

SENATE PANEL BACKS REVISIONS IN IMMIGRATION LAW

The New York Times

April 20, 1983, Wednesday, Late City Final Edition

Copyright 1983 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Page 13, Column 1; National Desk

Length: 656 words

Byline: By ROBERT PEAR

Dateline: WASHINGTON, April 19

Body

The **Senate** Judiciary Committee today approved a bill that would **revise** the nation's **immigration laws** by establishing penalties for employing illegal aliens and by offering amnesty to more than a million illegal aliens already in the United States.

By a vote of 13 to 4, the committee recommended passage of the bill by the full **Senate**, which is expected to take up the legislation later this month or next month.

The bill, sponsored by Senator Alan K. Simpson, Republican of Wyoming, is similar to one passed by the full **Senate** last year, 80 to 19. But that bill died in the House, which was unable to complete action before adjournment. However, this Congress is acting much more swiftly on the legislation than the last Congress did. WASHINGTON, April 19 - The **Senate** Judiciary Committee today approved a bill that would **revise** the nation's **immigration laws** by establishing penalties for employing illegal aliens and by offering amnesty to more than a million illegal aliens already in the United States.

Under the Simpson bill, an employer who hired illegal aliens would be subject to a fine of \$1,000 for each alien involved in the first offense and \$2,000 for each alien in the second offense. An employer found to have engaged in a "pattern or practice" of such hiring could be fined up to \$1,000 and imprisoned for up to six months.

Kennedy Amendments Rejected

Before approving the measure today, the **Senate** Judiciary Committee rejected a series of amendments that would have made the bill more palatable to Hispanic Americans and civil liberties advocates.

The amendments would have liberalized the amnesty for illegal aliens, preserved additional levels of judicial review in **immigration** cases and ended the "employer sanctions" after five years if there proved to be a pattern of discrimination against United States citizens who were members of a particular ethnic group. The amendments were all offered by Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts.

The Simpson bill offers legal status to aliens who have "resided continuously in the United States in an unlawful status" since Jan. 1, 1980. Senator Kennedy, using statistics supplied by the **Immigration** and Naturalization Service, said this section of the bill might provide legal status to 1.8 million of the estimated six million illegal aliens.

The committee rejected Mr. Kennedy's proposal to change the eligibility date to Dec. 31, 1981. Under this proposal, he said, a total of 3.6 million illegal aliens might have qualified.

SENATE PANEL BACKS REVISIONS IN IMMIGRATION LAW

Sixteen months after the last Congress convened, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved a comprehensive immigration bill. But the pace is much faster this year, with today's action coming only three and a half months after the start of the current Congress.

House Panel Acted Earlier

On April 6, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration approved an immigration bill sponsored by Representative Romano L. Mazzoli, Democrat of Kentucky. Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, the Judiciary Committee chairman, said today, "The full House Judiciary Committee will take up the immigration bill some time in May."

Mr. Rodino said that he would not wait for action by the full Senate as he did last year. There are several differences between the Simpson and Mazzoli bills. But supporters of the legislation said they were sure they could iron out differences if the two houses passed generally similar bills.

John Shattuck of the American Civil Liberties Union said: "The committee's action today is a serious blow to the right of political asylum." We will make all efforts to change the bill on the Senate floor." Mr. Shattuck said his group was "also very concerned about the discriminatory potential of employer sanctions."

Antonia Hernandez of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund said the latest version of Mr. Simpson's bill was "just as objectionable" as the one passed by the Senate last year. "It does not represent the interests of the Hispanic community, which is just as much a part of this society as business, labor and agricultural growers, whose concerns are reflected in the bill," she said.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: LEGISLATION (92%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (91%); APPROVALS (90%); FINES & PENALTIES (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); IMMIGRATION LAW (90%); FOREIGN LABOR (90%); IMMIGRATION (89%); AMNESTY (89%); US DEMOCRATIC PARTY (89%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (78%); CITIZENSHIP (78%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (78%); HUMAN RIGHTS & CIVIL LIBERTIES LAW (78%); ETHNIC GROUPS (78%); HISPANIC AMERICANS (73%); DISCRIMINATION (68%); DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS (63%); JUDICIAL REVIEW (63%)

Company: SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE (96%)

Organization: SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE (96%); SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE (96%)

Person: TED KENNEDY (89%)

Geographic: MASSACHUSETTS, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (95%)