Excerpt: Memorandum, "Summary of McCarran-Walter Omnibus Immigration Bill", June 11, 1952. Truman Papers, Lloyd Files. Immigration Letters and Memorandum.

I. Immigration

Among other changes in existing law the pending bill would:

- 1. Limit all future immigration to the United States to immigrants of "high education, technical training, specialized experience, or exceptional ability" who are "needed urgently in the United States" (Sec. 203(a)), and to parents of adult citizens, and spouses or children of admitted immigrants, except to the degree that unused visas, if any, under these categories may be used for immigrants without such special qualifications.
- 2. Eliminate college and university professors from the class of quota-exempt immigrants (Sec. 101(a)(27)(F)).
- 3. Change immigration quotas for Jamaica and other British colonies from the never filled United Kingdom quota of 65,721 to a special quota of 100 for each such colony, thus drastically curtailing colored immigration and repudiating the "national origin" pattern. [Sec. 202(c)]
- 4. Establish a special inferior status for any person "attributable by as much as one-half of his ancestry" to Asiatic races (including Filipinos who are exempt from racial bars under existing law), regardless of the citizenship or country of birth of such person, and exclude such persons from the quotas of the countries in which they are native-born citizens. [Sec. 202(b)]
- 5. Require American consuls to follow the decisions of courts of foreign nations in excluding immigrants from admission to the United States, thus making Nazi or Communist court convictions a bar against entry, even if the offense involved no "moral turpitude" by American standards. (A violator of Communist or Nazi "non-political" laws, if sentenced to a five-year prison term, becomes ineligible to enter the U.S.A.) [Sec. 212(a)(10)]
- 6. Bar skilled or unskilled laborers (including quota exempt immigrants from the Western Hemisphere and even non-immigrant visitors), unless rigid tests are met establishing the inadequacy of domestic labor. [Sec. 101(a)(15) and sec. 212(a)(14)]
- 7. Bar all immigrants who, in the opinion of a consular officer, are "likely at any time to become public charges" (i.e., anybody who is not a skilled or unskilled worker). [Sec. 212(a)(15)]
- 8. Bar anti-Communists and other anti-totalitarians, who were members of democratic organizations which were later taken over by a totalitarian group, even though they resigned as soon as the totalitarians took control. [Sec.212(a)(28) (C)(vi)]
- 9. Bar most aliens who, in order to protect themselves against racial, religious, or political persecution, make material misstatements in their visa applications. [Sec. 212(a)(19)]
- 10. Allow minimum quotas for various Asiatic countries (while subjecting persons born in the Western Hemisphere to "ancestry" quotas). [Sec. 202(b)]
- 11. Allow immigration by members of totalitarian groups who reformed before entry [Sec. 212(a)(28)(I)], while requiring deportation of those who reform after entry [Sec. 241(a)(6)]
- 12. Extend to alien husbands the same immigration privileges now allowed to alien wives. [Sec. 202(a)(2)]
- 13. Abdicate to the President the power to abolish, curtail, or suspend all immigration, or even the temporary entry of non-immigrant visitors, in peacetime as well as wartime. [Sec. 212(e)]

Sourcing Questions	
 Even government documents reflect the point of view of their creator. Does the creator of this source seem to agree or disagree with the McCarran Immigration Bill? How do you know? 	
Contextualization Questions-	
 Notice the date of the source. Where does this source fit in the timeline of the bill? 	
How does historical context help explain which immigrants are limited based on this bill?	
Corroboration Tasks	
 Make connections between this document and source #10. Are the ideas in these two sources consistent? 	
Close Reading Questions:	
 What specific regions are mentioned in this report? 	
How would the McCarran Immigration Bill affect each region?	
3. What other concerns are mentioned in the source for potential immigrants?	
4. What immigrants are seen as "more desirable"?	

Memorandum from Attorney General James McGranery to Frederick J. Lawton with Attachement, June 17, 1952. Truman Papers, White House Bill File. June 25, 1952 (H. R. 5678)

71



Office of the Attorney General Mashington, D.C.

JUN 1 7 1952

Honorable Frederick J. Lawton Director, Bureau of the Budget Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Lawton:

In compliance with Mr. Jones' request of June 11, 1952, I have had examined a facsimile of the enrolled bill (H.R. 5678) "To revise the laws relating to immigration, naturalization, and nationality; and for other purposes."

The bill would codify and to some extent revise existing laws relating to immigration, naturalization, and nationality.

While numerous criticisms have been advanced concerning the measure, such criticisms to a considerable extent have been directed at the failure of the measure to effect basic changes in existing law. It is assumed that as far as existing law is concerned, the criticisms, valid or otherwise, should not affect the question of whether approval should be given the measure since disapproval would have no effect on existing law.

