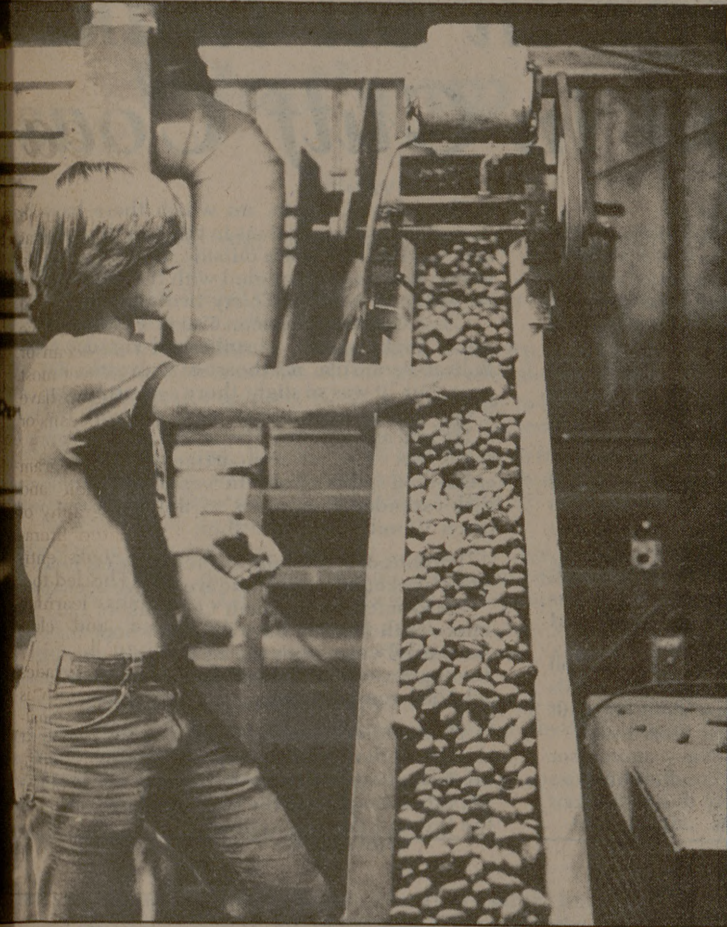


the nation



Battalion photo by Roxanne Smith

Halt political questioning of Iranians, agents told

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Acting Immigration Commissioner David Crosland has ordered agents nationwide to stop asking political questions of Iranian students in deciding whether they should be deported, officials said Thursday.

John Russell, a Justice Department spokesman, said Crosland heard news reports that such questions were being asked, and responded by sending a telegram to all field offices of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

He said the telegram ordering an end to the practice was sent Tuesday.

The American Civil Liberties Union had complained in a federal court suit that Iranian students were being harassed in the immigration interviews.

"They are being hounded with questions like, 'Are you pro-Khomeini? What demonstrations have you been to?'" said Charles Sims, an ACLU lawyer in New York, in a telephone interview.

He said he talked to 20 students who alleged they were asked political questions, and other complaints came from ACLU affiliates in Texas, northern California, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Jersey.

Russell said the ACLU suit "had nothing to do with this decision." He said Crosland acted on his own after hearing press reports of the questioning.

At the same time, INS disclosed that 26,148 Iranian students have turned up at immigration offices across the country to comply with a Nov. 13 order to report within 30 days and prove they are in school, or

face deportation.

INS said 3,592 of those who have reported have been deemed "out of status" and deportable, but only 405 have agreed to leave voluntarily. INS agents are checking documentation of another 1,900 students. It said 293 have requested asylum in the United States.

The ACLU charges in its suit, to be considered by a federal judge Tuesday, that the entire program is discriminatory because it singles out Iranians for an enforcement crackdown.

Some students, Sims said, have been found to be deportable merely because they transferred schools without INS approval, after waiting months for agency permission without a response.

Labor, HEW dispute bills

Carter's health plan urged

United Press International
WASHINGTON — HEW Secretary Patricia Harris urged Congress Thursday to adopt President Carter's national health insurance plan, and said a more expensive alternative by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., would mean rationing of health care.

