

Curb immigration flood

USA TODAY

July 14, 1993, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1993 Gannett Company, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 12A; Debate

Length: 295 words

Byline: Dan Stein

Body

Immigration has suddenly jumped off the back burner and has emerged as one of the most important issues confronting the USA. For years, public opinion polls have been telling us that the American people believe legal **immigration** levels are too high and that illegal **immigration** is out of control.

The sudden attention that **immigration** has been receiving is due to many factors. The most important is the unprecedented number of immigrants, legal and illegal, who are settling in the USA each year. Depending on estimates of illegal **immigration**, between 1.2 million and 1.5 million newcomers settle here annually. This influx is occurring irrespective of the ability of communities to absorb the new settlers, the costs associated with **immigration** (and they are enormous), the strain on schools, public health facilities, housing or labor markets, or the environment.

Proponents of the status quo like to point to the USA's "immigrant tradition" to justify the current extreme levels of **immigration**. However, we need to take a closer look at what the tradition really is. Between 1820 (when records began to be kept) and 1965, average annual **immigration** was 297,000. Contrast that with current levels, and you realize there is nothing traditional about trying to absorb the equivalent of a major metropolitan area each year.

To their credit, the American people have directed their unhappiness at the policies and the people who make **immigration** policies, not at immigrants themselves. Public disapproval of **immigration** policies is as legitimate as disapproval of tax policies or the budget deficit. **Immigration** policy is, after all, a public policy and is supposed to serve the interests of the USA.

Clearly, the American people do not feel it does.

Notes

THE EDITORIAL PAGE; Today's debate is on **IMMIGRATION** and what direction our national policy should take; OPPOSING VIEW; The USA can't absorb the volume of newcomers pouring into the country; Dan Stein is executive director of the Federation for American **Immigration** Reform.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Curb immigration flood

Subject: **IMMIGRATION** (94%); **IMMIGRATION** REGULATION & POLICY (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (86%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (79%); POLLS & SURVEYS (78%); PUBLIC HEALTH (77%); TAXES & TAXATION (52%)

Industry: BUDGETS (75%); BUDGET DEFICITS (50%)

Geographic: UNITED STATES (96%)

End of Document