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FRANCES F. CHRISTY

13 August, 1965

Dear Colleague:

For your convenience I wish to provide a brief summary of the immigration bill reported out by the Judiciary Committee August 3, 1965.

H.R. 2580 was completely rewritten by the subcommittee and can be described as a bi-partisan measure. Surrender of wide discretionary power to the President, creation of a joint executive-legislative advisory Immigration Board, the granting of virtually unrestricted authority for the admission of refugees - all these features of the original administration bill and other proposals for a greatly increased immigration into the United States were rejected. Most important, the bill retains for the Congress its historic control of U.S. immigration policy.

Repeal of the national origins quota system, which has regulated only one-third of our total immigration in the last ten years but has been harmful in the conduct of our diplomatic affairs, is postponed until July 1, 1968 under the amended bill. Total immigration is limited to 170,000 annually, exclusive of the Western Hemisphere, but this number includes provision for 10,200 refugees so that the net figure represents a very slight increase over the present quota of 158,561. This is the best evidence that the floodgates will not be opened wide under the bill.

The system of preferences has been revised so that hereafter primary emphasis will be upon the reuniting of families. A program for conditional admission of refugees from communism and totalitarianism will be incorporated into our immigration law and the Fair Share Law repealed. This means that hereafter selection of refugees and control of the number to be admitted will no longer be subject to an international organization.

The new bill provides for a far more restrictive policy with respect to the admission of aliens to enter our labor market. Under its terms petitions must be filed by aliens coming for employment and, more particularly, by all immigrants from the Western Hemisphere, and the Secretary of Labor must make an affirmative determination in each individual case that the immigrant does not pre-empt a resident of the United States from a job opportunity or upset competitive wage scales.

During the three year period before abolition of the National Origin System unused quota numbers will be pooled and re-allocated among those countries with heavily oversubscribed registration lists. Under this procedure the pressure from ethnic groups will be relieved and those intending immigrants who have already satisfied the qualitative tests for admission but whose admission has been delayed by reason of present quotas, will be admitted.

There are a number of other "tightening-up" provisions in the bill including a provision for a report from the President to the Congress if immigration from the Western Hemisphere should increase substantially. Enclosed is a summary sheet listing the features in the bill originated by the minority.

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Major provisions of the bill are:

- (1) Abolition of the national origins system, June 30, 1968
- (2) New system of preferential admissions based upon the existence of a close family relationship with U.S. citizens or permanent resident aliens, and upon the advantage to the United States of the special talents and skills of the immigrant.
- (3) Parents of U.S. citizens (if such citizen is over 21 years of age) will not come under a numerical limitation.
- (4) Two preference categories for immigrants to be employed in the United States: one for members of the professions or persons of exceptional ability in the sciences or the arts, and another for skilled or unskilled workers who can fill specific needs in short supply.
- (5) A limitation of 170,000 (including 10,200 refugees) on the number of immigrants who may be admitted to the United States in any fiscal year other than immigrants from the Western Hemisphere. No foreign state will be allowed more than 20,000 immigrants in any one fiscal year.
- (6) Elimination of the discriminatory Asia-Pacific triangle provision of the existing law.
- (7) Exemption from numerical limitation on immigration for newly independent Western Hemisphere countries (Jamaica, Trinidad-Tobago).
- (8) Elimination of technical restrictions which have existed in the refugee laws and establishment of a definite number to be utilized for refugees.
- (9) Safeguards to protect the American economy from job competition and from adverse working standards as a consequence of immigrant workers entering the labor market.
- (10) Removal of epilepsy as a ground for exclusion since it now can be effectively controlled by medication.

In my judgment H.R. 2580 as amended by the Subcommittee, providing for a selective and restrictive immigration program which places first emphasis upon the reuniting of families, the needs of our country and the protection of our economy, is constructive legislation and should be supported.

Sincerely yours,



Arch A. Moore, Jr.  
Member of Congress

- A. Features incorporated from H. R. 9136 (Moore) and the minority.
1. Ceiling of 170,000 per year outside the Western Hemisphere and exclusive of parents, spouses and children of U. S. citizens.
  2. Maximum annual admissions from any one country raised from 16,500 to 20,000.
  3. Abolition of the national origins system postponed until July 1, 1968.
  4. Reallocation of unused quota numbers for three years among the oversubscribed countries.
  5. Limitation of 200 per year from any colony or dependent area -- thus restricting immigration from Hong Kong, Malta, British Caribbean islands, etc.
  6. Revised preference list placing close relatives ahead of highly skilled and labor shortages.
  7. Tighter control on immigration of skilled and unskilled labor by requiring individual petitions and determinations by the Secretary of Labor.
  8. Provisions of the Fair Share Refugee Law put under the I. & N. Act with a specific numerical ceiling so that the U.S. controls selection of refugees.
  9. Provision that President notify the Congress, with option of recommendations, when immigration from the Western Hemisphere exceeds the five year average.
  10. Tighter control of immigration from Western Hemisphere by requiring each immigrant to make an affirmative showing that he will not take a job away from a U.S. resident and will not upset wage standards.
- B. Features of H. R. 2580 (Celler) and H. R. 8662 (Feighan) eliminated.
1. Delegation to the President of control over immigration policy.
  2. Immediate abolition of the national origins system.
  3. Delegation of authority to the President to use 50 per cent of the pooled quota numbers.
  4. Creation of an Immigration Board with Congressional members and Presidential appointees to recommend policy.
  5. Removal of restrictions on suspension of deportation and adjustment of status for alien crewmen (ship-jumpers).
  6. Up-dating from 1940 to 1952 for creation of a record of admission (to permit permanent residence for those illegally in the U. S. since that date -- in effect giving thousands of persons underground, subversives, deserting crewmen, and criminal elements opportunity to legalize their presence in the U.S.).
  7. Removal of restrictions against admission of feeble-minded, insane, and those with psychopathic personality.