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## Vilsack outraged by fed actions

By KEN BLACK

Gov. Tom Vilsack told local Latinos and Marshalltown leaders Tuesday he was outraged with the way the federal government conducted its raid on the Swift plant last week and was demanding answers.

Further, the governor reiterated that he would not allow Camp Dodge, the Iowa National Guard facility near Des Moines, to be used in any future immigration actions, unless the answers to his questions were answered to his satisfaction.

"This whole process suggests a crying need for immigration reform," the governor said. "It is clear this has been discussed and debated but not acted on by the Congress that just adjourned."

Vilsack leaves office Jan. 12, when Chet Culver, the governor-elect, takes over the state's top post. The policy could change yet again when Culver takes office. Vilsack indicated he has not discussed the policy with the incoming governor.

Among the most outrageous things the government has done to take custody of nearly 100 local residents and not tell their families where they are, the governor charged. Along with that, Vilsack said the families have not been given any sort of visitation, either over the phone or in person.

"We give the most heinous criminals in the city the right to see their families," Vilsack said.

But, he noted, even those basic rights have been withheld from the Hispanic detainees. The governor also postulated some of those taken from Marshalltown and detained may have been "properly and legally in the country."

The governor also said that saying the detainees are currently in Georgia may be premature. Though he did not elaborate, he indicated that reports that those taken from Marshalltown were in Georgia may be incorrect.

Mayor Gene Beach, who was one of those who attended the meeting with the governor and other leaders, said he believed the state's chief executive was doing everything he could to help those affected by the situation.

"He is upset with the representations that were made that were never honored," Beach said.

The mayor noted, however, that the issue is truly a federal one and that there was very little effect the governor could have.

One thing the governor could do is keep the issue in the national spotlight. As the only Democrat officially in the race for president, Vilsack has a huge national spotlight on him right now.

That could be used to shine the light on a situation happening in Marshalltown with national implications.

The children were his immediate concern, Vilsack said.

"I would hope we would be universal in the belief that children should be protected," he said.

It was reported that 90 immigrants were arrested in the raid that took place at the Swift & Company facility in Marshalltown. It is possible that a few of those have since been released, after being able to legally document their status in the country.

However, the vast majority still remain detained.

Vilsack said some may have been forced to sign deportation documents under false pretenses after being

given misinformation by federal officials.

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