

World/Nation

1 million immigrants apply for amnesty under program

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 1 million immigrants have applied for amnesty under a special farm worker program that federal officials say has been troubled by extensive fraud.

Under the special agricultural worker (SAW) program that expires Nov. 30, aliens who can document that they worked in U.S. agriculture for 90 days between May 1985 and May 1986 are eligible for temporary residency. After waiting either one or two years, they are then eligible for permanent residency.

Duke Austin, a spokesman for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, said the government bears the burden of disproving an alien's claim under SAW, unlike the general amnesty program that required undocumented aliens to compile extensive evidence of having lived in the United States continuously since 1982.

Under the general amnesty program of the 1986 Immigration Reform Act, 1,765,000 aliens applied for legalization.

The turnout for the SAW program has been more than double what most predicted, officials say, with the majority of applicants from California, Florida and Texas.

"I don't think anybody in government or the service anticipated this number," Austin said.

Austin said the SAW program has resulted in cases of gross fraud, partly because of its generous provisions, and fraud cartels have sprung

up to provide false affidavits or other work documentation.

In one of more than 100 cases of alleged fraud now under prosecution, a New Jersey woman with five acres attested to employing 1,000 applicants, Austin said.

"There is extensive fraud in the program," Austin said. "The problem is identifying the fraud and how

you go about eliminating it. That is a serious concern of ours."

But Ron D'Aloisio, executive director of the Farmer Worker Justice Fund, said the great majority of applicants have valid claims and warned that if INS overreacts to questions of fraud that it could "chill the desires of people who do have

valid applications to step forward and apply."

Beginning Dec. 1, farm employers will face sanctions for hiring undocumented workers. They can, however, request a replenishment of their work force under the replacement agricultural worker (RAW) program beginning Oct. 1, if ranks of workers are depleted.

Soviet's success with shuttle hailed by NASA, Gorbachev

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviets broke the U.S. monopoly on reusable spacecraft Tuesday by launching their own space shuttle on a 3 and one-half-hour, unmanned orbital flight that President Mikhail S. Gorbachev hailed as a major coup for his country.

"The space plane has ushered in a new era in the history of Soviet space exploration," state-run Radio Moscow declared after the 100-ton Buran made two orbits, streaked earthward in a fireball and landed at a specially built runway in Soviet Central Asia on its maiden mission.

The pilotless flight of the Buran — "snowstorm" in Russian — was a major success for the Soviet space program after a series of problems that included the near loss of cosmonauts on a joint Soviet-Afghan mission in September and loss of contact with a probe sent to Mars.

The early morning launch of the Buran fastened to the back of the 198-foot-tall Energia booster rocket also ended a seven-year U.S. monopoly on reusable space-

craft inaugurated by the launch of the shuttle Columbia in April 1981.

In Washington, NASA congratulated the Soviets on the mission.

The Buran, as well as other shuttles still being developed, will have a central role in the Soviet space program, the state-run media said.

Radio Moscow said the Buran's railway car-sized cargo bay can house an entire Salyut space station.

Tass said the Soviet shuttle was superior to its U.S. counterpart because of a bigger payload capacity and its ability to fly automatically.

The official news agency also disclosed the shuttle's dimensions: Buran, roughly the same size as a passenger airliner, is 119 feet long, 18½ feet in diameter and has a wingspan of 79 feet.

For years, the Soviets criticized the U.S. shuttle as wasteful and unreliable. But Western space specialists say the Soviets began planning their own space plane in 1982 at the latest.

Study shows angioplasty often unneeded

WASHINGTON (AP) — The expensive practice of using balloon catheters to force open heart arteries immediately after heart attacks, now routinely done at many large hospitals, is unnecessary and should be abandoned, according to a major study released Tuesday.

The study found that if heart attack victims quickly receive clot-dissolving drugs, they usually don't need the extra step of the common balloon procedure, known as angioplasty.

Some experts said the results are good news, because they mean that most heart attack patients can be treated in community hospitals, where angioplasty is not available.

The study also has an important financial message. Its authors estimated that if angioplasty was widely adopted after heart attacks, it could raise the nation's annual medical bills by \$704 million.

"This trial has settled one of the most important questions in modern-day cardiology," commented Dr. J. Ward Kennedy of the University of Washington, Seattle.

The study is phase 2 of the Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction Trial, or TIMI-II, directed by Dr. Eugene Braunwald of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

The first phase of the study showed that giving people a clot-dissolving drug called tissue plasminogen activator, or TPA, immediately after heart attacks dramatically improved their chances of survival.

