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IL PROGRESSO ITALO-AMERICANO

ESTABLISHED 1880

42 ELK STREET, NEW YORK 7, N.Y.

JUL 9 1952

CABLE ADDRESS
"AIRDRUM" NEW YORK

TELEPHONE
WORTH 2-1331

Member
AMERICAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS
ASSOCIATION
PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
OF NEW YORK CITY
AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION

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HR 5678
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June 18, 1952

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

Dear Mr. President:

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You have before you for approval or rejection, the Walter McCarran Omnibus Immigration Bill which we have consistently fought as an un-American measure as it is discriminatory and, if approved, will adversely affect America in many countries.

We are enclosing herewith an editorial which we believe reflects the views of millions of Americans of Italian origin. We know how much you are burdened with affairs of state, and we sincerely hope you will find the time to read it.

We respectfully urge you to veto this measure in the best interests of our country and all that it stands for.

Respectfully yours, *x233 mic*

IL PROGRESSO ITALO-AMERICANO

Fortune Pope
Fortune Pope
Publisher



Encl.

AN EDITORIAL

WIPE OUT THAT SHAME!



American democracy has just suffered a major defeat. This defeat is all the more grave because it was entirely unnecessary and especially because it was on the home front. A stubborn, short-sighted, team of Southern democrats who never grew out of the nineteenth century and rock-ribbed reactionary Republicans who would like nothing better than to have America go backward at least a century has rammed through the Senate the by-now notorious McCarran anti-immigration bill.

Anyone who has taken the trouble to plow through this legislative monstrosity is undoubtedly much sadder and wiser for the effort. The McCarran bill is ultra-reactionary to the narrow. It breeds discrimination and racism at their lowest levels and in their most degrading forms. We challenge students of the history of our country's legislation to cite any law ever enacted which is as costly a defeat for the fundamentals of American democracy, for the basic ideals and essence of human liberty. This McCarran bill is far worse than even that other act bearing the same Senator's name which has brought so much discredit and ill-repute to the good name of America throughout the world and has armed so dangerously the Communist enemies of the

American people.

Common sense and elementary justice are not entirely dead in the Capital. We grant that a new immigration law, fundamentally revised, modernized and humanized, is urgently needed. But these remaining hectic days before the party conventions, the pettiness and rancor attendant to the preliminaries of a bitter presidential election campaign, certainly do not provide the healthful atmosphere necessary for calm, careful, and capable consideration of legislation as vitally important to our country's present and future as a just and sound immigration law.

WE TURN TO THE PRESIDENT



It is now up to the President of our Republic. It is now primarily and almost solely up to President Truman to save the traditions of hospitality and fair play for which our country has been so justly renowned. We can not conceive of so great and humane a leader of our nation and world democracy as President Truman doing anything else but vetoing this vicious measure with an inspiring and forceful message which will be heard and felt throughout the length and breadth of our country and the whole world. The insulting racist remarks of Senator McCarran and some of his associates in support of this vile measure will certainly have stirred President Truman to rise to the great heights

of moral leadership which he has displayed at critical hours in behalf of the Americans and all other liberty-loving people.

Only a thumping smashing veto of this anti-American bill by President Truman can show to the rest of the world, as well as to our own country, that totalitarian forces gnawing at the vitals of our democratic society can go just that far and no further and that we do have safeguards for freedom which not even the broadest coalition of the forces of prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination can overwhelm.



We make no pretense at being experts in constitutional law. Yet, we have enough respect for our American Constitution and have imbibed enough of its dynamic democratic spirit to say that we cannot for the life of us see how our great judiciary can approve the McCarran measure--if it ever should become law. Its crass retro-active features are un-constitutional. Its putting the many millions of our naturalized Americans into a category of second-class citizens makes a mockery of our Constitution. Its Hitlerian concept that those of Slavic, Semitic, Italian or other so-called non-Anglo-Saxon origin are not good enough to be accorded equal citizenship status with those born or descendants of those born in, let us say, England, Scotland or Wales are vulgar and disgraceful violations of the very fundamental principles

underlying our Constitutional democracy.

ENDANGERING OUR WORLD POSITION

Our nation is about to render more billions of dollars in economic and military aid to nations which cherish human liberty and which are rallying around our country as the leader in the struggle against Communist tyranny and aggression. Particularly at such a moment is it senseless and self-defeating to foist upon our statute books a law which can only gravely undermine the faith of the rest of the free world in the qualifications of our nation for world leadership, in the soundness of our Democratic spirit and the solidity of our democratic institutions. Arbitrariness, codified prejudice, legalized bigotry, legislated discrimination--these are not the red corpuscles of a healthy democracy.

That is why, in the spirit of a vibrant and vigorous faith in Americanism as the highest expression of human liberty and fair play, we call upon and count on President Truman to wipe out this shame by a powerful and immortal veto of the bill that never should have cast its dark and sinister shadow on our nation's life and liberties--the McCarran measure.