

Opposing Viewpoints: The Introduction

Imagine the end of World War II where refugees of the world were seeking safety and security, a new start in life. For many that would include immigrating to a new country. The United States played a pivotal role in the relocation of war refugees, but by 1951 the question switched from helping refugees to providing for the national security of the nation. In October 1951, Senator Pat McCarran and Congressman Francis Walter proposed a controversial bill to revise the immigration regulations for the United States.

Using the documents provided, analyze the characteristics of the various groups. What do they have in common? What reasons would they oppose or support the McCarran-Walter Bill? Try to recall historical context to help justify why a group would support or oppose the bill.

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|---|--|
| Organizations in support of passing the McCarran-Walter Bill | What circumstances might have led to group supporting the passage of the McCarran-Walter Bill? |
| | |
| Organizations against the passage of the McCarran-Walter Bill | What circumstances might have led to groups opposing the passage of the McCarran-Walter Bill? |
| | |

Questions to consider:


Why would Americans be in favor of more restrictive immigration regulations?

Why would Americans be opposed to the proposed changes to the immigration regulations?

How much will their beliefs play a part in the debate over the new immigration proposals?

Hook Source #1: Organizations against McCarran-Walter Act


Source Information: Excerpt letter from Herman Edelsberg to President Harry S. Truman with attachment, with a Reply from Matthew J. Connelly, June 17, 1952. Truman Papers, Official File. OF 133: Immigration. pg.3

Earl G. Harrison ✓
x
American Friends Service Committee, Clarence E. Pickett x
x 721
Lutheran Resettlement Service of the National Lutheran Council, Dr. Robert
x
Van Deusen
x
Americans for Democratic Action 
x
American Veterans Committee, Michael Straight
x 1142
x American Jewish Committee, Jacob Blaustein ✓
x American Jewish Congress, Rabbi Israel Goldstein ✓
x
B'nai B'rith, Frank Goldman x
x Order Sons of Italy in America, L. H. Pasqualicchio, National Deputy x 233 Misc
x Czechoslovak National Council, Andrew Valuchek, Vice President x 317 Misc
x Puerto Rican-Spanish Organizations, Dr. Jose N. Cesteros, President x 400 P.R. Misc
x Chinese-American Citizens National Association, George Chintong, President x NO Misc
x Ukrainian-American Congress, Steven Jarema, Executive Director x 1029 Misc
x Polish Legion of American Veterans, George L. Mark, National Commander x 463 Misc
x American Hungarian Federation, Aloysius Z. Falussy x 226 Misc
x Lithuanian American Council, John Grigalus x 314 Misc
x

Hook Source #2: Organizations in favor of McCarran-Walter Act

Source Information: Excerpt document from Maurice Thatcher & Welburn Mayock letter in support with Statement in regard to the McCarran-Walter Omnibus Immigration and Naturalization Bill to President Harry S. Truman, June 12, 1952. Truman Papers, Official File: Immigration. Pg.5

Mrs. John Hall Axford, Patriotic Women of America
Charles E. Babcock, Junior Order United American Mechanics
Nagene Campbell Bethune, National Society for Constitutional Security
Brig. Gen. M. B. Curtis, National Sojourners
Dr. Maude S. Deland, Wheel of Progress
Charles E. Foster, Disabled American Veterans
Rear Admiral William Rea Furlong, USN (Ret.), Military Order of World Wars, National Sojourners, Sons of American Revolution
Gen. U. S. Grant, III, Military Order of the Loyal Legion
Mrs. Ernest W. Howard, American Legion Auxiliary
Arthur Jack Janelli, Regular Veterans Association
Mrs. William D. Leetch, National Society of New England Women, National Society Women Descendants of Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company
Mrs. James C. Lucas, Daughters of the American Revolution
Mike Masaoka, Japanese American Citizens League
Welburn Mayock, American President Lines
Charles H. Michaelson, Junior Order United American Mechanics, State Council of New Jersey
Hon. Hugh Mitchell, Patriotic Order Sons of America
Gardner Osborn, American Coalition
Miss May Phelps, Service Star Legion
Harold L. Putnam, Sons of the American Revolution
M. H. Thatcher, American Coalition
Orville H. Walburn, Sons of the American Revolution
Mrs. Flora A. Walker, American Coalition
J. B. Wilson, National Wool Growers
Mrs. Margaret Hopkins Worrell, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, Wheel of Progress
A. A. Zoll, Society of the War of 1812



Background Essay on Immigration Policy

National Origins Quota Act of 1924

The United States has debated immigration policy all the way back to its founding days. During periods of fear and tension the nation has often resorted to restricting immigration. One such example was the **Immigration Act of 1924**, which was signed into law on May 26, 1924 by President Calvin Coolidge. The aftermath of WWI featured both an economic recession and fears of communism. Restricting immigration seemed to make sense during this time of uncertainty.



