

2 Candidates for Governor to Pay Back Taxes for Aliens

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Byline: Christine Todd Whitman; W. Cary Edwards

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Body

Saying they want to move ahead with their campaigns, two Republicans who hope to be **governor** announced today that they have agreed **to pay back taxes** for hiring illegal **aliens**.

Christine Todd Whitman said her payments would total \$22,694 for Social Security and unemployment **taxes** to the Federal Government and the state of New Jersey for employing two undocumented workers for three and a half years to take care of her children.

She said \$14,467 was paid today to the Internal Revenue Service. A check for \$8,227 will be delivered to state **tax** officials on Wednesday, she said. Campaign officials said penalties and interest would be paid when they are determined by the **tax** agencies.

The second **candidate**, W. Cary Edwards, a former state attorney general, said he intends to make a payment totaling **\$2,820** to cover Social Security and state and Federal unemployment insurance **taxes** for employing a Portuguese woman without residency status as a housekeeper for about 18 months.

Additional Fines

Both **candidates** could face additional fines from the Immigration and Naturalization Service if they are found guilty of breaking Federal law. John Gershkoff, who heads the New Jersey region's investigations unit for the immigration service, said today that the Whitman and Edwards cases were being reviewed.

Mrs. Whitman and Mr. Edwards disclosed their employment of illegal **aliens** on Friday following the furor over President Clinton's nomination of Zoe Baird as attorney general. Ms. Baird, who admitted that she and her husband employed illegal **aliens** to care for their son, withdrew her nomination.

Mrs. Whitman, who plans to announce formally her candidacy for **governor** on Wednesday, said she hoped the payment would "put these matters behind me." But she acknowledged that she did not believe the issue would go away.

"It's always going to be there, and it will be part of how people view me," Mrs. Whitman said. "But there are other things, such as the issues of the campaign. I expect this will be fully aired again, and I am willing to discuss it."

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Mr. Edwards, whose admission of hiring an illegal alien came four hours after Mrs. Whitman's disclosure, said he would make the \$2,820 payment "in order to get on with the issues of the campaign."

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