the judge's

campaign also
paid \$53,446.22 to his wife, Maritza, for services provided by her
company,
Creative Ideas Advertising.

Rodriguez said Tuesday she was not required to remove herself from the
case
because of the affiliation, a suggestion made by a legal expert.

In a statement, Rodriguez said: "According to the canons of judicial
ethics
... a judge has no ethical obligation to disclose participation by
attorneys or
participants in a past judicial election campaign."

But Bernard Perlmutter, director of the University of Miami's Children
and
Youth Law Clinic, said the judge should have disclosed her relationship
with
Gutierrez and recused herself from the case.

"There was an appearance of impropriety and it should have been a basis
for
her to recuse herself from the case," Perlmutter said.

Gutierrez, who runs a public relations firm, said he hasn't spoken with
the
judge in 18 months and that his work for her did not influence her ruling.

"This is absurd that anyone could influence anyone in this case,"
Gutierrez
said. "I'm not a part of this lawsuit. ... I'm not getting paid."

Also Tuesday, attorneys for the boy's U.S. relatives refiled a request
seeking political asylum for Elian, whose mother, stepfather and others
died
when their boat capsized as they fled Cuba.

Elian survived, along with two adults.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 13, 2000

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The Associated Press

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January 12, 2000, Wednesday, PM cycle

SECTION: Sports News

LENGTH: 633 words

HEADLINE: Tyson needs 'compassionate reasons' to enter England

BYLINE: By STEPHEN WADE, AP Sports Writer

DATELINE: LONDON

BODY:

Mike Tyson will be turned away at Heathrow Airport unless British authorities allow him to enter England for "compassionate reasons" for his Jan. 29 fight with Julius Francis.

British Immigration Service officials warned Tyson and promoter Frank Warren that the former heavyweight champion could be barred because of a 1992 rape conviction.

Anyone convicted of a crime that would carry a 12-month jail sentence in Britain is deemed unfit to enter the country. Tyson served half of his six-year sentence before his parole.

The Immigration Service said today it faxed Warren on Tuesday night, asking if there are "compassionate reasons" why Tyson should be cleared to enter England.

"Obviously, it's all theoretical until he applies to enter at a British embassy or consulate or arrives at Heathrow, where it could come down to the immigration officer on duty," a spokesman said.

Asked what constituted "compassionate reasons," the spokesman replied: "It's not really defined and each case is dealt with individually on its merits. ... The ball is in his court."

Warren and Francis' manager, Frank Maloney, are furious at the prospect of losing a huge payday. The bout in 21,000-seat arena in Manchester is a sellout.

Tyson is to earn about \$12 million and Francis, a journeyman, is expected to

make \$400,000 to \$500,000.

"You have to remember Don King, with all of his criminal record, has been allowed into this country," Warren said. "Soul singer James Brown and Jerry Lee Lewis also gained admission despite their records."

Maloney was even more scathing in his comments.

"We have allowed Nazi war criminals in and a dictator from Chile," he said.

"Yet a man who has served his sentence for a crime he committed is the subject of a campaign.

"This is a result of people trying to get publicity in the only way they know how, and it stinks."

Several British lawmakers, including some who oppose boxing, want Home Secretary Jack Straw to take a tough stance against Tyson.

The issue also came up in Parliament today, with Prime Minister Tony Blair saying the matter was being dealt with by the immigration service. He also laughed when a member of Parliament rose to say the well-muscled, tattooed Tyson was being used as a "political whipping boy" by some politicians.

"I think anyone would be ill advised to use him as a whipping boy," Blair said. "This is being dealt with by the immigration service. They have to deal with it according to their rules in the normal way."

Oscar-winning actress Glenda Jackson, a Parliament member and a London mayoral candidate, has led the campaign against Tyson.

"The offenses for which he served were very serious," she said. "They shouldn't bend the rules for him."

Tyson's last fight, against Orlin Norris in October, was declared a no-contest. Tyson delivered a blow just after the bell to end the first round. Norris injured his knee when he fell and was unable to continue.

Warren said no one raised possible immigration problems when the fight was announced last month.

"Mike Tyson is coming over here to fight and then go home," Warren said. "He's not here to do anything else and he's not going to be a danger to anyone

apart from the man he's going to fight in the ring."

Shelly Finkel, Tyson's boxing adviser, was optimistic.

"Hopefully, everything will be fine and we're planning on leaving for London on Sunday," he said.

Jay Bright, Tyson's assistant trainer, questioned the application of British law.

"I'd like to see if this rule includes anybody who crosses the English border, or whether this is selective," he said.

Showtime is televising the fight in the United States, and spokesman Marina Capurro said the company would have no comment until the matter is resolved.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 13, 2000

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The Associated Press

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January 12, 2000, Wednesday, AM cycle

SECTION: Domestic News

LENGTH: 482 words

HEADLINE: Haitians want equal treatment under immigration policy

BYLINE: By MILDRADE CHERFILS, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: MIAMI

BODY:

Haitian activists staged a mock funeral and protest march Wednesday to draw attention to disparities in the treatment of Haitian and Cuban immigrants who seek asylum in the United States.

The protesters pointed to the international custody battle over Elian Gonzalez, a 6-year-old Cuban boy, and contrasted that with the plight of a pregnant woman whose children were returned to Haiti this month while she remained in the United States.

"We are asking for fairness, equality and due process," said Aude Sicard, an activist with the Haitian-American Grassroots Coalition. "Haitian children are children too."

Under U.S. immigration policy, Haitians and others who arrive illegally are sent back to their country. But the Cuban Readjustment Act of 1966 grants any Cuban who reaches American soil the right to stay.

Haitians claim they are routinely sent back to Haiti without being allowed to request a hearing to determine whether they have a "credible fear" of persecution in their homeland.

They claim that the return to Haiti of 407 Haitians attempting to enter the United States illegally on New Year's Day was unfair, especially in light of the fight to keep Elian after he survived an illegal attempt to reach Florida.

In honor of the six people who passengers on the boat from Haiti said died during the journey, the activists staged a mock funeral that was attended by about 300 in Miami's Little Haiti section. The ceremony was followed by a candlelight march attended by about 3,000 people.

Encel Alcime, a 75-year-old retired Miami-Dade County water department worker, said his fellow Haitian immigrants are treated differently than Cubans because they are black.

"Haitians are taken from the water and sent back right away, which means that they don't need us here," Alcime said.

In the New Year's trip, Yvena Rhinvil, who is four months pregnant, was one of four people brought to shore for medical reasons. But her children, ages 8 and 9, were among those sent back to Haiti, where they are living with an aunt.

U.S. officials said they weren't told Rhinvil's children were with her. "If

we would have known that she had children on board, we would have brought the children with her," said Coast Guard spokesman Luis Diaz.

Activists didn't believe it.

"That's a big lie," Sicard said. "All during the trip down back to Haiti, they thought that their mother had died. This is inhuman."

Rhinvil, 33, has passed the "credible fear" standard and is applying for political asylum, a process that can take months.

Cheryl Little, an attorney with the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center, who is representing Rhinvil, wrote to Attorney General Janet Reno and INS Commissioner Doris Meissner, urging them to reunite the family.

Immigration and Naturalization Service spokesman Russ Bergeron said immigration officials were considering the request.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 13, 2000

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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January 12, 2000, Wednesday, PM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 639 words

HEADLINE: Government seeks to oust suspected Nazi from U.S.

BYLINE: By JOANN LOVIGLIO, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: PHILADELPHIA

BODY:

The federal government is seeking to revoke the American citizenship of a Philadelphia man, charging that he served as a Ukrainian SS guard who

participated in the Nazis' slaughter of thousands of Jews in the Warsaw ghetto and elsewhere in Poland.

The Justice Department said Fedir Kwoczak concealed his bloody past when he entered the country, failing to reveal he was recruited from the SS-run Trawniki Training Camp in Nazi-occupied Poland to participate in Germany's "Operation Reinhard," a campaign that led to the killing of 1.7 million Polish Jews and the enslavement of thousands of others in forced-labor camps.

When Kwoczak applied for a visa seeking entry to the United States in 1949, he told immigration authorities he was a laborer in Poland and Germany during World War II.

In a nonjury trial that started Monday and is expected to last two weeks, the Justice Department is asking U.S. District Judge Louis H. Pollak to strip the 78-year-old retired masonry worker's citizenship and ultimately have him deported.

The complaint is part of the Justice Department's ongoing efforts to find and take legal action against former Nazi soldiers now living in the United States. About 63 alleged Nazi persecutors have been stripped of U.S. citizenship and 52 have been deported since the Office of Special Investigations started its operation in 1979.

In addition, about 150 suspected Nazis or collaborators have been blocked from immigrating to the United States because their names appeared on the Justice Department's "watch list."

During opening arguments, Justice Department attorney Edward A. Stutman called Kwoczak a "foot soldier in the Nazis' campaign of persecution and murder."
"

Kwoczak's attorney, John Rogers Carroll, maintains that German wartime personnel rosters from the 1940s are inaccurate and do not link Kwoczak to any particular crime. Kwoczak claims he is not the Fedir Kwoczak identified in the documents, saying his military career ended before the war because of poor eyesight and an injured hand.

"Lying and fraud were no less prevalent years ago than they were today, and putting an age on a document doesn't make it authentic," Carroll said during opening arguments.

According to the complaint filed by the Justice Department, Kwoczak was sent with a battalion of Trawniki guards to Warsaw in April 1943 to help guard and "liquidate" the ghetto established three years earlier to confine the city's Jews.

For the next month, guards rounded up more than 50,000 Jews, shooting thousands and sending the survivors to death camps.

Kwoczak also helped liquidate the Jewish ghetto in Bialystok, Poland, in August 1943, officials said. About 30,000 ghetto residents were sent to camps at that time. The Bialystok liquidation ended on Sept. 8, 1943, exactly 54 years before the Justice Department began its action against Kwoczak.

Kwoczak was promoted in 1944 and by late summer 1944 was part of the SS Battalion Streibel, the Justice Department said. That unit imprisoned thousands of Polish forced laborers at sites in south-central Poland.

He also served as an armed guard at the Poniatowa SS labor camp and the Trawniki SS labor camp adjacent to the training facility, the Justice Department said. All Jewish prisoners at both camps were murdered in the last phase of Operation Reinhard in November 1943, when Kwoczak was assigned to Poniatowa, the complaint said.

Officials said Kwoczak served in Adolf Hitler's regime from February 1943 until at least April 1945.

Charles W. Syndor Jr., a historian on the Nazi era, will take the stand today as an expert witness for the government.

Stutman was out of town and not reachable for comment Tuesday, his office said.

Neither Kwoczak nor his lawyer, John Rogers Carroll, returned calls seeking comment Tuesday.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 13, 2000

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1 of 29 DOCUMENTS

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January 14, 2000, Friday 11:27 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

LENGTH: 230 words

HEADLINE: US indicts two men in crackdown Chinese alien smuggling case

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Jan 14

BODY:

The United States moved one step closer to smashing a Chinese illegal alien smuggling ring with the indictment of two men involved in the scheme, an Immigration and Naturalization Service spokesman said Friday.

"It's one piece of the larger picture that we're going to pursue back to the people who are behind this smuggling scheme," said Don Mueller.

US Attorney Katrina Pflaumer announced Thursday that a federal grand jury in Seattle, Washington, returned a four-count indictment against two men for conspiracy to smuggle Chinese aliens into the country.

Yu Zheng and Sheng Ding, both undocumented aliens from China, were charged with conspiracy for smuggling 12 Chinese nationals into the United States for private financial gain.

The indictment alleges that the 12 Chinese nationals, illegal aliens, were found in a 40-foot container on January 2 when it was unloaded from a container ship and placed on a dock at Harbor Island, in Washington state.

The United States is working with officials in Hong Kong and China in an attempt to stop the latest trend of smuggling Chinese nationals in soft-topped containers.

"We are united in our determination to put this to a stop," Mueller said here, declining to go into any specifics.

"We don't want to comment on what is an ongoing investigation to bring this type of smuggling to a stop," he said.

smb/rl

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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Africa News

January 14, 2000

SECTION: NEWS, DOCUMENTS & COMMENTARY

LENGTH: 219 words

HEADLINE: Sierra Leone;
Tom Pierce's West African Human Rights Fact finding tour

BYLINE: The Progress (Freetown)

BODY:

Freetown - On December 1, 1999, The US State Department terminated refugee family resettlement for six African countries; Liberia, Chad, Djibouti, Cameroon, Nigeria and Uganda. The State department also indefinitely suspended processing for Somalia.

However, refugee family resettlement continues for many European countries indefinitely.

Clearly, the U.S. immigration and refugee admission policies are established upon two standards, separate and unequal, for immigrants and victims of war with similar situations seeking refuge in America. There is one standard for people of color and a totally different standard for Europeans.

