

Legislator wants more restrictions on abortion funding

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The number of federally funded abortions dropped nearly 99 percent last year, and the author of legislation credited with bringing this about said yesterday he will try to make the restrictions even tougher.

Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., reacting to government reports of a dramatic reduction in Medicaid abortions, acknowledged his amendment "appears to be working where it is implemented."

But Hyde said he is concerned about the number of states continuing to finance abortions themselves.

HEW Secretary Joseph Califano, who opposes abortion, told Congress Wednesday that the tough new congressional limits reduced the annual rate of the operations from an estimated 250,000 to 2,421 between February and December 1978.

"My amendment in 1976 initiated the restrictive language," Hyde said in an interview. "It has been compromised to include rape, incest and serious health damage to the mother, so it is not in the form I want it in."

The current amendment — written into legislation carrying money for

the departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare — bans federal funding of "abortion on demand."

It permits the federal government to pay only if the life of the woman would be endangered by carrying the pregnancy to term, in cases where the mother would suffer severe and long-lasting health damage, or in cases of incest or rape.

Hyde said he is unhappy with the exceptions.

"I do not accept a judgment call from a doctor that a woman's life would be harmed severely without the abortion," he said. "You're still trading off a life."

"I don't know at the present time what strategy will be employed," Hyde said. "I object to the language as being too loose."

A government memo showed that since the government began monitoring in February 1978 there have been only 2,421 Medicaid-financed abortions in 37 states. Sixteen states and U.S. territories reported no abortions at all under terms of the Hyde Amendment.

U.S. studies foreign student visa practices

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Justice Department announced yesterday it is investigating college recruitment practices that allow many foreigners to get student visas without enrolling in U.S. schools.

The action, accompanied by steps to control issuance of the visas more closely, is the latest Immigration and Naturalization Service move against foreigners violating the terms of student visas.

Attorney General Griffin Bell, angered by the violent protests of Iranian students in the Los Angeles area, recently ordered a crack-down on all foreign students found to be violating terms of their visas.

"We feel like there may be many people who aren't actually enrolled and thus are not students and are here illegally," Justice Department spokesman John

Russell said yesterday.

Russell said colleges in Los Angeles, Vermont and Connecticut are among those under investigation.

He said INS has discovered that recruiters for some U.S. colleges, desperate for students in the face of declining enrollment, are selling foreigners blank I-20 enrollment verification forms presigned by college officials. The forms say the individual has been accepted for enrollment.

"The student puts his name on it and shows it to the consulate overseas, and it allows them to obtain a student visa to come into this country," Russell said.

He said prices for an I-20 form have ranged up to \$800. Justice Department spokesman Terrence Adamson said the department is sending information of possible

fraudulent recruiting practices to U.S. attorneys across the country.

In addition, Adamson said, "Schools that have issued presigned blank I-20 forms are being informed by letter that continuation of this practice may result in withdrawal of their authority to enroll foreign students under INS regulations."

He said the Justice Department also may require schools to send their completed forms to the State Department before issuance of the visa, rather than giving the forms directly to students.

Recent INS figures indicate there are 235,509 foreign students enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities. U.S. officials have no idea how many other foreigners hold student visas but are not attending school.

Lion creator offers to supervise repairs

The Nittany Lion Shrine may get its new ear from an old friend according to Bill Engel, the associate director of the University's Office of Gifts and Endowments.

Heinz Warneke, the original sculptor of the shrine, called professor of Arts John Cook, after a meeting of the class of 1940 committee February 27, and offered to oversee the repairs.

Engel said the 83-year-old Warneke "told Cook he would personally be responsible for the repair of the right ear."

Engel said Cook had consulted with Warneke while negotiating with other sculptors on the repairs. "But no one

expected that he would be interested."

Warneke, who has established a worldwide reputation as a sculptor, plans to repair the right ear, which was broken off the shrine last fall. Engels said Warneke will be assisted by another sculptor from Washington, D.C.

Engel said Warneke and Cook had not set a specific date for the restoration since the process would require fairer weather anyhow.

The proposal to move the shrine to another safer location is still under discussion by the committee, Engel said. "But it is not likely that this committee of four will even make that decision."

—by Chuck Torisky

PennDOT head to speak

Thomas D. Larson, the new state Secretary of Transportation, will be the guest speaker at a conference of state officials, interest groups and citizens who will meet today at Toftrees Country Club and Lodge to discuss transportation needs.

State Senator J. Doyle Corman, Jr., R-34th, said participants will discuss the transportation needs for the area with an emphasis on the completion of the Appalachian Thruway, Route 219 and Route 22.

Governor Dick Thornburgh has been invited to attend the conference, Corman said. "And we are hopeful that he, too, will be present," he said. Corman said since the new administration has taken office and has

begun to develop policies for transportation in the state. "This is a good time to learn about the new administration's format for highway construction. We can also present our views on transportation needs for this important part of the state," he said.

Corman said this is the second highway conference to be held concerning central Pennsylvania. The last conference was held in September in Altoona, he said. At the Altoona conference a task force was organized to develop plans for highway construction, he said.

"Much has been accomplished in developing a unified front to represent our interests," Corman said. —by Gina Brisgone

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