The latest study, presented at the annual meeting of the American Heart Association, was intended to see whether people did better still if doctors tried to clear away any remaining blockages after giving TPA.

Balloon angioplasty is also widely used to treat people with clogged heart arteries who have not suffered heart attacks.

Estonia may consider separation from U.S.S.R

TALLINN, U.S.S.R. (AP) — Estonia's parliament on Wednesday will consider a "declaration of sovereignty" that proclaims the Baltic republic's independence from the Soviet Union in all areas except defense and foreign policy.

Its members also will weigh a related amendment to the Estonian constitution that would bar enforcement of any new Soviet law unless it has been ratified by the Estonian parliament, Edgar Savisaar said. Savisaar is one of the leaders of the Estonian People's Front, the broad-based citizens' group behind the proposal.

Although the People's Front claims the support of the leadership of the Estonian government and the Estonian Communist Party, passage of the proposals is by no means assured. They require a two-thirds majority in the 285-member Supreme Soviet, or parliament, of Estonia.

"I'm not sure they are united," Savisaar said in an interview Tuesday. Deputies are expected to divide approximately along ethnic lines, as many lawmakers who are ethnic Russians or members of other ethnic groups do not share the Estonians' views.

Ethnic Estonians hold 180 seats in the parliament, but need 189 for a two-thirds majority, according to the People's Front.

Deputies were being intensely lobbied Tuesday as proponents and opponents of the amendments tried to win their votes, said Tarmu Tammer, a Tallinn journalist working with the People's Front.

Savisaar carefully avoided reference to any possibility of resistance to the move from Moscow, and claimed support in the national capital. But when asked directly if he was worried about the possible use of force to halt the Estonian reforms, he said, "We are very worried about our future. At the same time, we are very hopeful."

Savisaar said the declaration of sovereignty is not analogous to the U.S. Declaration of Independence,

though the law professor responsible for writing the Estonian document "spent several months in America and it's very likely he got some ideas there."

Estonia's declaration deals with political reality in the country, Savisaar noted. It essentially reminds the Soviet Union that it was originally constituted by Vladimir I. Lenin as a federation of independent republics, Savisaar said.

The Estonian proposal calls for certain rights such as defense and

foreign policy to be allocated to "all-union" or Soviet bodies, and everything else to be left to Estonia, Savisaar said.

Wednesday's special session of the Estonian Supreme Soviet was called to consider unified opposition for a series of amendments to the Soviet Constitution that Estonians say shifts power to Moscow and eliminates the republics' right to secede.

There have been objections to the amendments in the other Baltic republics of Latvia and Lithuania.

Brady offered spot in Bush's cabinet

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect George Bush today asked Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady to remain in his current post in the new administration.

Brady is a former investment banker who served briefly as an appointed member of the Senate. He is a longtime friend of the president-elect, and was a key member of a circle of advisers that Bush leaned on during his successful presidential campaign.

The appointment marked the second time that Bush has turned to a longtime confidante to fill a key post in his administration. Secretary of State-designate James A. Baker III was Bush's first Cabinet appointment, announced the morning after his election to the presidency last week.

Bush made the appointment outside the official vice president's residence after meeting privately with visiting West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Brady's appointment came as no

surprise. President Reagan appointed Brady to his Cabinet post last summer, and it was long expected that Bush would keep his old friend in the Cabinet if he won the presidential election, which then became a reality.

Bush made the appointment in an uncertain international economic atmosphere. The value of the dollar fell sharply last week, dragging down stock prices as well because of investor fears over Bush's economic policies.

To calm jitters, Bush and Brady both acted in recent days to reassure investors that the new administration had no secret plan to drive down the value of the extremely high dollar.

Bush said there would be no other administration appointments today because it is not yet ready to release that information.

However, speculation around Washington continues to run rampant as to who Bush will choose for various other Cabinet positions.

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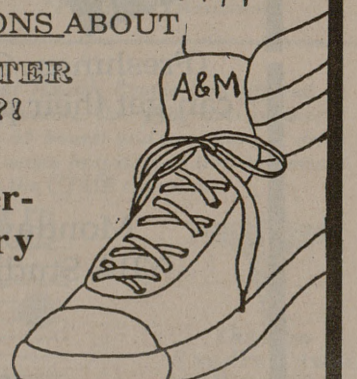
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