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Folder ID Number: 13549-015

 Folder Title:

Immigration Bill Signing 11/29/90 [OA 6027]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	16	5	6

Make Changes

McNally/Simon
November 27, 1990
Draft 3 (B:IMMIGRNT.ACT)

90 NOV 28 PM 4:11

Becky Anderson

PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: IMMIGRATION BILL SIGNING
ROOSEVELT ROOM

o Congressional acknowledgements THURS., NOV. 29, 1990 2:30 p.m.

- o Today, I am pleased to sign S. 358 -- the Immigration Act of 1990 -- the most comprehensive reform of our immigration laws in 66 years.
- o Nearly all Americans have ancestors who braved the oceans -- liberty-loving risk takers in search of an ideal, the largest voluntary migrations in recorded history.
- o Across the Pacific, across the Atlantic, they came from every point on the compass, many passing beneath the Statue of Liberty -- with fear and vision, in sorrow and adventure, fleeing terror and tyranny, seeking haven and hope.
- o Now we stand again before an open door -- a door into tomorrow. Immigration reform began in 1986 with an effort to close the "back door" on illegal immigration. Now as we open the "front door" to increased legal immigration, this bill provides long-needed enforcement authority.
- o It also credits the special role of immigrants to America, and will promote a more competitive economy, respect for the family unit, and swift punishment for drugs and crime.
- o Immigration is not just a link to America's past -- it's also a bridge to America's future. This bill provides for a vital increases for entry on the basis of skills -- infusing the ranks of our scientists, engineers, and educators with new blood and new ideas.
- o It also boosts our war on drugs and crime, allowing us to send back alien offenders who threaten our streets -- and who occupy nearly a fourth of our Federal prisons. ^{population} It will help secure our borders -- the front lines of the drug war.
- o It also revises the "exclusion grounds" for the first time since enactment in 1952 -- putting an end to the kind of political litmus tests that might have excluded even some of the heroes of Eastern Europe's Revolution of '89.
- o This bill is good for families, good for business, good for crime-fighting, and good for America. We welcome both it -- and the generations of future Americans who it will bring in to strengthen our country. And now, I will sign into law the Immigration Act of 1990.

✓(Justice)

make up

✓(Justice)

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McNally/Simon
November 28, 1990
Draft 1 (B:IMMIGRNT.ACT)

90 OCT 28 P12:39

PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: IMMIGRATION BILL SIGNING
ROOSEVELT ROOM
THURS., NOV. 29, 1990 2:30 p.m.

- o Today, I am pleased to sign S. 358 -- the Immigration Act of 1990 -- the most comprehensive reform of our immigration laws in 66 years.
- o It recognizes the importance and contributions of immigrants to America. And it accomplishes a blending of family reunification with increased entry for skilled workers.
- o It meets several goals of our domestic agenda, enhancing: a more competitive economy, respect for the family unit, and swift and effective punishment for drugs and violent crime.
- o This bill provides for a significant increase for immigration on the basis of skills -- encouraging the immigration of scientists, engineers, and educators.
- o It also revises the "exclusion grounds" for the first time since their enactment in 1952 -- lifting unnecessary restrictions on who may enter.
- o Immigration reform began in 1986 with an effort to close the "back door" on illegal immigration. Now as we open the "front door" to increased legal immigration, this bill also provides needed enforcement authority.
- o It meets several objectives of our war on drugs and crime, providing for deportation of alien offenders who threaten the safety of our streets -- and comprise nearly a quarter of our Federal prison population. It also improves our ability to secure our borders -- the front lines of the war on drugs -- by clarifying the authority of Immigration officers to make arrests and carry firearms.
- o In signing this bill, I am concerned with the provision of S. 358 that creates a new form of relief known as "temporary protected status." I do not interpret it as detracting from any authority of the Executive branch to exercise prosecutorial discretion in suitable immigration cases.
- o This bill is good for families, good for business, good for crime-fighting, and good for America. We welcome both it -- and the generations of future Americans who it will bring in to strengthen our country. And now, I will sign into law the Immigration Act of 1990.

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