

Hispanics oppose legislation

'Legal alien' bill action delayed

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration Tuesday urged House Speaker Thomas O'Neill to reconsider his decision not to proceed with House action this year on a bill that would make millions of illegal aliens legal residents.

Responding to strong opposition from Hispanics and what he said were mixed signals from President Reagan, O'Neill said the House would not take action this year on the bill.

The bill would grant legal status to illegal aliens who entered the country before a certain date, then toughen immigration policies and make employers responsible for hiring only people legally entitled to work in the United States.

O'Neill said opposition from

Hispanic groups and businesses eroded support for the legislation, which has been considered for two years and won overwhelming backing in the Senate. The speaker said he believed Reagan — as part of his political courtship of Hispanics — would veto the bill.

But White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Reagan was behind the bill.

"This is not a political issue. It is not a partisan issue. It is an issue that concerns all Americans — and it is in the best interests of all Americans to have the nation regain control of its borders," Speakes said.

The strong White House endorsement of the bill came just hours after White House officials said Reagan would "wait and see" if the House version of the bill is too expensive.

"The president was naturally disappointed today to hear press reports quoting Speaker O'Neill as saying that immigration reform legislation would not be considered by the House," Speakes said. "The president hopes that the speaker will reconsider and allow the House to vote on a bill that is essential to the future well-being of this nation."

Speakes' statement represented a shift from what he told reporters at his daily briefing several hours earlier. At that time, he said the administration was concerned about the cost of the House bill and that any decision to sign or veto the legislation would have to wait until it reached Reagan's desk.

O'Neill told reporters the bill had little support, other than from the Judiciary Committee members who drafted it. "I have

never seen anybody out there who is truly interested in it," he said.

But, he said, Hispanics view the legislation as the same sort of move that Hitler made against the Jews in Germany, largely because it would make employers responsible for knowing that workers they hire are in the country legally.

"The Hispanics say it's the most devastating thing that could happen to them," O'Neill said.

Arnoldo Torres, head of the League of United Latin American Citizens, expressed "unbelievable joy, but with some reservations" to O'Neill's announcement. He said Hispanics would not believe the bill is dead until this Congress ends at the start of 1985.

Hispanic Reps. Kika de la Garza and Henry Gonzales,

both Texas Democrats, also were pleased with O'Neill's decision.

Gonzalez said some of his constituents were told they would have to undergo national registration, and many of them feel there are "distortions in those portions of the bill that are highly controversial."

The bill would offer legal status to illegal aliens who can prove they entered this country before a given date. In the Senate bill it was Jan. 1, 1980, and it was Jan. 1, 1982, in House version.

Under the Senate bill, employers would have to ask all job applicants for documents to verify they are either citizens or aliens authorized to work in this country. This provision caused concern for civil rights groups, who feared creation of a "national identity card."



photo by Mike Davis

It's lonely at the top

Workers crouch at the base of the dome of the Academic Building Tuesday. Work on restoration of the building has been going on since August.

Thieves take wheelchair

United Press International
SACRAMENTO — Harold Luddell lost both legs when he was 15 months old because of gangrene. He gets around by using his hands and swinging his legless torso forward, but he needs a wheelchair to go any distance. The amputee said he left his wheelchair outside Sunday night because it was too difficult to move it.

It's kind of unbelievable that somebody would want to steal a wheelchair, almost broken man." Luddell, 23, had both his legs

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 OFF CAMPUS AGGIES
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 6:30 601 Rudder
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 - Parties -

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 Delicious Food Beautiful View
 Open to the Public "Quality First"

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