

Immigration bill revived by Senate in test vote

Backers see simple majority but brace for coming battle

By Susan Milligan
THE BOSTON GLOBE

WASHINGTON — The Senate breathed new life yesterday into a sweeping immigration package that would tighten the border while giving legal status to 12 million illegal immigrants, voting to move ahead with debate on a measure that has caused deep emotional and political rifts across the country.

The 64-35 procedural vote does not guarantee final approval of the package, the product of an unusual team led by the White House and senators in both parties. But the high number of yes votes gave authors of the deal strong hopes of achieving an overhaul of immigration policy this year.

"We're back in the game," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff as he left the Capitol yesterday. Chertoff and Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez have made frequent trips to the Capitol to lobby reluctant GOP senators, hoping to deliver President Bush a domestic policy victory at a time when the president faces low public approval ratings.

THE VOTE

YES

64

39 Democrats
24 Republicans
1 Independent

NO

35

9 Democrats
25 Republicans
1 Independent

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Dwindling work force puts pressure on growers

By Leslie Berestein
and Diane Lindquist
STAFF WRITERS

CALEXICO — In the pre-dawn hours during the harvest season in the Imperial Valley, a parking lot abutting the border fence buzzes with activity.

Diesel exhaust and the hum of engines fill the air as hundreds of buses idle in the dark, surrounded by farm workers waiting to be hired by labor contractors. Many are legal border crossers who have commuted from neighboring Mexicali, some rising before 2 a.m.

Workers huddle outside the buses, sipping hot coffee to ward off the early-morning chill. Some of those already recruited stretch out on the seats, trying to catch a bit more sleep. By 5 a.m., the buses will start rumbling toward the fields, some as far away as Yuma and the Coachella Valley.

Although thousands show up to find work,

SEE Farm workers, A10

Unrepentant Sunroad agrees to lower building



At last night's news conference outside the Sunroad office building under construction in Kearny Mesa, an attorney for Sunroad Enterprises said the company will lower the tower to comply with federal aviation height limits. Sean M. Haffey / Union-Tribune photos

Structure near Montgomery Field will be altered to 'FAA-approved height'

By David Hasemyer,
Jeff McDonald
and Matthew T. Hall
STAFF WRITERS

Squeezed by government officials at every turn, Sunroad Enterprises abruptly reversed course last night and agreed to lower the profile of its Kearny Mesa office building to comply with federal aviation height limits.

The decision was announced at a 9 p.m. news conference by Sunroad attorney Dennis Crovella, who summoned reporters to the 12-story tower near Montgomery Field, one of the busiest general-aviation airports in the country.

Crovella spoke for barely 10 minutes and answered only a handful of questions. He said Sunroad Enterprises officials decided to comply with Federal Aviation Administration rules after serious soul-searching.

But he refused to commit to reducing the 180-foot building specifically to 160 feet, the tallest height allowed. Instead, Crovella said only that Sunroad would re-engineer the building "to an FAA-approved height" that will be worked out with city officials in coming days.



Dennis Crovella, an attorney for Sunroad Enterprises, announced the company's abrupt reversal at last night's news conference.

Even though some portion of the tower will be torn down, Sunroad will persist in its legal fight against the city of San Diego, the attorney said.

"Sunroad is taking this action as a responsible corporation," Crovella said. "Don't interpret this action as any admission of wrongdoing. We stand behind our previous decisions, but being right isn't always

enough." Sunroad Enterprises pushed ahead with construction of the building at 180 feet last year despite an FAA warning that it was 20 feet too tall.

The company position for more than a year was that it had secured a valid city permit and was entitled to build it taller than the FAA said was safe.

But as the building neared completion, political pressure on Sunroad and San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders nearly grew to a fever pitch.

The building has been the subject of repeated news conferences, allegations of corruption at City Hall and civil lawsuits — with most of those initiated by City Attorney Michael Aguirre.

Aguirre sued the developer in December, saying the company wrongly proceeded with the project. Company lawyers responded with a \$40 million countersuit. The case is scheduled for trial later this year.

The city attorney was clearly pleased with the unexpected decision, which came five days after the mayor issued a stop-work order.

"The orders that were signed by the mayor under our municipal code are required to be complied with," Aguirre said last night, standing outside the Sunroad Centrum building alongside Sanders.

Sanders did not order a halt to construction for at least nine months after City Hall develop-

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Tribes, Assembly Democrats strike a deal

Gambling compacts still need final OK

By James P. Sweeney
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

SACRAMENTO — A group of powerful Southern California Indian tribes have reached a tentative accord with Assembly Democrats that could clear the way for ratification of multibillion-dollar gambling compacts that have been stalled since August.

The compromises on issues such as casino operating standards and workers' compensation are outlined in a five-page "memorandum of agreement" signed June 21 by Danny Tuck-

er, chairman of the Sycuan band of El Cajon.

That document and a similar one signed by Pechanga Chairman Mark Macarro appear to be awaiting the signature of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has been in Europe since Saturday. Schwarzenegger was scheduled to return to the Capitol today.

The governor's attorneys have been involved in developing the side agreements and reportedly have signed off on them. A spokesman for the governor declined to comment.

In addition to Sycuan and Pechanga of Temecula, the pending compacts were negotiated

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If pending compacts receive final approval, Sycuan would be among the state's Indian casinos allowed to greatly expand their operations. The five tribes that are involved are among the nation's wealthiest. Union-Tribune file

Padres promotions called unwelcome double play

By Jeanette Steele
STAFF WRITER

July will be a busy month at Petco Park, with the Padres hosting special days for Episcopalians, children in summer camps, knitters and people of Jewish heritage. But it is Pride Night, a July 8 event for gays and lesbians, that is causing a stir.

An El Cajon-based Christian ministry is protesting the confluence of Pride Night with a floppy cap giveaway for children 14 and younger, saying the Padres are welcoming thousands of youngsters on the same day they're celebrating a

lifestyle that the religious group calls sinful.

Set Free Ministries will make its point by walking out on the 42 concession jobs its participants fill. The recovery program run by Southern Baptist missionaries also plans to pass out fliers about Pride Night to families entering Petco Park that day.

"We're concerned about Christian parents and other parents who do not want to have to answer at a ballgame why 'Adam and Steve' are doing what they are doing," said Pastor J.D. Loveland, develop-

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