This law also established the principle of **immigration quotas** based upon a person's nationality. It restricted the number of immigrants to the United States from a given country to 2% of that group's population in the nation. The new quota system was based on records from the 1890 census instead of current population numbers. This calculation favored those people from North-Western Europe, ensuring that the majority of immigration visas would be issued to immigrants from Britain, Ireland, Germany, and Scandinavia, instead of those from Eastern Europe or other areas of the world. The law completely excluded Arab and Asian immigrants, which infuriated the nation of Japan. It also frustrated many American citizens, such as Representative Robert H. Clancy, a Congressman from Detroit, Michigan, who called the Quota Act, "a racially discriminatory and un-American" policy.

Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (McCarran-Walter Act)

Immigration policy wasn't closely examined again until after WWII. New legislation was introduced in 1952 by Democrats Pat McCarran and Francis Walter. This McCarran-Walter Act was officially named the **Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952** and had several provisions. Perhaps most importantly, the Act continued the quota system put in place in 1924, this time basing quotas on the 1920 census. These quotas continued preferences for immigrants from Northern and Eastern European nations while greatly limiting immigrants from other parts of the world. The 1952 Act also encouraged immigrants who had special skills or who were relatives of American citizens.

The 1952 bill was passed during a time of anxiety in the United States. Since the end of WWII, the US had already become engaged in an ideological conflict with the Soviet Union. By 1952, Joseph McCarthy had launched his crusade against communists in the US government, Truman's loyalty program had been in effect for five years, and Truman and McCarran had already sparred with each other over the 1950 McCarran Internal Security Act. An essential goal of the proposed immigration law was to ensure that un-American or subversive individuals did not enter the United States. Under this new law, all immigrants would be screened for past participation in communist organizations.

Truman's Decision

The bill passed both houses of Congress during the spring of 1952. President Truman received considerable feedback over the next few weeks from American citizens on both sides of the immigration debate. Like today, diverse groups of Americans held widely different beliefs about the topic, some focused on concerns about national security and others motivated by humanitarian crises across the world in the wake of World War II. Truman had a tough decision to make, knowing that he would upset citizens no matter what stance he took. Look at the documents gathered and make your own conclusion. **Did the benefits of the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1952 outweigh the costs for the American people?**

| Year | Event/ Legislation | Impact |
|------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1882 | Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 | 1st federal immigration law suspended Chinese immigration for 10 years and barred Chinese in U.S. from citizenship. |
| 1885 | Contract Labor Law | Unlawful to import unskilled aliens from overseas as laborers. Regulations did not pertain to those crossing land borders. |
| 1891 | Bureau of Immigration established | Established under the Treasury Department, more classes of alien restricted including those who were monetarily assisted by others for their passage. |
| 1892 | Opening of Ellis Island | Open to screen immigrants entering on the East Coast. (Angel Island open in 1910, West Coast) |
| 1917 | U.S. Enters World War I | April 1917, U.S. enters World War I in response to the Zimmerman Note & violation of Sussex Pledge. |
| 1917 | Immigration Act of 1917 | Literacy Test for individuals 16 or older, established "Asiatic Barred Zone," barring all immigrants from Asia. |
| 1919 | Red Scare/Palmer Raids | Social unrest after WWI led to the Palmer Raids of 1919 and 1920. This was took place during the Red Scare, an attempt to arrest foreign communists, leftists, and radicals, many of whom were subsequently deported. |
| 1924 | National Origins Quota Act of 1924 | It established the principle of immigration quotas based upon a person's nationality. The new law restricted the number of immigrants from a given country to 2% of the number of residents from that same country living in the United States using the 1890 census. It restricted immigration from Southern Europe, Eastern Europe and from Asia. |
| 1929 | Stock Market Crash | Crash of the Stock Market on Wall Street, one of the causes of the Great Depression. |
| 1939 | World War II begins | Germany invades Poland, Sept, 1, 1939, beginning World War II. The U.S. will enter officially Dec. 8, 1941. |
| 1940 | Alien Regulatory Act | Required immigrants 14 or older to register with the federal government and be fingerprinted. |
| 1945 | End of World War II | The unconditional surrender of Germany and Japan. |
| 1948 | Displaced Persons Act | Open the emigration of 205,000 refugees over 2 years with priority to Baltic State refugees. Accepted as quota immigrants status. |

