

187 brings border boycotts

SAN DIEGO (AP) — From boxers to businessmen, foreign and U.S. groups are threatening to boycott California over its anti-immigrant Proposition 187.

The Republicans, on the other hand, have put San Diego at the top of their list as a possible site for their 1996 national convention. And some state officials are predicting the threats may never result in full-scale boycotts.

"The argument we make to Latino groups is that it harms the Latinos they profess to want to help. Boycotts don't help anyone, they end up hurting people," said Tom Walsh, a spokesman for Gov. Pete Wilson, a Republican and long supporter of the new immigration law.

So far, activists in Texas, Arizona and Colorado have called for boycotts of California businesses. The World Boxing Council, based in Mexico City, is refusing to participate in any world title

fight in California for four months to protest the measure.

Proposition 187, approved by the voters last week, would deny schooling, welfare and non-emergency health care to illegal immigrants. It has been blocked by legal challenges.

Despite the state's assurances, some California business people are jittery because of the boycott threats.

"If it becomes fashionable, which apparently it is, it could have a tremendous consequence," said Ernesto Grijalva, a trade relations expert for the Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce.

Part of his concern is for the grocery, clothing and electronics stores along San Diego's southern edge and in its malls downtown, all heavily dependent on middle-class shoppers who cross each day from Tijuana, Mexico.

"We understand there's an emotional reaction to Proposition 187,

but two wrongs don't make a right and that's what's happening right now," Grijalva said.

The National Association of Hispanic Journalists has dropped California from consideration as host for its 1998 convention, the first national organization to take such action. The convention would have brought about \$1 million to the San Diego region's economy.

The retaliation recalls a boycott of the Colorado tourism industry in 1992 after voters there approved an amendment against gay rights. The amendment was later ruled unconstitutional — after Colorado reported losing \$39 million in tourism revenue.

Last week, Colorado minority groups demonstrated against California's new law, calling it racist. Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, a critic of the Colorado boycotts, said his office would support a selective boycott of California.

Catholic church stands firm on morals

WASHINGTON (AP) — Euthanasia and assisted suicide will never be allowed at the 100 Catholic hospitals and other facilities that make up the nation's largest private health care system, U.S. bishops declared Tuesday.

A week after Oregon voters approved physician-assisted suicide, the bishops said the practice never will be morally acceptable to Catholic institutions not honor directives that violate the church's moral teaching.

The bishops said doctors may use pain medication to terminal patients even if that indirectly hastens their deaths. And they said patients have the right to forgo extraordinary means for extending life.

In cases of considerable moral complexity, the directives reflect the church's teaching while preserving the legitimate freedom of conscience the church provides. Bishop Alfred C. Hughes, chairman of the Doctrine Committee, told the bishops.

The Roman Catholic Church spent more than \$600,000 in an unsuccessful attempt to defeat

Ballot Measure 16 on physician-assisted suicide in Oregon. This week, the bishops' conference added \$80,000 to the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities budget to fund educational efforts in opposition to euthanasia.

When the church speaks on health care, its size gives it considerable influence. In 1992, Catholic hospitals recorded more than 5 million admissions, accounting for more than 15 percent of all hospital admissions.

In their new "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services" the bishops say all people have a right to adequate health care. They also say Catholic institutions should distinguish themselves by service to and advocacy for the poor, uninsured and underinsured persons, addicts, minorities, immigrants, refugees and the disabled.

The directives affirm traditional church teachings opposing abortion, euthanasia and artificial contraception, but admit the church cannot have a ready answer in every case, particularly in evaluating new technologies

that can prolong life.

"Suicide and euthanasia are never morally acceptable options," the bishops state.

They also say a person may forgo extraordinary or disproportionate means of preserving their lives if those means do not offer a reasonable hope of benefit or if they pose an excessive burden. Even giving a patient food and water by medical procedures is not morally obligatory if it would bring no comfort to a person close to death.

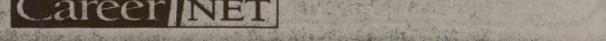
In ethical issues at the beginning of life, the bishops say abortion must never be permitted in a Catholic health care institution. Nor is prenatal diagnosis permitted "when undertaken with the intention of aborting an unborn child with a serious defect."

The bishops say a woman who has been raped should be able to defend herself against a potential conception. Under the directives, if there is no evidence that conception has occurred, the assault victim may be treated with medications that would prevent ovulation or fertilization.

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