

Statement on Signing the National Gambling Impact Study Commission Act

August 3, 1996

Today I have signed into law H.R. 497, the "National Gambling Impact Study Commission Act." This legislation will establish a Commission to conduct a comprehensive study of the social and economic impacts of gambling in the United States.

The Commission will help draw attention to the growth of the gambling industry and its consequences. Too often, public officials view gambling as a quick and easy way to raise revenues, without focusing on gambling's hidden social, economic, and political costs. The Commission will report on all of the effects of gambling to the President and the Congress.

The Commission's study will address various types of betting, whether conducted in a casino, on a riverboat, on the Internet, on an Indian reservation, or anywhere else in the United States. In addition, the study will address gambling sponsored by governmental, commercial, philanthropic, or charitable entities. Such a bal-

anced study will be invaluable to public officials as they make policy decisions concerning this important issue.

The legislation grants the Commission limited subpoena authority to get the information it needs to carry out its purpose, while protecting the privacy of individuals and businesses. The bill also authorizes the Commission to request information from any Federal agency, which may use its discretion and judgment in withholding privileged and sensitive information.

My Administration supported the establishment of this Commission, and I am pleased to sign this bill into law.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
August 3, 1996.

NOTE: H.R. 497, approved August 3, was assigned Public Law No. 104-169.

Statement on Signing Legislation on Most-Favored-Nation Trade Status for Romania

August 3, 1996

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 3161, authorizing the termination of the application of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 to Romania. Under the provisions of this bill, the President may grant permanent most-favored-nation (MFN) status to Romania.

This is an important milestone in U.S.-Romanian relations. Romania now joins other emerging democracies in Central Europe from which the United States has fully removed trade restrictions that originated in concerns about emigration practices during the Cold War. My approval of this bill reflects the strong U.S. support for the citizens of Romania in their efforts to overcome the legacy of decades of communist repression and to establish a full democracy based on respect for human rights, the rule of law, tolerance, and free market economics.

This legislation enjoys strong bipartisan support in the United States, and I note that the granting of permanent MFN has the support of many Romanian leaders across the political spectrum.

Romania's excellent record in respecting the right of free emigration, its considerable progress in establishing the fundamentals of a free market democracy and its strong cooperation with the United States helped facilitate passage of this bill. I am confident that Romania, as it proceeds toward integration with the Western democratic community, will continue its progress and intensify efforts to make democratic, free market reforms, develop good relations with its democratic neighbors and reach out to Romania's ethnic and religious minorities.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON