

# Cloning limit urged

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## Panel seeks ban on copying humans

REUTERS

WASHINGTON - A US ethics panel yesterday recommended legislation to ban the cloning of entire human beings but allow private cloning of human embryos for research.

The National Bioethics Advisory Commission said the law should not allow these cloned embryos to be implanted into women's wombs to make viable babies, a source familiar with the recommendations said.

President Clinton asked the advisory group in February to review the legal and ethical ramifications of cloning after scientists in Scotland cloned a lamb using a cell from an adult sheep.

The 18-member commission consisted of scientists, lawyers, and theologians.

Clinton in March had already banned federal funding of human cloning work, broadening his 1994 prohibition of government-funded human embryo research.

The panel's proposal would extend that human cloning ban to in-

clude privately funded work but leaves in place the current policies allowing private embryo research.

A pharmaceutical industry group welcomed the recognition of the importance of genetic research but said any law against cloning complete human beings should be narrowly defined.

"Any legislative prohibition on the cloning of entire human beings must not jeopardize biomedical research that involves the cloning of human genes, cells or tissues," the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America said in a statement.

But Senator Christopher Bond, a Missouri Republican, said the bioethics commission left the door wide open to future cloning.

"I had hoped that the federal ethics commission would not be afraid to make a strong moral statement that human cloning is wrong, period and should be banned," he said in a statement.