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|------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1949 | China falls to Communism | The People's Republic of China (PRC) was created on Oct. 1, 1949 thus ending the civil war between the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the Nationalist Party which broke out immediately following World War II. This led to the U.S. suspending diplomatic ties with China. |
| 1950 | Internal Security Act | Permits the deportation of immigrants who have shown to been a member of the Communist Party at any time of their life. |
| 1952 | Immigration & Nationality Act | Eliminated race as a barrier to immigration or citizenship. |
| 1961 | Berlin Wall | The Berlin Wall was a guarded concrete barrier that divided Berlin from 1961 to 1989. The Berlin Wall was the defining symbol of the Cold War, separating families and keeping the people from jobs and opportunity in the west |
| 1965 | Hart-Celler Act | Abolish national origins quotas, and established separate ceilings for the Eastern & Western Hemisphere. Categories: Family ties, Critical skills, artistic excellence, and refugee status. |
| 1986 | Immigration Reform & Control Act | Amnesty for many illegal aliens and sanctions for employers hiring illegals. |
| 1990 | Immigration Act of 1990 | Limited unskilled workers to 10,000 a year, skilled labor requirements and immediate family reunify was a major goal. |

Source 1

Excerpt: Memorandum, "Summary of McCarran-Walter Omnibus Immigration Bill", June 11, 1952. Truman Papers, Lloyd Files. Immigration Letters and Memorandum.

I. Immigration

Among other changes in existing law the pending bill would:

1. Limit all future immigration to the United States to immigrants of "high education, technical training, specialized experience, or exceptional ability" who are "needed urgently in the United States" (Sec. 203(a)), and to parents of adult citizens, and spouses or children of admitted immigrants, except to the degree that unused visas, if any, under these categories may be used for immigrants without such special qualifications.
2. Eliminate college and university professors from the class of quota-exempt immigrants (Sec. 101(a)(27)(F)).
3. Change immigration quotas for Jamaica and other British colonies from the never filled United Kingdom quota of 65,721 to a special quota of 100 for each such colony, thus drastically curtailing colored immigration and repudiating the "national origin" pattern. [Sec. 202(c)]
4. Establish a special inferior status for any person "attributable by as much as one-half of his ancestry" to Asiatic races (including Filipinos who are exempt from racial bars under existing law), regardless of the citizenship or country of birth of such person, and exclude such persons from the quotas of the countries in which they are native-born citizens. [Sec. 202(b)]
5. Require American consuls to follow the decisions of courts of foreign nations in excluding immigrants from admission to the United States, thus making Nazi or Communist court convictions a bar against entry, even if the offense involved no "moral turpitude" by American standards. (A violator of Communist or Nazi "non-political" laws, if sentenced to a five-year prison term, becomes ineligible to enter the U.S.A.) [Sec. 212(a)(10)]
6. Bar skilled or unskilled laborers (including quota exempt immigrants from the Western Hemisphere and even non-immigrant visitors), unless rigid tests are met establishing the inadequacy of domestic labor. [Sec. 101(a)(15) and sec. 212(a)(14)]
7. Bar all immigrants who, in the opinion of a consular officer, are "likely at any time to become public charges" (i.e., anybody who is not a skilled or unskilled worker). [Sec. 212(a)(15)]
8. Bar anti-Communists and other anti-totalitarians, who were members of democratic organizations which were later taken over by a totalitarian group, even though they resigned as soon as the totalitarians took control. [Sec. 212(a)(28)(C)(vi)]
9. Bar most aliens who, in order to protect themselves against racial, religious, or political persecution, make material misstatements in their visa applications. [Sec. 212(a)(19)]
10. Allow minimum quotas for various Asiatic countries (while subjecting persons born in the Western Hemisphere to "ancestry" quotas). [Sec. 202(b)]
11. Allow immigration by members of totalitarian groups who reformed before entry [Sec. 212(a)(28)(I)], while requiring deportation of those who reform after entry [Sec. 241(a)(6)]
12. Extend to alien husbands the same immigration privileges now allowed to alien wives. [Sec. 202(a)(2)]
13. Abdicate to the President the power to abolish, curtail, or suspend all immigration, or even the temporary entry of non-immigrant visitors, in peacetime as well as wartime. [Sec. 212(e)]