In so far as it codifies existing law, the bill unquestionably is desirable and includes a number of provisions which are generally regarded as improvements over existing law. Among such provisions are those which would eliminate existing racial bars to immigration and naturalization and the provisions which would eliminate existing sex discriminations.

CEIVED

It must be conceded that the bill does contain some proproperties of the properties of this Department, however, that the objections to these provisions are not of such weight as would justify withholding approval of the measure which, as a whole, is believed to be an improvement upon existing law.

Accordingly, the Department of Justice finds no objection to the approval of the bill.

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Sincerely,

Attorney General

ng Questions	
does this source come? What is the role of that agency?	
Does the creator of this source seem to agree or disagree with the McCarran Immigration Bill? How do you know?	
ctualization Questions	
Notice the date of the source. Where does this source fit in the timeline of the bill?	
oration Tasks	
This source mentions "numerous criticism" of the bill. Find a document that mentions some of these criticisms. How might the author of that document respond to the Attorney General?	
Reading Questions:	
For what purpose was this letter created? What concerns about the McCarran Bill does this source mention? What "improvements over existing law" does this source mention?	
	From what agency of the government does this source come? What is the role of that agency? Does the creator of this source seem to agree or disagree with the McCarran Immigration Bill? How do you know? Atualization Questions Notice the date of the source. Where does this source fit in the timeline of the bill? Oration Tasks This source mentions "numerous criticism" of the bill. Find a document that mentions some of these criticisms. How might the author of that document respond to the Attorney General? Reading Questions: For what purpose was this letter created? What concerns about the McCarran Bill does this source mention? What "improvements over existing law"

Senator Pat McCarran, Cong. Rec., March 2, 1953, p. 1518

"I believe that this nation is the last hope of Western civilization and if this oasis of the world shall be overrun, perverted, contaminated or destroyed, then the last flickering light of humanity will be extinguished. I take no issue with those who would praise the contributions which have been made to our society by people of many races, of varied creeds and colors. ... However, we have in the United States today hard-core, indigestible blocs which have not become integrated into the American way of life, but which, on the contrary are its deadly enemies. Today, as never before, untold millions are storming our gates for admission and those gates are cracking under the strain. The solution of the problems of Europe and Asia will not come through a transplanting of those problems en masse to the United States. ... I do not intend to become prophetic, but if the enemies of this legislation succeed in riddling it to pieces, or in amending it beyond recognition, they will have contributed more to promote this nation's downfall than any other group since we achieved our independence as a nation."

Sourcing Questions	
 Senator Pat McCarran (NV) is the creator of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952. Research McCarran to find out more about him. 	
What is the point of view of Pat McCarran regarding immigration and national security issues.	
3. Describe the tone of this source. What words/phrases help you make this conclusion?	
Contextualization Questions	
 Notice the date of the source. Where does this source fit in the timeline of the bill? How does that timing impact the meaning of the quote? 	
Corroboration Tasks	
 Make connections with the point of view expressed in this quote with the provisions of the bill as described in Source #1. What other sources might express the point of view of Senator McCarran? 	
Close Reading Questions	
 What words/phrases did McCarran use to describe his concerns about immigration? What did McCarran mean when he used the words "last flicker of humanity" in this quote? 	

Letter from Phyllis Craig to President Harry S. Truman, June 26, 1952. Truman Papers, Official File. OF 133: Immigration.

Dear Mr Truman:

We feel very bad that you saw fit to override that fine Bill of the able Semator from Nevada, the Honorable Pat McCarren, for we know that it means the defeat of a very fine instrument meant beyond doubt to aid our country.

On the otherhand we know that you defeated it to gain votes and fill our once fine country with morons and other unworthies who are here in large numbers through lax immigration laws to get all they can out of America and bring nothing but filth and self interest.

Some day when able men of moral stamina and the sort of patriotism America was founded upon take over this Bill will have its place in the sun and it cannot come too soon for every red blooded citizen.

Very truly yours:

June the twenty-sixth.

1952

Phyllis CRAIG (7)

	
Sourcing Questions	
 Source 4 is a letter to President Truman by a concerned citizen, how might that influence its tone and purpose? Does the author of this source seem to agree or disagree with the McCarran Immigration Bill? How do you know? 	
Contextualization Questions	
 When and where was the document created? Where does this source fit in the timeline of the bill? 	
Corroboration Tasks	
Make connections with the point of view expressed in this letter with the statements made by Senator McCarran in source 3.	
Close Reading Questions	
 What does the author of the letter mean when she mentions that President Truman "saw fit to override the bill?" How could the author have restated the statement to correctly show an understanding of the checks and balance system? 	

