

CALIFORNIA ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION:

KEY MESSAGE POINTS

- After years of neglect, the Clinton administration is almost doubling agents at the California border -- up from 640 in October 1992 to 1,120 by October 1995.
- After years of inaction, the Clinton administration is almost doubling the number of criminal aliens being deported from California -- up from 9,000 each year to 15,000 a year by next October.
- After years of denial, for the first time the federal government is going to pay a share of the cost of jailing criminal aliens.
- After years of neglecting and even contributing to this problem, Governor Wilson is in no position to criticize our unprecedented efforts.

OPERATION GATEKEEPER: A PLAN TO PROTECT CALIFORNIA'S BORDER

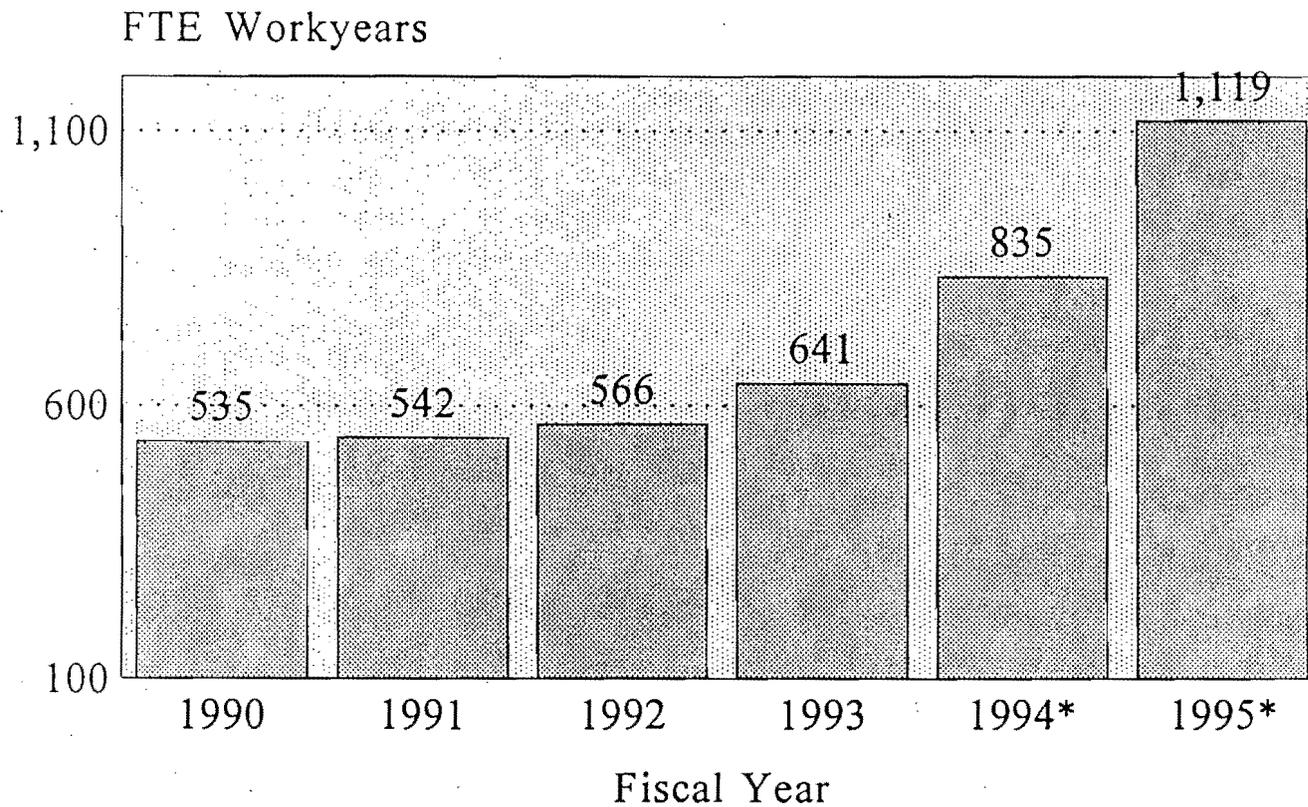
Operation Gatekeeper is a strategic plan to reduce illegal crossing of the California border. Announced by Attorney General Janet Reno on September 17, the plan builds on efforts begun over the last 18 months by the Clinton administration.

