

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



June 24, 1952

My dear Mr. Hopkins:

The Congress has enacted H. R. 5678, "To revise the laws relating to immigration, naturalization, and nationality; and for other purposes."

The bill would codify, with extensive amendments, the immigration and nationality statutes. The bill is the result of some three and one-half years' consideration by the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, primarily the latter. Its sponsors look upon it as a major achievement. Its opponents look upon it as a clever and dangerous failure which is negative in philosophy, discriminatory and punitive in purpose, deliberately vague in language and designed in an almost innumerable number of ways to have a false and specious appeal. They believe that even in several of its admittedly forward looking revisions of present law a surface generosity of attitude is circumscribed and made at least partially ineffective by formulas, mechanics and procedures which are hidden in the intricacies of the bill's language and attitudes which have grown up over the years in the administration of our existing immigration and naturalization laws.

There are four basic improvements in the bill over present law. First, racial bars to immigration and naturalization are removed. This is particularly important with respect to the Japanese and the other Asian peoples who have heretofore been racially ineligible for admission into the United States for citizenship. This long deferred improvement, however, is marred by the establishment of an Asia-Pacific triangle with a total quota of only 2,000 immigrants a year, to which there are added separate token quotas for Japan and China. Second, the bill removes the discrimination of existing immigration law with respect to sex, thereby permitting all spouses of American citizens to enjoy certain benefits with respect to immigration into the United States. This provision may be of interest and significance to the President since it will probably operate to reduce the volume of private immigration bills of this kind which the Congress has enacted in recent years. Third, the bill by clarifying certain provisions of the Internal Security Act would permit admission into the United States of members or former members of Nazi, Fascist and Falangist parties. Under strictly defined circumstances it might also be easier than under present law to permit admission of Communist apostates. Fourth, transportation companies are relieved of some of the inequitable financial responsibility now attaching to them if they bring to the United States an alien who is not admitted.



The Bureau of the Budget agrees with opponents of the bill that its deficiencies are much more numerous than its good points and that weaknesses are present both in policies enunciated by the bill and in the details of its provisions. The principal reasons why the Bureau of the Budget recommends that the President veto the bill were set forth in a working draft of veto message which was supplied to the President on June 21.

In addition to review by the Bureau of the Budget, facsimiles of the enrolled bill were referred to the Departments of State, Defense, Labor and Justice, the Federal Security Agency, Displaced Persons Commission, Central Intelligence Agency and to the Director of Mutual Security.

The Department of State expresses the belief that "on balance from the foreign relations point of view the enactment of this bill would be more beneficial than harmful." It, therefore, recommends that the bill be approved.

The Department of Justice recognizes that the bill "does contain some provisions that might well be considered as objectionable." It concludes, however, that the objections do not justify veto and it, therefore, finds no objection to the approval of the bill.

Both Departments attach staff memoranda discussing certain aspects of H. R. 5678.

The Department of the Navy, reporting for the Department of Defense, comments upon certain sections of the bill of primary interest to the Armed Services but it makes no recommendation with respect to the President's action on the measure.

The Displaced Persons Commission also makes no recommendation but suggests that the administrative agencies involved (State and Justice) be requested to comment upon the effect on persons admitted into the United States under the Displaced Persons Act of certain sections of the bill. It seems clear from informal conversations which the Bureau has had with respect to these sections that an adverse effect upon displaced persons is possible under some of them. Mr. Lloyd is acquainted with the details of this problem and has discussed it with the President.

The Federal Security Agency discusses provisions of the bill of primary concern to it and makes, as a general observation, the following statement: "It may be pertinent to add that on the whole a perusal of the bill, despite arguments that have been advanced in justification of those provisions which have been challenged gives an impression of suspicion and even hostility towards aliens which prevades the bill, an impression which casts a shadow over the good parts as well as the bad." The agency also suggests that the Attorney General immediately

indicate his approval of and concurrence in the agency's interpretation of provisions requiring the disclosure of certain information in the files of the Social Security Administration for certain administrative purposes under the Act. The Bureau of the Budget shares the concern of the Federal Security Agency about irresponsible or prejudicial use of Social Security data, even for limited purposes, and will report promptly to the President if the necessary agreements between the Department of Justice and the Federal Security Agency are not obtained. The Bureau does not feel that the President, at this time, needs to communicate with the Attorney General on this matter.

The Central Intelligence Agency, in a classified letter which will be separately transmitted to you indicates that certain adjustments were made in the bill to meet its needs. It has no recommendation as to approval of the measure.

The Department of Labor and the Director of Mutual Security recommend that the bill be vetoed. Neither agency has prepared a draft of veto message but the points of opposition which they make to the provisions of H. R. 5678 were discussed in the draft veto message prepared in the Bureau of the Budget. The views of the Director of Mutual Security have been transmitted directly to the President.

Bureau staff have collaborated in a revised draft of a veto message prepared by the White House staff, and we join in recommending it for the President's consideration.



Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Jones".

Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Mr. William J. Hopkins

The White House

Enclosures