Rabbi Max H. Leader et al. to President Harry S. Truman with a Reply from William Hassett, May 28, 1952. Truman Papers, Official File. OF 133: Immigration.

CHEYENNE, WYOMING

President of the United States Mr. Harry Truman White House Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

In our opinion Walter's Omnibus Immigration Bill represents de parture from Fundamental American Principals regarding Hearings, Appeals and Human Rights to live in Freedom and security. Not only is this departure a serious threat to the liberty of individuals who struggle for the freedom our immigrant fathers fought for, but also it represents a trend which if continued, may seriously impair other liberation of policies to individuals without judicial supervision is repugnant to our basic American philosphy. They will undoubtedly result in cruel, harsh, arbitrary and inhumane consequences to individuals and their families and stiffle the freedom and opportunities for which our country has so long fought and of which it has been for so long proud. Removal of political asylum, arbitrary restrictions on immigration and residence of refugees seeking sactuary from beyond the iron curtain countries will cause untold grief to citizen' relatives. They are bound to affect adversely procedures of our country in its international relations especially with liberations movements abroad. To spend millions for the Voice of America and to deny living proof that our voice is backed by an set to encourage worldwide freedom and democracy would have our words of heart and encouragement to unfortunate crusaders for freedom, fall on doubtful ears, further restrictions of the Quota System would seriously impair the influx of highly desirable persons whose ancestors in the past have now contributed greatly to the integration and further expansion of a democratic way of life in business, industry, commerce, and intellectual pursuite at home and abroad. As the world's greatest deomocracy and arsenallof all democratic intellectual and religious freedom it should be made available physically as well as in theory and not to be restricted by pure academic democracy. We should welcome the sincere freedom loving individuals of the whold world to live, worship and contribute in a society which will then be living proof that opportunity, democr

Bush Church Right Sier Ingregation Lyb-A Ray & Borguard minister Church Bush Church Swind Imm. AVC illegible Since Bird Such Regional Church Church Swind & Derker Bresident church Sprung State Education Glebon

T		
Sourci	ng Questions	
1.	Describe the tone of this source. What words/phrases help you make this conclusion?	
2.	The author of this source is a Rabbi. What is a Rabbi? How might this role influence the things that he cares about?	
3.	Why was this source written? How do you know?	
Contex	tualization Questions	
	Notice the date of the source. Where does this source fit in the timeline of the bill?	
2.	What historical context explains the concerns mentioned in this source for individuals in other parts of the world?	
3.	Refer to the background essay. What is the Quota system referred to in this source?	
Corrob	oration Tasks	
	Compare this source to other letters to President Truman. Compare and contrast the tone of these letters. What do you notice?	
Close Reading Questions		
	What is the author of this source trying to convince the reader to do?	
2.	What words or phrases are used to support the author's perspective?	
3.	How does this person feel about the Quota System?	
4.	What does the author mean when he used the words "repugnant to our basic American philosophy?"	

Excerpt of Memorandum from Harry N. Rosenfield to President Harry S. Truman with Attachment, June 12, 1952. Truman Papers, White House Bill File. June 25, 1952 (H. R. 5678) [1 of 2 with attachment].

DISPLACED PERSONS COMMISSION WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 12, 1952

Memorandum for the President



Recommendation for Veto of H.R. 5678

I recommend and urge that you veto H.R. 5678, the McCarran-Walter Immigration Bill, as being highly prejudicial to the best interests of the United States. It would be a repudiation of all you have accomplished, over Senator McCarran's bitter opposition, on the Displaced Persons program.

My reasons for urging veto of this un-American bill are that it would:

(1) grievously jeopardize the rights and status of displaced persons and others already admitted under the Displaced Persons Act.

It would subject such persons to the very kind of un-American type of police-state controls which made them flee originally.

(2) move at absolute cross-purposes to the proposals in your Message of March 24, 1952, for a liberalized three-year emergency immigration program to admit 300,000 refugees from communism and victims of European overpopulation.

Whatever good-will in Europe your program would bring will be dissipated by this McCarran Bill in the same way McCarran s Internal Security Act shocked all of Europe and lost us friends.

There are many other valid, and even more persuasive, reasons for veto, such as discrimination against Asiatics and West Indians, to name only several. However, I am limiting my observations to the evil effect of H.R. 5678 upon the Displaced Persons program and upon your splendid Message.

