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Form backlog on immigrants? It's 'incredible'

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Faced with a backlog of more than 30 million unprocessed visitors' forms, U.S. immigration officials say it will take until 1983 to verify who entered or left the country in the past two years.

"Thirty million? That's incredible!" Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., a leading congressional crusader for immigration reform, said Sunday night upon learning of the pileup.

The backup affects records on roughly 20 million visitors since January 1980. Immigration and Naturalization Service officials insist the vast majority of those persons returned to their native lands, but admit they have no use-

able data to prove it.

Agency officials, revealing the backlog in interviews with United Press International, put much of the blame on Milmark Service Inc., a firm they charged failed to perform under a contract calling for it to process the forms.

But an officer of the Baltimore firm said Sunday that INS is trying to make Milmark the goat for its own ineptitude. Thomas Ruger, Milmark's treasurer, said INS had a backlog of 10 million of the visitors' I-94 forms before Milmark won the contract in 1980.

He said the agency postponed the start of work six times while the company lost money by repeatedly hiring and then laying off the necessary personnel. When work finally began in July 1980, Milmark got just a week's notice, couldn't perform and lost the contract as well as a lot of money, he said.

Robert Kane, associate INS commissioner who heads the effort to computerize the agency's records, said the bureaucratic mess "puts the whole credibility of the system into question."

Hyde expressed his astonishment at the situation.

"It's a total breakdown," he said. "My God, they're confessing that the total system has broken down. Things like this incense people — and they ought to incense Congress."

Rep. Dan Lungren, R-Calif., a member of a House subcommittee on immigration, said "the figure (of unprocessed forms) is mind-boggling."

Both Hyde and Lungren said they hope Congress will provide a funding boost to help INS do its job. However, Lungren noted that INS has been a poor example of management in the federal government.

Irvin Klavan, associate INS commissioner for information services, said the backlog of I-94 forms — filed when visitors enter and leave the country — totaled more than 30 million on Sept. 30, the last official count.

He said it now is probably 32 million. Klavan also said 664,000 visitors' applications for extension of their temporary visas have not been put into the INS' computer, since they could not be matched to the original arrival forms. That means the INS also is crippled from monitoring those cases.

"We have no idea who came, who left and, of course, who's here," said one disgruntled INS official, who asked to remain anonymous.

However, the INS is using its own personnel to keep computer records on visits by special groups such as Iranians, who have been watched closely since the hostage crisis.

Once the files began accumulating, an INS task force considered destroying the millions of files and starting from scratch.

Klavan said the agency decided to store the data because investigators were frequently asking for computer checks on aliens they suspected of overstaying visas, even those issued prior to 1980.

On Sept. 30, immigration officials awarded some \$2 million in contracts to three firms to resume processing the forms, giving them special training because the forms are often scrawled in foreign languages and hard to read. But officials say it will be at least January 1983 before the backlog is wiped out.

*Enter this area through S. Entrance or Joe Rountt Blvd., across from G. Rollie White when MSC is closed.