Operation Gatekeeper has seven major components to it; they all add to our existing efforts at the border:

- (1) More Border Agents. In the next 100 days, 220 new and redeployed agents will be added to strengthen the force of the Border Patrol on the line in San Diego. By the end of next year, we will have increased the agent forces on the California border by over 60 percent. This is a dramatic increase in border security, after years of neglect.
- (2) Better Border Control. We will complete 1.5 miles in new lighting -- to light every single section of the border that needs to be lit. This lighting will deter crossers and help agents detect illegal aliens; it is part of our effort to channel aliens to key crossing areas that we will now close.
- (3) Fingerprinting Illegal Aliens. Beginning October 1, we will fingerprint every illegal alien we apprehend in San Diego. This will help us crack down on criminal aliens and track those illegal immigrants who return again.
- (4) Crackdown on Alien Smugglers. In the next 50 days, we will begin to use new authorities under the Crime Bill to prosecute those who smuggle aliens into California. Tough new penalties will send smugglers to prison for up to 10 years for smuggling an alien into the U.S. -- and authorize the death penalty if anyone dies in a smuggling attempt.
- (5) Deportation of Criminal Aliens. We will expand a program to deport criminal aliens directly from California prisons, upon their release. With the expansion of this program, within the next few months, we will almost double the number of aliens removed directly from California's prisons above the level of a year ago.
- (6) Improved Legal Traffic. At the same time that we plug the holes in our border, we will facilitate legal traffic between the U.S. and Mexico with the addition of 110 new inspectors to California ports-of-entry.
- (7) Helping the State Pay. For the first time ever -- thanks to the President's Crime Bill -- the Federal Government will help states with the costs of incarcerating criminal aliens. The Crime Bill provides \$1.8 billion for criminal alien incarceration over six years, with \$130 million to be distributed in the next 12 months. We will send a downpayment on this sum to California within 100 days.

Immigration and Naturalization Service

California Border Patrol - Enforcement on the Line
Fiscal Years 1990 through 1995

