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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 15, 1983

FOR:

EDWIN L. HARPER

FROM:

MICHAEL M. WHEMANN

SUBTECT.

Status of Immigration Reform

The latest and best information we have is highlighted in the attached memo from Kathy Collins, which arrived more or less simultaneously with your request. As it has been some time since the issues were fully ventilated at the White House, I think a CCLP meeting would be advisable. Specifically, the following ought to be addressed.

- o Review of the policy considerations which led to proposing our original bill;
- o Review of legislative ups and downs during the past Congress;
- o Legislative strategy for the current Congress;
- O Changes in agency/interest group positions since last year.

If you concur, I will request Justice and other agencies to prepare the necessary papers for a meeting early in March.

Mr. Unemann

February 8, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: ANNELISE ANDERSON

FROM: KATHY COLLINS | 5

SUBJECT: Update on Immigration Legislation

Justice continues to press for legislation. The Attorney General met with Simpson, Rodino, and Mazzoli within the past two weeks to discuss the bill. This memo provides a status report of action in Congress, the agencies, and the interest groups with regard to immigration legislation.

Congressional Action

- Sometime this month, Simpson and Mazzoli are likely to reintroduce the bills in their current form, as they passed the Senate and were reported by the House Judiciary Committee respectively. Rodino is being urged to co-sponsor the House bill but he has not yet given his commitment. Simpson's staff does not anticipate major amendments in the Senate. The House picture is not predictable.
- A tentative schedule has set hearings in both houses for March with subcommittee mark-ups in April.
- Oustice has heard rumblings that House Judiciary Committee members (especially Hughes) are interested in using the immigration bill to authorize additional enforcement resources for INS.
- The H-2 program and the antagonism between growers and the AFL-CIO remains a sticky issue. Mazzoli has made many promises to ease the program for the growers and thus is not willing to make any concessions to Labor. Although there is some consideration of dropping the H-2 program to ensure smoother sailing, the H-2 program is needed to keep agricultural support on the bill.

Agency Action

Justice (OLA) is making Congressional visits, especially to new members to establish rapport. The Attorney General has informed Simpson, Rodino, and Mazzoli of changes the Administration would like to see in the current bill. (Specifically conforming the House hill to the Senate bill with regard to terms of legalization and conforming the Senate bill to the House bill on the ID issue.) Justice may still be considering a separate Administration bill, but at this point they are keeping a low profile and deferring to Simpson and Mazzoli. In the meantime, INS continues to plan for implementation and Al Nelson seeks to play a larger role in the legislative process.

- * HHS staff are revising upward the cost estimates of legalization to take into account disability and medicare costs for permanent resident aliens that were not included in the original estimates. They may also revise the numbers to reflect the full package of benefits that would be available to those aliens who entered the U.S. by 1977 and can qualify for permanent resident status under the registry program. (These aliens would not be subject to the prohibition of benefits for aliens who are legalized.)
- USDA and the Ag interest groups (notably West Coast growers) are actively entrenching their interests on the H-2 program. Although the H-2 program is relatively low priority within the grand scheme of agricultural interests, the immigration bill gives USDA an opportunity to deal with the H-2 issue in isolation and thus afford it greater priority.
 - -- USDA is considering creating an Office of Farm Labor Policy for the express purpose of developing a new H-2 program. They recently had a three day meeting with the Agricultural Employers Working Group (AEWG) to outline the program, with an eye to constructing a legal substitute for the current situation. (i.e., use of illegal aliens)
 - -- USDA insists on revising the H-2 program to forestall the shortfall in labor availability that would occur under employer sanctions. More significantly, they view H-2 labor as necessary to protect the economic viability of particular commodities which would otherwise go to Mexico. For example, lower labor costs are the swing factor for western strawberry production. This situation may also develop in the citrus industry where Brazilian production is beginning to be competitive with the U.S. This protectionism view, brings into the open, a major policy issue that exceeds the legislative intent of the H-2 program and should be viewed in a forum larger than the immigration bill.

Interest Group Action

East and West coast agricultural employers are split in their views. The East coast growers do not want to touch the H-2 program. They do not want to risk losing the henefits the current H-2 program provides.

The West Coast growers, like USDA, will not support the current H-2 program. The agenda for change includes: eliminating requirements that the employer provide free housing and transportation advances, reducing the amount of DOL regulation, using local prevailing wage rates rather than national rates to determine displacement and only requiring employers to recruit in local labor markets rather than regionally or nationally. All other recruitment would be done by DOL, Employment Training Service.

Another group, formed within the past month, of 50 farm organizations (Agricultural Labor Employers Committee), supports a free market approach to farm labor. They are supposedly working on a bill.

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- According to Simpson's staff, business groups, except for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, are thought to be more supportive of the bill. Hispanic groups seem to be more willing to negotiate.

cc: Official file

Dr. Anderson (2)

Mr. Adkins (2)

Mr. MacRae

Mr. Sasser

Mr. Wong

Mr. Rideout

Mr. Dickstein

Mr. Uhlmann

Ms. Collins

JTP:KECollins:ram 2/8/83

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OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT

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REMARKS:

Please comment on the attached by COB tomorrow.

STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Ullmann #55

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 8, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO:

ED HARPER

FROM:

KEN DUBERSTEIN

SUBJECT:

Immigration Reform Bill

Senator Alan Simpson, chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, and other members of the Senate leadership, tell us that the immigration reform bill will likely be reported out of the Judiciary Committee in late March or early April.

You will recall that the Senate last year passed it overwhelmingly, but it got bogged down because of labor and Hispanic opposition in the House.

I just wanted to keep you posted on the likely timetable and would appreciate any thoughts you may have.

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REMARKS:

I concur with Mike Uhlmann's recommendation that this be taken up at a CCLP meeting. We will process unless you recommend otherwise.

ADMINISTRATION

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

To: Ed Meere

Re: I muignetier

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EDWIN L. HARPER

xc C. Fuller.

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1983 FEB 15 P 2: 38

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