

# back to Postville by U.S.

They may get employment permits while they wait to be witnesses in Agriprocessors immigration cases.

By GRANT SCHULTE and TONY LEYS  
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Eighteen illegal immigrants arrested during a meatpacking plant raid in Postville have returned to town and might receive work permits for as long as federal prosecutors need them, a U.S. immigration spokesman

said Thursday.

But the workers still face deportation, and were shipped to town fresh out of prison with few belongings and scant job opportunities, said a local church pastor who cared for the workers.

The immigrants were tagged as witnesses this week in the case

against two human resources managers at Agriprocessors Inc., a kosher meat plant that employed hundreds of illegal immigrants and was the site of one of the largest raids in U.S. history in May. All of the witnesses have completed five-month prison sentences at the Federal Correctional Institution in Miami, said U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman Tim Counts.

Less than a week after they

completed their prison terms, federal agents obtained warrants to hold the immigrants as material witnesses in their case. A federal judge, however, ordered that the workers be released with supervision.

Court papers identify 16 workers as witnesses in the case against Laura Althouse, the plant's payroll supervisor, and two in the case of Karina Freund, a Spanish translator who helped

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## checks to grow by 5.8%

Advocates for seniors say that's not enough to keep up with fast-rising costs.

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER  
Associated Press

Washington, D.C. — Social Security checks are going up \$63 a month for the typical retiree — the largest increase in more than a quarter century but likely to seem puny to the millions who have been watching in horror as Wall Street lays waste to their retirement nest eggs.

Every little bit helps, but the boost is coming after a year when people living on fixed incomes have been pounded by surging energy prices and higher food costs — and lately have seen their lifetime savings shrivel along with the stock market.

The yearly adjustment in Social Security checks is linked to government inflation figures, but advocacy groups for seniors say it's far short of what the typical retiree needs to keep up with rising living costs.

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### World Food Prize

## PAIR LAUDED, BORLAUG MISSED



BILL NEIBERGALL/THE REGISTER

Dignitaries enter the 2008 World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony to trumpet fanfare Thursday night at the state Capitol in Des Moines. Former U.S. Sens. Bob Dole and George McGovern were awarded this year's prize for their creation of a program to alleviate hunger and promote education among some of the world's poorest children. Norman Borlaug, the Cresco native and Nobel Prize winner who founded the World Food Prize, missed the presentation for the first time in its 21-year history, and his absence was keenly felt. World Food Prize President Kenneth Quinn told the crowd that Borlaug, 94, had traveled to Des Moines for the event, but did not feel up to attending. The ceremony featured speeches by Dole and McGovern, as well as a musical tribute to Borlaug. **Article, Page 6A**

### Election 2008: United States Senate

## Harkin stresses his seniority; Reed notes desire for change

By THOMAS BEAUMONT  
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For a U.S. senator running for his fifth term, 2008 is a year of firsts for Tom Harkin.

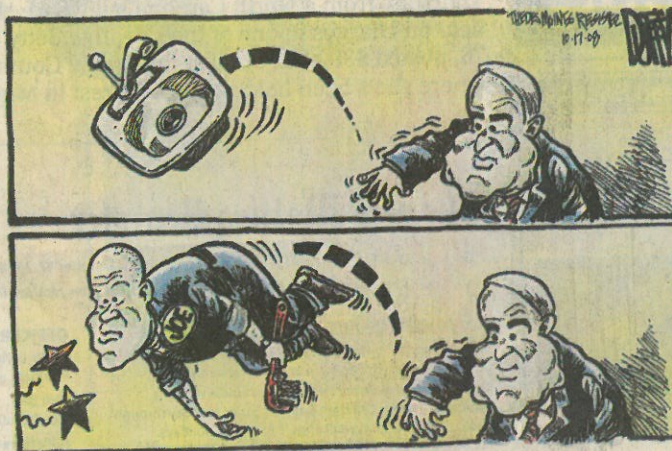
It is the first time the Iowa Democrat has not been the target of a high-profile GOP opponent with the full financial backing of the Republican National Committee's Senate

campaign arm.

It is also the first time since Harkin first ran for Congress 36 years ago that he is not facing a Republican member of Congress.

Harkin's opponent is Republican Christopher Reed, a Marion businessman popular among the Iowa GOP's social

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See some of Duffy's cartoons online: [DesMoinesRegister.com/duffy](http://DesMoinesRegister.com/duffy)

### Election 2008

## Obama campaign targets GOP states

By LIZ SIDOTI  
Associated Press

Washington, D.C. — Democrat Barack Obama extended his front-running campaign into West Virginia, a bastion of white, middle-class voters who rejected his primary season appeals, and confidently broached the subject of victory in a presidential contest playing out on Republican turf.

GOP rival John McCain found himself looking for a break as he was largely forced to defend his standing in states that President Bush won four years ago.

"We are now 19 days not from the end but from the beginning," Obama told the crowd at a New York fundraiser a day after the final presidential debate. Still, he warned against getting "giddy or cocky," reminding supporters with two words: "New Hampshire."

