

Supreme Court
of the
State of New York



SAMUEL DICKSTEIN
JUSTICE

FILED BY
MR. HOPKINS
JUL 9 1952

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JUSTICES CHAMBERS
NEW YORK COUNTY COURT HOUSE
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

June 11, 1952.

Hon. Harry S. Truman
The White House
Washington, D.C.



Dear Mr. President,

Although it is not a habit with me to comment on pending legislation I am obliged to make an exception in the case of the McCarran immigration bill which will shortly come before you. I take this opportunity to call your attention to a few of its provisions which in my opinion make it grossly unfair and justify a veto on your part. My service of many years on the Committee of Immigration of the House of Representatives, of which committee I later became the chairman, makes an expression of opinion on my part a necessity.

The present immigration quota system is wiped out in its entirety. While the total number of quotas is slightly increased, nevertheless one-half of the allotted quotas is removed from practical importance, in that this one-half can be used merely to permit the admission of highly skilled valuable individuals, if there be none such there will be no use made of this one-half, so instead of increasing such quotas they are practically cut by one-half.

Under the bill all quotas which have been used under the Displaced Persons Act are now chargeable to the regular quotas of each nationality. The New York Times estimates that under this set-up no one could be admitted from Latvia until 2274; from Estonia until 2146; from Greece until 2013; from Hungary until 1985; from Lithuania until 2087; from Poland until 1999; from Rumania until 2004.

The present provisions allowing legalization of illegally admitted aliens if they have lived here prior to 1941 and have depending upon them American wives or minor children are done away with. Under the new law they will have to have lived here at least five years and will have to be absolutely necessary for the economic well-being of the American wife or child. The appropriate provision

reads: ". . . is a person whose deportation would, in the opinion of the Attorney General, result in exceptional and extremely unusual hardship" to such wife or child. In any other case no alien who is here illegally could adjust his status unless there is a quota number immediately available to him, in which case such quota number could be assigned to him and the quota of his nationality immediately reduced by one.

Naturalization is also made more difficult. An alien will have to read, write and speak English before he can be admitted to citizenship unless he is over 50 and has lived here more than 20 years.

I am in accord with the restrictions on Communists and Fascists, but the law makes former association with totalitarianism a deportable offense (unless the alien did not know of it), so that no alien who has ever been in that category can enter this country or remain in it. This of course is too drastic. (I believe some amendment has been made in this section.)

I believe the above features will more than justify your veto.



Sincerely yours,

James W. [unclear]