Using Source 1

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| <p>Sourcing Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Even government documents reflect the point of view of their creator. Does the creator of this source seem to agree or disagree with the McCarran Immigration Bill? How do you know? | |
| <p>Contextualization Questions-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Notice the date of the source. Where does this source fit in the timeline of the bill?2. How does historical context help explain which immigrants are limited based on this bill? | |
| <p>Corroboration Tasks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Make connections between this document and source #10. Are the ideas in these two sources consistent? | |
| <p>Close Reading Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What specific regions are mentioned in this report?2. How would the McCarran Immigration Bill affect each region?3. What other concerns are mentioned in the source for potential immigrants?4. What immigrants are seen as “more desirable”? | |

Source 2

Memorandum from Attorney General James McGranery to Frederick J. Lawton with Attachment, June 17, 1952. Truman Papers, White House Bill File. June 25, 1952 (H. R. 5678)

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Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

JUN 17 1952

Honorable Frederick J. Lawton
Director, Bureau of the Budget
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Lawton:

In compliance with Mr. Jones' request of June 11, 1952, I have had examined a facsimile of the enrolled bill (H.R. 5678) "To revise the laws relating to immigration, naturalization, and nationality; and for other purposes."

The bill would codify and to some extent revise existing laws relating to immigration, naturalization, and nationality.

While numerous criticisms have been advanced concerning the measure, such criticisms to a considerable extent have been directed at the failure of the measure to effect basic changes in existing law. It is assumed that as far as existing law is concerned, the criticisms, valid or otherwise, should not affect the question of whether approval should be given the measure since disapproval would have no effect on existing law.

In so far as it codifies existing law, the bill unquestionably is desirable and includes a number of provisions which are generally regarded as improvements over existing law. Among such provisions are those which would eliminate existing racial bars to immigration and naturalization and the provisions which would eliminate existing sex discriminations.

It must be conceded that the bill does contain some provisions that might well be considered as objectionable. It is the opinion of this Department, however, that the objections to these provisions are not of such weight as would justify withholding approval of the measure which, as a whole, is believed to be an improvement upon existing law.

Accordingly, the Department of Justice finds no objection to the approval of the bill.

Sincerely,

James F. McGranery
Attorney General



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Using Source 2

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| <p>Sourcing Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. From what agency of the government does this source come? What is the role of that agency?2. Does the creator of this source seem to agree or disagree with the McCarran Immigration Bill? How do you know? | |
| <p>Contextualization Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Notice the date of the source. Where does this source fit in the timeline of the bill? | |
| <p>Corroboration Tasks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. This source mentions “numerous criticism” of the bill. Find a document that mentions some of these criticisms. How might the author of that document respond to the Attorney General? | |
| <p>Close Reading Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. For what purpose was this letter created?2. What concerns about the McCarran Bill does this source mention?3. What “improvements over existing law” does this source mention? | |

Source 3

Senator Pat McCarran, Cong. Rec., March 2, 1953, p. 1518

“I believe that this nation is the last hope of Western civilization and if this oasis of the world shall be overrun, perverted, contaminated or destroyed, then the last flickering light of humanity will be extinguished. I take no issue with those who would praise the contributions which have been made to our society by people of many races, of varied creeds and colors. ... However, we have in the United States today hard-core, indigestible blocs which have not become integrated into the American way of life, but which, on the contrary are its deadly enemies. Today, as never before, untold millions are storming our gates for admission and those gates are cracking under the strain. The solution of the problems of Europe and Asia will not come through a transplanting of those problems en masse to the United States. ... I do not intend to become prophetic, but if the enemies of this legislation succeed in riddling it to pieces, or in amending it beyond recognition, they will have contributed more to promote this nation's downfall than any other group since we achieved our independence as a nation.”

Using Source 3

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| <p>Sourcing Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Senator Pat McCarran (NV) is the creator of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952. Research McCarran to find out more about him.2. What is the point of view of Pat McCarran regarding immigration and national security issues.3. Describe the tone of this source. What words/phrases help you make this conclusion? | |
| <p>Contextualization Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Notice the date of the source. Where does this source fit in the timeline of the bill? How does that timing impact the meaning of the quote? | |
| <p>Corroboration Tasks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Make connections with the point of view expressed in this quote with the provisions of the bill as described in Source #1.2. What other sources might express the point of view of Senator McCarran? | |
| <p>Close Reading Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What words/phrases did McCarran use to describe his concerns about immigration?2. What did McCarran mean when he used the words “last flicker of humanity” in this quote? | |

Source 4

Letter from Phyllis Craig to President Harry S. Truman, June 26, 1952. Truman Papers, Official File. OF 133: Immigration.

