

PANEL SUGGESTS DOING AWAY WITH THE INS

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Body

The Immigration and Naturalization Service would be disbanded and its responsibilities farmed out under a proposal by an advisory **panel**, The New York Times reported Tuesday.

The Immigration Service now suffers from "mission overload," according to a draft copy of a report by the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform.

Under the proposal, the Justice Department - currently the parent agency of the Immigration Service - would retain responsibility for controlling the border and removing illegal immigrants.

The State Department would oversee immigration services and benefits, such as applications for citizenship. The Labor Department would be charged with enforcing laws governing the hiring of foreign workers.

Congress set up the bipartisan commission **in** 1990.

Former Rep. Bruce Morrison, D-Conn., a commission member, said the eight-member **panel** had considered setting up an independent immigration agency but decided that it would be more effective to assign some of the Immigration Service's duties to other agencies.

Officials **in** President Bill Clinton's administration expect the report to be the starting point for a debate over how to manage the immigration system, according to the Times.

Many state and federal leaders have expressed frustration with the Immigration Service's failure to control illegal immigrants and criminal aliens living **in** the United States.

Officials of the agency said the commission's proposals would reverse this financial investment and ignore improvements that the agency has made.

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