

Wednesday • July 16, 19

State officials complain of deportation program

WASHINGTON (AP) ---- The nation's immigration agency is falling short in identifying and removing foreign-born prison inmates who should be deported at the end of their sentences, state prison officials told Congress Tuesday.

Appearing before the House immigration subcommittee, prison officials from California, New York and Florida expressed irritation at shortcomings in the Immigration and Naturalization Service program designed to expedite removal of criminal aliens from the United States.

The program is working well in Texas, however, where state officials have taken extra steps to accommodate the INS, a Texas prison administrator said.

The decade-old national program, known as the Institutional Hearing Program, dispatches immigration judges and agents into federal and state prisons for removal hearings before the inmates are released. The program covers non-immigrants, here lawfully and unlawfully, who may be deportable as a result of their crimes or status as illegal immigrants.

When the process works properly, INS is supposed to have deportation papers in hand for deportable criminal aliens at the time their sentence is completed. This allows for speedy deportation rather than having to incarcerate the inmate anew during deportation hearings - or release the person into the community.

But the General Accounting Office said the immigration service didn't initiate IHP hearings for nearly 6,000 of the 17,320 foreign-born inmates released during the second half of 1995 from federal prison or from one of five state prison systems surveyed.

California, Texas, New York, Florida and Arizona account for more than 80 percent of the foreign-born inmates in the United States. The GAO review covered the major states.

Roughly 80 percent of the 78,200 foreign-born prisoners in state prisons and 24,470 in federal prisons are removable criminal aliens.

Yet only a third were being removed under IHP in 1995, said

Clinton encourages Serbs to avoid taking revenge

WASHINGTON (AP) — Worried about the safety of NATO troops, Pres- and that suspects should be turned ident Clinton warned Bosnian Serbs on Tuesday that "it would be a grave mistake" to seek revenge for the Western arrests of war crimes suspects.

Hoping the threat of force would defuse tensions, administration officials promised a potent response to attacks on U.S.-led alliance troops.

Western leaders are alarmed by the angry reaction of Bosnian Serbs to last week's raid on suspected war criminals and the sentencing of another Bosnian Serb on war crimes charges. Two explosions and death threats against U.S. troops are suspected to be the work of irate Bosnian Serbs.

Clinton said the 1995 Dayton peace accords signed by Serbs clearly stated that NATO troops and that suspects should be turned over by local officials.

"They have clearly not complied with that provision of the Dayton agreement," the president said at the opening of a

meeting with Democratic and Republican congressional leaders. "They've

made no effort to help us get any of those people. "And so ... they have no call to

Clinton take retaliatory action, and it would be a grave mis-

take to do so," the president said. He did not elaborate, but a White House official speaking on condition

of anonymity said the Bosnian lead-ership would be held responsible and the United States would react with a "swift, forceful response."

The stern admonishment was designed to douse any smoldering violent intentions of the Bosnian Serbs, as well as put the American public on notice that the risk for U.S. troops is on the rise, officials said.

Asked if he was afraid of retaliatory action, the president told reporters, "I'm concerned about it. Of course I am.'

Clinton is weighing whether to extend U.S. involvement in Bosnia beyond the June 1998 deadline. He is hearing criticism from all sides: Many lawmakers object to widening U.S. involvement; others argue that Clinton has not done enough to bring war criminals to justice.

A&M Student drowns on camping trip with friends near Austin

Amnaj "Ott" Phonephrachanh, a senior civil engineeri drowned while on a camping trip with friends at Inks Lake State Park Austin, Saturday around 3 p.m.

Nhat Nguyen, Phonephrachanh's best friend and a seniorb gy major, said he and two other friends tried to res Phonephrachanh after he began struggling while swin Phonephrachanh went under and his friends could not findhim cause of the muddy water, Nguyen said.

Phonephrachanh was incoming president of Beta Tau Omegafi ty and president of the Asian American Student Association twoyea Nguyen said Phonephrachanh was influential at Texas A&M.

"He was a friend to everybody and everybody was a friend to Nguyen said. "He affects a lot of peoples lives, especially in the Asia munity around here.

Funeral services will be at Chism-Smith Funeral HomeinIm Texas Saturday at 1 p.m. A web site has been set http://http.tamu.edu/~ott with additional information about fi services and Phonephrachanh's death.