In response to the termination of refugee family resettlement for Africans, the Black caucus of State Legislators, BCSL, on December 3, 1999, unanimously adopted a resolution, calling for an immediate termination of the racial quota system of immigration and refugee admissions, an immediate resumption of the African refugee family resettlement and a hearing into racial discrimination in U.S. immigration and refugee admission policies.

In other developments, Tom Pierce of the Universal Human Rights International was immediately dispatched to West Africa on a fact-finding mission. Tom traveled to Liberia and visited a refugee town in Danane, the Ivory Coast.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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Copyright 2000 Africa News Service, Inc.

Africa News

January 14, 2000

SECTION: NEWS, DOCUMENTS & COMMENTARY

LENGTH: 233 words

HEADLINE: Uganda;

'Sebagala Return Delayed'

BYLINE: Joyce Namutebi, New Vision (Kampala)

BODY:

Kampala - Nasser Ntege Sebagala, the former mayor of Kampala, may stay in America for another 90 days before his deportation, the Minister of Information, Basoga Nsadhu, said yesterday.

Speaking on Star FM, the government-owned FM station, Nsadhu said Sebagala, who completed his sentence, who is now in New York.

Nsadhu said, "The Immigration Act says if one has served his sentence, the United States Marshals have 90 days from the day one completes his sentence to make arrangements to return him. The 90 days (in Sebagala's case) have not elapsed."

There was speculation that Sebagala would return to Uganda on January 2 after his release from jail late December.

His supporters have been eagerly awaiting his return ever since he completed his 15-month sentence in Allenwood Penitentiary, Pennsylvania, where he was jailed for defrauding Bank Boston and lying to US Customs officials.

They had planned to receive him in big numbers at Entebbe Airport.

According to the East African newspaper, they had asked the current mayor, Ssebaana Kizito, to pick him up. It was also reported that Sebagala would be accompanied by the US police who would hand him over to their Ugandan counterparts on arrival.

The Internal Affairs minister, Edward Rugumayo, yesterday allayed fears that Sebagala would be arrested upon his return, saying he would return as a free Ugandan.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

January 14, 2000

SECTION: NEWS, DOCUMENTS & COMMENTARY

LENGTH: 284 words

HEADLINE: Uganda;
Shame On Uganda! (Editorial)

BYLINE: New Vision (Kampala)

BODY:

Kampala - The Mayor of Kampala has said that the city council will not return school buildings formerly owned by Asians to the claimants.

At an Idd function Mr. Ssebaana Kizito admitted that the Custodian Board has returned the properties to the original owners but said that they should not be handed back.

He was referring specifically to the Kampala Muslim Girls School near the Allidina mosque.

Ssebaana Kizito argued that the 'Asians do not have the children to fill the schools'. He said the original owners would demand exorbitant school fees which only their own children could afford.

Apart from the fact that the mayor is contradicting himself, this is a backward and reactionary position for him to adopt.

Uganda has returned to the rule of constitutional law. The right of property is guaranteed. It cannot be overturned by the mayor of Kampala.

If the mayor wants to intervene to seek an acceptable compromise, that is fine. But if the mayor chooses to expropriate property from its rightful owner, that is a disgrace to Kampala and a shame on Uganda.

SEBAGGALA RETURN NORMAL

A NEW Vision correspondent in America, who is also an immigration officer,
has clarified that the USA never announces the actual date someone is
about to
be deported (The New Vision, January 13, P23).

The timing is kept secret for security reasons so that the deportee
cannot be
rescued or intercepted by his associates on his way to the airport.

Nasser Sebagala will not leave the custody of US marshals until he is
actually on an airplane bound for Uganda.

There is no conspiracy to delay Sebagala's return to Uganda. The
secrecy
over the date of his return is normal procedure.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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Copyright 2000 Belfast Telegraph Newspapers Ltd.

Belfast Telegraph

January 14, 2000

LENGTH: 302 words

HEADLINE: Straw steps into Tyson's corner for sell-out bout

BODY:

Promoter says sport is winner

HOME Secretary Jack Straw was today at the centre of a storm of
criticism
over his decision to allow boxer Mike Tyson to enter Britain this weekend.

After days of insisting that the question of whether Tyson should be
excluded because of his conviction for rape was a matter for the
Immigration
Service, Mr Straw intervened personally to let him in.

Following representations from fight promoter Frank Warren, Mr Straw
said
yesterday that he had decided there were "exceptional circumstances" which
justified overriding the rule barring visits from those with convictions
for
serious offences.

He said he was swayed by evidence that many small businesses might be forced into bankruptcy if the high profile bout in Manchester did not go ahead, and that thousands of fans with tickets for the contest would have been inconvenienced and disappointed.

Tyson is due to arrive by Concorde at Heathrow Airport on Sunday to prepare for the sell-out fight on January 30 against British boxer Julius Francis, (35).

Earlier this week, government sources had suggested that the ban on Tyson - convicted of the 1992 rape of a Miss Black America contestant - could be overturned only on "compassionate" grounds.

The decision sparked a wave of criticism from politicians on all sides.

Labour MP and London mayoral hopeful Glenda Jackson told Channel 4 News: "It seems to me grossly unfair that somebody who is rich and, in my opinion, infamous, is allowed entry into the country.

"I can't see what is the particular compassionate aspect of a boxing match."

Mr Warren, who spent two sleepless nights dealing the problem since first being alerted to it on Tuesday, said: "I am highly delighted.

"It is great for boxing, it is just great for sport."

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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Copyright 2000 Midland Independent Newspapers plc

Birmingham Post

January 14, 2000, Friday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 424 words

HEADLINE: STRAW GIVES RAPIST TYSON GO-AHEAD FOR UK FIGHT

BODY:

Boxer Mike Tyson will be allowed into the UK this weekend despite his criminal convictions, Home Secretary Mr Jack Straw said last night.

Mr Straw said he was using special powers to instruct immigration officers to allow the convicted rapist into the country to take part in a bout at the end of the month.

He said: "In the special circumstances of this case, it would be invidious for an individual immigration officer to weigh the competing considerations involved.

"I have looked very carefully at the representations that have been submitted today to the Immigration Service by Mr Frank Warren and I consider that there are exceptional circumstances that justify my decision."

Mr Straw said he had been swayed by the potentially devastating effect on businesses depending on the boxing match.

He also announced a review of the rule which sparked the controversy. It bans entry to the UK of people with criminal convictions which could be punished with a jail term of a year or more.

Tyson is due to arrive by Concorde on Sunday for a sell-out fight in Manchester against British boxer Julius Francis.

He had been threatened with being turned back because of his 1992 conviction for the rape of a Miss Black America contestant which earned him a six-year jail term.

The Home Office has come under fierce attack for leaving it to the last minute to raise the issue of Tyson's immigration status.

Coming hard on the heels of the Konrad Kalejs and Gen Pinochet affairs, the pressure is mounting on Mr Straw.

The decision on Tyson drew condemnation from shadow Home Secretary Miss Ann Widdecombe. She said: "This whole debacle has been bungled and mismanaged from beginning to end by Jack Straw."

Fight promoter Warren said: "I must take my hat off to the immigration department, who seem to have been the only department who have acted professionally amid the hysteria."

Warren added: "We are very happy campers."

He emphasised that it had not been a PR stunt saying: "It is not instigated by me and it does not sell tickets because we are sold out. This was instigated by political people."

Warren later criticised London mayoral candidates Frank Dobson, Ken Livingstone and Glenda Jackson, and Mr Dobson's running mate, Trevor Phillips, for opposing Tyson's entry into Britain.

Miss Jackson said she was "very disappointed" by Mr Straw's decision.

She added: "It seems to me grossly unfair that somebody who is rich and, in my opinion, infamous, is allowed entry into the country."

GRAPHIC: Concorde arrival: Mike Tyson.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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Copyright 2000 The Irish Times

The Irish Times

January 14, 2000

SECTION: CITY EDITION; SPORT; BOXING/TYSON V FRANCIS; Pg. 17

LENGTH: 469 words

HEADLINE: Tyson is cleared for landing

BYLINE: By VIVEK CHAUDHARY, Guardian Service

BODY:

Former world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson is to be allowed to enter Britain, despite his conviction for rape, after an intervention by the British Home Secretary, Jack Straw, last night. After two days of insisting that the boxer's case could only be considered by the immigration service and was not a

matter for the government, Straw said it would be "invidious" to leave the decision to an immigration officer and that he was using his discretionary powers to allow Tyson into the country.

The ruling means Tyson will arrive in London on Sunday for a fight against Britain's Julius Francis in Manchester on January 29th. It will be Tyson's first fight outside America.

Straw said he had been swayed by the potential economic damage involved in cancelling the sell-out fight and the fact that thousands of members of the public who had bought tickets would have been disappointed.

The bout had been in doubt because of immigration rules which state that entry into Britain should be refused to anyone who has committed a crime that would carry a 12-month jail term or more in Britain. Entry could only be justified on compassionate grounds.

Tyson was sentenced to six years in 1992 for rape and last year was jailed for 12 months after attacking two motorists.

Initially the government insisted that the compassionate grounds would be considered by an immigration official when the American arrived at Heathrow.

Straw said: "In the special circumstances of this case, it would be invidious for an individual immigration officer to weigh the competing considerations involved.

"I have looked very carefully at the representations that have been submitted to the immigration service by (the promoter) Frank Warren and I consider there are exceptional circumstances that justify my decision."

Warren had submitted a 67page document to the home office outlining the reasons why Tyson should be admitted to Britain.

"I'm pleased that he has now gained entry," Warren said last night. "I have been proved right and have always acted correctly. I said at the start of this affair that this has been about people trying to get political gain from it."

Straw said he was not satisfied that the rule preventing people with convictions from entering Britain, which has been in place since the early

1970s, had been consistently upheld. He conceded that people entering the country were not routinely asked about their convictions and ordered a review of the rule to be carried out.

Francis, Tyson's opponent, who has also spent time in prison, said:
"People make mistakes, people change. I don't think that Mike Tyson should be punished every time he steps a foot sideways, frontways or backwards."

Francis will earn US\$ 574,000 for the fight. His opponent will receive \$ 8.2 million.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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The New York Post

January 14, 2000, Friday

SECTION: All Editions; Pg. 030

LENGTH: 342 words

HEADLINE: LET ELIAN JOIN HIS DAD

BODY:

Attorney General Janet Reno provided a wryly comical moment yesterday: When the overseer of the most politicized Justice Department in history was asked if Elian Gonzalez's status was becoming a political issue, she replied: "I hope with all my heart and soul that won't happen."

Reno, of course, missed the irony. But on the facts of the case involving this 6-year-old Cuban boy, she is right to challenge Monday's decision by Florida state Judge Rosa Rodriguez to keep young Elian in the United States pending a March hearing.

This controversy shows no signs of ending any time soon. In response to Reno's action, Elian's lawyers say they will file an appeal in federal court.

In addition, U.S. Rep. Dan Burton (R-Ill.) has issued a subpoena for Elian to appear before a House committee -- preventing him from immediately leaving. Burton, though, says he will abide by whatever a federal court decides. (Like he has a choice.)

You can never overestimate the mendacity of the Clinton administration. And who can doubt that, all too often,

the federal government meddles in areas where it has no legitimate business. But in this instance, the feds are correct.

For one thing, Judge Rodriguez is tainted by relationships she has with lawyers working on behalf of Elian. But even if it turns out the judge is as pure as the driven snow, that doesn't give her -- or any state judge -- the right to make immigration policy.

If there is one area (aside from national defense) that should -- indeed, must -- be the sole province of the feds, it's immigration.

The federal government makes the policy. The Immigration and Naturalization Service is meant to enforce it. That's pretty simple.

Despite the emotions on all sides, two things should be kept in mind: First, as a matter of law, the federal level is where Elian's refugee and asylum status have to be determined.

Second, as a matter of common sense and basic morality, with his mother dead, a 6-year old boy should be living with his father.

And the sooner the better.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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The New York Post

January 14, 2000, Friday

SECTION: Sport+Late City Final; Pg. 008

LENGTH: 521 words

HEADLINE: ELIAN'S DAD: I'D TAKE UP ARMS TO GET MY BOY BACK

BYLINE: Brian Blomquist in Washington and Maria Alvarez and William Neuman
in
New York

BODY:

The furious father of Elian Gonzalez said last night armed federal marshals should free his son from Miami relatives -- adding that he's so angry, he wants to "go down there with a rifle."

Juan Miguel Gonzalez said he has been "under absolutely no pressure from anybody" in demanding that his son be sent home or in refusing to go to Miami to fight for the boy's return.

"I am his father and what I am asking is for the child to be sent back here," he said in a telephone interview from Cuba with ABC's "Nightline."

"Sometimes what I would like to do is go down there with a rifle, I don't know, to get rid of how many people."

Told this was an inflammatory remark, Gonzalez, said: "Isn't it inflammatory what they are doing with my son?"