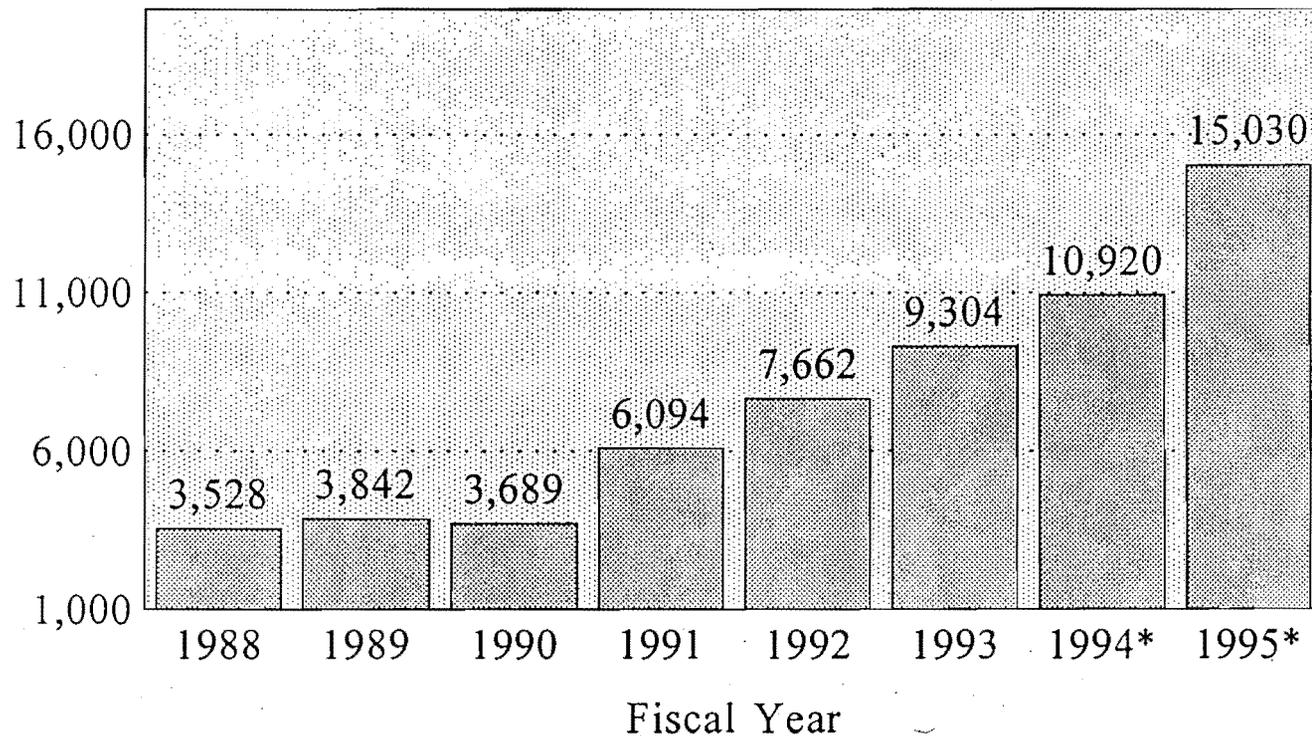


* 1994 and 1995 data are estimated

Immigration and Naturalization Service

California Criminal Alien Deportations
Fiscal Years 1988 through 1995

Criminal Deportations



* 1994 and 1995 data are estimated

FEDERAL HELP FOR THE COST OF INCARCERATING ILLEGAL ALIENS

- By mid-October, DoJ will be able to send an estimated \$30 million to California to reimburse the state for the cost of incarcerating criminal illegal aliens.
- This sum is just a downpayment on a total grant of \$75-\$90 million that will go to California for this purpose within the next year.
- This \$30 million is the first reimbursement ever by the federal government to the states for the cost of incarcerating criminal illegal aliens.
- Where does the money come from? The President's Crime Bill provides the funding for this reimbursement. Crime Bill supporters deserve credit for helping to make these funds available for the state.
- Note that the downpayment of \$30 million is, by itself, larger than the entire balance of the Immigration Emergency Fund -- the Fund that Gov. Wilson has spent so much time talking about.

THE WILSON RECORD: NO ROOM TO CRITICIZE

Today, Governor Wilson wants to crack down on illegal immigrants. But in the 1980s, Senator Wilson had a different approach. Is the Governor a credible critic of the Justice Department's policies? Here is the record:

- As a Senator, Wilson voted three times -- in 1983, 1985, and again in 1987 -- to limit INS enforcement against businesses that hired illegal immigrants.
- In fact, in 1983, Wilson cosponsored an amendment to require the INS to secure a search warrant before entering an agricultural workplace to apprehend illegal aliens. Even fellow Republican Senator Alan Simpson knew the consequences of this move -- to make it virtually impossible for the INS to combat a flood of illegal aliens working in agricultural jobs.
- In 1985, Wilson was more concerned about the rights of illegal aliens than about INS enforcement. Wilson asked on the Senate floor, "Should [illegal immigrants] be so frightened of their apprehension by the Immigration and Naturalization Service that they refuse even to use the housing provided for them by growers for fear of being raided by the INS?"
- Also in 1985, Wilson supported a program to provide lawful status to seasonal agricultural workers "to give the kind of assurance that men and women who are willing to work and work hard, in the sun and in the weather, will at least have the peace of mind to know that their hard work will not be interrupted by a raid."
- In 1987, the L.A. Times reported that Wilson asked the INS to relax its enforcement of the new immigration controls, to "avoid the disaster of fruit rotting on the trees."
- Also in 1987, Wilson asked the INS to make it easier for Mexican farm workers to cross the border and proposed a 90-day work permit that would enable Mexican workers to apply for legalization while working the harvest.
- Today, Governor Wilson has harsh rhetoric for illegal immigrants. But as a Senator, Wilson viewed illegal immigrants as hard-working, valuable assets to California's economy, saying "They are prey . . . to the Immigration authorities from whom these poor, work-seeking emigrants flee, with the terror of those who know they are about to lose their livelihood and be deported not to a country they do not wish to return to but at a time they do not wish to return."
- Moreover, during Wilson's first two years as Governor, his agenda did not include any effort to control or deter illegal immigration. It is only in the last two years, as he approached the upcoming election, that he has begun to sound the drumbeat against illegal immigration.

