



# UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Office of Public Affairs

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G. S.  
NCCB/USCC  
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National Catholic Office for Information

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M E M O R A N D U M

STATEMENT ON SCRPS FINAL  
REPORT

TO: Bishop Kelly  
FROM: Bill Ryan *W.R.*  
RE: Immigration statement

Below is the draft of a statement on the Select Commission. I will modify it according to Don Hohl's recommendations but I think it is basically what the Conference would want to say at this time.

"The Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy recently submitted its final report. It is a monumental achievement. Charged with evaluating the laws, policies and procedures governing the admission of immigrants and refugees to the United States and with making appropriate recommendations to the President and Congress, the Commission has carried out its task in a manner befitting a subject of vital importance to the future well being of the nation. No one will agree with all the Commission's recommendations. Everyone can agree that America owes Fr. Hesburgh and the other members of the Commission a debt of gratitude for the dedication, skill and vision with which they have carried out their work.

[ March 5, 1981 ]

"Our initial impression is that many of the Commission's recommendations and conclusions are very much to our liking. Recommendations concerning legalization of undocumented aliens already in the country, on family reunification as the cornerstone of U.S. immigration policy, and for an increase, although modest, in the annual refugee quota are in general harmony with positions taken by the United States Catholic Conference and with the Church's traditional role as champion of 'people on the move.'

Other recommendations, such as employer sanctions, especially when such sanctions are not coupled with an identification program that would protect those who appear to be but in fact are not undocumented are less than satisfactory. Because such proposals may raise the spectre of discrimination, this is a matter of serious concern to the Catholic Conference.

At the present time USCC immigration and refugee experts are ~~now~~ making a thorough study of the Commission's report, and will issue a detailed analysis in due time, and the Conference eagerly looks forward to presenting testimony before the appropriate committees of the Congress when enabling legislation is finally introduced. The Church has an abiding interest in the matter of immigration and refugee policy and will continue to make its voice heard on all aspects of the topic."

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