

# 'Look like America' means lots of things

The Associated Press

Bill Clinton says he wants his presidency to "look like America." But what does America look like these days?

It's a nation of 255 million people with hundreds of languages, thousands of agendas and millions of problems, a land so diverse it's a wonder anything gets done.

A full quarter of the populace comes from ethnic and racial minorities, and the white majority continues to give ground to Koreans, Filipinos, Hmong, Sri Lankans, Haitians and Guatemalans seeking the American dream.

Three-quarters of Americans live in urban areas, a mere 2.5 percent of the nation's land mass. Of 118 million in the civilian labor force, only 3 million still work on the farm.

Adding to urban strains, and the nation's vitality, are 20 million immigrants, one-fourth of whom arrived after 1985.

The median age of Americans is 33.1, compared to 18.9 in 1850 and 30.2 in 1950. One out of eight Americans is now 65 or older, and the aging of the nation previews more crises in health and Social Security programs.

The American male can now expect to live to age 72, females to 78.8.

The 4.2 million births in 1990 was almost double the 2.2 million deaths. Infant mortality was down from 12.6 per 1,000 births in 1980 to 10 in 1990, but America still trailed many industrial countries. Japan's rate was 5 per 1,000, Sweden's 6 per 1,000.

There were other unenviable realities. More than 500,000 babies were born to teen-agers, and more than 1 million births — 64 percent of black births — were to unwed mothers. There are about 1.6 million abortions every year, four for every 10 live births.

There were 2.4 million marriages in 1990, but also 1.2 million

divorces, and reflecting evolving social mores, 2.9 million unmarried couples.

The typical household has 2.63 members, down from 3.33 in 1960. That's partly a result of the 9.7 million households, 28 percent of the total, with single parents.

Helping fill the space were 52 million dogs and 55 million cats.

Young Americans still see higher education as the key to success, and 21 percent of those over 25 have completed college.

More than 14 million people are studying at 3,500 institutions of higher learning.

But annual tuition — not including room and board — at four-year private schools topped \$10,000 in 1990.

College can be an expensive gamble when the educated have become a very visible part of the nation's 7.3 percent without jobs.

Among Americans seeking the good life are 1.8 million engineers, 575,000 doctors, 4 million noncol-

lege teachers, 77,000 professional athletes, 744,000 lawyers, 1.4 million waiters and waitresses, 870,000 police and detectives and 2.1 million janitors and cleaners.

Nearly 60 percent of the 56.9 million women in the labor force are working, and 7.2 million people have more than one job.

With their earnings, Americans spent \$257 billion in 1990 for recreation, including \$52.5 billion on video, audio and computer equipment, and \$28.3 billion on toys and sports supplies.

Americans owned 132 million vehicles, hitting those 38,000 shopping centers around the country on their way to piling up 2 trillion miles on the road every year.

Clinton won't have to worry about putting a chicken in most pots. The average American consumed 49 pounds of chicken in 1990, up from 28 pounds in 1970.

Meanwhile, red meat consumption dropped from 132 pounds in 1970 to 112 pounds in 1990.

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