The White House
Washington

FAX COVER SHEET

OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

TO: CAROL PASCO

FAX No: _____

FROM: Steve Warnath

DATE: _____

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet) 7

COMMENTS:

*Carol - I hope this is
what you need.*



DRAFT -- DO NOT DISTRIBUTE -- FOR INTERNAL DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

ENFORCING EMPLOYER SANCTIONS TALKING POINTS

TWO GENERAL POINTS:

#1 -- WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE COMMISSION'S SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE TODAY. IT IS DIFFICULT AND IRRESPONSIBLE TO RESPOND IN DETAIL TO THESE RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT COMPLEX ISSUES WITHOUT A FULL REVIEW. THEREFORE, NOW THAT THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN RELEASED, WE WANT TO STUDY THEM CLOSELY AND LOOK TO IMPLEMENT THOSE THAT ARE FEASIBLE AND CONSISTENT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S OVERALL COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR FIGHTING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.

#2 -- EMPLOYER SANCTIONS IS ONLY ONE PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S LARGER COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO FIGHTING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

SPECIFIC POINTS:

- Employee verification is a serious problem -- The Clinton Administration is responding. Jobs in the United States is a powerful lure for illegal immigration. Employee verification was intended to solve this, but it is clear that the present system of employee verification has not worked well. It has been compromised by vast fraud and always unacceptable discrimination. The time has arrived to seriously address these problems.

The Administration will address three major problems: first, many employers have ignored the law and continue to hire aliens who are not authorized to work in the U.S.; second, there is now a brisk market in fraudulent documents to prove work authorization; and third, there is no reliable means for employers to ascertain if documents are valid and the job applicant is authorized to work. The following is our strategy:

- 1) Tough enforcement of employer sanctions -- targeting employers who abuse employer sanctions laws: We will focus our investigative resources on those industries that historically employ illegal labor.

- The INS will launch new investigations of industries that traditionally have been the worst violators of the sanctions law.

- INS will add new staff dedicated to employer sanction enforcement and free senior investigators to pursue cases involving organized counterfeiting activities and other more serious criminal violations.

- The Department of Labor will undertake a series of new initiatives for enforcement of

existing labor law violations, especially focusing on industries of historically high immigration violations.

2) **Eliminating fraudulent documents:** We will develop a better, more fraud-resistant work authorization verification strategy. We will move to make documents as tamper-resistant, counterfeit-proof, and cost effective as they can be.

- The Administration has taken action to reduce the number of documents from 29 to 16 in the next fiscal year. We will propose legislation next year to reduce the number of acceptable documents to four or five and to make them as tamper-resistant, counterfeit-proof, and cost effective as possible.

- We will add investigators and lawyers to combat document counterfeiters.

- The Administration will convene a process with States and localities impacted by this problem to address how to make state and local documents such as birth certificates and drivers licenses more fraud-resistant and to increase cooperation with federal efforts to enforce employer sanctions.

3) **Developing reliable, fast, & accurate verification**

- We will improve the relevant databases, particularly at INS, to ensure that employers can ascertain the employment authorization of job applicants quickly and easily. These efforts are already underway and they will be accelerated.

- We plan to expand testing of the telephone verification system for employers. To determine how best to address the complex issues of employee verification, the relevant Executive Departments and Agencies will test ways to improve the employment verification system under the law. They will be instructed to accelerate efforts to expand existing pilot programs that have shown promise and add small-scale pilots that will help us learn how to make employer sanctions effective. This will be a priority project of our reinventing government program.

PROTECTING OUR CITIZENS BY BATTLING DISCRIMINATION

The Administration is absolutely committed to stopping illegal immigration. But this cannot be done at the price of the civil rights and liberties of those lawfully within our borders. This Administration is concerned that employer sanctions enforcement can result in discrimination against citizens and legal immigrants who are or appear to be foreign-born. Thus, our

initiative will also include vigilant action to protect against discrimination and exploitation of workers. This includes:

- The Office of Special Counsel for immigration-related unfair employment practices will expand its efforts to investigate and prosecute employers who discriminate against "foreign-sounding" and "foreign-looking" work-authorized individuals.
- Education to end discrimination: We will increase the number of personnel and other resources to educate employers about the anti-discrimination requirements of the employer sanctions laws.

