

# **SENATE COMPLETES DEBATE ON ALIENS MEASURE**

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## **Body**

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The Senate today completed debate on a bill granting amnesty to millions of illegal aliens and establishing criminal penalties for employers who make a practice of hiring illegal aliens.

A final vote on passage of the bill is scheduled for Tuesday. Both supporters and opponents of the measure say it is likely to win approval from the Senate. A similar measure is pending before the House Judiciary Committee, where its prospects are uncertain.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13 - The Senate today completed debate on a bill granting amnesty to millions of illegal aliens and establishing criminal penalties for employers who make a practice of hiring illegal aliens.

The Reagan Administration generally supports the bill, having proposed similar legislation last year. The Senate debated more than a dozen amendments today, but refused to make any substantial change in the basic bill, sponsored by Senator Alan K. Simpson, Republican of Wyoming.

### Opposed by Hispanic Groups

Hispanic groups bitterly criticized the proposed amnesty program, saying it was so restrictive that few illegal aliens would come forward to take advantage of it.

The program would grant permanent resident status to illegal aliens who entered the United States before Jan. 1, 1977, and have resided here continuously since then. It would grant "temporary resident" status to those who entered the country from Jan. 1, 1977, to Jan. 1, 1980. Temporary residents, after three years in that status, could become permanent residents. Aliens, in turn, after five years as permanent residents, could apply for citizenship.

Antonia Hernandez of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund said in an interview that the amnesty program "legalized exploitation" and predicted that "no one will come forward" to participate in it.

In a statement released by her organization, Miss Hernandez said: "The Senate ignored the concerns of the Hispanic community in this bill. The legalization program requires that newly legalized aliens continue to pay Federal taxes without receiving benefits for three years or six years. This is known as taxation without representation."

### Ineligible for U.S. Aid

During their three years as temporary residents and during their first three years as permanent residents, aliens would be ineligible to receive welfare, food stamps, Medicaid and other forms of Federal assistance.

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The **Senate** also authorized an unspecified amount of Federal aid for state and local governments that incur additional expenses as a result of the influx of illegal **aliens**.

Senator Charles E. Grassley, an Iowa Republican who proposed the grants to state and local governments, estimated that they would cost \$5.5 billion over the next seven years.

Miss Hernandez said that under the proposed amnesty program, illegal **aliens** who came to the United States after Jan. 1, 1980, would "continue to live in the same underclass this bill was designed to eradicate."

### Legalization Plan Defended

Senator Grassley estimated that a million illegal **aliens** had entered this country in the last two years, and said he did not want to legalize their presence here because they had not built up the same "equities" as other **aliens** who had lived here longer.

Senator Simpson defended the legalization procedure, saying that the resources of the Immigration and Naturalization Service were better spent in trying to prevent illegal entries than in trying to locate illegal **aliens** who had already settled here.

The Simpson bill makes **alien** workers more readily available to farmers and growers of various fruit and vegetable crops. By a vote of 62 to 28, the **Senate** today rejected an amendment offered by Senator Edward M. Kennedy that would have required the Government to retain all the existing rules for the temporary worker program.

The Massachusetts Democrat said that it was inappropriate to relax the rules for **alien** workers at a time of high unemployment in the United States. Under the Simpson bill, Mr. Kennedy said, "a grower can turn down a U.S. citizen seeking more than the minimum wage," and instead hire an **alien** at the minimum wage.

The **Senate** rejected, by a vote of 69 to 22, another Kennedy amendment that would have ended the "employer sanctions" program after three years if it led to discrimination against Hispanic Americans or other members of minority groups. The amendment would have required the President to certify that the program was not being used in a discriminatory manner.

Under the program, employers must ask all job applicants to demonstrate that they are either citizens or **aliens** authorized to work in the United States. Employers who knowingly hired illegal **aliens** would be subject to penalties of \$1,000 for each illegal **alien** on the first offense and \$2,000 for each **alien** on subsequent violations. A "pattern or practice" of hiring illegal **aliens** would be a crime, and upon conviction, an employer could be sentenced to six months in prison and required to pay an additional fine of \$1,000.

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