The way relatives have paraded the boy around in front of TV cameras during their fight to keep him in the United States amounts to "child abuse," said Gonzalez, 31, in a translation provided by ABC.

And he said he would approve of the use of armed federal marshals to take Elian away from Florida relatives "immediately because he is going to suffer less, even under those conditions, than what he is suffering now there with them."

Gonzalez said he wasn't worried that the use of force might traumatize his 6-year-old son.

"Trauma is what he's going through right now because he's under a lot of pressure and he is being manipulated," he said.

Elían landed in the middle of an international custody battle when he was rescued off the Florida coast clinging to an inner tube Thanksgiving Day. His mother and 10 other refugees drowned when their boat sank en route from Cuba.

Gonzalez, 31, said "I don't understand" why the U.S. doesn't enforce a ruling by the Immigration and Naturalization Service to send the boy home.

He repeatedly blamed "the Miami mafia" of anti-Castro Cuban exiles for orchestrating the delay.

The strain of his ordeal clearly showed on the dad, who denied a report that he was under psychiatric treatment, but added, smiling: "Perhaps I might be a little bit crazy because I would feel like breaking the neck of all those SOBs."

A spokesman for the Miami relatives, Armando Gutierrez, said he was surprised by the angry words but insisted the dad was under pressure from the Cuban government.

"The family here doesn't talk like that about him," Gutierrez said.

The dad's diatribe came after the INS turned down a second request by the Miami relatives for political asylum for the boy -- saying only Elían's father had the right to make such a request.

Earlier, Attorney General Janet Reno, who has rejected an attempt by a Florida state judge to block the INS, pleaded for the relatives to give in and turn Elían over to the dad. But the relatives' lawyers in Miami said they planned to file a suit in federal court next week.

GRAPHIC: -HAIL TO EL JEFE: Elían's dad, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, greeting Fidel Castro last month, said yesterday no one is forcing him to say he wants Elían in Cuba. N.Y. Post: Bolivar Arellano

-ANOTHER DAY: Elían Gonzalez heads off to school yesterday from his uncle's home in Miami. Reuters

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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The New York Post

January 14, 2000, Friday

SECTION: Metro; Pg. 016

LENGTH: 334 words

HEADLINE: RENO: SEND ELIAN HOME TO CUBA

BYLINE: Brian Blomquist in Washington and Maria Alvarez and William Neuman
in
New York

BODY:

Attorney General Janet Reno yesterday urged the Miami relatives of Cuban
tug-of-war kid Elian Gonzalez to let the boy go home to his father - as
immigration officials rejected the family's latest legal maneuver.

"The issue is a father who wants his son home and grandparents who want
their
grandson home, and these are bonds that should be honored," Reno said in
Washington.

"My hope is that people will look at this little boy and get him into a
situation where he can live a normal life without television cameras and
the
world in his face."

Reno stressed the importance of resolving the case quickly, and
Immigration
and Naturalization Service officials acted rapidly to turn down the Miami
relatives' second request for political asylum for Elian - saying only the
father has the right to speak for the boy.

The request was filed Tuesday, after a Florida judge tried to block the
INS
by giving temporary custody of the boy to his great-uncle in Miami.

Reno has said the state judge's action is irrelevant and that only a
federal
court can take up the INS ruling.

Lawyers for the family said they plan to file a federal suit next

Tuesday.

But Reno may not want to wait that long.

A Justice Department official said government lawyers are considering bringing the case before a federal judge today - perhaps to seek affirmation of the earlier INS decision in favor of the father, Juan Gonzalez.

Elian landed in the middle of an international custody battle when he was rescued off the Florida coast clinging to an inner tube Thanksgiving Day.

His mother and 10 others drowned when their boat sank en route from Cuba.

Relatives in Miami have repeatedly said they want Elian to grow up in the United States to honor the mother's wish that her son live in freedom.

But the boy's maternal grandmother, Raquel Rodriguez, in Cuba was quoted in Miami's Nuevo Herald newspaper yesterday saying, "My daughter will not be able to rest in peace until he is with us."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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Press Journal (Vero Beach, FL)

January 14, 2000, Friday

SECTION: A section; Pg. A13

LENGTH: 141 words

HEADLINE: TWO HAITIAN CHILDREN TO BE RETURNED

BYLINE: BRIEF

BODY:

Top of the Morning

MIAMI - Two Haitian children separated from their mother while illegally trying to reach U.S. shores will be reunited with her in South Florida, authorities determined Thursday.

U.S. Rep. Carrie Meek said U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno agreed to allow the children, forcibly returned to Haiti after the New Year's Day incident, to travel to the United States.

A call to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service Thursday was not immediately returned.

Yvena Rhinvil was separated from her children after a boat carrying 411 migrants ran aground about two miles off the South Florida coast on New Year's Day.

Only four were brought to shore for medical reasons and the rest, mostly Haitians, were returned to Haiti. It is believed as many as six people died during the voyage to the U.S.

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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Copyright 2000 Bergen Record Corp.

The Record (Bergen County, NJ)

January 14, 2000, FRIDAY; ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A11

LENGTH: 718 words

HEADLINE: SOLO IMMIGRANT KIDS FACE FATE UNLIKE ELIAN'S
MOST ARE DEPORTED OR DETAINED

SOURCE: Wire services

BYLINE: DAVID CRARY, The Associated Press

DATELINE: NEW YORK

BODY:

The VIP treatment lavished on 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez contrasts starkly with the way most youngsters who reach the United States without parents or paperwork are handled.

Most are rapidly deported. Others spend bewildering weeks in detention.

As Elian's Cuban-American hosts took him to Walt Disney World last

month, a lawyer in Portland, Ore., was fighting for the release of a 15-year-old Chinese girl held in a juvenile jail for seven months. At one hearing, said lawyer Mark Potter, the girl couldn't wipe away tears because her hands were chained to her waist.

"Her only crime was that her parents put her on a boat so she could get a better life over here," Potter said.

At facilities across the United States, scores of other young, unaccompanied aliens are held at detention centers, sometimes for months and often without attorneys to help resolve their fate. Human rights and immigrant rights groups are pressing the Immigration and Naturalization Service to halt the practice and use other housing options.

"The INS is genuinely trying to find alternatives to detention. But it's painfully slow," said Ralston Deffenbaugh, a former human rights lawyer who is president of the Baltimore-based Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

"It's still shocking that kids under 18 who are not criminals, who don't pose a danger to anybody, are being held behind bars," he said.

"There's no reason we ought to be doing that."

The INS, which handles more than 4,000 unaccompanied minors a year, says the vast majority are promptly sent back to their families. The agency insists there are sound reasons for detaining others.

"The only juveniles kept in detention are those who pose some threat to themselves and 1 NEW3 others, or juveniles who are at risk," INS spokesman Russ Bergeron said Thursday.

Elían's case is fundamentally different because, as a Cuban reaching U.S. soil, he has an automatic right under the law to seek U.S. citizenship. The boy, whose mother drowned during an ill-fated voyage from Cuba to Florida in November, also is unusual among young aliens in having two camps of relatives seeking custody of him.

Bergeron said the INS often takes charge of children who have been orphaned or abandoned by their parents and seeks temporary lodgings for them, with relatives or a foster family. In Elían's case, the INS turned him over to relatives in Miami, who oppose his return to his father in Cuba.

In contrast to Elían, some of the unaccompanied children who spend long periods in detention centers belong to criminal gangs. And some, such as many young Chinese, are detained for their own safety because the smugglers who brought them into the country might track them down to demand payment for the trip, Bergeron said. He said some Chinese children released from INS custody have been beaten, raped, and abducted for ransom.

Advocacy groups acknowledge that these children may face threats but contend that they could be held safely in foster homes or group homes.

"Under what circumstances do you put somebody in jail to protect them?"asked Annie Wilson, a vice president of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service."We think that's garbage."

. Wilson said some children are classified as troublemakers simply because they don't understand English. "They don't do what a guard tells them, they don't behave well sometimes, and you have the INS making a determination that they're a danger to society,"she said.

The Chinese girl represented by Potter was among 105 people detained off the coast of Guam in April. Along with a few other youths, she was brought to Portland and eventually won political asylum based on the claim that she would face persecution in China.

Even after gaining asylum, though, she spent six more weeks in detention before being placed with a foster family. For her protection, her name and the identity of the family are being withheld.

Potter is indignant that the Chinese youths were handcuffed during court 1 NEW3 appearances.

"The girl was crying, and she couldn't wipe the tears coming down her face," he said."It was one of the most wrenching and disturbing experiences I've had as a lawyer."

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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The Scotsman

January 14, 2000, Friday

SECTION: Pg. 12

LENGTH: 476 words

HEADLINE: APPEAL TO SHIPWRECK BOY'S RELATIVES

BODY:

THE US attorney general has made a heart-felt plea to Elian Gonzalez's US
-based relatives to allow the six-year-old to go back home to his father, writes Robert Tait in Washington.

Janet Reno issued a staunch defence of a decision by US immigration authorities to return the boy - rescued seven weeks ago from a shipwreck in which his mother died - to a "normal life" in Cuba.

In a news briefing in Washington, she insisted the boy belonged with his father and suggested the blaze of publicity surrounding his case was deeply damaging to him.

She also appealed to family members and politicians to refrain from insisting Elian should decide whether he wants to back to Cuba or stay in the United States. The boy was too young to decide, she said.

Elian has been staying with relatives in Florida since being rescued after a boat in which Cubans had been fleeing to the US capsized.

Survivors say Elian's mother gave him her last fresh water to in a desperate attempt to save his life as they clung to rubber tubes.

His Miami-based relatives, supported by the politically powerful Cuban -American community, are making a legal fight to keep him in the US.

Yesterday, Ms Reno appealed to them to step back and consider what was best for the boy.

"My hope is that people will look at this little boy and get him into a situation where he can live a normal life without television cameras and the world in his face," she said.

"It's so important that people come together, work through the process of the law as soon as possible and get the boy home to his father."

Ms Reno's comments came a day after she overruled a decision by a Florida state court to grant temporary custody of Elian to his great uncle in Miami pending a hearing in March.

The attorney general said immigration matters must be settled at federal level.

Accordingly, the Miami relatives are preparing to an appeal to a federal court. The stand-off holds out the unedifying prospect of the US

government
sending in officers to remove Elian from his relatives if they do not
agree to
give him up.

Adding further to the potentially explosive emotional cocktail, Nivaldo
Fernandez, a survivor of the shipwreck, gave a vivid description of
Elian's
mother's attempts to save him.

He said: "We all fought to save ourselves, but she only wanted to save
the
life of her son. At every moment, she looked after the boy until she lost
her
life,"

Mr Fernandez told Radio Mambi, a station linked to the Cuban exile
cause.

He said seven people who survived the sinking hung on to three inner
tubes
and tried to keep together.

Elisabet, Elian's mother, gave the boy her coat and last water.

"She asked him, 'Are you cold?' and he said, 'Yes, I'm cold, mama,' so
she
took off her coat.

She gave him water."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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Copyright 2000 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

The Scotsman

January 14, 2000, Friday

SECTION: Pg. 3

LENGTH: 593 words

HEADLINE: TYSON ALLOWED INTO UK AFTER STRAW'S ABOUT-TURN

BYLINE: Jenny Percival Political Correspondent

BODY:

MIKE Tyson will be allowed into the UK this weekend, despite his rape conviction, after Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, made a U-turn and lifted the bar on his entry.

Mr Straw said he was using special powers to instruct immigration officers to allow the American boxer into the country because of the "exceptional circumstances" surrounding the case. He had been swayed by the potentially devastating effect on local businesses depending on the boxing match.

Hours earlier, Mr Straw had insisted that it was an issue for the Immigration Service and that it was not for him to interfere.

The cave-in by the Home Office was condemned by the shadow home secretary, Ann Widdecombe, who said Mr Straw had "bungled and mismanaged" the affair.

She added: "Perhaps Tony Blair or Jack Straw would now care to indicate how a matter which was in the hands of the Immigration Service on Wednesday has necessitated political intervention today."

Frank Warren, the fight promoter, had warned that he stood to lose GBP 600,000 if the sell-out fight, scheduled for 29 January in Manchester, did not go ahead. Tyson's would-be opponent, the British champion, Julius Francis, said he would be declared bankrupt if the fight was cancelled after spending GBP 50,000 preparing for the fight, in expectation of a GBP 300,000 purse.

Tyson, who is due to arrive by Concorde on Sunday, had been threatened with being refused entry because of his 1992 conviction for raping Desiree Washington, a Miss Black America contestant, for which he was given a six-year jail term. He was also given a 12-month term last year for attacking two motorists.

The Home Office has come under attack for leaving it to the last minute to raise the issue of Tyson's immigration status. Mr Warren was alerted to the potential problem only his week after he applied to the wrong Whitehall department, the Department for Employment .

