

Clinton supports immigration limits

USA TODAY

June 8, 1995, Thursday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 3A

Length: 264 words

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Body

President **Clinton** backed a proposal Wednesday to sharply curtail legal **immigration**, saying the work of the national Commission on **Immigration** Reform is "a road map for Congress to consider."

After a briefing by commission Chairwoman Barbara Jordan, **Clinton** said in a statement the recommendations from the panel are consistent with his "pro-family, pro-work, pro-naturalization" views.

Clinton also told Jordan he approves of the recommendation that closest family members - spouses and minor children - ought to have priority for admittance, and that American workers ought not be adversely affected by **immigration**, said White House spokesman Mike McCurry.

The commission is recommending Congress reduce overall legal **immigration** by one-third - to 550,000 people per year - by eliminating some categories of immigrants and **limiting** others.

Admissions of spouses and minor children of citizens and legal permanent residents would increase, but the door would be shut to siblings of citizens and adult children of citizens and permanent residents.

Jordan dismissed an oft-voiced criticism of the plan, saying the commission does not seek to alter the ethnic and racial diversity of the immigrant stream. The civil rights leader and ex-congresswoman said the bipartisan panel believes "religious and ethnic diversity are compatible with national civic unity."

"To answer some of the critics who are calling for a drastic reduction in admissions: Cultural and religious diversity resulting from **immigration** does not pose a threat to the national interest," Jordan said.

Notes

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Graphic

PHOTO, color, AP; PHOTO, b/w, Wilfredo Lee, AP

Classification

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Language: ENGLISH

Subject: **IMMIGRATION** (94%); CITIZENSHIP (90%); RACE & ETHNICITY (90%); **IMMIGRATION** LAW (90%); **IMMIGRATION** REGULATION & POLICY (89%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (79%); ETHNIC GROUPS (78%); NATURALIZATION (78%); FAMILY (76%); CIVIL RIGHTS (73%); NATIONAL SECURITY (73%); ADULTS (69%); RELIGION (66%)

Person: BILL **CLINTON** (79%)

Geographic: UNITED STATES (79%)

Load-Date: June 9, 1995

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