BACKGROUND ON ADMINISTRATION ACTION RE: EMPLOYER SANCTIONS ISSUE

In 1986 Congress passed the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA). IRCA required employers to hire only those persons who are legally authorized to work in the United States and instituted penalties for employers who employ illegal aliens. As a result of this law, employers are required to determine the immigration status of employees -- to verify that every applicant for employment is authorized to work in the United States.

This Administration already has instituted or expanded a number of programs designed to test, within the constraints of the system as currently funded, better ways to make the system fraud-resistant and protect all Americans from discrimination. For example:

- Phase I of a Telephone Verification System Pilot (TVS) has been successfully completed. This demonstration project enabled nine employers to verify the employment authorization of each newly hired alien employee by telephone. Employer response to Phase I of TVS was very positive, and a second phase is currently being developed involving more employers.
- Projects in five cities already offer employers a phone number that could be called to verify the validity of a Social Security number.
- New, more fraud-resistant "green" cards including the person's photograph, signature, fingerprint and other security measures are replacing older cards which lack these features.
- INS is working closely with the State of California to check immigration status for driver's license applicants.

- The Social Security Administration is testing and practicing new fraud-resistant practices including:
[insert]

- Federal prosecutors filed the first felony indictment issued under IRCA against an employer in Southern California for accepting fake Social Security, alien registration and temporary resident cards.

RE: NATIONAL I.D. CARD

The Administration and the Commission agree that we must reassess and significantly improve the present system for employment verification. There is also common ground in the Commission's recommendation for the development of a simpler, more fraud-resistant system for verifying aliens' authorization to work.

This Administration opposes a national identification card -- one that every individual within our border -- citizen or not -- would be required to carry at all times for multiple identification purposes and which would contain a photograph, fingerprints and other personal information. Current immigration law prohibits such a national identification card. We also oppose the establishment of a national citizens registry.

- Such a national identification card is not necessary to combat the problem of illegal immigration
- It is not fiscally responsible -- It would cost an enormous amount for all citizens
- A national citizen's database that would be queried for every work application, it would likely require the establishment of a large new bureaucracy
- There are privacy concerns involved with a national citizens registry.

006/007

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 - DC:DM to announce border checkpoint strategy at media availability - SD:Gus announcement on steps being taken to implement Gatekeeper: boat patrols, fingerprinting, etc. - SD/LA: AG satellite interviews - AG interview with LA Times	30 - DC/Jordan Press Club speech on Commission recommendations - SD/LA-AG interviews with radio on Gatekeeper	

09/28/94 19:33



OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 SD: Kick off Gatekeeper at night
2 SD: Gus debriefs media on 1st night of Gatekeeper	3 DC/SD: AG, DM and Gus have phone conversation on first 48 hours of operation. Possible AG statement of congratulations to BP agents and Gus.	4 DC: DM attends Bi-National Commission mtg	5 DC: INS oversight hearing. DM testifies Pres. Report to be issued?	6 DC: SCAAP regulations announced at AG briefing - DM at internal meeting	7 DM at internal meeting	8
9 -asylum regs ready this week	10 (Optional SD: DM to receive update on 1st week of Gatekeeper)	11 (Optional AZ: DM to Nogales)	12 SD: US Atty's border conference, DM to attend	13 (SD: USA's conference) <i>AG in San Diego</i>	14 (SD: USA's conference) -(optional-Border Technology event w/AG) - DM unavailable	15 - DM unavailable
16 -DM unavailable	17 (Optional SD: DM to receive update on first 2 wks of Gatekeeper)	18 (Optional AZ: DM to Nogales)	19	20 - DM internal meeting	21 - DM internal meeting	22
23	24	25	26	27 - INS FY 95 Resource allocation for each state to be ready	28 DC: DM scheduled for Press Club	29
30	31 Baltimore: Commissioners meeting					

DRAFT

TALKING POINTS ON IMMIGRATION COMMISSION REPORT

* We welcome the bipartisan commission's conclusion that this administration is on the right track with our strong emphasis on preventing illegal immigration at the border. Operation Gatekeeper, which was detailed today, will significantly curtail the entry of illegal aliens into the country.

