

✓ Illegal Aliens RP 5/6/88
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Amnesty's end means tough enforcement

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WASHINGTON — Now that the historic amnesty program for illegal aliens has ended, the Immigration and Naturalization Service is preparing for tougher enforcement to pressure those not covered into leaving the country and to prevent more illegal aliens from entering.

With increases in employer investigators and Border Patrol manpower already under way, top-level agency officials are scheduled to meet in San Diego next week to decide how quickly and extensively to crack down on employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants and how to better seal the border. New guidelines for district offices will be sent out sometime after mid-May.

Inside INS there is a debate over how aggressive the agency should be, and "the people who want to get tough are winning," one top INS official said.

David S. North, a respected researcher on immigration issues at TransCentury Development Associates in Washington, said immigrant rights activists will be urging INS not to aggressively enforce the sanctions, while Congress will do just the opposite. "There will be a lot of pressure both ways," he said.

Rep. Daniel E. Lungren, R-Calif., said: "I don't think INS has to be macho, but it will have to enforce" the new law. "If we have a significant increase of people coming across the border, we will see a more militant Congress."

The heightened focus on enforcement, which is raising concerns among immigrant rights activists, comes as the INS hails the year-long legalization program as a success, registering 1,433,066 people nationwide — 910,270 in the Los Angeles district alone. Another 479,530 applied nationally — 350,000 in Southern California — to the more liberal program for agricultural workers, a program that ends Nov. 30.

In addition to legalization, the law calls for increased vigilance along the nation's 2,000-mile Southern border to prevent illegal crossings. It also pro-

vides for penalties on employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens, ranging from \$250 per alien up to \$10,000 and jail terms of six months.

So far, INS has focused on educating employers about the law, and it has issued almost 2,000 warnings. Fines, however, have been scarce; according to the INS's latest figures, only 85 fine notices have gone out, and \$38,000 has been collected out of a total of \$256,900 in assessments.

That is expected to change. Starting June 1, the INS no longer will be required to issue warnings on the first offense. While Nelson resists portraying the change as a crackdown, he said there will be a "gradual increase in the fine notices."

As the fines increase, the INS is hoping that the publicity will deter other employers from hiring illegal aliens.

"In each city where we start to get fines against employers, it will be front-page news," said David P. Nachtsheim, an INS official in the enforcement division.

As for illegal border crossings, Nelson acknowledged that apprehensions "continued to show an uncertain trend," rising to 94,426 last month compared to 80,473 in April 1987.