H.R. 5678 is an anti-immigration bill. On January 8, 1951, Senator McCarran called for a complete ban on all immigration into the United States. On January 29, 1951, he introduced S. 716 which is the basis for H.R. 5678. It is an indirect attempt, camouflouged by 300 pages of gobbledygook, to accomplish the original purpose to stop all immigration.

After the short-lived Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, Thomas Jefferson in his First Message to Congress, in 1801, asked:

"Shall we refuse to the unhappy fugitives from distress
. . . hospitality? Shall oppressed humanity find no
asylum on this globe?"

Un-American immigration bills incorporating several of the milder exclusionary provisions of this bill were vetoed by Presidents Cleveland, Taft and Wilson.

Some seem to think that Senator McCarran is willing to make a "deal", that he will "consider" your special program, without any specific commitment, if there be no veto of his bill. Despite my deep interest in your Message and special program, I still recommend and urge that you veto H.R. 5678. This recommendation is made personally, and not on behalf of the Displaced Persons Commission.

I am attaching a brief list of section citations in proof of my views that H.R. 5678 adds new provisions, not presently in the law, that would seriously endanger persons already admitted under the Displaced Persons Act.

Respectfully submitted

Harry N. Rosenfield Commissioner

Attachment

	ing Questions	
1.	Describe the tone of this source. What words/phrases help you make this conclusion?	
2.	What/who is the Displaced Persons Commission?	
Conte	extualization Questions	
1.	Notice the date of the source. Where does this source fit in the timeline of the bill?	
	What historical context explains the concerns mentioned in this source for individuals in other parts of the world?	
3.	The source mentions the Alien and Sedition Act of 1798. What is the connection with that law?	
Corro	boration Tasks	
1.	Make connections between the ideas expressed in this source with the goals and purposes of the <u>Displaced Persons</u> Act of 1948.	
Close	Reading Questions	
	What is the author of this source trying to convince the reader to do?	
2.	The source refers to Immigration Bill as "gobbledygook". Why do you think this word was used? What is the intent of using this word?	
3.	What does the source say about the effect of the Immigration Bill on displaced persons?	

Letter from Leonard H. Pasqualicchio to President Harry S. Truman with Attachments, June 4, 1952. Truman Papers, Official File. OF 133: Immigration.

GEORGE J. SPATUZZA SUPREME VENERABLE

SUPREME LODGE

FILED BY MR. HOPKINS JUL 9 1952

ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL DEPUTY

WASHINGTON, D. C.

EXECUTIVE 8280

LEONARD H. PASQUALICCHIO

June 4, 1952

SUITE 410 ATLANTIC BLDG.

233. Muc

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

My dear Mr. President:

For the past three weeks the McCarran-Walter Omnibus Immigration Bills have been debated and passed in the Senate and House of Representatives. It is a most unfortunate thing when legislation of such importance should be approved without proper study by the Members of Congress.

I would venture to say, Mr. President, that approximately seventy-five per cent of the members of the United States Senate who voted for the McCarran Bill have not read it, and therefore are not familiar with its vicious and un-American provisions. The bill is so complex that it poses questions of our basic national philosophy. It also poses questions of laws, of justice, and civil liberties. It threatens to disrupt our foreign policy and our internal security and will seriously weaken the United States in the cold war against Communist aggression.

It is the general opinion of our Supreme Officers and the officers and members of over twenty-two hundred lodges in thirty-five States of the Union that the McCarran Bill should not have been passed by the United States Senate.

Being familiar with your personal interest in the problems of over-population in foreign countries and according to your declaration to the United States Congress on March 24, 1952, we are certain that you are not in sympathy with legislation of this character and we, therefore, urgenly recommend that you veto the accarran fill.

National Deputy.

		•
1. 2.	My Questions What is the purpose of this letter? Who wrote the letter and what was the purpose of it? What was the function/goal of the Order Sons of Italy in America?	www.osia.org
Contex	ctualization Questions	
1.	When was the document written? Where does this source fit in the timeline of the bill?	
Corrob	oration Tasks	
	Compare this source with #8 and #9. How does the perspective of the document compare with other immigrant groups? Why might it be similar or different? Use source #10 to identify how Italians are affected by the immigration bill of 1952.	
Close Reading Questions		
1.	The author is trying to convince the reader to	
2.	What evidence does the author use to show support their position on the immigration bill?	

Letter from Abe Hagiwara to President Harry S. Truman, June 14, 1952. Truman Papers, Official File. OF 133: Immigration.





FILED BY MR. HOPKINS

JUL 9 1952

National Headquarters

412-415 BEASON BLDG.

