

FILED BY
MR. HOPKINS
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Congress of Industrial Organizations



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Office of
LEGISLATIVE
REPRESENTATIVE

EXECUTIVE 5581

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The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.



Dear Mr. President:

During recent weeks we have been gratified to note that the American public is gradually becoming aware of the meaning and content of the McCarran Immigration bill and is registering its opposition to it. We are also happy to note that a substantial number of Senators are now on record as opposing the bill. Unfortunately their number was not large enough to prevent its final passage.

We are opposed to the McCarran bill not only because of the many injustices of the present law which it perpetuates, but even more because of the many new injustices which it adds. In the latter category are many loosely drawn and unnecessarily harsh provisions for exclusion, deportation and denaturalization. We find it significant that the McCarran bill is chiefly supported by those who generally attack most vociferously the concentration of authority in the executive branch of the Government. Here they suddenly change their position and are willing to grant to minor officials in the Immigration Service and the Consular Service vast new unreviewable powers over the lives of millions of human beings.

We are particularly concerned with the possible impact of these new unlimited powers on the labor union movement. An Administration hostile to labor could easily use these vastly expanded powers to punish or intimidate labor union members or labor union leaders of foreign birth even though they are naturalized citizens. It is a fact that much more limited powers under the present law have been used for that purpose by anti-labor Administrations in the past. The power to denaturalize for new, technical grounds and to deport for reasons which need only exist in the mind of an Attorney General, or one of his many assistants, could, in the wrong hands also be used as a club against sponsors of progressive legislation.

We are not unmindful of the fact that under the McCarran bill aliens born in Japan and certain other Asiatic countries would become eligible for naturalization. We believe, however, that this humane objective could have been achieved some time ago if Senator McCarran had reported on H.R. 403, which passed the House on February 19, 1951. Undoubtedly the Senate would have been glad to concur in the House action. We believe that the American people should not be forced by Senator McCarran to buy legislation through tie-in sales.

For the reasons stated above we urge that you veto the McCarran bill. We are confident that your veto will be sustained. #

Respectfully,



Nathan E. Cowan
Nathan E. Cowan, Director
CIO Legislative Department

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