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The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

We respectfully urge you to veto the McCarran Omnibus Bill (S. 255).

We recognize the merits of some provisions in the bill, notably its designation of all races as eligible to United States citizenship, its entry permission to reformed totalitarians who for five years have repudiated their former affiliations, its establishment of 12 new quota areas in Asia and Africa from each of which 100 persons per year will be allowed entry.

The deleterious effect of the bill's restrictive features, however, far outweigh the benefits of these liberalized provisions. Among the restrictive provisions we especially deplore are the following:

1. The perpetuation of the evils of the 1924 Quota Act and the 1929 National Origins Formula. These measures gave immigration preference to peoples of Anglo-Saxon and Nordic origin, and discriminated against peoples born in Southern and Eastern Europe.

2. The determination of nationality for the quota system based on place of birth in all cases except for orientals: that is, a national of any country who has 50 per cent oriental ancestry must come under the quota of his country by origin and not by birth. This provision, we maintain, is overt racial discrimination of the most invidious kind, which will estrange Asian and African peoples.

3. The reduction of future quotas because of persons who came to the United States under the Displaced Persons Act. Thus for many countries with a quota of 100, the quota has been reduced to 50 for the next 50 to 70 years. This provision is discriminatory against refugees from the former Baltic nations and from other Eastern European countries.



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4. Certain provisions under the sections on deportation and naturalization, which are highly controversial and could easily lead to gross injustices. The bill, for example, makes no effective provision for impartial hearings in deportation cases.

The debate on the McCarran Omnibus Bill represents the first comprehensive discussion on United States immigration policies in more than a quarter of a century. We believe that such discussion has been of the utmost importance and hope that it may yet eventuate in legislation designed to remove from the United States immigration policies those prejudices based on race or national origin.

We therefore press earnestly for your veto of the McCarran Omnibus Bill. Such a veto will demonstrate to the world's peoples that not all Americans support the myth of Nordic superiority. It will further give the Congress another opportunity to pass less discriminatory immigration legislation which will neither jeopardize our relations with countries allied to us, nor outrage our basically democratic and humanitarian American heritage.

Respectfully yours,



Ralph W. Sockman
Ralph W. Sockman
President. x

Henry A. Atkinson
Henry A. Atkinson
General Secretary. x