Mr Straw said that, after considering a 67-page submission from Mr Warren to the Immigration Service, he was instructing officers to admit Tyson under powers contained in Schedule 2 of the Immigration Act 1971.

He said: "In the special circumstances of this case, it would be invidious for an individual immigration officer to weigh the competing considerations involved.

"I have taken full account of these representations and, in particular, of evidence presented to me in these representations and, of the effects on small providers of ancillary services, some of whom could be facing bankruptcy because they have invested heavily in the contest and are innocent third parties.

"I have also taken account of the effect on business in the Manchester area and of the inconvenience and disappointment of the many thousand members of the public who have purchased tickets for the fight in good faith if entry had been refused and the contest therefore cancelled."

Mr Straw also announced a review of the rule which started the controversy. It bans entry to the UK of people with criminal convictions which could be punished with a jail term of a year or more.

Mr Warren said later: "I must take my hat off to the immigration department who seem to have been the only department who have acted professionally amid the hysteria."

Earlier, the Immigration Service Union accused the Home Office of failing to provide leadership. John Tincey, the union's director of information, said: "I think this reflects the way that the Home Office has generally collapsed into a state of leaderlessness at the moment."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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The Vancouver Sun

January 14, 2000, Friday, FINAL

SECTION: News; A1 / Front

LENGTH: 1076 words

HEADLINE: Canada praised for tough stand on illegal migrants

BYLINE: Chad Skelton, Sun Immigration Reporter

BODY:

Canada's immigration authorities, often criticized at home for being too lenient, are being praised for their hard line on human smuggling from an unlikely source: Americans.

In a news story on Wednesday, the Seattle Times reported that the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service hadn't levied any fines against the shipping companies that brought four containers of Chinese migrants to the Seattle port in the past two weeks.

"That contrasts starkly with the actions of the Canadian government, which slapped a \$375,000 fine on the container ship California Jupiter . . . before it was allowed to leave Vancouver," the story said.

In an editorial on Thursday titled "Halting human cargo", the Times wrote:
"economic pressure on shippers ought to be immediately invoked. ... The (INS) can make companies pay the bill for housing stowaways in federal detention centres and repatriating those sent back home."

The day before, the Seattle Post- Intelligencer made a similar plea, saying
"a strong signal must be sent to international shippers that it's costly to turn a blind eye to this crime."

Virginia Kice, an INS spokeswoman, said fines are "one of the tools that we have available" but that for now the agency would rather cooperate with shipping companies to reduce smuggling.

Fines aren't the only way in which container migrants in the U.S. and Canada are being treated differently.

While the 25 migrants that arrived in Vancouver last week are now on their way to a Prince George jail to await their refugee hearings, immigration officials in the U.S. conceded Thursday their container migrants could be released on a small bond within a few weeks.

After most of those released from the first boat of migrants that arrived

here this summer disappeared, immigration authorities in Canada adopted a policy of seeking the continued detention of all boat people while they await their refugee hearings. (However, that policy has not applied to the 402 Chinese refugee claimants that arrived at Vancouver's airport in 1999, who were not detained.)

George Varnai, regional manager for immigration, said immigration officials will likely argue the container migrants should be detained.

"For now, I would think it would be in our interests to seek their continued detention," Varnai said.

However, U.S. immigration officials say many of the migrants who arrived in containers south of the border will likely be set free while they await their asylum hearings, after paying a small bond of no more than a few thousand dollars.

"Over time, probably a significant percentage of these people will . . . bond out," Kice said. "Some of them will probably pursue their immigration proceedings and some of them . . . just disappear."

Some media reports have suggested that migrants arriving in the U.S. have to prove they have a "credible fear" of returning to their home country in an interview with an INS officer or they will be immediately deported.

But Bill Strassberger, a spokesman with the INS in Washington, D.C., said that initial interview is only used to determine whether the migrant's claim "at least on the surface looks like a credible fear" and not whether that claim is valid or not. The final determination is made by an immigration court months later.

In the last year, more than 200 Chinese migrants have arrived on the West Coast of the United States in 14 separate incidents. Kice said the INS has not kept track of how many of the container migrants have claimed asylum, but said it is likely high.

"It would be surprising if virtually all of them didn't pursue this avenue," Kice said. "Because their journey here was facilitated by smugglers and the smugglers are very familiar with the process and know what to tell people."

Asylum claims are usually heard by an immigration court within two or three months, Strassberger said. But claimants can appeal a negative decision.

"We've seen cases that have taken a year or longer," Strassberger said.

About 70 to 75 per cent of all claimants in the U.S. are set free while they await their hearings.

"The no-show rate is fairly high," Kice conceded.

In September, The Vancouver Sun reported that in 1998, 37.1 per cent of all claimants in the U.S. failed to show up for their hearings compared to 14.3 per cent in Canada.

Kice said the no-show rate for Chinese claimants is even higher in the U.S., at "around 70 per cent". The rate of abandoned Chinese claims in Vancouver is 70.8 per cent.

Asked why the INS hasn't adopted a blanket detention policy for boat people like Canada has, Strassberger was blunt: it doesn't have the space.

Immigration reforms passed by the U.S. Congress in 1996 require the INS to detain, with some exceptions, every migrant with a criminal record who is awaiting deportation. Of 17,000 beds in detention facilities across the country, 14,500 (85 per cent) are occupied by so-called "criminal aliens".

"There's not a whole lot of space for the others," Strassberger said.

While newspapers in Seattle have called on the INS to levy fines like Canada has, the fines are not be as harsh as they appear.

Immigration Canada routinely levies administrative fees against airlines and shipping companies that bring undocumented migrants into Canada. But the fee can only be used to pay for the costs of returning the migrants. They do not cover

costs of detention, refugee hearings or legal aid.

Some of the fee against Japan-based NYK Line, which owns the Jupiter, could be refunded if it costs less than \$15,000 each to return the migrants.

Rene Mercier, an immigration spokesman in Ottawa, said that in 1999, an estimated \$3.2 million in fees were levied against airlines and \$2.6 million was levied against shipping companies for bringing migrants to Canada without proper travel documents.

Meanwhile, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman told a news conference Thursday that Western countries should not be fooled by illegal immigrants from China claiming political asylum or refugee status.

"To achieve their aim of staying for a long time overseas, some illegal immigrants create excuses and even tell lies in applying for so-called political asylum or refugee status," Zhu Bangzao said. "If those countries are easily taken in by their tales and accept their applications, this will encourage a wave of more illegal immigrants."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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Copyright 2000 Pacific Press Ltd.

The Vancouver Sun

January 14, 2000, Friday, FINAL

SECTION: Sports; E8

LENGTH: 391 words

HEADLINE: Iranian group complaining about beer ads at stadium: Request to remove signs rejected for game that has Iran playing against U.S.

BYLINE: Jill Serjeant

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES

BODY:

LOS ANGELES -- U.S. soccer officials on Thursday refused to bow to Moslem sensibilities and remove Budweiser beer advertisements from the stadium and programs for a groundbreaking Iranian-U.S. game.

Responding to a complaint from what officials called an "Iranian extremist group" that the beer ads were offensive to Moslems, the U.S. soccer federation appealed for the exhibition game to be played in a "spirit of friendship and sportsmanship."

Iran's national soccer squad is making its first trip to the United States since the 1979 Islamic revolution. Sunday's game will be the first between the two nations since a 1998 World Cup encounter in which Iran beat "the great Satan" 2-1.

Budweiser, America's bestselling beer, is one of eight sponsors of the U.S. soccer federation and advertises heavily on billboards around fields and in programs.

The goodwill surrounding the current trip was shattered when an Iranian group called for the Budweiser ads to be removed from the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, near Los Angeles, for the game.

The U.S. soccer federation in a statement expressed "tremendous respect for Islamic traditions" and said it understood "that abstinence is an Islamic custom."

"However, as the game is played in the United States - a country that sanctions the responsible consumption of alcoholic beverages - Budweiser will remain one of several event sponsors," it said.

"When Budweiser was a sponsor of the 1994 World Cup (in the United States), cultures from around the world met in a spirit of friendship and sportsmanship in competition despite our differences," the federation continued.

"On the occasion of this groundbreaking exchange, we are confident that history will repeat itself."

U.S. soccer officials said the complaint had not come from the Iranian soccer federation. They declined to give details and were unable to say whether the complaining group was based in the United States or Iran.

In an attempt to welcome the Iranian team, the United States relaxed some immigration controls normally imposed on visiting Iranians, allowing the players and coaches an exemption from being fingerprinted when they arrived on Jan. 5.

Iranian players have said they have no wish to be affected by politics before the game, for which more than 35,000 tickets have been sold.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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Copyright 2000 The Commercial Appeal

The Commercial Appeal (Memphis, TN)

January 13, 2000, THURSDAY, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: BUSINESS, Pg. C6

LENGTH: 509 words

HEADLINE: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WIN LABOR CASE, LOSE WITH INS

BYLINE: Steve Karnowski The Associated Press

DATELINE: MINNEAPOLIS

BODY:

For nine Holiday Inn Express housekeepers from Mexico, U.S. law cuts both ways.

They helped unionize their fellow housekeepers at the hotel in downtown Minneapolis. Soon afterward, the hotel fired them and reported them to the Immigration and Naturalization Service as illegal aliens.

Last week, the nine workers won a \$ 72,000 settlement from the hotel in

the
first case in which the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
intervened on
behalf of illegal immigrants.

But they still are almost certain to be deported to Mexico.

Though all nine have admitted entering the United States illegally, the
housekeepers say they would gladly trade their \$ 8,000 checks for the
right to
stay.

"I have nothing in Mexico," said Norma Lerma del Torro, 28, a mother of
three. She said she might try to start a small business with her
settlement
money and eke out a living if she is sent back.

Another one of the fired housekeepers, Estela Albino, 28, said she
didn't
think her check would go far back home. Two of her sisters and three of
her
cousins are also in the group. "Things are so expensive there, I don't
think the
money would last long."

The housekeepers' attorney, Jorge Saavedra F., has asked Atty. Gen.
Janet
Reno and the INS to grant them amnesty. He said they deserve to stay
because
they helped investigators from the National Labor Relations Board and
EEOC build
a case against the hotel.

"Now that the federal government is done using these folks as their key
witnesses, then they're calling in a third federal agency in the form of
the INS
to show them the door," Saavedra F. said.

Barring amnesty or a favorable ruling from an immigration judge, the
immigrants will be deported in four to five months, said Curtis Aljets,
director
of the regional INS office.

The housekeepers have won supporters in high places, including Sen. Paul
Wellstone (D-Minn.), who said he spoke with INS Commissioner Doris
Meissner on
Monday and plans to discuss the case with Reno.

Wellstone said he supports amnesty for the immigrants.

"I think it was very courageous of these workers. They cooperated with
the
EEOC. They cooperated with the Justice Department. They cooperated with
the

NLRB," Wellstone said. "If ever there could be an exception made, I think it would be for these workers."

Like many other illegal immigrants, Albino and Lerma didn't have big ambitions when they came to the United States about two years ago. Through an interpreter, both women said they just wanted to find jobs that would support them and let them send money home to their families.

At the Holiday Inn Express, they joined the army of immigrant workers - legal and illegal - that keeps hotels going across the United States.

There they claimed they were subjected to low wages, discriminatory working conditions and exploitation because of their race, so they began organizing. Several of the nine took leadership roles and won a unionization vote in August.

In October, managers of the hotel fired them and reported them to the INS.

GRAPHIC: photo;

By Dawn Villella/AP;

Estela Albino (right) and sisters Evertina (left) and Rosa are among nine former hotel workers facing deportation to Mexico. They helped organize a union at a Minneapolis hotel.

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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Copyright 2000 The Commercial Appeal

The Commercial Appeal (Memphis, TN)

January 13, 2000, THURSDAY, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. A2

LENGTH: 580 words

HEADLINE: U.S. KIN HEADING TO FEDERAL COURT TO KEEP ELIAN

BYLINE: From Our Press Services

DATELINE: MIAMI

BODY:

Lawyers for the U.S. relatives of 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez Wednesday said they will take their custody fight to federal court after Atty. Gen. Janet Reno upheld a decision giving custody of the boy to his Cuban father.

In a letter to lawyers representing the shipwreck survivor's family in Miami, Reno said Friday's Immigration and Naturalization Service deadline for returning Elian to his Cuban father was extended to allow preparation of a federal court challenge.

"This little boy has been through so much, and it is therefore imperative that all of us do what we can to resolve his case as soon as possible," Reno wrote.

But the attorney general's decision seemed to further complicate an international custody case that has become an intense political battle between Communist foes and America haters across the Florida Straits. Elian was found clinging to an inner tube on Thanksgiving Day after his mother and 10 other people drowned trying to flee Cuba.

"Elian came here by a miracle of God. He will stay here," Delfin Gonzalez, the boy's paternal great-uncle, said Wednesday.

