

Legal entry is targeted for limits

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

October 13, 1995, Friday,, ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 1995 The Atlanta Constitution

Section: NATIONAL NEWS,

Length: 468 words

Body

There are few hotter issues than immigration on Capitol Hill, on the campaign trail, and in communities around the country.

What began several years ago as a debate over illegal immigration has broadened to take aim at a new **target:** **legal** immigration.

Congress appears inclined to move toward sharp cuts in the number of **legal** immigrants and refugees allowed into the United States every year. Other legislation under consideration would prohibit immigrants from bringing siblings and adult children into the country.

- STATUS OF LEGISLATION: The House Judiciary Committee is currently considering immigration issues. On Thursday it agreed that foreigners fleeing persecution in their homelands would have no more than 30 days to apply for asylum in the United States. Current law does not set an application deadline for foreigners who ask for permission to stay after setting foot on U.S. soil.

That change is part of the broader bill to reduce immigration, written by Rep . Lamar Smith (R-Texas). Democrats have repeatedly questioned the need to restrict **legal** immigration, but most of their attempts to soften the bill have failed. A majority of the committee's members, including Rep. Bob Barr of Georgia, are Republicans.

More than a dozen proposed amendments remain to be considered as the committee made plans to continue debate for a seventh day today.

"We are making Judge Lance Ito look expeditious," said committee Chairman Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), referring to the judge who presided during the nine-month O.J. Simpson trial.

- CURRENT NUMBERS: About 800,000 persons enter the United States every year as **legal** immigrants. Most arrive, after a long application process, to be reunited with family members who are already **legal** U.S. residents. Smaller numbers are granted **entry** as refugees fleeing persecution or because they possess special skills required by U.S. businesses.

Advocates of changes in immigration say the nation has been inundated with immigrants since the 1965 Immigration Act, which eased passage into the country for relatives of new immigrants. They say that many of the 16.7 million immigrants in the past 30 years lacked job skills and often ended up on welfare.

During the 1980s, immigration increased to about 600,000 a year, and in the 1990s to about 800,000 a year. Illegal immigration is estimated at 300,000 to 500,000 per year.

In a report released in August, the U.S. Census Bureau found 5.7 percent of recent immigrants have received public assistance, chiefly Aid to Families with Dependent Children, compared to 2.9 percent of native- born Americans.

Legal entry is targeted for limits

- FOREIGN BORN: The percentage of America's foreign-born population is about 9 percent, higher than it has been since World War II, but less than the roughly 15 percent in 1910.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: IMMIGRATION (95%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (92%); LEGISLATION (90%); FAMILY (89%); JUDGES (89%); IMMIGRATION LAW (89%); REFUGEES (89%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (78%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (78%); US CONGRESS (78%); POLITICAL ASYLUM (78%); US DEMOCRATIC PARTY (78%); PENDING LEGISLATION (76%); CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (73%); ADULTS (71%); WELFARE BENEFITS (64%); CHILDREN (64%); WORLD WAR II (50%)

Person: LAMAR SMITH (58%)

Geographic: TEXAS, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (95%)

Load-Date: October 15, 1995

End of Document