

FACT SHEET ON THE IMMIGRATION PROBLEM IN 1952

The 82nd Congress is now considering the improvement of our antiquated immigration laws. Several measures will soon be debated, including two Senate bills - one introduced by Senator Herbert H. Lehman, the other by Senator Pat McCarran; and House bills introduced by Representatives Emanuel Celler and Francis Walter. Since the main issues are covered in the two Senate bills, a summary of these measures may be helpful in appraising the present immigration problem.

Defects in Existing Law

Many national organizations - religious, civic and philanthropic - in expressing their views to Congress, have cited defects in existing immigration laws:

1. An inflexible and unrealistic quota system. From 1930 through 1948 only one-fourth of the total quota was used because there is no provision for pooling quotas.
2. Racist clauses which antagonize people whom we are trying to win as allies. *Esp. Asia*
3. Unfair and illogical family provisions often separating husbands and wives, parents and children.
4. Harsh and un-American methods of dealing with aliens, particularly in relation to visas. For example, there is no provision for appeal from denial of visas by consular officers. Aliens held at ports of entry on security or other charges may be deported without ever having the opportunity to find out why.
5. Unconcern for our natural allies. By easing the entry of aliens persecuted by totalitarian governments, we would rescue democracy's strongest advocates.

What Are the Provisions of the Lehman Bill?

S. 2343, known as the Lehman Bill, is sponsored by Senators Lehman, Humphrey, Morse, Benton, Kilgore, Kefauver, Moody, Murray, Douglas, Magnuson, Langer, Pastore, Gillette, Ives and Hendrickson. Here are the major provisions:

1. Eliminates race as a barrier to immigration and naturalization.
2. Pools unused quotas, enabling the full quota of 154,000 to be filled every year. Unused quotas would be employed to facilitate family reunion, provide skills needed in the United States, and offer asylum to persecuted victims of totalitarianism.
3. Extends non-quota status to certain deserving classes of immigrants: parents of citizens, orphans, adoptees, and aliens who served honorably in our armed forces.
4. Grants preference within the quotas to brothers, sisters and adult children of citizens; and to parents of alien residents of the United States.