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Gramm: Immigration bill unfair to people waiting for citizenship

By Bob Grube
Staff Writer

Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, believes the recent immigration bill, which passed Congress by a substantial majority last session, will grant amnesty to illegal aliens, but is an injustice to the 1.9 million people who have waited years to become U.S. citizens.

But Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., one of the sponsors of the bill, believes the issue at hand is not the people waiting to legally enter the United States, but rather what to do about the people who entered the United States illegally but have been here for years and built their lives here.

Gramm's press secretary, Larry Neal, said in a telephone interview Thursday that Gramm is adamantly opposed to the bill and will lead the way in amending it when Congress reconvenes in January. Gramm was unavailable for comment Thursday because he was in a special meeting with the new senators.

"He (Gramm) felt the amnesty provision of the bill was unjust to the people who are going through the legal channels for United States citizenship," Neal said. "Many of these people have waited several years for citizenship and some have waited a decade or longer. Sen. Gramm believes this is very unfair to them."

Neal said that the bill was sponsored by congressmen who are from states that do not have the same magnitude of illegal alien problems that the border states have. The bill was co-sponsored by Simpson and Rep. Peter Rodino, D-NJ.

Simpson's press secretary, Mary Kay Hill, said Simpson is not unfeeling toward the people who have chosen to enter the United States legally, but that that is not the issue. She also said that

Simpson is not just blindly sponsoring the immigration bill.

"Sen. Simpson has been involved for the last eight years with the problems of illegal aliens," Hill said in a telephone interview Thursday. "He was appointed by President Carter in 1978 to the U.S. Committee on Immigration and Refugee Issues, which also included Father Hesberg and Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.)."

"In 1980, he was appointed chairman of the

"Many of these people have waited several years for citizenship and some have waited a decade or longer. Sen. Gramm believes this is very unfair to them."

— Larry Neal, Sen. Phil Gramm's press secretary

committee. The committee's recommendations make up the bulk of the immigration bill. The recommendations are not just those of Sen. Simpson. The senator is no stranger to the illegal alien problem."

Rodino was unavailable for comment Thursday.

The bill becomes law when Congress reconvenes in January and affects only the illegal aliens who entered the United States after Jan. 1, 1982. Any illegal alien who entered the country before this date will be given temporary resident status and can remain on that status as long as he wants, Hill said.

"The immigration law was passed to prevent witch hunts for illegal aliens," Hill said. "Some of

these illegals have been in this country for a long time and have lived productive lives. Many have children here and some even have grandchildren here. We just can't uproot their lives by kicking them out of the country.

"The bill recognizes those who have the longest commitment to the United States."

Neal said Gramm will spearhead a revision of the law when Congress reconvenes by introducing a series of amendments to the law.

One of the amendments Gramm will introduce calls for the creation, within the Social Security Administration, of a telephone verification system to allow employers to verify that the social security card and number actually belong to an employee who is presenting it.

Another amendment Gramm wants to introduce will require the Social Security Administration to issue tamper-proof cards made of paper that is similar to currency paper, with raised lettering and figures.

Neal said that the closer the amnesty bill comes to being law, the more document forgery shops appeared on Mexico's side of the Texas-Mexico border. Neal said these shops provide illegal aliens with forged birth certificates, driver's licenses and green cards.

"We (Texas and other border states) must deal with the problem," Neal said. "They (non-border states) do not. It was clear from the debate on the Senate floor that improvements need to be made in the bill."

"From the passing of the bill, it seems that illegals are being given preference over the people who have tried to enter the United States legally. We won't have it that way."

"The bill seems to be an attempt to solve the legal problem, but it is a poor attempt. Sen. Gramm wants to change that."

School bans Stephen King horror novel

CLEVELAND (AP) — Parents' complaints about a Stephen King horror novel have prompted school district officials to remove the book from the classroom and keep it in a restricted part of the high school library.

Several parents and residents have applauded the removal of "Salem's Lot" and also have pledged to actively oppose the school's use of other books they deem objectionable.

Charles Barker, superintendent of the Cleveland Independent School District, said Thursday that several parents who attended a school board meeting earlier this week were opposed to the book, which deals with the escapades of vampires in a New England town.

"I'm the one who made the decision to take it out of the classroom, but I would not take it out of the high school," Barker said.

A copy of the book is in the Cleveland High School's reserved section of the library. A student cannot check the book out without parental permission, Barker said.

Speaker: Status of Muslim women highly distorted by Western media

By Patty Pascavage
Reporter

The status of women in Islam is grossly distorted by the Western media, a Muslim woman told about 200 Texas A&M students, faculty members and guests in Rudder Tower Thursday night.

Khadija Fouad, a microbiology student at Indiana University, became a Muslim six and a half years ago.

In a speech sponsored by the Muslim Students Association, Fouad said that while the myth of Muslim women is one of ignorance, oppression and subservience, they are, in fact, active leaders and participants in business, religion, politics and scholarship.

She said the veils Muslim women wear over their hair are sometimes viewed as a means of oppression of the women. But, she said, the veil is worn to show love for God.

"Muslim women's rights are protected from birth to death," Fouad said. "Islam liberates women in their spirituality."

Fouad said that because wom-



Khadija Fouad

en's rights are regarded as God-given, they are permanent.

She said Muslim women have both financial and personal independence, and also have the right to own and manage their own property. In addition, she said, most women keep the same name throughout their lives to show pride in their individuality.

Since the family unit is the foundation of their religion, Muslim parents often choose spouses

for their daughters. According to Fouad, however, each young woman can refuse to marry.

Muslim men are encouraged, through their religion to be fair and refrain from mentally and physically abusing their wives, she said. And if a marriage doesn't work, she said, the woman has the right to file for divorce.

Islam permits polygamy—having two or more wives at the same time—but only 2 percent of Muslim marriages worldwide are polygamous, she said.

She said polygamy exists, but is strictly regulated by the Koran, the Muslim book of scriptures.

"Ideally, polygamy should only be practiced if a woman cannot fulfill her wifely duties due to illness, or if she cannot bear children," she said. "The Islamic position on polygamy is not to encourage it; rather, it is to protect the rights of everyone concerned in the relationship when and if it (polygamy) does occur."

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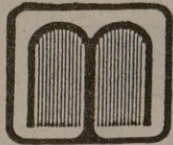
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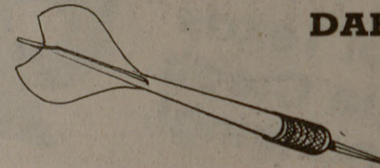
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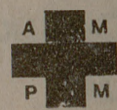
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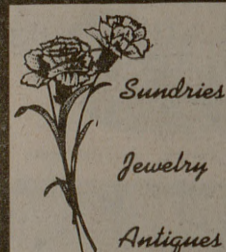
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