Accusing the U.S. government of denying Elian his constitutional rights, lawyers representing the boy's Miami relatives insisted that his family will not surrender him to federal authorities. They planned to file a federal suit early next week seeking to reverse Reno's decision.

"The government should have respected the temporary protective order of the Florida family court, as it was based on preventing imminent and irreparable harm to the child," attorney Spencer Eig said. "Now we will take the case to a court they cannot ignore."

Reno's decision effectively set aside Monday's state court ruling giving the boy's great-uncle in Miami temporary guardianship of Elian and ordering a hearing on March 6. The decision by Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Rosa Rodriguez "has no force or effect" on the INS finding that the boy should be returned to his Cuban father, Juan Gonzalez, who the INS determined has the legal authority to speak for the child, Reno said.

In her decision to grant temporary custody to Elian's Miami great-uncle, Lazaro Gonzalez, Rodriguez said there were "sufficient verified allegations" that Elian would be harmed if sent back to Cuba.

But in her letter Reno said the "INS found no credible information indicating that the child would be at risk of torture or persecution if returned to his father."

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said he was disappointed by Reno's decision. "I just think it's not a cut-and-dried issue and I think the tie should go to Elian, not Cuba," Bush said.

Two polls, by ABC News and CNN-USA Today-Gallup, showed that a majority of Americans want Elian returned to his father. Men supported the boy's return to his father in Cuba by a slightly larger margin than women, and people with college educations were more likely than those with less to favor his return.

In Cuba, Elian's maternal grandmother, Raquel Rodriguez, contended that the boy had been kidnapped and that Elian's mother was tricked by her boyfriend into making the journey.

Child-law experts said the long, drawn-out legal battle over Elian's fate would only do further damage to a child who already has suffered enough emotional trauma.

"It's very harmful to a child, particularly of tender years like Elian, to be held captive and in limbo," said Bernard Perlmutter, director of the Children and Youth Law Clinic at the University of Miami.

GRAPHIC: photo;

AP;

On Wednesday in Havana, Cuban children walk past a poster demanding "Freedom for Elian," referring to the government's campaign to bring 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez back from Florida.

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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DAILY MAIL (London)

January 13, 2000

SECTION: Pg. 27

LENGTH: 1261 words

HEADLINE: The young woman destroyed by the lust of Mike Tyson;
AS BOXING LEGEND TURNED RAPIST FACES BEING BARRED FROM BRITAIN

BYLINE: Sarah Chalmers

BODY:

IN NEW YORK MIKE TYSON appears set for a showdown with immigration officers at Heathrow this weekend.

The Home Office has made it clear the 34-year-old former world heavyweight champion faces immediate deportation if he arrives in Britain because of his past conviction for rape unless there are 'strong compassionate reasons' to grant entry.

Yesterday Tyson's managers insisted he will be flying to Britain on Concorde on Sunday, ahead of a sell-out fight against British boxer Julius Francis in Manchester.

Tyson was convicted in 1992 of raping Miss Black America contestant Desiree Washington, and jailed for six years. He served three. For his victim,

however,
the ordeal goes on.

DURING a stifling hot day in June 1991, a beaming Desiree Washington practised the speech she would make at that weekend's Miss Black America Pageant.

With the optimism and innocence of youth, the 18-year-old from a tiny town in Rhode Island declared her goal: 'To reach for the highest star, no matter how far.' It is now eight and a half years since that hopeful pronouncement in a rehearsal hall in Indianapolis. One might indeed expect the stunning and intelligent 5ft4in beauty to be scaling the heights of the modelling business, or holding down a laudable position in a major charity.

Instead, she is is barely recognisable as the vivacious young woman of that fateful beauty contest. Today she lives quietly between secret addresses, her long hair shorn, her confidence destroyed.

Her world was irreversibly shattered within hours of those beauty pageant rehearsals in 1991. In room 606 of the Canterbury Hotel in downtown Indianapolis, heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson raped the terrified teenager.

He was sentenced to six years in prison.

But today he is a free man, still a professional boxer and a multimillionaire.

And, if immigration officials allow it, he will this weekend travel to Britain to fight Julius Francis in a bout which could earn him GBP 5million.

Desiree, meanwhile, is still battling with the mental scars of her ordeal.

During the three years that Tyson served, the young woman tried valiantly to fulfil her teenage ambitions.

She enrolled in a liberal arts course at Providence College in her home state and tried to convince herself she was just another carefree student taking her first tentative steps towards an independent and exciting future.

Nothing could have been further from the truth. The withdrawn, nervous air she exuded was at sharp odds to that of the outgoing, exuberant schoolgirl

remembered by classmates in her hometown of Coventry, a tiny religious community with old-fashioned values that is so safe the children still walk or cycle to their lessons.

ALTHOUGH she boarded at the college, her undergraduate years were not characterised by partying or experimentation, but by fear and sadness.

When she was not in classes Desiree rarely ventured out of the secure residence hall run by Dominican nuns and monks.

The girl who once helped disabled children and had ambitions to travel 'just about everywhere' now chopped off the thick black hair which had been her crowning glory, limited herself to a small coterie of trusted friends, and tried to retreat into obscurity.

But the memories of her ordeal could not be as simply severed from her life.

For one thing there were physical ramifications of Tyson's assault a brute more than twice her weight. Friends of the teenager say she was left with two different forms of venereal disease which required treatment. And then there were the mental scars.

Despite extensive counselling Desiree would still regularly climb into her mother's bed and sleep with her when she was at the family's ranch-style home at the end of a long drive by a lake.

If that seems like a reclusive way for a beautiful young woman to spend her days, it became even more so after Tyson's 1995 release.

At about the same time Desiree graduated from college and was besieged by television companies clamouring for her comments.

Shying away from the glare which had already pried so pruri-ently into her personal life during the rape trial, Desiree refused all interviews and instead began dividing her time between secret addresses. She even changed her name in an attempt to escape her unwanted notoriety.

It is hardly the actions of a gold-digger intent on securing 15 minutes of fame, which Tyson's heavyweight lawyers insisted she was.

For until the boxer who once described himself as 'the baddest person on earth' so viciously robbed her of her innocence, Desiree Washington was just a naive young girl, flattered by the attentions of a famous personality.

Fellow contestants who competed in the Miss Black America Pageant say Desiree was the least streetwise of all the 25 competitors. She was too shy to get changed in front of the other girls and had photographs of her parents and cuddly toys in the hotel room she shared with two other beauty queen hopefuls.

The first meeting came on the afternoon before the rape when Tyson, sporting a Together in Christ badge, sidled up to Desiree in the ballroom of the Omni Sev-erin Hotel, where the girls were rehearsing a dance number.

'You're a nice Christian girl, right?' he reportedly said to her.

LATER in the day he asked her if she'd like to go on a date. The starstruck youngster accepted and rushed to tell her roommates explaining that her father and grandfather were huge fans of the boxer.

When he didn't call later that night she changed into her polka-dot baby-doll pyjamas, removed her makeup and climbed into bed. At around 1.30am Tyson telephoned and asked her to meet him. Initially she declined saying she was tired and would prefer to go out the following evening, but he said he would be gone by then and persuaded her to go.

After trying and failing to get her roommates to accompany her she pulled on shorts and a top and grabbed the camera her father had given her, to take a photograph of his idol.

In her heartbreaking court testimony she told how she travelled with him in his limousine and sat outside his hotel room, only entering after he insisted.

Within minutes of sitting gingerly at the end of the bed Tyson made perfunctory smalltalk and lunged at her. Shocked, she said she would have to leave and made a dash for the bathroom.

When she returned the sportsman used his immense bulk to pin her to

the bed,
strip the clothes from the lower part of her body and rape her. When he
finally
allowed her to go she staggered out of the hotel looking dazed and
terrified
into Tyson's limousine.

His chauffeur, a woman trained in dealing with traumatised children,
later
testified that she was in no doubt her employer had raped the young woman.

Desiree later broke down and told her roommates what had happened.

Doctors who examined her confirmed her internal injuries were
consistent
with rape.

Traumatised and tearful, Desiree agreed to press charges against the
boxer
when her mother asked her how she would feel if another girl suffered the
same
fate.

But her ordeal was moving into its second phase as Tyson's lawyers
crawled
over Coventry, speaking to everyone who knew her in a desperate bid to
blacken
her name.

In the eight years since the attack, Desiree has awoken in terror from
nightmares and continues to suffer debilitating mental effects.

The rapist's current, much-publicised bravado can only add to the
daily pain
she endures.

Fight hangs in the balance - Back Page

GRAPHIC: ABOVE: DESIREE WASHINGTON WITH TYSON HOURS BEFORE THE ATTACK IN
1991.

RIGHT: IN A BEAUTY PAGEANT THAT SAME YEAR

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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DAILY MAIL (London)

January 13, 2000

SECTION: Pg. 96

LENGTH: 600 words

HEADLINE: Warren sweats as Tyson fight hangs in balance

BYLINE: Jeff Powell; Ian Gibb

BODY:

MIKE TYSON is unlikely to know until 5.25pm on Sunday when his Concorde flight touches down from the United States whether he can stay in the UK to fight in Manchester on January 29.

Promoter Frank Warren has to sweat over the GBP 600,000 he has spent so far on the proposed 10-round heavyweight bout against British champion Julius Francis. He stands to lose all of his money in non-refundable returns to the fighters plus venue expenses, publicity and hotel costs. Warren, boss of Sports Network, said last night: 'I am in for GBP 600,000. We have got no insurance for this. We are in trouble.' If Tyson is turned back it could mean Britain will lose a second multimillion pound pay-night as he has also been lined up to fight Herbie Hide, who once held the WBO heavyweight title, in Manchester or London in June.

Warren will take his legal fight to the wire to ensure Tyson is allowed entry.

But no help will come from Prime Minister Tony Blair, who said in the Commons yesterday that the final decision is up to the immigration authorities.

Tyson can be denied entry under the rule that bars anyone who has committed a crime punishable in Britain by a jail term of at least 12 months. Tyson received a six-year sentence for rape in 1992 and served three years. Mr Blair said: 'This is being handled by the immigration service - they have to deal with it according to their rules in the normal way. That is the proper thing to do - to play it by the book.' If the Tyson-Francis show was sabotaged it would be a devastating blow for Warren, whose promotional coup in getting the controversial American signed up for his first fight in the UK would have put the

promoter
back on top. He has split up with Britain's biggest box office draw Naseem Hamed, has seen three of his heavyweights beaten by Francis and there have been world title defeats for Hide, Richie Woodhall, Jason Matthews and Ryan Rhodes.

Francis, who has spent GBP 50,000 on sparring at an army camp in Aldershot, is continuing his preparations hoping his GBP 350,000 purse does not disappear.

Tom Pendry MP, a member of the British Boxing Board of Control and a former shadow sports minister, claims Tyson could be allowed in on compassionate grounds.

'Not for Tyson,' he said, 'but for his opponent and the promoter.'
Tyson's camp remained optimistic yesterday and confirmed that the former undisputed heavyweight champion would be setting off from his Las Vegas training camp to come to London.

His adviser Shelley Finkel said: 'Hopefully everything will be OK.'

Mike will get a fair shake and it will be fine. We are planning on leaving for London on Sunday.' Manchester's economy will be badly hit if the fight is cancelled. All 21,000 tickets were sold within hours of the fight being confirmed last month.

It is estimated that when Lennox Lewis fought Frank Bruno in Cardiff six years ago, the event generated GBP 12m for the local economy and there are 6,000 people in Manchester who have been lined up to work on the Tyson show.

If the fight does not go ahead, Germany's top boxing promoters have offered to stage the bout as a build-up to a promotion featuring Tyson against Vitali Klitschko, the Ukrainian WBO champion who is based in Germany.

Bernd Bonte, Universum's director of public relations, said: 'At this point we would be able to put on the show.' Tyson could also have a problem getting into Germany but may not be faced with the same immigration obstacles upon his arrival.

A spokesman for the German embassy said: 'Each application is considered individually.'

GRAPHIC: 1)TYSON: COULD BE BARRED 2)HIDE: FOLLOW-UP OPPONENT

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Information Bank Abstracts

WALL STREET JOURNAL

January 10, 2000, Monday

SECTION: Section A; Page 26, Column 3

LENGTH: 30 words

HEADLINE: WHAT CLINTON IS SENDING ELIAN BACK TO

BYLINE: BY MICHAEL GONZALEZ

JOURNAL-CODE: WSJ

ABSTRACT:

Michael Gonzalez article, using his own experiences as child in Cuba as example, urges President Clinton not to send six-year-old refugee Elian Gonzalez back to Cuba; drawing (M)

GRAPHIC: Diagram

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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Copyright 2000 Asbury Park Press, Inc.

Asbury Park Press (Neptune, NJ.)