* We support the commission's recommendation that the employer sanctions provision of existing law be more vigorously enforced. We have previously requested funds to do this and will continue to enhance our enforcement program.

* This administration recently filed the first criminal action against an employer for violating the 8-year old employer sanctions law, and we are adding personnel to conduct many more investigations and indictments in the future.

* We agree with the commission that two improvements are essential to efficiently and fairly enforce the employer sanctions law:

- Worker identification must be made fraud-proof and the number of acceptable documents must be limited to a more manageable number. We have already reduced the number from 29 to 16 and will propose legislation to reduce it to 3 or 4 next year. ~~We do not support a single, all-purpose national identity card. It is unnecessary, expensive, and bureaucratic.~~

- The reliability and accessibility of data bases that verify work authorization must be greatly improved. As recommended in the commission report, we will continue our efforts to modernize INS and other relevant data bases and significantly expand pilot projects to test phone-in verification systems.

* While upgrading our employer sanctions enforcement capability, we will also enhance our anti-discrimination efforts to ensure legal residents are not unfairly denied employment. The Office of Special Counsel and Department of Labor will significantly increase their investigatory capability.



U.S. COMMISSION ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 511

Washington, DC 20009-5708

TEL (202) 673-5348 • FAX (202) 673-5354

September 29, 1994

The Honorable Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
The White House
2nd Floor, West Wing
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Rasco:

I am pleased to forward a copy of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform's 1994 Report to Congress. The Commission recommends a comprehensive strategy to restore credibility to U.S. immigration policy and its implementation. The Commission urges steps that should further improve border management, reduce employment opportunities for illegal aliens, provide greater consistency between benefits policy and immigration policy, and speed the deportation of criminal aliens. This report has been adopted unanimously by our bipartisan Commission.

I appreciate the assistance and support that we have received from many members of your staff. In particular, we have benefited from the counsel of Kathy Way, Donsia Strong, and Steve Warnath.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and tackling the many difficult immigration issues that are still to be addressed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.

Barbara Jordan
Chair

White House Rejects Registry Idea By Immigration Panel, Officials Say

By Roberto Suro
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Clinton administration has rejected the major recommendation of a bipartisan commission to help contain the politically explosive issue of illegal immigration, administration officials said yesterday.

The recommendation to immediately create a massive computerized registry of persons eligible to work in the United States was presented in a report to Congress yesterday by the Commission on Immigration Reform. The panel's chairman, former representative Barbara Jordan (D-Tex.), was appointed by President Clinton.

The computer registry was the crucial element in the commission's plan to improve enforcement of the 1986 law prohibiting the employment of illegal immigrants, but a senior White House official said, "It is very premature to talk about a new mega database and the multibillion-dollar expense that it would entail."

Over the past year Clinton and senior administration officials have often previewed the commission report as a new blueprint for a long-range immigration strategy. The administration successfully held off demands for major legislation from both Democrats and Republicans in Congress this past year by arguing that any new initiative should await the report.

But rather than a consensus-building proposal, administration officials said the commission proposed an ambitious and expensive experiment that had provoked considerable controversy even before it was officially delivered.

Ethnic and immigrant groups complained that the commission's plans would not only be expensive and ineffective but would also heighten discrimination. Civil liberties organizations and some conservative intellectuals complained that the proposals would intrude on privacy rights and could lead to the creation of a national identity card.

The administration is now preparing the ground for its own legislative initiative next year, and officials said the commission's proposals will perform an important function. The administration will embrace the goals put forth in the commission report, the officials said, while producing its own specific policies to reach them.

"We agree with almost everything in the commission report," said a senior Justice Department official. "We share the commission's aims, but we recognize a need to test the means for achieving those aims, and we are not sure we'll reach the same conclusions they did."

Denying access to the workplace, the commission report said, "is the linchpin of a comprehensive strategy to reduce illegal immigration."

Attorney General Janet Reno said in a statement "we support the commission's recommendation that employer sanctions be enforced more vigorously." But, she made no mention of the commission's recommendation of a national registry of workers. Nor did she mention the commission's other major recommendation, which called for an array of pilot programs to test various methods of verifying a worker's identity—such as counterfeit-resistant Social Security cards and driver's licenses.

The commission concluded that enforcement of the law prohibiting illegal immigrants has been hampered by the difficulties that employers face in determining whether a job applicant is eligible to work based on citizenship or immigration status.