"You know, I've been in these positions before where we were

CAMPAIGN, PAGE 16A

### Iowa's Joe the Plumber

Joe Miller, a plumber from Fairbank, doesn't know whom he's voting for. But he does know most plumbers don't have to worry about making more than \$250,000. **Metro & Iowa, Page 1B**

High 56° Low 38° Mostly cloudy, chance of showers. **Page 8B** | Copyright 2008, Des Moines Register and Tribune Company | A Gannett Newspaper | Customer Service: (877) 424-0225

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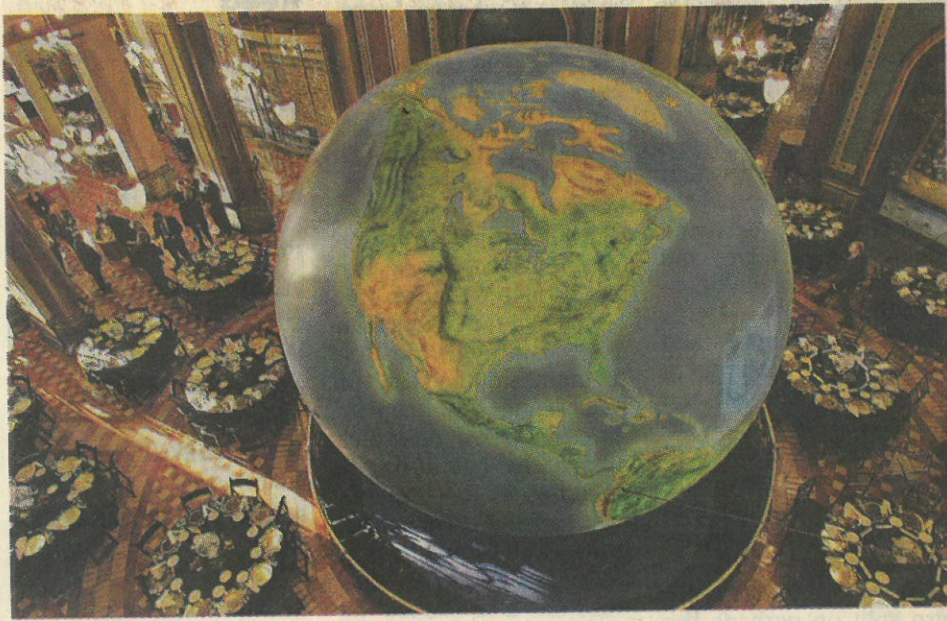
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**World Food Prize**



BILL NEIBERGALL/REGISTER PHOTOS

Dinner tables surround a globe decoration in the rotunda area of the Statehouse before the 2008 World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony on Thursday night in Des Moines. Find more photos of the ceremony at [DesMoinesRegister.com/photos](http://DesMoinesRegister.com/photos).

World Food Prize laureates and retired Sens. George McGovern, left, and Bob Dole, receive their prizes for their work in Congress on food and humanitarian programs and for helping found an international school feeding program.

# Ceremony pays tribute to absent icon

**Retired Sens. Dole and McGovern accept their awards, but founder Borlaug is unable to attend.**

By DAN PILLER  
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One of Norman Borlaug's favorite pieces of music, the "Iowa Corn Song," was heard Thursday night in Des Moines at the World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony, but the man who inspired the prize missed the presentation for the first time in its 21-year

history.

"Doctor Borlaug came to Des Moines this week and hoped to be able to attend tonight's ceremony, but he simply didn't feel he could make it," World Food Prize President Kenneth Quinn announced to the crowd in the House of Representatives chamber at the state Capitol.

The ceremony went on to present the laureate awards to retired U.S. Sens. Bob Dole of Kansas and George McGovern of South Dakota for their work in Congress on various food and humanitarian programs and for helping to found the McGovern-Dole international school feeding program.

And while the event had its usual pomp and ceremony modeled after the Nobel Peace Prize that

Borlaug won in 1970, the absence of the man who founded the World Food Prize was felt keenly.

"Nobody was more disappointed than Norman," Quinn said.

A.S. Clausi of Riverside, Conn., who helped Borlaug found the World Food Prize, confirmed that this year's award ceremony was the first that the 94-year-old Borlaug was unable to attend since the first award was given to M.S. Swami-

nathan of India in 1987. Borlaug lives in Dallas.

The ceremony Thursday featured a musical tribute to Borlaug called "All Growing Borlaug Wheat," which used spoken word and music to trace the career of the man born in Cresco who developed strains of wheat and new growing techniques that have been credited with saving the lives of more than 1 billion people.

The tribute included a horn ensemble of what Quinn called Borlaug's four favorite songs: "Iowa Corn Song"; the hymn of his alma mater, the University of Minnesota; the "Aggie War Hymn" of Texas A&M University, where Borlaug taught for many years; and a Mexican harvest song, which was a tribute to Borlaug's many years of work in that country.

