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Train, Chair Car, Coach Porters and Attendants

**AN INTERNATIONAL UNION**  
Affiliated with the A. F. of L.

217 WEST 125th STREET (Room 301)  
NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

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May 29, 1952

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Eastern Zone Supervisor

Honorable Harry S. Truman, President  
United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.



Dear Mr. President:

In the name of the officers and members of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters distributed throughout the United States from coast to coast, a membership comprising peoples of color born in the United States and Carribean islands, Filipinos, Mexicans and white Canadians, I want to request and urge that you veto the McCarran bill ~~S-2550~~ on the grounds that it violates and nullifies all of the principles your Civil Rights Committee set forth in its report in the interest of the abolition of discrimination and segregation in various areas of our national life, because of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry.

A brief and cursory glance at this bill will reveal that under a vicious and subtle quota system, it reflects a compound of virulent racist policies by forestalling immigration from colonial areas, thereby bluntly and unjustifiably insulting all colored races and peoples, specifically, establishing rigid statutory limits on immigration from Jamaica, Trinidad, and other colonies of the British West Indies, such as the Guianas and Honduras.

Having recently travelled through Asia where I met and conferred with leaders of labor, Socialist and intellectual groups, I can assure you that the McCarran immigration bill will be considered as a definite affront and slap in the face of Asiatic peoples.

Interestingly enough, while posing to eliminate discrimination, this McCarran bill, by basing the quota system on the census of 1920 instead of 1950 and abolishing the intolerable exclusion of American Negroes from

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the census for quota determination purposes, maintains rank discrimination against the American Negro population.

The affront to persons of color from the West Indies through this sinister quota device affixes a stigma of inferiority based upon race and color to Negro peoples of African descent everywhere. I need not tell you that this action will arouse and provoke resentment among Negroes throughout the United States, the West Indies and Africa since it smacks of the same species of totalitarian racist policies for which the notorious Milam-South African government has become universally condemned by decent, liberty-loving people.

Because you are making a notable and praiseworthy effort, through the Point Four program, not only to win the goodwill and approbation of the peoples throughout Asia and Africa but also to provide basic programs for the technical advancement and human welfare of these peoples, which in the last analysis, will help give security and strength to the United States of America, I wish to point out to you that this McCarran immigration bill is destined to destroy and emasculate the beneficent effects of your Point Four program and implant the seeds of bitter hatred, distrust and suspicion of the foreign policy of the United States in the hearts and minds of the peoples of Asia, Africa and the West Indies.

This McCarran bill, by striking a sinister blow at civil rights and the doctrine of racial democracy and racial equality, thereby constitutes a grave threat to the vitality and strength of our American democratic system and aids and abets the world-wide drive for universal power of Stalinist Russia.

Very truly yours,



*A. Philip Randolph*  
A. Philip Randolph  
International President

APR:bw