Dear Mr Truman:

We feel very bad that you saw fit to override that fine Bill of the able Senator from Nevada, the Honorable Pat McCarren, for we know that it means the defeat of a very fine instrument meant beyond doubt to aid our country.

On the otherhand we know that you defeated it to gain votes and fill our once fine country with morons and other unworthies who are here in large numbers through lax immigration laws to get all they can out of America and bring nothing but filth and self interest.

Some day when able men of moral stamina and the sort of patriotism America was founded upon take over this Bill will have its place in the sun and it cannot come too soon for every red blooded citizen.

Very truly yours:

Phyllis Craig

June the twenty-sixth.

1952

(Phyllis CRAIG (?))

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Using Source 4

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| <p>Sourcing Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Source 4 is a letter to President Truman by a concerned citizen, how might that influence its tone and purpose?2. Does the author of this source seem to agree or disagree with the McCarran Immigration Bill? How do you know? | |
| <p>Contextualization Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. When and where was the document created?2. Where does this source fit in the timeline of the bill? | |
| <p>Corroboration Tasks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Make connections with the point of view expressed in this letter with the statements made by Senator McCarran in source 3. | |
| <p>Close Reading Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What does the author of the letter mean when she mentions that President Truman “saw fit to override the bill?”2. How could the author have restated the statement to correctly show an understanding of the checks and balance system? | |

Source 5

Rabbi Max H. Leader et al. to President Harry S. Truman with a Reply from William Hassett, May 28, 1952. Truman Papers, Official File. OF 133: Immigration.

CHEYENNE, WYOMING

12/20
President of the United States
Mr. Harry Truman
White House
Washington, D.C.

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Burgess
(HR 5679)
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5-28-52
WHL

Dear Mr. President:

In our opinion Walter's Omnibus Immigration Bill represents de-
parture from Fundamental American Principles regarding Hearings, Appeals
and Human Rights to live in Freedom and security. Not only is this depart-
ure a serious threat to the liberty of individuals who struggle for the
freedom our immigrant fathers fought for, but also it represents a trend
which if continued, may seriously impair other liberation of policies to in-
dividuals without judicial supervision is repugnant to our basic American
philosophy. They will undoubtedly result in cruel, harsh, arbitrary and in-
humane consequences to individuals and their families and stifle the free-
dom and opportunities for which our country has so long fought and of which
it has been for so long proud. Removal of political asylum, arbitrary re-
strictions on immigration and residence of refugees seeking sactuary from
beyond the iron curtain countries will cause untold grief to citizen' re-
latives. They are bound to affect adversely procedures of our country in
its international relations especially with liberations movements abroad. To
spend millions for the Voice of America and to deny living proof that our
voice is backed by an act to encourage worldwide freedom and democracy would
have our words of heart and encouragement to unfortunate crusaders for free-
dom, fall on doubtful ears, further restrictions of the Quota System would
seriously impair the influx of highly desirable persons whose ancestors in
the past have now contributed greatly to the integration and further expansion
of a democratic way of life in business, industry, commerce, and intell-
ectual pursuite at home and abroad. As the world's greatest deomocracy and
arsenal of all democratic intellectual and religious freedom it should be
made available physically as well as in theory and not to be restricted by
pure academic democracy. We should welcome the sincere freedom loving in-
dividuals of the whold world to live, worship and contribute in a society
which will then be living proof that opportunity, democracy and security can
and do exist in the sorry world. Because of the forgoing and complicated
character of the Walter's Bill we resepectfully suggest that it be recommi-
tted to a House-Committee for a thorough reconsideration of its contents
and implications.



x76-C Rabbi Max H. Leader
Mt. Sinai Synagogue
x76-A Ray P. Borgwardt Minister
First Christian Church
Bush (?) Art Quady Regional Comm. AVC
illegible Sined - B.W. Minister FIRST CONGREGATIONAL Church x1142
Frank E. Tuckey President
Wyoming State Federation of Labor

Using Source 5

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|---|--|
| <p>Sourcing Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Describe the tone of this source. What words/phrases help you make this conclusion?2. The author of this source is a Rabbi. What is a Rabbi? How might this role influence the things that he cares about?3. Why was this source written? How do you know? | |
| <p>Contextualization Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Notice the date of the source. Where does this source fit in the timeline of the bill?2. What historical context explains the concerns mentioned in this source for individuals in other parts of the world?3. Refer to the background essay. What is the Quota system referred to in this source? | |
| <p>Corroboration Tasks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Compare this source to other letters to President Truman. Compare and contrast the tone of these letters. What do you notice? | |
| <p>Close Reading Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is the author of this source trying to convince the reader to do?2. What words or phrases are used to support the author's perspective?3. How does this person feel about the Quota System?4. What does the author mean when he used the words "repugnant to our basic American philosophy?" | |

Source 6

Excerpt of Memorandum from Harry N. Rosenfield to President Harry S. Truman with Attachment, June 12, 1952. Truman Papers, White House Bill File. June 25, 1952 (H. R. 5678) [1 of 2 with attachment].

