

## **Interview for "Suspect" Marriage**

**By Reuben S. Seguritan**

The INS has authority to investigate couples whose immigrant visa petition the INS has reason to suspect as fraudulent.

An investigation will be conducted and will often be construed as offensive actions on the part of the INS. While questions such as sexual habits or personal eccentricities are forbidden, the couples will be subjected to questions and actions that may certainly be considered as intrusive yet well within bounds of the law.

Couples whose marriage for immigration purposes is viewed by the INS as a sham might have to brace themselves for certain actions against their privacy. Their neighbors will be questioned, and their lifestyle pried into so that the officials may obtain clues as to the veracity of their marriage.

Intrusive questions may also be asked at the interview of their adjustment application. Inconsistencies in answers to the questions must be avoided at all costs for this is what will feed the suspicions of the interviewing official. Separate interviews might be conducted, and each may be required to recount the circumstances of their meeting, their courtship, and the events leading to their marriage.

The following are documents that the couple should prepare for their interview:

- Lease contract to show they live together.
- Copy of tax returns.
- Wedding pictures and recent photographs taken together or with family members.
- Letters from employers of both parties indicating their marital status and the benefits provided by the company to its employee and his or her family members.
- Joint credit cards, bank statements, investment properties or any other records of couples' financial relations.
- Letters indicating ongoing relationship over a period of time, including telephone bills that reflect
- Long distance communication, as the case may be.
- Identification documents.

There are cases when a couple does not live together after the marriage for one reason or another. But so long as they can assure the INS that the marriage is genuine and was not entered into for immigration purposes, the outcome of such interview should be acceptable to the INS.

### Latest Immigration News

The Immigration Technical Corrections Bill, H.R. 783, was passed by Congress several days ago. Under the bill, professional religious workers and workers in religious vocations or occupations would be given until 1997 to apply for special immigrant visa.

The bill also:

1. Eliminates the requirement of intent to reside permanently in the U.S. after naturalization;
2. Expands slightly the waiver of U.S. history and English requirements for elderly naturalization applicants;
3. Extends off-campus work authorization for students to 1996;
4. Clarifies preference date of applications for labor certification filed before IMMACT 90 (old sixth preference);
5. Allows state departments of public health to act as "interested agencies" for J-1 waivers for physicians.
6. Provides equal treatment of women in conferring citizenship to children born abroad before 1934;
7. Extends the visa waiver pilot program for two years;
8. Creates new probationary status for visa waiver program; and,
9. Eliminates obligation of carriers to detain stowaways.