

SEPTEMBER 17, 1994

Address Los Angeles town Hall

Re Immigration Policy America's Immigration Policy Strengthening
America's Borders and Operation Gatekeeper

AG'S REMARKS TO THE BORDER PATROL

I am so pleased to be here with you today to personally thank you for the great jobs you all are doing protecting our border and to see firsthand the progress we are making in controlling illegal immigration.

I want to thank each of you for the part you are playing in our strategy to strengthen enforcement of our Nation's immigration laws. We are finally getting INS the resources and the modern enforcement tools you need to do your jobs well. Thank you for doing the best job possible under less than ideal circumstances.

The Administration has a tough, yet compassionate, immigration policy. It is a six-point plan to regain control of our borders, remove criminal aliens, reform our asylum system, enforce employer sanctions, revitalize the INS, and encourage legal immigrants to become naturalized citizens.

The recently-enacted crime bill will provide critical resources for INS to strengthen border control, expedite the deportation of criminal aliens, and reform the asylum system. It also includes enhanced criminal penalties for alien smuggling and for failing to depart or reentering after a final order of deportation.

Earlier today, I announced that we are launching "Operation Gatekeeper," an intensified border strategy to control illegal immigration in California. It will build on the efforts we have started over the last year, which already has begun to make a significant difference.

Now, I want to hear your suggestions, comments, and questions about our plan and how to make it work.