January 9, 2000, Sunday

SECTION: C, Pg. 2, Your Views

LENGTH: 1051 words

HEADLINE: Your Views

BODY:

Immigrants do contribute (Mon. edition)

It always amazes me to read opinions of people such as the writer of "Close doors to immigrants," who argue that the only good immigrant is the one who is already here. Many of the turn-of-the-century immigrants were once thought of as undesirables as well.

I doubt that the majority of past immigrants who came to this country made a positive contribution, just as I doubt that the majority of new immigrants are a burden. What the writer fails to realize is that immigration is a positive force. Diseases do not distinguish between immigrant and citizen. It's just as likely for an American citizen who travels abroad to carry an infectious disease into this country.

I also take umbrage at her opinion that immigrants bring down the scholastic standards. If this is so, why do most immigrants score higher than the average American, whatever that means, on standardized tests? The positive contributions of immigrants far outweigh the negative.

I'd like to quote another immigrant to America: "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore, Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me: I lift my lamp beside the golden door." I refer, of course, to the words on the Statue of Liberty.

Arvind Swamy

HOLMDEL Commandments say it all (Ocean Edition) I have just read the Dec. 29 article "Kwanzaa's lore, lure." The article describes seven principles of the Kwanzaa celebration as unity, self-determination, collective work, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. However, I would like to provide my own suggestions.

The seven principles notwithstanding, procure a copy of the Ten Commandments.

Read them, discuss them, post them. Do not distance yourself from God's tenets.

Get involved in the democratic process to the fullest. Attend town meetings;
voice your opinion. Vote in every election without fail. Demand equality always. Obey the laws of the United States and of New Jersey. When necessary,
as did Mohandas Gandhi and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., protest societal injustices peacefully.

Everything we need to accomplish to benefit our families, our country and ourselves has been in place for centuries. We cannot be ignorant of, or indifferent to, God's word. By doing so, we render the well-intentioned principles created by cultural celebrations superfluous and trite.

Gary R. Dal Corso

TOMS RIVER Other ships also served Regarding the story "USS New Jersey's record debated" about the battle stars the Battleship New Jersey is entitled to:

Having served during World War II and retired from the Navy after 20 years' active duty, I always believed entitlement to battle stars was for actual battle with the enemy. All this hoopla about the New Jersey's battle stars makes my blood boil.

The war record of my ship, the USS Colorado, is one not too many ships can match. The Colorado was at Pearl Harbor before the Japanese attack and would have been sunk next to the USS Arizona. By chance, the Colorado was ordered to Bremerton, Wash., Navy Yard for scheduled maintenance in place of the USS West Virginia, because that ship had admiral's quarters and the admiral wanted to stay at Pearl Harbor. It also made the Colorado the only battleship left in the Pacific Fleet to protect the West Coast against the Japanese Navy.

I do not want to minimize that great ship, the USS New Jersey, but more needs to be said about the hundreds of ships that served and serve today's Navy. Felice Colella MANCHESTER Summers along Route 88 In response to the editorial about businesses that are gone from the Monmouth-Ocean County

area:
When I was a child, we spent two weeks every summer in what Dad referred to as West Point Pleasant. We stayed at the Ocean Pine Cabins on Route 88 across from the Idle Hour.

We always had at least one meal at "Jack & Jenny's" near the Point Pleasant Beach boat basin. Many of the charter boats there still bear the names of boats that we would use to go fishing.

Jenkinson's is still there, but I remember a merry-go-round, rocking chairs in the back (which my grandfather enjoyed while we did the boardwalk) and a train on the beach. Route 88 was not developed then. We would go crabbing on the Metedeconk River in what I remember as being swampy land off Route 88.

Our family had many good times there. Now that my husband and I live in the area, those memories come alive quite often.

Dorene Frey Sefack

MANASQUAN Thieves may want objects This is the time of year of supposed religious sentiment. Supposed. Now that creche figures are being stolen ("Increasingly, thieves taking figures from Nativity scenes," Dec. 30), a spokesman for the New York Catholic League makes a comment that stirs the religious pot a little more: "This is always the time of year when anti-Catholic and anti-Christian sentiment starts up."

I am amazed by this narrow perspective. The creches would be destroyed or marked in a sacrilegious fashion if these actions were anti-Christian or anti-Catholic in nature. Is it possible that it was a nut enamored with Christianity who took the statue so he could have his very own Jesus or Mary?

Looking at an action from a "them/us" perspective seems very unfair and unwarranted, especially if it's as likely that the action had nothing to do with them, but everything to do with us.

Linda Marina

SHREWSBURY Protesters want venue

Regarding the Dec. 3 Tony Snow column about World Trade Organization protesters in Seattle being less interested in good causes than "ample

air
time:" Could it be that the protesters are interested in both?

Why should citizens have to beg to be heard? If we went back to the
"equal
time amendment," perhaps protesters would be able to state their views
in an
affordable and peaceful way - free. We owe this to the next generation,
our
children.

Snow mentioned that "washed-up radicals" thunder about corporate greed
but
promote the "avaricious" institution of socialism. Avaricious? How can
they be
"bleeding hearts" and avaricious at the same time?

Dorothy Frantin Petrovich

FAIR HAVEN

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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The Patriot Ledger (Quincy, MA)

January 7, 2000 Friday ROP Edition

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 04

LENGTH: 368 words

HEADLINE: Cuba presses for return of boy as exiles protest

BODY:

HAVANA -- Cuba encouraged its citizens yesterday to continue protesting
for a
6-year-old boy's repatriation, warning that exiles in Miami could try to
block
the U.S. government's decision to reunite the child with his father on the
island.

In Miami yesterday, hundreds of Cuban-Americans chanting "Libertad
Eliau!
Libertad Elian!" blocked traffics on dozens of streets and cut off access
to the
Port of Miami to protest the U.S. government's decision to return Elian
Gonzalez
to his father in Cuba by Jan. 14.

Miami police arrested at least 135 people, including two prominent Cuban

exile leaders, for refusing to disperse.

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush yesterday appealed to President Clinton to reverse the order by the Immigration and Naturalization Services, and a separate court challenge to the decision is expected to be filed in Miami. Opponents of the INS decision called for more protests today.

With President Fidel Castro in attendance, media workers rallied yesterday at Havana's Palace of Conventions to demand Elian Gonzalez's return to Cuba. For weeks the communist government has held such rallies almost daily.

"The case of Elian is for today's youth what 40 years of the blockade, armed invasions, sabotage and attempts to kill President Fidel Castro were for earlier generations," said Cuban journalist Luis Baez, who has written several books about Cuban emigration to the United States.

In an unusual move after the rally, state television showed images of Cuban exiles in Miami protesting the U.S. decision to return Elian to the communist island. The footage showed exiles with signs demanding "Freedom for Elian" -- the same battle cry regularly chanted during rallies on this side of the Florida Straits.

A voiceover called the exiles "criminals" and "mafia members."

Rescued on Nov. 25 by fishermen off the Florida coast, Elian has become the subject of an international custody battle.

His mother died in a boating accident trying to get Elian and herself to the United States. The boy's father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, lives in Cuba and wants Elian back. But Elian's relatives in Miami have fought to keep the boy, saying they could provide him with a better life.

GRAPHIC: Photo, Associated Press - Elian Gonzalez rides on the shoulders of his great uncle, Delfin Gonzalez, in the Little Havana neighborhood of Miami yesterday. The boy's cousin, Marisleysis Gonzalez looks on.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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Public Opinion Online

LENGTH: 102 words

ACCESSION NUMBER: 0348886

QUESTION NUMBER: 001

QUESTION:

We have a question about Elian Gonzalez, the 6-year-old Cuban boy who is a survivor of a boat filled with Cuban immigrants which sank off the coast of Florida last November (1999). As you may know, the US government recently decided to send the boy back to Cuba to live with his father rather than have him remain with relatives in the United States. From what you know about this case, do you approve or disapprove of the decision to send the boy to Cuba to live with his father?

RESULTS: Approve - 56%

Disapprove - 36

No opinion - 8

ORGANIZATION CONDUCTING SURVEY: GALLUP ORGANIZATION

POPULATION: National adult

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 1,633

INTERVIEW METHOD: Telephone

SURVEY SPONSOR: Cable News Network, U.S.A. Today

BEGINNING DATE: January 7, 2000

ENDING DATE: January 10, 2000

SOURCE DOCUMENT: GALLUP, C.N.N., U.S.A. TODAY POLL

DATE OF RELEASE OF SOURCE DOCUMENT: January 12, 2000

QUESTION ID: USGALLUP.00JAN7, R36

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 2000

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Public Opinion Online

LENGTH: 68 words

ACCESSION NUMBER: 0349136

QUESTION NUMBER: 051

QUESTION:

(Please tell me whether you would favor or oppose the United States doing each of the following.) Would you favor or oppose... changing immigration laws to allow more of them (African AIDS orphans) to come to this country so they can be adopted or cared for by private agencies?

RESULTS: Favor - 50%

Oppose - 42

Don't know - 8

ORGANIZATION CONDUCTING SURVEY: PRINCETON SURVEY RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

POPULATION: National adult

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 753

INTERVIEW METHOD: Telephone

SURVEY SPONSOR: Newsweek

BEGINNING DATE: January 6, 2000

ENDING DATE: January 7, 2000

SOURCE DOCUMENT: PRINCETON SURVEY RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, NEWSWEEK POLL

DATE OF RELEASE OF SOURCE DOCUMENT: January 8, 2000

QUESTION ID: USPSRNEW.010800, R24B

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LENGTH: 6473 words

HEADLINE: Education: A Bold Experiment to Fix City Schools; school
vouchers

BYLINE: Miller, Matthew

BODY:

Depending on whom you listen to - conservative or liberal - vouchers
are
either a lifeline or a death knell for America's urban public schools. Yet
a
case can be made for vouchers that everyone can support - and the time for
a "grand bargain" is at hand.

WHEN Maria Neri's daughter Tina finished eighth grade, two years ago, her
scholarship at a Catholic elementary school in south-central Los Angeles
ended. The parochial high school in which Neri (not her real name) hoped to
enroll Tina charges \$ 3,500 a year-a third less than the \$ 5,400 Los
Angeles
would spend to educate Tina in public school. Neri, thirty-three, earns \$
600
a month as a part- time teacher's aide; she's looking for a second, and
perhaps a third, job. Her husband, from whom she is separated, earns \$
1,200 a month as a laborer in a glass factory. He pays his wife's monthly
rent
of \$ 340, but offers no support beyond that. After paying for food, a
phone,
gas, and other expenses, Neri had no money left to put toward private

school for Tina. Yet she was afraid to send Tina to the neighborhood public school, where the walls were covered with graffiti, and "cholos," or gang members, had been involved in shootings that brought police helicopters to the campus. So Neri used her sister's address to enroll Tina at another public school, which, though twenty minutes away, at least seemed safer. But it is far from ideal. Classrooms each have forty to forty-five children belonging to several different grades. Tina, sixteen, says the teachers often have the students watch movies. Her math teacher was so confused about who Tina was that he gave her an F for not completing many assignments-a grade he changed, with embarrassment and an apology, after Neri confronted him with Tina's completed workbook. "I can see the difference," Neri says. "She's going down." Tina says she would go back to Catholic school if they could afford it. "I talk to my daughter," Neri explains, "and say, 'I'm sorry.'"

Neri's desire to send Tina to a better school is at the heart of one of the nation's most important and most demagogic debates. Through vouchers, often touted as an answer to Neri's problem, the government would give parents some or all of the money it now spends educating their children to use at a school of their choice. Depending on whom you listen to, vouchers are either a lifeline or a death knell. "It is quite simply an issue of survival for our nation's poorest students," says Dan Coats, a Republican and a former senator from Indiana. But Kweisi Mfume, the president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, calls vouchers a "terrible threat," and Sandra Feldman, the president of the American Federation of Teachers, says they mean "a radical abandonment of public schools and public education."

These are heated claims, especially given the relatively small number of students who are involved in voucher programs today. Just over 52 million students attend grades K through 12 in the United States. Only two cities offer publicly funded vouchers: in Milwaukee (whose breakthrough program was begun in 1990) roughly 6,000 of 107,000 students get vouchers; in Cleveland about 4,000 of 77,000 do. In May, Florida approved a plan under which students at the poorest-performing schools would get vouchers. Four schools are expected to be eligible this year, and 12,000 of the state's 2.3 million K-12 kids are expected to use vouchers over the next four years. Privately funded voucher programs in thirty-one cities served roughly 12,000 children last year; ten new such programs came into being for the 1998-1999 school year. Two wealthy investors, Ted Forstmann and John Walton, recently announced a plan to fund (along with other donors) \$ 170 million in vouchers, which will reach 40,000 new students over the next four years.

Add these numbers up and you get 74,000 children-about 0.1 percent of students. Add 200,000 for those students in the 1,200 charter schools around the country (which also give parents a choice), and the proportion comes to only 0.5 percent of schoolchildren. In other words, the school-choice debate is taking place utterly at the margins. At this rate, for all the fuss, it's hard to imagine that any impact could be made on the

skills
and life chances of students stuck in our worst public schools in time to prevent what the Reverend Floyd Flake, a voucher advocate and a former Democratic congressman from New York, calls "educational genocide."

