



Final Approval
of the Cannon Bill

JUL 9 1952

THE AMERICAN LEGION

June 20, 1952

WASHINGTON OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER
1608 K STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.133
HR 5678
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THE WHITE HOUSE
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RECEIVEDThe President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

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A select subcommittee of the ^xNational Americanism Commission of the American Legion has through some years kept the organization current with the operation of our statutes in relation to immigration and nationality matters. It was the study of this group both here and abroad which recommended that the Legion endorse your proposals as to the admittance of displaced persons. This endorsement was given and transmitted to the Congress. Our feeling then was that this procedure was an emergency proposal and in the interest of humaneness, international amity and perhaps a contribution toward international stability and peace.

We have likewise kept in touch through the Legion's National Americanism and Legislative Commissions with the examinations which led to the production of the bill which you now have under examination.

My advisors and I believe that H. R. 5678 is a marked and liberalized advance over present laws and that it is constructed with great fairness to persons of other lands who wish to become our nearer neighbors. Protection of our own way of life is guarded but "due process" for all is carefully conserved. Exclusion of applicants and deportation of non-citizen aliens are surrounded by safeguards and additional classes become eligible for consideration for admittance. The last small segments of those heretofore held as racially ineligible to citizenship, and thus generally inadmissible, have the bar removed under the terms of the proposed law.

We find too that perpetuation of citizenship acquired through naturalization by members of our armed forces is measurably served. Veterans of World War II may reacquire citizenship under Section 327 which they lost by reason of service in other military forces; and members of our armed forces may, at any time for an aggregate of three years, be conveniently naturalized under Section 328.

Section 329 of the bill carries forward the provisions of existing law (Sec 324 (A) which grants "spot" naturalization to veterans of World War I and II who served honorably in an active duty status. This we believe was put in the bill so as not to cut off the privilege of naturalization to any veteran who had earned the right to apply for it by his active duty with our armed forces in wartime. While most of them could qualify under the general section, Section 328, the inclusion of Section 329 guarantees that no honorably discharged veteran of World War I or II, regardless of the length of his service, shall be deprived

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of the right to apply for naturalization.

Mr. President, this is of course not a "dream" bill, despite the great amount of time and study devoted to it. We do feel that if there are phases of it which may by experience prove objectionable, these may later receive consideration through amendatory legislation. Certainly there is virtue in the assembling of all law relating to immigration and naturalization in one piece as against the number now extant.

We do hope you may approve this important measure.

Yours sincerely,



Donald R. Wilson
DONALD R. WILSON

National Commander

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