

The Nation;

An Immigration Proposal That Gets Somewhere

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Byline: By Michael Wright and Caroline Rand Herron

Body

President Ford, President Carter and the 96th Congress all studied immigration policy. So did President Reagan who, like Mr. Carter, issued legislative proposals.

Immigration reform bill is introduced in Congress Last week, the 97th Congress went further, producing an actual reform bill.

The measure, introduced in the Senate by Alan K. Simpson, Republican of Wyoming, and in the House by Romano L. Mazzoli, a Kentucky Democrat, would offer permanent resident status to those who entered the country illegally before 1978 and temporary status, which could be upgraded after two years, to those who entered before 1980. Those arriving after that, Mr. Mazzoli said, "would have to go back home." The Reagan Administration had proposed a 10-year waiting period, which critics said would be too long to be effective.

The Simpson-Mazzoli bill would come down harder on employers who knowingly hired illegal workers than the Administration, subjecting those with even a single illegal employee to fines of up to \$2,000 and six-month prison terms. Mr. Reagan had sought to limit comparable sanctions to employers with four or more illegal workers. The bill would also require the President to develop a "universal employment authorization" system to determine a worker's eligibility, something Mr. Reagan opposes. Instead of the President's guest-worker program, it would "streamline" existing programs admitting laborers from Mexico, Jamaica and other countries.

Graphic

Illustrations: photo of Alan Simpson and Romano Mazzoli

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