This tragedy is most pronounced in big cities, whose public schools together serve six million children. Despite heroic local efforts and pockets of success, depressing evidence mounts of an achievement gap between students in cities and those in suburbs, where, school-watchers say, most schools are doing fine, largely because they're safer, better funded, and less prone to the social ills that plague cities. Of Detroit's eleventh-graders 8.5 percent were deemed "proficient" in science on Michigan's 1997 statewide exam. Fourth-graders in Hartford were a tenth as likely as Connecticut students overall to show proficiency on the state's three achievement tests in 1996. Only two percent of Cleveland's minority tenth-graders have taken algebra. "The numbers tell a sad and alarming story," a special report in Education Week concluded last January. "Most 4th graders who live in U.S. cities can't read and understand a simple children's book, and most 8th graders can't use arithmetic to solve a practical problem." As polls prove, increasing numbers of urban parents like Maria Neri want a way out. It seems immoral to argue that they must wait for the day when urban public schools are somehow "fixed." It's even harder to argue that bigger voucher programs could make things worse.

Yet a political standoff has kept vouchers unavailable to nearly 99 percent of urban schoolchildren. Bill Clinton and most leading Democrats oppose them, saying we should fix existing public schools, not drain money from the system. Teachers' unions, the staunchest foes of vouchers, are among the party's biggest donors, and sent more delegates to the 1996 Democratic National Convention than did the state of California. Republicans endorse vouchers as a market-based way to shake up calcified bureaucracies, but they generally push plans that affect only a few students. The distrust that has led to today's gridlock is profound. Republicans view Democrats as union pawns defending a failed status quo; Democrats think Republicans want to use urban woes as justification for scrapping public education and the taxes that fund it.

MISSING entirely from the debate is the progressive pro-voucher perspective. To listen to the unions and the NAACP, one would think that vouchers were the evil brainchild of the economist Milton Friedman and his conservative devotees, lately joined by a handful of desperate but misguided urban blacks. In fact vouchers have a long but unappreciated intellectual pedigree among reformers who have sought to help poor children and to equalize funding in rich and poor districts. This "voucher left" has always had

less cash and political power than its conservative counterpart or its union foes. It has been ignored by the press and trounced in internecine wars. But if urban children are to have any hope, the voucher left's best days must lie ahead.

Finding a productive compromise means recalling the role of progressives in the history of the voucher movement and exposing the political charades that poison debate. It means finding a way for unorthodox new leaders to build a coalition- of liberals for whom the moral urgency of helping city children trumps ancient union ties, and of conservatives who reject a laissez-faire approach to life's unfairness. The goal of such a coalition should be a "grand bargain" for urban schools: a major multi-year test of vouchers that touches not 5,000 but 500,000 children, and eventually five million-and increases school spending in the process. The conventional wisdom says that today's whittled-down pilot programs are all that is politically achievable. The paradox is that only through bigger thinking about how vouchers might help can a durable coalition emerge.

IN 1962 John E. "Jack" Coons, an idealistic thirty-two-year-old law professor at Northwestern University, was asked by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission to study whether Chicago schools were complying with desegregation orders. Coons soon found that what really interested him was a different question: Why were suburban schools so much better than those downtown? Over the next few years Coons, eventually joined by two law students, Stephen Sugarman and William Clune, found one answer in what would become a source of enduring outrage: America's property-tax-based system of public-school finance created dramatic disparities in the resources available to educate children.

This financial aspect of education's vaunted tradition of "local control" is rarely the subject of national controversy. In part that is because it gives the nation's most powerful citizens both lower taxes and better schools. Imagine two towns, Slumville and Suburbia. Slumville has \$ 100,000 in taxable property per pupil; Suburbia has \$ 300,000. If Slumville votes to tax its property at four percent, it raises \$ 4,000 per pupil. But Suburbia can tax itself at two percent and raise \$ 6,000 per pupil. Suburbia's tax rate is half as high, but its public schools enjoy 50 percent more resources per student.

In the 1960s affluent districts routinely spent twice what nearby poorer ones did, and sometimes four or five times as much. To Coons and his colleagues, such inequity in a public service was indefensible. Beginning with *Private Wealth and Public Education*, a book that he, Sugarman, and Clune

published in 1970, Coons has denounced the system eloquently. It's worth sampling his arguments, because the left's case for choice is usually drowned out by the right's cheerleading for markets, or by urban blacks' cry for help. In a 1992 essay, "School Choice as Simple Justice," Coons wrote,

This socialism for the rich we blithely call "public," though no other public service entails such financial exclusivity. Whether the library, the swimming pool, the highway or the hospital-if it is "public," it is accessible. But admission to the government school comes only with the price of the house. If the school is in Beverly Hills or Scarsdale, the poor need not apply.

Coons's point was simple: the quality of public education should not depend on local wealth-unless it is the wealth of a state as a whole. "Everyone ought to be put in a roughly equivalent position with regard to what the state will do," Coons, now an emeritus law professor at Berkeley, says.

Coons and Sugarman made a successful case for the unconstitutionality of the school-finance system in California's famous Serrano case in 1971, beginning a national movement to litigate for school equity. Although it was little noticed then, they cited vouchers as a potential remedy. The idea was to give courts a way to instruct legislatures to fix things without having to mess with local control. Asking legislatures to centralize school funding at the state level was a political nonstarter. But through various formulas, Coons and Sugarman argued, the state could give families in poorer districts enough cash in the form of vouchers to bring education spending in those districts up to that of better-off districts. And what could be more "local," they reasoned, than giving families direct control over the cash to use at schools as they chose?

COONS and Sugarman, focusing on school equity, thus arrived at a policy that Milton Friedman had been urging through a principled commitment to liberty and to its embodiment, the market. Friedman's 1955 essay "The Role of Government in Education" is viewed as the fountainhead of the voucher movement. In an ideal world, the future Nobel laureate reasoned, the government might have no role in schooling at all; yet a minimum required level of education and its financing by the state could be justified.

A stable and democratic society is impossible without widespread acceptance of some common set of values and without a minimum degree of literacy and knowledge on the part of most citizens . . . the gain from the education of a child accrues not only to the child or to his parents but to other members of the society. . . . Yet it is not feasible to identify the

particular individuals (or families) benefitted or the money value of the benefit and so to charge for the services rendered.

However, Friedman said, if this "neighborhood effect" meant that the government was warranted in paying for K-12 education, another question remained: Should the government run the schools as well? Friedman's view was that schools could be just as "public" if the government financed but didn't administer them. That notion remains virtually unintelligible to leaders in public education, perhaps because it is so threatening.

Friedman's analogy (adopted by every voucher proponent since) was to the G.I. Bill, which gave veterans a maximum sum per year to spend at the institution of their choice, provided that it met certain minimum standards.

Likewise, for elementary and secondary schooling Friedman envisioned a universal voucher scheme that would give parents a fixed sum per child, redeemable at an "approved" school of their choice. Such a school might be nonprofit or for profit, religious or secular. Parents could add to the sum if they wished. The role of government would be limited to assuring that "approved" schools included some common content in their programs, "much as it now inspects restaurants to assure that they maintain minimum sanitary standards." In Friedman's view, market-style competition for students would spur the development of schools that were better tailored to families' needs and cost less than those run by notoriously inefficient public bureaucracies.

Friedman's and Coons's different angles of vision represent the ancient tug between liberty and equality within the pro-voucher camp—a debate the two have waged since Friedman was an occasional guest on Coons's Chicago radio show, *Problems of the City*, in the 1960s. Friedman today isn't bothered by issues of school-finance equity. "What's your view of inequity in clothing and food?" he snapped when asked recently, saying that such concerns reflect Coons's "socialistic approach." And even if public schools were making every child an Einstein, Friedman says, he would still want vouchers. "Private enterprise as opposed to collectivism," he says, "would always be better."

Coons is less ideological. In his view, choice would improve the public schools, which he believes would always be chosen by the majority, even with a full-blown voucher system. The prospect of losing students (and thus funding) would force improvements faster than today's seemingly endless rounds of ineffectual education fads. If poor children got a decent education under the current system, he adds, he probably wouldn't have devoted his life to these issues.

The fate of disadvantaged children under a voucher regime is where the Coons-Friedman clash is sharpest. Coons would be glad to offer vouchers

to all low-income students and to no one else if such a step were necessary for consensus. He fears that under a universal voucher system they could get left behind, as schools competed to recruit better-off, smarter, healthier (nondisabled) students. The incentives are plain: such children would be easier to teach, and schools could charge wealthy families far more than the voucher amount to maximize profit. Coons and the voucher left therefore insist that any universal scheme should include protections for low-income and disabled children. Examples would be increasing the voucher amount for those children to make them more attractive to schools, and letting schools redeem their vouchers only if, say, 15 percent of new places were reserved for such children, for whom the voucher would cover tuition. To Friedman, these are unacceptable intrusions on schools' freedom to operate as they like, turning vouchers into "a welfare program, not an education program."

WITHOUT a link to unions—which, despite the waning of their influence, remain one of the few sources of progressive ideas in American public life—liberal pro-voucher champions have had little political impact. The muting of their voice, combined with the ease of legislating pilot programs, explains why few urban children have a choice today. What's more, deceptive arguments by both teachers' unions and conservative activists keep the broader public confused.

Teachers' unions (and voucher foes generally) rely on five dubious arguments.

There's no evidence that vouchers work. The trials have been so isolated, unions say, that their results are unproved. That's a nervy case to make when it is union opposition that has kept the trials small. Pro- and anti-voucher forces have funded research in Milwaukee and Cleveland that purports to show why Johnny is doing demonstrably better or worse under vouchers. It is impossible to make sense of these dueling studies, whose sample sizes are so small that results seem to turn on whether, say, three children in Cleveland handed in their homework on time. Wealthy conservatives are now offering vouchers to all 14,000 at-risk children in a poor San Antonio district in part so as to compile a broader database from which to judge the impact of voucher systems. (In the first semester of the program 566 children taking vouchers left district schools.) For now the "no evidence" argument says more about union chutzpah than about voucher performance.

Vouchers drain money from public schools. Sandra Feldman, of the American Federation of Teachers, says that the \$10 million Cleveland uses to give vouchers to 4,000 children would be better spent on measures that would benefit every child, such as shrinking class sizes and launching proven reading programs. But this is disingenuous. Cleveland provided the \$10

million in addition to more than \$ 600 million in existing school spending in order to mollify unions, which insisted that vouchers not "come out of the hide" of public schools. It's unfair for unions to turn around and complain that the extra cash they insisted on should have gone elsewhere. The truth is that public schools are free to fund such measures now by shifting priorities within their budgets. And when broader voucher plans let the amount that public schools receive per student follow students who leave the system, the public-school coffers are not drained -schools receive the resources their enrollment merits.

Vouchers are unconstitutional. Some critics say that voucher use at religious schools violates the Constitution's ban on "establishment of religion," but the better view of the Supreme Court's confusing jurisprudence here suggests that's wrong. After all, no one thinks that federal student loans are unconstitutional when they are used by students to attend Notre Dame. Last June, Wisconsin's highest court upheld Milwaukee's plan, because the voucher goes to parents to use where they like, not to any particular type of school. In union hands, moreover, this legal complaint seems suspiciously tactical. It can't be that we are constitutionally obligated to imprison urban children in failing schools.

The capacity isn't there. Public schools serve 46 million K-12 children, private schools six million. Since private schools can't accommodate more than a fraction of today's students, opponents say, vouchers can't be a meaningful part of school reform. "Where are these schools going to come from?" Sandra Feldman repeatedly asked during an interview with me.

The first response to this argument is to ask, Then what's the problem? If as a practical matter unions feel that most children with vouchers will remain where they are, it's hard to see what the harm is in trying them. A second response is that even relatively few defections from public schools may spur efforts to improve them. Districts with innovative charter schools have reported such a reaction.

The larger answer, however, is that broader voucher schemes would prompt many institutions and entrepreneurs to add schools and spaces to the "market." This would happen not overnight but over a number of years. The initial spaces would be likely to come from Catholic schools, which account for half the private- school slots in the country. Jerome Porath, the schools chief for the Los Angeles archdiocese, says that if every student got a voucher worth an amount close to the current per-pupil expenditure in California, over several years enough facilities could be built or rented "to

accommodate everybody who wanted to come." "We'll get out our spreadsheets and figure it out," he says. Milton Friedman adds, "You can't think of it in terms of the existing stock of schools. There will be a flood of new schools started."

