

# **ILLEGAL ALIENS SWAMP SYSTEM, AGENCY SAYS; SUSPECTS LET GO; LACK OF STAFF, FUNDING CITED**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

March 15, 1993, MONDAY, FIVE STAR Edition

Copyright 1993 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

**Section:** ST. CHARLES; Pg. 3

**Length:** 342 words

**Byline:** Nordeka English Of the St. Charles Post

## **Body**

---

The Missouri Highway Patrol has caught and then released a group of people suspected of being illegal aliens in the O'Fallon area after consulting with the U.S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization in the St. Louis area.

The number of illegal aliens passing through the St. Louis area has overwhelmed the federal agency here, says one of its officers.

The officer, Chester Moyer, said that after troopers stopped the vehicle on Highway K Friday morning, one of the federal agents talked to a trooper. At least one person from Guatemala was in the country legally. Others, here illegally, were from Mexico or other countries in Central America, Moyer said, and "they were probably headed for the Florida area."

The people were allowed to go on their way because, he said, "We don't have the staff or funding to keep them. We have to let them go."

He said the agency has 28 people and two agents to handle illegal alien cases for a 47-county area.

"It's pretty much a joke how well we can deal with illegal aliens," Moyer said.

The area is a distribution center for illegal aliens, largely because of the interstate highway system, Lambert Field and trains that come here from the border states. Some trains bring goods directly from Mexico to the St. Louis area and frequently bring along stowaways, he says.

Moyer estimated that 4,000 or 5,000 illegal aliens pass through the St. Louis area each year, probably more.

"We lost track of how many were passing through many years ago," he said.

The department detains perhaps 500 each year. The first priority is determining whether the people are involved in criminal activity, and the second is whether they're involved in frauds, including document frauds.

Not long ago, the agents had arrested 25 illegal aliens who had fraudulent documents and were working at a nursery in St. Louis County, he said. The nursery owner was not involved in the activity, he said.

Moyer said he expected the problem to get worse and added, "They keep coming and coming."

## **Classification**

---

**Language:** English

ILLEGAL ALIENS SWAMP SYSTEM, AGENCY SAYS; SUSPECTS LET GO; LACK OF STAFF, FUNDING  
CITED

**Subject:** NEGATIVE PERSONAL NEWS (89%); **ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS** (89%); CITIZENSHIP (76%); ARRESTS (74%); IMMIGRATION (74%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (74%); NATURALIZATION (74%); SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE FORCES (73%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (73%); POLICE FORCES (69%)

**Geographic:** SAINT LOUIS, MO, USA (91%); MISSOURI, USA (91%); FLORIDA, USA (79%); GUATEMALA (71%); CENTRAL AMERICA (70%)

**Load-Date:** September 29, 1993

---

End of Document