Harris clashed with organized labor on the issue in testimony prepared for two House health subcommittees which are beginning hearings now on the controversial issue. Action is not expected until next year.

In his prepared remarks, AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland said the Carter plan merely "relies on old solutions which are part of the problem." Kirkland endorsed the Kennedy plan enthusiastically, calling it "reasonable, rational and sound." "The administration proposal," he said, "would merely pour new money into the present system, which is inherently inflationary and which puts emphasis on reimbursement for sickness, rather than prevention of sickness."

But Harris said the Kennedy bill is beyond anyone's capability to manage and the Carter plan is the only

one that can work in an era of tight budgets.

She said the Kennedy idea of budgeting certain funds for health care providers "would inevitably result in an arbitrary rationing of health care services."

Harris said she believes Congress can pass an acceptable national

health insurance bill next year, but the legislation will need a broad base of support that only the president's bill can attract.

The White House believes the Carter plan would cost between \$24 billion and \$26 billion. Kennedy's would be \$40 billion or more.

Pecans, pecans

James Kneip helps prepare pecans for sale by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. The nuts can be purchased Monday through Friday at the Horticulture Farm until the Christmas holidays. They will be sold in 10-pound bags with prices ranging from \$1.10 to \$1.60 per pound.

Businessman sues after long kidnap

United Press International
NEW YORK — A businessman who was kidnapped and held by Colombian terrorists for eight months has filed suit for \$115 million for the time he was "forgotten" by his company, under which he is suing for \$115 million for the time he was "forgotten" by his company.

Gus Curtis, 54, of Laredo, was the 24,000-a-year head of the Beatrice Foods Co. subsidiary in Bogota when he was kidnapped on Sept. 28, 1976. He was held for 235 days in a 3-foot cell at the base of a mountain mine shaft.

The non-jury trial in U.S. District Court in Manhattan is believed to be the first of its kind.

Curtis, whose wife Vera was a well-known television personality in Bogota, testified he was warned by a State Department official in Colombia that he was in danger of being kidnapped two months before his ordeal began.

He said he told his superiors at the Chicago-based conglomerate that he was in danger and repeatedly asked for a transfer to another country.

"Don't worry about it. Everything will be all right," the company lawyer, according to Curtis' account.

Curtis worked for Beatrice Foods in Bogota from 1969 until November

1977 when, he said, he was "forced" to resign after the company asked him to return to Bogota.

The terrorists, numbering at least 22, originally demanded \$5 billion in ransom. The company, however, hired two British terrorist experts who negotiated the figure down to \$450,000.

Curtis testified he was pulled from his car while being driven home and was bound and blindfolded and taken in the terrorists' car to the head of a deep shaft into which he was lowered by a sling.

He said he was met at the bottom by a hooded woman who told him he had been kidnapped and who led him into the "cage-like" cell, where he was locked up alone in "absolute silence."

Curtis said his captors "played" with him. They put a loudspeaker in his cell and nearly drove him out of his mind with raucous music, he said.

He never knew when he was to get his daily ration of food and water. They even "took time away from me," he said, and not knowing the time was a "shattering experience."

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Reagan, Regan or is it Reagan?

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Someone in Ronald Reagan's campaign headquarters gets the spelling award for Thursday.

In a release announcing Frederick Biebel had joined the campaign, Reagan's name was spelled three ways — only one of them right.

The choices were: Reagan (wrong), Regan (right) and Regan (wrong).

And Biebel's name was spelled Beibel two paragraphs later.

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<p>THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE Parmesan Cheese - Tossed Green Salad Choice of Salad Dressing - Hot Garlic Bread Tea or Coffee</p>		
<p>FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL BREADED FISH FILET w/TARTAR SAUCE Cole Slaw Hush Puppies Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p>SATURDAY NOON and EVENING SPECIAL Yankee Pot Roast (Texas Style) Tossed Salad Mashed Potato w/ gravy Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee "Quality First"</p>	<p>SUNDAY SPECIAL NOON and EVENING ROAST TURKEY DINNER Served with Cranberry Sauce Cornbread Dressing Roll or Corn Bread - Butter - Coffee or Tea Giblet Gravy And your choice of any One vegetable</p>

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