Profit is bad. Voucher foes act as if there were something venal about the profit motive when applied to schools. But public education is already big business. The \$ 320 billion spent last year on K-12 schooling is lusted after by textbook publishers, test designers, building contractors, food and janitorial services, and software companies, to name only a few examples. This largesse inevitably brings scandals-for example, the California flap in 1996 over whether campaign contributions influenced a big textbook purchase. Like health care, defense, and other major public services, schools will always be partly about business; vouchers would simply change who controls the flow of cash. There's no reason to think that the abuses under a voucher system would be worse than abuses today.

Voucher foes make other unpersuasive claims. They say that vouchers will cream off the most-talented children and the most-active parents-a worry that seems acute primarily because today's voucher plans remain tiny. They say that private schools will unfairly be able to avoid troublemaking kids by not admitting them- ignoring the fact that public districts themselves often send such kids to special schools of "last resort." They say the oversight that will follow public money will make private schools resemble public bureaucracies-ignoring the greater flexibility that most analysts say such schools will retain in hiring and firing, resource allocation, and curriculum design. Finally, they argue that it is crazy to subsidize more-affluent parents who already pay for private school-a seemingly powerful charge until one recalls that such families are now paying twice for schools, and that vouchers offered only to poor families would avoid the problem entirely.

For their part, conservative voucher fans peddle one big misconception: vouchers can save lots of money because per-pupil spending in private schools is typically less than half that in public schools today. It is true that religious schools have fewer administrators and lower-paid teachers, and invest less in such amenities as theaters, labs, and gymnasiums. But private schools don't have to take costly disabled and "special education" children; and often public schools must offer extras such as English as a Second Language, breakfast and lunch programs, and transportation. When such differences are taken into account, and hidden subsidies for church space and staff in religious schools are counted, the gap shrinks. Coons says

that a voucher's value needs to be no lower than 85 percent of total per-pupil spending in order to stimulate capital investment in new schools. Set it too low, and the result will be simply to fill the handful of empty Catholic-school seats.

The right's claim that vouchers will deliver big savings also ignores the case for spending more in many big cities, where dilapidated buildings may collectively require as much as \$ 50 billion in repairs. Some public school bureaucracies-Washington, D.C., and St. Louis come to mind-seem so hopeless that it would be senseless to pour new money in until management has improved. But despite run-down buildings and higher proportions of special-needs students, cities such as Philadelphia and Baltimore spend substantially less per pupil than do their states overall.

DISINGENUOUS rhetoric, visceral distrust, maximal posturing, minimal progress. Political debates escape this kind of dead end when grassroots pressure makes the status quo untenable, or when leaders emerge with fresh ways of framing the issues. It's possible that urban schools will fall so far that the poor revolt; or crime, bred by ignorance, might worsen in ways that force society to act. There's a better path to hope for, however, if new leaders can teach us to think differently about today's predicament.

Sounds of rethinking and compromise are in the air. Arthur Levine, the president of Columbia University's Teachers College, is a lifelong liberal and

a voucher foe. Yet, frustrated by the seemingly hopeless troubles of inner cities, Levine called last June for a "rescue operation" that would give vouchers to two to three million poor children at the worst urban public schools. "For me," Levine says, "it's the equivalent of Schindler's list."

Lisa Graham Keegan, Arizona's superintendent of public instruction and a rising Republican star, calls the property-tax base for school finance "pernicious" and "wholly unfair." She wants a system of "student-centered funding," in which revenues from a source other than property taxes would be distributed by the state on an equal per-pupil basis through vouchers.

If leading liberals are willing to question the public school monopoly, and prominent conservatives hear the call of justice, the voucher debate has a chance to move forward. The sensible first step would be a much bigger road test. Here's the idea I have put to various players in the debate:

Suppose everyone came together and said, Let's take three or four big cities

where we agree the public schools are failing. (Leave out dens of mismanagement like Newark and Washington, where spending is high but ineffective.) In these cities we'll raise per-pupil spending by 20 percent, giving urban schools the resources the left says they need, and thus going far

to achieve the Coons vision of funding equity. But we'll implement this

increase by way of a universal voucher system that finally gives every child a choice. So, for example, in a city that now spends \$ 5,000 per pupil, every child would get a \$ 6,000 voucher.

Such a proposal, serving half a million children, would cost \$ 660 million a year. If the voucher system were then extended to all six million big-city children (a logical step if results of the trial were promising), the price tag would be \$ 8 billion a year, or 0.4 percent of federal spending. (For purposes of discussion, I left aside the question of who outside the district would fund the 20 percent increase, though the surplus-rich federal government comes readily to mind.) The responses to this idea suggest how quickly the scale of today's debate could change-and who is responsible if it doesn't.

Jack Coons, the "egalitarian," said it sounds great. Clint Bolick, a conservative lawyer who is active in the voucher movement, also thought it could work-though, he said, the spending increase would mean that "some of my fellow conservatives would have apoplexy." Polly Williams, who led the drive to enact vouchers in Milwaukee, was anxious about extending them to students who aren't poor, so we agreed to give them only to children eligible for the federal school-lunch program. This would still get vouchers to 78,000 children in Milwaukee instead of the current 6,000, and to four million city children nationwide. We would move pretty far toward universal coverage this way, since, sadly, two out of three city children qualify for school-lunch assistance.

What about the NAACP? To date the organization has welcomed philanthropic efforts, but when public funds are at issue, it stands by the unions. Julian Bond, the chairman of the NAACP, recently called vouchers "pork for private schools." Yet when I asked Kweisi Mfume, the NAACP president, about this proposal, he didn't hesitate. "I don't have a problem with that at all," he said. Mfume says that NAACP opposition has been not ideological but based on three concerns: the association doesn't want programs that leave nearly every child out; it wants accountability to the public on student performance; and it wants an honest approach to higher costs-such as those for transportation-that must be paid to make the system work for poor children. The pilot programs in Milwaukee and Cleveland fail especially on grounds one and three; the bargain I sketched addresses them. Mfume said he was open to the proposal as long as the NAACP's concerns were met, even if that meant taking a stance different from the unions'.

"It's a bad idea," Milton Friedman said at first, arguing that any increase in spending would "fuel the racketeers in the education business." Friedman's point is that raising spending could create further opportunities for profit-hungry operators to take the vouchers and run schools much more efficiently-not to their benefit. Owing to systematic federal overpayments,

Medicare HMOs face just such scams in many places today.

But outliers like Washington, D.C., aside, it's not clear that urban schools are overspending. Given that, isn't it worth running a little risk to get a substantial voucher test under way? It seemed that Friedman wouldn't sign on, but toward the end of our discussion he relented. "I'll tell you what I would go for," he said. Friedman has always believed that so many families would flee public schools if given a voucher worth even half what is now spent per pupil that resources for each child remaining in the system would rise. (If ten public school children have \$ 5,000 spent on each of them, and three leave taking \$ 2,500 each, spending on the seven remaining would rise about 20 percent, to just under \$ 6,100.) So he would approve of a 20 percent increase in per-pupil spending for those who remained, as long as the voucher was worth only half that. Since Friedman thinks that this 20 percent increase will come over time anyway, he's not compromising his ideals. His principled accommodation is to put his money where his beliefs are and increase spending up front as part of the deal.

But look where we are. Baltimore spends \$ 6,400 per pupil today-versus \$ 6,800 spent by Maryland overall. According to Mfume's reasoning, the NAACP would accept a citywide voucher at roughly \$ 7,600. Friedman could live with \$ 7,600 for current public school pupils but would want a voucher for departing students at \$ 3,800. Surely there's a deal to be made here-and a chance, therefore, to help millions of children while meaningfully evaluating voucher efficacy, addressing questions about everything from student achievement to private profiteering.

What about the politicians? Lamar Alexander seems the likeliest to raise these issues thoughtfully in the 2000 election campaign; as a former Tennessee governor and the Secretary of Education under George Bush, he knows more about schooling than any other presidential aspirant. He has also been down this road before. Alexander bears scars from his ill-fated 1992 struggle to enact a voucher test at the federal level. Called the G.I. Bill for Kids, the plan would have spent \$ 500 million in new federal dollars to give the parents of half a million low- and middle-income children each a \$ 1,000 voucher to use at the schools of their choice. Alexander wagered (correctly) that conservative groups would be content with tiny sums of new money to get their foot in the door, and (incorrectly) that new cash for schools would be something the unions couldn't be seen opposing. In a Democratic Congress the bill went nowhere. Today Alexander says he would urge states to shift toward child-centered funding. And he'd go to Congress with an updated version of Bush's 1992 bill, featuring \$ 1,500 per voucher and an overall \$ 1 billion price tag.

I asked Alexander if he wasn't thinking too small: \$ 1,500 vouchers would

be nowhere near sufficient to spark the creation of new schools. And with vouchers spread thin across the country, he would get no trial of how broad-based choice can improve schooling in a community. Why not try the 20 percent spending boost in exchange for universal vouchers in a few cities?

The voluble Alexander went silent for perhaps fifteen seconds as he considered whether to go on record in favor of a policy that would raise spending substantially-something that conservative primary voters would reject.

At length he said yes. Higher per-pupil spending wouldn't be his preferred solution, of course, but if that's what it took to get a bold voucher plan into failing cities, he'd live with it. "I would go high because the stakes are high," he explained, "and to expose the hypocrisy of the unions. If I told the National Education Association that we'd double it in the five largest cities, they wouldn't take it."

Was he right? I met with Bob Chase, the president of the National Education Association, in the union's headquarters in Washington. He made the familiar case for why vouchers are ineffectual today and would be a threatening distraction for public schools if tried more broadly. Only 25 percent of the adult population has children in the schools, he explained. We need to help the other 75 percent understand why financial support of schools is important. In this regard I sketched the deal: a handful of cities, higher spending, but only through vouchers. My tape recorder captured the staccato response.

"Is there any circumstance under which that would be something that . . ."

"No."

". . . you guys could live with? Why?"

"No."

"Double school spending . . ."

"No."

". . . in inner cities?"

"No."

"Triple it . . ."

"No."

". . . but give them a voucher?"

"Cause, one, that's not going to happen. I'm not going to answer a hypothetical [question] when nothing like that is ever possible."

"But teachers use hypotheticals every day."

"Not in arguments like this we don't. . . . It's pure and simply not going to happen. I'm not even going to use the intellectual processes to see if in fact that could work or not work, because it's not going to happen. That's a fact."

Sandra Feldman was similarly unwilling to consider such a plan. If new money is available for cities, both said, it should be spent to improve the existing system. They would fund pay raises to attract teachers to work downtown, turnaround programs for troubled schools, and general urban programs for health, nutrition, and parenting skills. Of course, pay raises-or smaller class sizes, or any specific reform-could happen under vouchers, if that's what schools felt was needed to attract students.

IF one believes that urban education won't improve under the same approach that has failed for years, the path to progress through vouchers follows a simple logic. A progressive hand is needed to pursue the benefits of vouchers without risk to the poor. A number of conservatives are open to such efforts if they make possible larger voucher trials. Given the disastrous state of many urban schools, the Democratic Party should be the natural home of this progressive influence. It is not, because teachers' unions loom large in Democratic fundraising and campaigns. Yet the Republicans' commitment to minorities will probably never be trusted to carry this issue alone. And, not unreasonably, Republicans are unlikely to increase spending for urban schools without ensuring that such increases are tied to system-wide reform.

Changing the Democratic Party's approach to vouchers is therefore the only way to do something serious for urban children anytime soon. This conclusion begets another political syllogism, and an opportunity. Most observers believe that if the NAACP embraced vouchers, it would force the unions to reassess their opposition. Teacher intransigence is sustainable only as long as minority leaders support it, because the children whose future is being blighted are mostly black and Hispanic. Yet as Kweisi Mfume makes clear, getting the NAACP to change its stance would require voucher plans much bolder and more comprehensive than today's pilots.

Thus thinking bigger makes progress likelier. "That's why I've taken the more radical side," explains Floyd Flake, who quit Congress to run his church school and pursue these issues. "It's the only way to force the debate."

At some level even the unions know that their stonewalling is indefensible. "I would never argue with an individual parent who wanted to figure out a way to get his or her child into a better situation," Sandra Feldman says. "But to me, as a matter of public policy, that's not a good argument. The objective is to make the schools good-not to escape them."

But what if the ability to escape might help to make the schools better? And what if testing this proposition can't make anyone worse off? Yes, big voucher plans may require an act of faith, but it wouldn't be the first gamble in American education to work. A much smaller federal government rolled the dice on land-grant colleges in the 1860s with only a notion of what would happen; the research they sparked made U.S. agriculture the world's most productive. The G.I. Bill helped to spawn the postwar middle class. The moral urgency of today's voucher gamble is much greater. For all these reasons, Democrats should see large-scale urban voucher programs as an opportunity, not a threat. After all, once they embraced such a grand bargain, Democrats would be in the driver's seat. They retain, at least for now, the moral authority to speak in behalf of the disadvantaged, and Republicans would not be able to shrink from solutions they have long sought. The alternative is a Democratic Party that favors its funders at the expense of its constituents.

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