DISPLACED PERSONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 12, 1952

Memorandum for the President



Recommendation for Veto of H.R. 5678

I recommend and urge that you veto H.R. 5678, the McCarran-Walter Immigration Bill, as being highly prejudicial to the best interests of the United States. It would be a repudiation of all you have accomplished, over Senator McCarran's bitter opposition, on the Displaced Persons program.

My reasons for urging veto of this un-American bill are that it would:

(1) grievously jeopardize the rights and status of displaced persons and others already admitted under the Displaced Persons Act.

It would subject such persons to the very kind of un-American type of police-state controls which made them flee originally.

(2) move at absolute cross-purposes to the proposals in your Message of March 24, 1952, for a liberalized three-year emergency immigration program to admit 300,000 refugees from communism and victims of European overpopulation.

Whatever good-will in Europe your program would bring will be dissipated by this McCarran Bill in the same way McCarran's Internal Security Act shocked all of Europe and lost us friends.

There are many other valid, and even more persuasive, reasons for veto, such as discrimination against Asiatics and West Indians, to name only several. However, I am limiting my observations to the evil effect of H.R. 5678 upon the Displaced Persons program and upon your splendid Message.

H.R. 5678 is an anti-immigration bill. On January 8, 1951, Senator McCarran called for a complete ban on all immigration into the United States. On January 29, 1951, he introduced S. 716 which is the basis for H.R. 5678. It is an indirect attempt, camouflaged by 300 pages of gobbledegook, to accomplish the original purpose to stop all immigration.

After the short-lived Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, Thomas Jefferson in his First Message to Congress, in 1801, asked:

"Shall we refuse to the unhappy fugitives from distress . . . hospitality? Shall oppressed humanity find no asylum on this globe?"

Un-American immigration bills incorporating several of the milder exclusionary provisions of this bill were vetoed by Presidents Cleveland, Taft and Wilson.

Some seem to think that Senator McCarran is willing to make a "deal", that he will "consider" your special program, without any specific commitment, if there be no veto of his bill. Despite my deep interest in your Message and special program, I still recommend and urge that you veto H.R. 5678. This recommendation is made personally, and not on behalf of the Displaced Persons Commission.

I am attaching a brief list of section citations in proof of my views that H.R. 5678 adds new provisions, not presently in the law, that would seriously endanger persons already admitted under the Displaced Persons Act.

Respectfully submitted,



Harry N. Rosenfield
Harry N. Rosenfield
Commissioner

Attachment

Using Source 6

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| <p>Sourcing Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Describe the tone of this source. What words/phrases help you make this conclusion?2. What/who is the Displaced Persons Commission? | |
| <p>Contextualization Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Notice the date of the source. Where does this source fit in the timeline of the bill?2. What historical context explains the concerns mentioned in this source for individuals in other parts of the world?3. The source mentions the Alien and Sedition Act of 1798. What is the connection with that law? | |
| <p>Corroboration Tasks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Make connections between the ideas expressed in this source with the goals and purposes of the Displaced Persons Act of 1948. | |
| <p>Close Reading Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is the author of this source trying to convince the reader to do?2. The source refers to Immigration Bill as “gobbledygook”. Why do you think this word was used? What is the intent of using this word?3. What does the source say about the effect of the Immigration Bill on displaced persons? | |

Source 7

Letter from Leonard H. Pasqualicchio to President Harry S. Truman with Attachments, June 4, 1952. Truman Papers, Official File. OF 133: Immigration.

GEORGE J. SPATUZZA
SUPREME VENERABLE

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HR 5678
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SUPREME LODGE

FILED BY
MR. HOPKINS
JUL 9 1952

ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA

X OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL DEPUTY

WASHINGTON, D. C.

EXECUTIVE 8280

LEONARD H. PASQUALICCHIO
NATIONAL DEPUTY

June 4, 1952

SUITE 410 ATLANTIC BLDG.
930 F STREET, NORTHWEST

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The Honorable Harry S. Truman, President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

For the past three weeks the McCarran-Walter Omnibus Immigration Bills have been debated and passed in the Senate and House of Representatives. It is a most unfortunate thing when legislation of such importance should be approved without proper study by the Members of Congress.

