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August 15, 1952

Memorandum for: Honorable Dean Acheson
Secretary of State

From: The President

I understand that the Immigration and Nationality Act - that is the McCarran Bill which I vetoed and they passed over my veto - will go into effect sometime soon and that it is necessary to make an appointment to handle that situation in the State Department.

I would like very much to talk with you about that situation and see if we can't get somebody in that position who will be interested in the welfare of the people and who will not be under the thumb of McCarran and his Committee.

HSD



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 7, 1952

APPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE UNDER THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT --
(McCarran Act.)

1. Certain officers in the State Department concerned with immigration matters have been a constant obstacle to the development of a sound immigration policy, and to the President's legislative program on immigration matters. The State Department was least cooperative of all departments in developing the President's emergency program of immigration embodied in the President's Message to Congress on March 24. As a result, this program was greatly delayed in reaching the Hill. Furthermore, during the McCarran bill controversy, these elements in the State Department took an attitude which was favorable to the McCarran bill and they went around the Budget Bureau and the White House to make these views known on the Hill. After the President vetoed the McCarran bill, some persons, not as yet identified, from the State Department, made available to McCarran and his staff certain confidential memoranda on the bill which had passed between the President and the Secretary of State. This was done in an effort to assist in overriding the President's veto. The Secretary of State and the Under Secretary, as well as other top officials of State, while cooperating with the President, were undercut by members of their own Department.

2. The causes of this situation are many. One of the difficulties is that questions of immigration policy cut across existing organizational lines, making it difficult to reach a Departmental position. But the most important reason is that certain personnel in the Office of Security and Consular Affairs, particularly in the Visa Division, have been working in close conjunction with Senator McCarran and are really not responsive to Executive control. These people have tried to carry out the wishes of Senator McCarran and they have little or no sympathy with the Administration program.

3. The Immigration and Nationality Act establishes the present Office of Security and Consular Affairs as a Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs to be headed by an administrator with rank and compensation equal to that of an Assistant Secretary of State. This administrator, according to the law, is to be qualified by experience, to maintain close liaison with appropriate committees of Congress, and to be charged with the responsibility imposed by the law on the Bureau.



In addition, the Act establishes a Passport Office and a Visa Office, each to be headed by a director. This change provides advancement for the heads of the present Passport Division and Visa Division. The Act also sets up a General Counsel for the Visa Office. These provisions of the Act go into effect in December. It will become necessary at that time to fill these new offices created by the Act. These offices do not require confirmation by the Senate.

4. At the present time, Samuel D. Boykin is the Director of the present office of Security and Consular Affairs. He is a good man and has been helpful to the Administration, but it is doubtful whether he can control those people down the line who have been continually, even under his direction, working with McCarran. The present head of the Visa Division is Herve L'Heureux. He is a foreign service officer and his tour of duty in this country has expired so he will leave shortly for a foreign post. The chief of the Passport Division is Mrs. Shipley, and no change is anticipated there.

The McCarran Act has to be implemented by a set of regulations. These regulations are now being drafted under the direction, I believe, of Mr. Alexander in the Visa Division. Mr. Alexander is one of the group most responsive to Senatorial pressure. I had a report yesterday that the regulations were being drafted, at Senator McCarran's suggestion, in such a way as to be even more severe than the letter of the McCarran Act, in at least one important respect.

5. To remedy this situation, it is proposed that someone be appointed by the Secretary of State to fill the new office as administrator of the new Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs who will be sympathetic to the Administration's immigration program and who will resist attempts by Senator McCarran to dominate and administer the immigration laws. Even though the vacancy will not exist until December, such a person should be given some position in this area of the State Department so that he may participate in drafting the regulations and working on administrative policies, before the situation is frozen.

6. Mr. Harry Rosenfield, a member of the Displaced Persons Commission, is well qualified by experience in the field of immigration, and would be willing to undertake this job. He would be loyal to the policy of the Administration.



7. While there will be a new President after January 20, and possible changes in the top officers of the State Department, it would be unwise to let this matter drift until the new Administration is in office. By that time the regulations will have been frozen in a pattern largely determined by Senator McCarran, and it will be all the more difficult to obtain a decent administration of the McCarran Act.

It is recommended that the President take these matters up with the Secretary of State or the Under Secretary in the near future.



FOR SUBJECT FILE - CABINET
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