10-21-81

HOURS OF OPERATION FOR UNIVERSITY CENTER THANKSGIVING BREAK 1981

DAY:	Wednesday DATE: 11/25/81	Thursday DATE: 11/26/81	Friday DATE: 11/27/81	Saturday DATE: 11/28/81	Sunday DATE: 11/29/81	Monday DATE: 11/30/81
MSC Building Open	7 a.m. 11 p.m.	7 a.m. 11 p.m.	7 a.m. 12 Noon		12 Noon 11 p.m.	7 a.m. 11 p.m.
Tower Building Open	7 a.m. 11 p.m.	7 a.m. 6 p.m.			12 Noon 11 p.m.	7 a.m. 11 p.m.
Arts & Crafts	10 a.m. 5 p.m.					10 a.m. 5 p.m.
Association of Former Students	8 a.m. 5 p.m.	8 a.m. 5 p.m.				8 a.m. 5 p.m.
Barber Shop	8 a.m. 5 p.m.					8 a.m. 5 p.m.
Beauty Shop	9 a.m. 6 p.m.					9 a.m. 6 p.m.
Bookstore	7:45 a.m. 5 p.m.	8 a.m. 6 p.m.				7:45 a.m. 5 p.m.
Bowling and Games	8 a.m. 11 p.m.	8 a.m. 7 p.m.			1 p.m. 11 p.m.	8 a.m. 11 p.m.
Braley Travel	8 a.m. 5 p.m.					8 a.m. 5 p.m.
Browsing Library	8 a.m. 5 p.m.	10 a.m. 5 p.m.			6 p.m. 10 p.m.	8 a.m. 10 p.m.
Food Services	6:30 a.m. 7 p.m.	6:30 a.m. 7 p.m.				6:30 a.m. 7 p.m.
General Office	8 a.m. 5 p.m.					8 a.m. 5 p.m.
MSC Guest Rooms	OPEN 24 HRS	OPEN 24 HRS	CLOSE 12noon		OPEN 12noon	OPEN 24 HRS
MSC Box Office	9 a.m. 5 p.m.					9 a.m. 5 p.m.
MSC Snackbar Basement	8 a.m. 10:30 p.m.	9 a.m. 7 p.m.				8 a.m. 10:30 p.m.
P.O. Lobby *	OPEN 24 HRS	OPEN 24 HRS	OPEN 24 HRS	OPEN 24 HRS	OPEN 24 HRS	OPEN 24 HRS
P.O. Window *	10 a.m. 3 p.m.		10 a.m. 12 Noon			10 a.m. 3 p.m.
Student Finance	8 a.m. 4 p.m.					8 a.m. 4 p.m.
Student Programs	8 a.m. 5 p.m.				4 p.m. 10 p.m.	8 a.m. 11 p.m.
Tower Dining Room	11 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	10:30 a.m. 2 p.m.				11 a.m. 1:30 p.m.
Visitors Info. Center	8 a.m. 5 p.m.	8 a.m.-2 p.m. 4 - 6 p.m.				8 a.m. 5 p.m.

DUTY OFFICER in case of emergency: John Sodalak - 822-5810

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Mail goes on despite budget problem

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Neither rain, snow nor budget battles will stop the U.S. mail, a spokesman said Monday.

The mails are unaffected by the current budget problems in Congress because the agency operates primarily on revenues, not

appropriations, a spokesman for the U.S. Postal Service said.

The spokesman said: "We're operating on revenue. We don't go the appropriations route."

The mail will continue to go as it always has — yesterday, last week, last year, he said.

The U.S. Postal Service gets

about a \$1.3 billion subsidy from the federal government, but bulk of its budget — \$19.4 billion — comes from revenues raised from selling stamps.

The spokesman said the subsidy is about 2 percent of the Postal Service budget.



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TUESDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Mexican Fiesta Dinner Two Cheese and Onion Enchiladas w/ chili Mexican Rice Patio Style Pinto Beans Tostadas Coffee or Tea One Corn Bread and Butter

WEDNESDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Chicken Fried Steak w cream Gravy Whipped Potatoes and Choice of one other Vegetable Roll or Corn Bread and Butter Coffee or Tea

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

FOR YOUR PROTECTION OUR PERSONNEL HAVE HEALTH CARDS.

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

SATURDAY NOON and EVENING SPECIAL

Yankee Pot Roast (Texas Salad) Mashed Potato w gravy Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee

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

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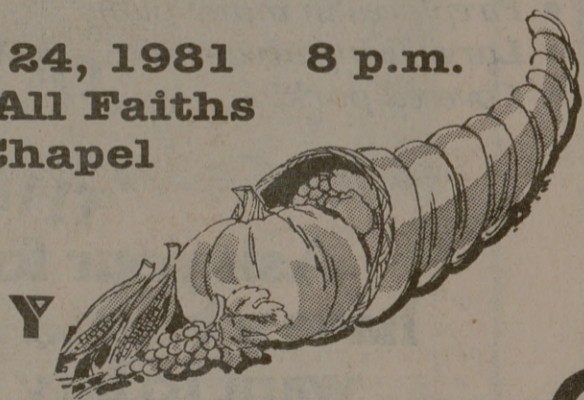


Speaker: Dean C. H. Ransdall
Music: Century Singers

Theme:

"Giving Thanks by Giving and Sharing Our Gifts and Blessings"

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