I would venture to say, Mr. President, that approximately seventy-five per cent of the members of the United States Senate who voted for the McCarran Bill have not read it, and therefore are not familiar with its vicious and un-American provisions. The bill is so complex that it poses questions of our basic national philosophy. It also poses questions of laws, of justice, and civil liberties. It threatens to disrupt our foreign policy and our internal security and will seriously weaken the United States in the cold war against Communist aggression.

It is the general opinion of our Supreme Officers and the officers and members of over twenty-two hundred lodges in thirty-five States of the Union that the McCarran Bill should not have been passed by the United States Senate.

Being familiar with your personal interest in the problems of over-population in foreign countries and according to your declaration to the United States Congress on March 24, 1952, we are certain that you are not in sympathy with legislation of this character and we, therefore, urgently recommend that you veto the McCarran Bill.

Respectfully yours,



Leonard H. Pasqualicchio
L. H. PASQUALICCHIO
National Deputy



Using Source 7

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Sourcing Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is the purpose of this letter?2. Who wrote the letter and what was the purpose of it?3. What was the function/goal of the Order Sons of Italy in America? | <p>www.osia.org</p> |
| <p>Contextualization Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. When was the document written?2. Where does this source fit in the timeline of the bill? | |
| <p>Corroboration Tasks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Compare this source with #8 and #9. How does the perspective of the document compare with other immigrant groups? Why might it be similar or different?2. Use source #10 to identify how Italians are affected by the immigration bill of 1952. | |
| <p>Close Reading Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The author is trying to convince the reader to . . .2. What evidence does the author use to show support their position on the immigration bill? | |

Source 8

Letter from Abe Hagiwara to President Harry S. Truman, June 14, 1952. Truman Papers, Official File. OF 133: Immigration.

12
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J

6/16

FILED BY
MR. HOPKINS
JUL 9 1952

Japanese American Citizens League
An All American Organization of American Citizens

National Headquarters

412-415 BEASON BLDG. TELEPHONE 5-6501
SALT LAKE CITY 1, UTAH

Mid-West Office:
189 W. Madison Street
Chicago 2, Illinois
Phone: Franklin 2-5762

June 14, 1952

133
HR 5678
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J

Honorable Harry S. Truman
President of the United States
White House
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

x 197 Miss

I am writing to urge you to sign the Omnibus Immigration and Naturalization Bill which I understand is now in your hands.

This bill has certainly created much interest among number of my liberal friends. This bill has made us study and think. It might interest you to know that a great majority of individuals who are not directly effected by this bill agree that the Omnibus Immigration and Naturalization Bill is a definite improvement over any existing law or laws. That in principle, equality or non-discrimination of our immigration and naturalization law is a big step in the direction of achieving our democratic goals.

As a Japanese American I am tremendously interested in this bill because my mother who has resided in the United States for 35 years will at long last become eligible for citizenship. To many people like her America is home. This is where they have worked and lived. This is where they will rest forever.

The Japanese American Citizens League has worked tirelessly and long for 25 years to win equality in immigration and naturalization under the law. We have done all this in the American way, above board; and we are very proud of this fact. We shall always pursue our aims and objectives in this way.

Fraternally yours,



Abe Hagiwara
Abe Hagiwara, President

x

For Better Americans In A Greater America

Using Source 8

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Sourcing Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Looking at the Salutation, who wrote the letter and what is his perspective on the McCarran-Walter Bill?2. Does the creator of this source seem to agree or disagree with the McCarran Immigration Bill? How do you know? | |
| <p>Contextualization Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What circumstances from this era influenced the author's perspective?2. When and where was the document created? | |
| <p>Corroboration Tasks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What was different of the author's perspective on Source 8 compared to the author's perspective on Source 9?2. Do the documents agree? Why or why not? | |
| <p>Close Reading Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How effective is the author's personal reflection in persuading the reader?2. What additional information does the document reveal that help understand the letter? | |

Source 9

William Hopkins to Rose Conway with related material, August 4, 1952; OF 133: Immigration, Truman Papers (Letter regarding McCarran Immigration Bill, June 14, 1952) Excerpted

New York City, N. Y.
June 14, 1952

Honorable Harry S. Truman
White House
Washington, D. C.

