

GOP likes Clinton's alien plan Similar bills aim to limit influx

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

June 22, 1993, Tuesday

Copyright 1993 The Atlanta Constitution

Section: NATIONAL NEWS; Section A; Page 6

Length: 478 words

Byline: By Arthur Brice STAFF WRITER

Body

President Clinton can expect bipartisan support for his new get-tough immigration **plan**, because five **bills** with **similar** provisions have been wending their way through Congress for months.

"We are already working on it," said Dick Day, an aide to Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.) and the chief Republican counsel on the Senate Judiciary subcommittee on immigration and refugee affairs.

Mr. Simpson, the ranking Republican on the immigration subcommittee, "will be very supportive," Mr. Day said.

But some longtime observers remain skeptical that the president will obtain the needed funding.

"They talk big, but they never appropriate the money," said Jim Dorcy, a lobbyist with the Federation for American Immigration Reform. "Until then, it's basically talk."

Still, Mr. Clinton can count on bipartisan support. Both Mr. Simpson and subcommittee chairman Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) have sponsored immigration reform **bills**. Three other measures have been introduced in the House.

Mr. **Clinton's plan**, which he announced Friday, would stiffen penalties against crime syndicates involved in smuggling and would improve enforcement of existing laws.

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, whose department oversees the Immigration and Naturalization Service, blamed poor management for the nation's inability to cope with illegal immigrants and the flood of political asylum requests.

"The ultimate responsibility is to try to develop an Immigration and Naturalization Service . . . that can provide prompt, expeditious, fair hearings," she said Sunday on ABC's "This Week With David Brinkley."

Mr. Simpson's **bill** and a **similar** measure sponsored in the House by Rep. **Bill** McCollum (R-Fla.) would make it easier for U.S. immigration officials to reject requests for political asylum right at the border.

Referred to as "summary exclusion," the policy would differ from the current standard of granting asylum until all hearings and appeals have been exhausted, which can take up to two years. Often, asylum seekers who have been granted work authorizations do not appear at their hearings and simply disappear into U.S. society.

Supporters of the **bills** dismiss concerns raised by some civil libertarians that the measure would give the INS too much power.

"These would be highly trained people who are competent to make very difficult decisions," said Fred Alexander, deputy district director of the INS office in Atlanta.

GOP likes Clinton's alien plan Similar bills aim to limit influx

Stan Cannon, press secretary for Mr. Simpson, also voiced confidence in INS officials. "They've really got great BS detectors," he said.

Other provisions in the five bills before Congress include streamlining the review process in order to reduce the amount of time in which an asylum seeker can exhaust all legal avenues, increasing prison sentences for smugglers, and establishing pre-inspection stations at six major airports abroad.

Graphic

Photo: mug of Janet Reno

Classification

Language: ENGLISH931740185

Subject: IMMIGRATION (94%); IMMIGRATION LAW (92%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (90%); CITIZENSHIP (90%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); SMUGGLING (89%); POLITICAL ASYLUM (89%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (79%); US DEMOCRATIC PARTY (79%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (78%); REFUGEES (78%); APPROPRIATIONS (78%); APPEALS (72%); ORGANIZED CRIME (72%); SENTENCING (67%); JAIL SENTENCING (67%); ATTORNEYS GENERAL (66%)

Company: FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM (56%); FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM (56%)

Organization: FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM (56%)

Industry: AIRPORTS (50%)

Person: BILL CLINTON (79%); TED KENNEDY (58%)

Geographic: MASSACHUSETTS, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (92%)

Load-Date: June 23, 1993