

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.

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
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