Industry to increase awareness of cybersmut

Software companies hope to avoid Internet v-chip

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hoping President Al Gore, a computer to avoid a v-chip for the Internet, the computer industry will announce at the White House on Wednesday it will provide greater access to anti-smut software and work to flag Internet sites that are clean enough for kids.

Weeks after the Supreme Court declared unconstitutional a law designed to keep cyberspace's seedy side away from children, the White House is urging the computer industry and parents groups to take such voluntary steps to make the Internet safe for youngsters.

'We don't need to reinvent the wheel here and we don't need a vchip for the Internet. We have tools out there which are 100 percent available," said Jerry Berman of the Center for Democracy and Technology, a group that works to protect computer users' civil liberties. They just need to be more widely used and understood, he said.

President Clinton and Vice

private meeting Wednesday.

enthusiast, will be hosts for the

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Jerry Berman **Center for Democracy** and Technology

About 30 to 40 people are expected, including representatives from America Online, Netscape Communications Corp., the National Parent Teacher Association, and electronic civil liberties groups.

Proceeds for inner-city youth diverted to Botanic Garden

emony on the Treasury steps, officials trumpeted commemorative

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a cer- nation's commemorative coins, pitting worthy cause against worthy cause.

Thunderstorms High: 98° Low: 75°

Wednesday

The Writing Center (Dept. of English, Texas A&M): The Writing Center in 249 Blocker will consult with any TAMU student who needs help with his or her writing projects for Summer II. Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Come by or call 862-4181 for more information.

Aggie Roadrunners: There will be a daily run of 2-3 miles beginning at 7 p.m. in front of G. Rollie White. Runners of all levels are encouraged to attend. For more information call Hank Bullinger at 821-6339.

Texas A&M Women's Rugby: There will be practice from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the TAMU Rugby Field. No experience is necessary. For more information contact Wendy at 696-9012.

Thursday

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CAMPUS CALENDAR

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to 8 p.m. at the TAMU Rugby Field. No experience is necessary. For more information contact Wendy at 696-9012.

Friday

The Writing Center (Dept. of Eng-lish, Texas A&M): The Writing Center in 249 Blocker will consult with any TAMU student who needs help with his or her writing projects for Summer II. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information call 862-4181 or come by.

Sunday

TAMU Chess Club: The TAMU Chess Club will be playing chess in 308 Rud-

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What's Up is a Battalion service lists non-profit student and fad events and activities. Items shou submitted no later than three day advance of the desired run dat plication deadlines and notices events and will not be run in V Up. If you have any questions, call the newsroom at 845-3313.

By Quatr



immigration subcommittee Chairman Lamar Smith, R-San Antonio. "Thousands of criminal aliens are released into American communities," he said. "Many of these criminal aliens have committed serious offenses and continue to pose a grave threat to public safety.'

For the second half of fiscal 1995, the most recent period surveyed by GAO, 1,899 criminal aliens were released into communities because INS had not identified them as deportable.

Smith expressed hope that INS will improve. "I don't know what in the world would prevent you from going full speed with that task," he told an INS witness

with proceeds going to scholarships for poor inner-city kids.

What they didn't mention and what none of the U.S. Mint's glossy brochures say — is that \$1 million, nearly 20 percent of the expected total, will instead help expand the U.S. Botanic Garden at the foot of Capitol Hill.

Former Sen. Bennett Johnston, a Louisiana Democrat whose wife, Mary, is a vice chairwoman of The National Fund for the U.S. Botanic Garden, got the money diverted late last session.

Nine months afterward, bitterness lingers.

The developments illustrate the fierce politics surrounding the selection of subjects for the

the scene at the Botanic Garden's glass-walled conservatory is as foreign as can be from the rollicking bleachers of Brooklyn's Ebbets Field where Jackie Robinson ran, batted and caught his way into history, breaking baseball's color barrier a half-century ago.

The two worlds intersected last October when Congress authorized a \$5 gold piece and a silver dollar, both honoring Robinson. Eager to fly home to campaign for re-election, lawmakers approved the bill with little debate. No one mentioned the Botanic Garden would share proceeds with a nonprofit educational foundation established by the ballplayer's widow, Rachel Robinson.

Sketch