The commission argued that with a computerized registry of workers, employers could dial into a government computer and instantly know whether or not an individual was an illegal immigrant. Then, the employer would have to verify that the applicant is the same person that the computer has approved.

These problems have bedeviled policymakers for almost 20 years, since illegal immigration was first recognized as a problem. Confident that her commission had hit on the right formula, Jordan urged the president to move swiftly.

"The good news is that Congress doesn't have to do anything," Jordan said at a National Press Club luncheon. Arguing that Clinton has the authority to act immediately on his own she said, "if he wants to say 'we like

these recommendations, let's start the pilots,' he could start it tomorrow."

Instead, the administration responded with statements expressing interest in the commission's ideas but promising to explore them with programs already underway rather than by embracing the new proposals.

"Our approach will be one of steady progress and increments because we don't want to waste money and we want to make sure we get it right," said a White House official.

For example, the administration did accept the commission's goal of finding better ways to establish a job applicant's identity, but it did not suggest anything as grand as the issuance of new social security cards.

"Worker identification must be made more fraud-resistant," Reno said, "and the number of documents that can be used for employer verification must be reduced. We have already made some progress on this, and we will propose legislation next year to enable us to do more."

To a large extent the administration objections are based on the scale of the projects proposed by the commission. The new database would marry information from the Social Security Administration and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to eventually create files on each of the roughly 150 million persons eligible to work in the United States.

The pilot programs that the commission proposed launching immediately would encompass five of the nation's most populous states.

"When you launch pilots that cover California, Texas, New York, Illinois and Florida, you are not testing any more, you might as well be doing it for real because you will have affected so many people," said an administration official.

Doris Meissner, commissioner of the INS, said that the administration would merely expand an existing pilot program to experiment with 200 employers.

Comm. Staff said reporter called & said: Cox News Service running story
Lawrence Haas ←

At Least 5 Killed in Clashes as GIs Stand Aside

By William Booth
and Douglas Farah
Washington Post Foreign Service

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Sept. 30—Pro-military gunmen today fired rifles into a march of thousands marking the third anniversary of the coup that toppled president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, scattering his supporters and leaving at least five dead in ensuing street clashes.

HAITI, From A1

the presidency is the stated goal of the 12-day-old U.S. occupation. The U.S. troops appeared to stand aside, despite the most recent interpretation of their rules of engagement as allowing them to intervene to protect lives.

"They're killing us!" one man screamed, his shirt bloodied. "Please do something."

Col. Barry Willey, the U.S. Army spokesman here, said American forces by prior arrangement with the Haitian military were positioned on the outskirts of downtown, leaving the protection of the pro-Aristide march to the Haitian police—the marchers' archenemy.

"Our intention was to provide a cordon to allow the Haitian police to maintain order in an inner perimeter while we controlled the outer perimeter," Willey said. "Our mission was to control and deter, not control the inner workings of the march."

There were no Haitian policemen visible during the turmoil.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Stan Schrager lamented the loss of life today and expressed concern about the looting. Asked who was in charge of the Haitian police at this point, Schrager responded: "Nobody."

"It is clear we are going to have to do something about it," Schrager said. "We can't continue to allow the loss of life. That is a question we are looking at at the highest levels of our government. It is difficult to balance to what degree U.S. forces should get involved in situations like this."

U.S. forces earlier in the day occupied the main Haitian television studio, which had been under military control and had continued to broadcast strong anti-Aristide messages.

[President Clinton, who was briefed by advisers on the Haiti situation, has known from the beginning that the U.S. occupation would not be easy and is "pleased" that "by and large the progress has been good" despite outbreaks of violence, White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers told reporters in Washington.]

It seemed clear from the positioning of many U.S. troops in Port-au-Prince today that they fear not only violence against pro-Aristide demonstrators, but by them.

The demonstrators, waving Aristide posters, poured out of a Mass at the city's Notre Dame Cathedral this morning and formed a march when they clashed with armed men near a downtown bar that is a gathering spot of the violent anti-Aristide group known as FRAPH, or the Front for Advancement and Progress for Haiti. Skirmishes over the next several hours left at least four demonstrators and one pro-military gunman dead.