133
HR 5678
Cor



Re: The McCarran Immigration bill.

yz

Dear Mr. President:

As representative leaders of our several Chinese American Organizations in the Eastern United States, we hereby request the privilege to express our humble opinions on the pending Immigration Bill, as sponsored by Honorable Pat McCarran of Nevada, for your Honor's fair-minded and humanitarian consideration.

1 - Its unreasonable, retrogressive, and blind-folded adherence to the national origins quota system, especially on account of its insistence on making the outmoded 1920 census its basis of distribution.

2 - Its most awkward and unnecessarily offending discriminatory feature that an immigrant born outside of the Asia Pacific triangle, who is attributable by as much as one-half of his ancestry to a people indigenous to any one quota area, situated within the Asia Pacific triangle, shall be chargeable to the quota of that quota area. That would mean a person of Chinese or Filipino ancestry, even though only half of whose family tree is of Filipino or Chinese origin, who is born anywhere in Europe or South America or the British Dominions, still can only come to the United States by getting on the limited quota of 105, for the Chinese, or 100 for the Filipinos.

Hoping that the foregoing views will meet with your kind understanding and approval, and that your Honor may see fit to return the pending Immigration Bill to Congress, with your instructions for its reconsideration and revision, we are,

Respectfully and faithfully yours,



Franklin R. Wong

Franklin R. Wong
Yatsen Moo-an Kiang
Yatsen Moo-an Kiang

Lincoln H. Yao
Lincoln H. Yao
Secretary
of the group

Using Source 9

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Sourcing Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Looking at the Salutation, who wrote the letter?2. What is his/her perspective on the McCarran-Walter Bill?3. Does the creator of this source seem to agree or disagree with the McCarran Immigration Bill? How do you know? | |
| <p>Contextualization Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What circumstances for this era, would have been influencing factors in the author's push for his/her perspective?2. When and where was the document created? | |
| <p>Corroboration Tasks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What was different of the author's perspective on Source 9 compared to the author's perspective on Source 8?2. Do the documents agree? If not, why? | |
| <p>Close Reading Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What evidence does the author use to make his/her argument towards the passage of the McCarran-Walter Bill?2. What additional information does the document reveal that help understand the letter? | |

Source 10

Proclamation by President Truman: Immigration Quotas. June 30, 1952; Papers of Eben Ayers: Box 8: Subject File: Immigration

- 2 -

| Area No. | Quota area | Quota |
|----------|---|--------|
| 1 | Afghanistan | 100 |
| 2 | Albania | 100 |
| 3 | Andorra | 100 |
| 4 | Arabian Peninsula | 100 |
| 5 | Asia-Pacific triangle | 100 |
| 6 | Australia | 100 |
| 7 | Austria | 1,405 |
| 8 | Belgium | 1,297 |
| 9 | Bhutan | 100 |
| 10 | Bulgaria | 100 |
| 11 | Burma | 100 |
| 12 | Cambodia | 100 |
| 13 | Cameroons (trust territory, United Kingdom) | 100 |
| 14 | Cameroun (trust territory, France)..... | 100 |
| 15 | Ceylon | 100 |
| 16 | China | 100 |
| 17 | Chinese | 105 |
| 18 | Czechoslovakia | 2,859 |
| 19 | Danzig, Free City of | 100 |
| 20 | Denmark | 1,175 |
| 21 | Egypt | 100 |
| 22 | Estonia | 115 |
| 23 | Ethiopia | 100 |
| 24 | Finland | 566 |
| 25 | France | 3,069 |
| 26 | Germany | 25,814 |
| 27 | Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 65,361 |
| 28 | Greece | 308 |
| 29 | Hungary | 865 |
| 30 | Iceland | 100 |
| 31 | India | 100 |
| 32 | Indonesia | 100 |
| 33 | Iran (Persia) | 100 |
| 34 | Iraq | 100 |
| 35 | Ireland (Eire) | 17,756 |
| 36 | Israel | 100 |
| 37 | Italy | 5,645 |
| 38 | Japan | 185 |
| 39 | Jordan | 100 |
| 40 | Korea | 100 |

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS under the provisions of section 201(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Attorney General, jointly, are required to determine the annual quota of any quota area established pursuant to the provisions of section 202 of the said Act, and to report to the President the quota of each quota area so determined; and

Using Source 10

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Sourcing Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Who was the creator of this source?2. What was the purpose of this document? | |
| <p>Contextualization Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How might the events from which the document was created affect its content? | |
| <p>Corroboration Tasks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Which sources could use the information from the quota chart to support their stance? | |
| <p>Close Reading Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What statistical evidence from the chart could President Truman have used to support his veto of the McCarran-Walter bill? | |