The laureates were seated in the front row in the first chairs on the aisles. They reached across the aisle to hold hands when their names were called for the presentation, symbolically erasing the partisan barrier that, on issues other

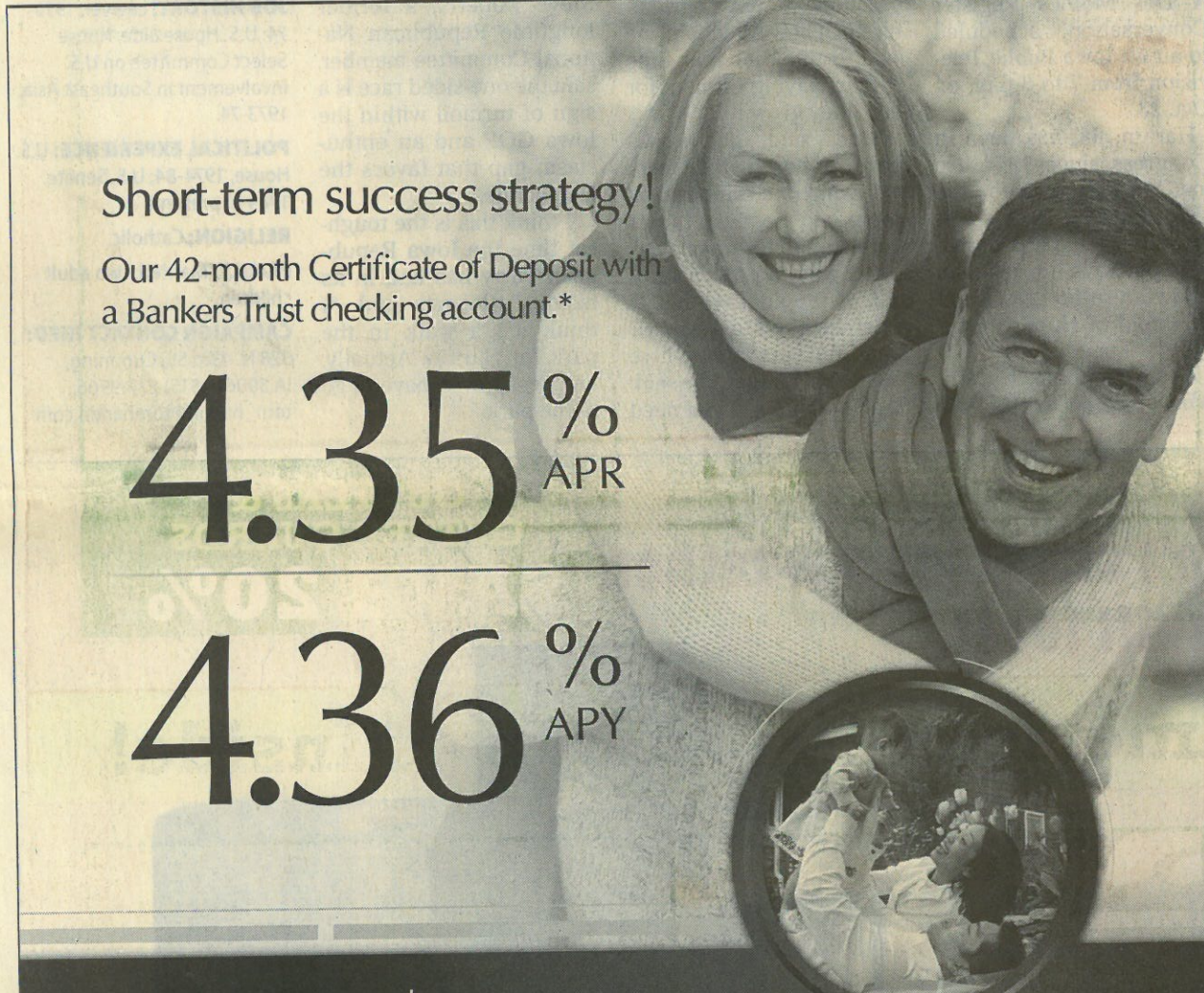
than hunger and nutrition, often separated the liberal McGovern and conservative Dole.

"I'm deeply honored to be here with my friend, Senator McGovern," said Dole, who, like his fellow laureate, ran for president and lost. Dole ended his brief remarks by reciting the poem "The Dash" by Linda Ellis, which describes the importance of the years of a person's life represented by the dash between their birth and death dates.

McGovern's remarks were longer, but he surprised and moved the crowd by bursting into a verse of "Jesus Loves the Little Children." Many in the audience softly sang along.

"The beautiful thing about the hunger issue," McGovern said, "is that it is soluble. I used to think that it didn't matter how long a person lived. Now that I've lived to be 86, I no longer agree with that," he said to the laughter of the crowd.

"But I hope to live long enough to see every school-child in the world fed."



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Aisha Mohamed, 16, of Tanzania, left, and Bariah Musa, 15, of Nigeria hand out programs Thursday. The girls are with the Iowa Resource for International Service, or IRIS, an Ames-based nonprofit that brings people from overseas to Iowa to promote international education, development and peace.