Hundreds of U.S. troops were located at strategic crossroads that would keep crowds from leaving the poorer downtown and moving toward the hillside villas and businesses of the political and business elite. While the U.S. soldiers apparently feared the marchers might go that way, they headed in the opposite direction, toward the cemetery.

"We were just trying to control the crowd so they didn't get unruly and destroy property," said Army Lt. Tony Haycock, whose platoon was stationed on John Brown Avenue, one of the main roads leading from the chaotic downtown to the wealthy suburb of Petionville. "We are trying to keep them tame."

A Haitian described as a military supporter was killed in the melee by a crowd that beat him with sticks and rocks, as an American news cameraman tried to save his life. The other four reported dead were demonstrators killed during a running series of clashes between the paramilitary gunmen and marchers,

some of whom were armed with sticks and rocks. One was shot five times in the head by a man wielding a World War II-vintage M-1 rifle, witnesses reported.

At least 10 more Haitians were reported wounded, and an American photographer, Lee Celano of Reuter, was slightly hurt when a bullet grazed his head.

Sporadic shooting by FRAPH members lasted four hours in the crowded streets a few blocks from the presidential palace. U.S. troops drove nearby once, then turned away. Near the end of the afternoon, humvees returned to the area, stayed about five minutes, and drove off again. The shooting resumed as soon as they left.

As the demonstration was taking place, a crowd of several hundred, in plain view of U.S. troops, began looting tons of food near the port. It was the most serious of the numerous instances of looting in the capital.

At the warehouse, with the words Cash and Carry painted on its facade, a crowd of people forced open the iron gates wide enough to begin squeezing through, then gouged a hole in the second-story wall to begin passing out bags of sugar, condensed milk and other food items.

As gunmen fired on the marchers, who had wandered from their planned route, dozens of U.S. troops were stationed blocks away in M551 Sheridan light tanks and humvee all-terrain vehicles. They did not intervene in the clashes nor did they stop knife-wielding looters from tearing apart a warehouse near the city port, about two miles from the demonstration.

The looting and the downtown clash underscored anew the ambi-

guity of U.S. soldiers' role which nominally is to work partner with the Haitian military but also includes protection of pro-Aristide crowds that are enemies.

Many pro-Aristide demonstrators asked why U.S. forces did not protect them today from the armed paramilitary gangs that have sworn to block the return of Aristide—whose reassumption of

See HAITI, A19, Col. 1

those inside dropped the goods to waiting relatives or friends, who stood by, wielding knives, machetes and clubs, to fight off other people desperate to scavenge the food or steal it from the original looters.

Some people said the Cash and Carry, one of dozens of cement-block warehouses that have been built since the 1991 coup by its leaders and their civilian supporters, was the property

of an army commander, Brig. Gen. Jean-Claude Dupraval.

Others said it belonged to former de facto prime minister Marc Bazin.

Both men are widely despised by the poor and hungry in the crowd fighting for food.

As three men holding a 100-pound sack of sugar stumbled out from the crowd, a fourth walked after them brandishing a knife.

Suddenly, two other men rushed those with the sugar, who fell to their knees. The man with the knife stood his ground, slashing one of the attackers on the arm.

"This is mine," the man with the knife shouted. "You people are thieves. Stand back."

The four then continued on their way unmolested.

As the crowds grew, scores of people shimmied up poles to the top of the building and began tearing the flat roof off, piece by piece, to get inside.

Others punched new holes in the wall to grab out sacks of goods.

U.S. troops in humvees patrolled the area regularly and twice stopped

to try to intervene before abandoning the efforts as futile.

At one point a group of about six humvees pulled up in front of the warehouse, and about a dozen U.S. military police jumped out, their M-16 automatic rifles at the ready.

They waded through the crowd to the door and those outside began to scatter. But those inside the building barely slowed down.

One man passed a bag of sugar through the gate, between a U.S. soldier's legs, to a companion on the other side.

The U.S. troops abandoned that effort, then came back about two hours later.

Again the humvees lined up, and again about a dozen MPs charged into the crowd.

But after a brief shoving match, a U.S. officer seemed to realize the futility of the mission.

"Mount up, mount up and let's get going," he shouted to the MPs.

Staff writer John F. Harris
contributed to this report.