TELEPHONE 5-6501

SALT LAKE CITY 1, UTAH

Mid-West Office: 189 W. Madison Street Chicago 2. Illinois Phone: Franklin 2-5762

June 14, 1952

133 1678 HR Pro

Honorable Harry S. Truman President of the United States White House Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

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I am writing to urge you to sign the Omnibus Immigrational and Naturalization Bill which I understand is now in your hands.

This bill has certainly created much interest among number of my liberal friends. This bill has made us study and think. It might interest you to know that a great majority of individuals who are not directly effected by this bill agree that the Omnibus Immigration and Naturaliation Bill is a definite improvement over any existing law or laws. That in principle, equality or non-discrimination of our immigration and naturalization law is a big step in the direction of achieving our democratic goals.

As a Japanese American I am tremendously interested in this bill because my mother who has resided in the United States for 35 years will at long last become elgible for citizenship. To many people like her America is home. This is where they have worked and lived. This is where they will rest forever.

The Japanese American Citizens League has worked tirelessly and long for 25 years to win equality in immigration and naturalization under the law. We have done all this in the American way, above board; and we are very proud of this fact. We shall always pursue our aims and objectives in this way.

Fraternally yours,

Abe Hagiwara, President

wura

For Better Americans In A Greater America

Sourci	ng Questions	
	Looking at the Salutation, who wrote the letter and what is his perspective on the McCarran-Walter Bill?	
2.	Does the creator of this source seem to agree or disagree with the McCarran Immigration Bill? How do you know?	
Contex	ctualization Questions	
1.	What circumstances from this era influenced the author's perspective?	
2.	When and where was the document created?	
Corrob	oration Tasks	
1.	What was different of the author's perspective on Source 8 compared to the author's perspective on Source 9?	
2.	Do the documents agree? Why or why not?	
Close F	Reading Questions	
	How effective is the author's personal reflection in persuading the reader?	
2.	What additional information does the document reveal that help understand the letter?	

William Hopkins to Rose Conway with related material, August 4, 1952; OF 133: Immigration, Truman Papers (Letter regarding McCarran Immigration Bill, June 14, 1952) Excerpted

New York City, N. Y. June 14,1952

Honorable Harry S. Truman White House Washington, D. C.

Re: The McCarran Immigration bill.

Dear Mr. President:

As representative leaders of our several Chinese American Organizations in the Eastern United States, we hereby request the privilege to express our humble opinions on the pending Immigration Bill, as sponsored by Honorable Pat McCarran of Nevada, for your Honor's fair-minded and humanitarian consideration.

l - Its unreasonable, retrogressive, and blindfolded adherence to the national origins quota system, especially on account of its insistance on making the outmoded 1920 census its basis of distribution.

2 - Its most awkward and unnecessarily offending discriminatory feature that an immigrant born outside of the Asia Pacific triangle, who is attributable by as much as one-half of his ancestry to a people indigenous to any one quota area, situated within the Asia Pacific triangle, shall be chargeable to the quota of that quota area. That would mean a person of Chinese or Filipino ancestry, even though only half of whose family tree is of Filipino or Chinese origin, who is born anywhere in Europe or South America or the British Dominions, still can only come to the United States by getting on the limited quota of 105, for the Chinese, or 100 for the Filipinos.

Hoping that the foregoing views will meet with your kind understanding and approval, and that your Honor may see fit to return the pending Immigration Bill to Congress, with your instructions for its reconsideration and revision, we are,

Respectfully and faithfully yours,

Franklin R.

atsenyMoo-an Kiang

Lincoln H. Yao

of the groups

		-
Sourci	ng Questions	
1.	Looking at the Salutation, who wrote the letter?	
2.	What is his/her perspective on the McCarran-Walter Bill?	
3.	Does the creator of this source seem to agree or disagree with the McCarran Immigration Bill? How do you know?	
Contex	ctualization Questions	
1.	What circumstances for this era, would have been influencing factors in the author's push for his/her perspective?	
2.	When and where was the document created?	
Corrob	oration Tasks	
1.	What was different of the author's perspective on Source 9 compared to the author's perspective on Source 8?	
2.		
Close F	Reading Questions	
1.	What evidence does the author use to make his/her argument towards the passage of the McCarran-Walter Bill?	
2.	What additional information does the document reveal that help understand the letter?	

Proclamation by President Truman: Immigration Quotas. June 30, 1952; Papers of Eben Ayers: Box 8: Subject File: Immigration

Area	(uota area	Cuota
NQ*_		
1	Afghanistan	100
2	Albania	100
3	Andorra	100
4	Arabian Peninsula	100
5	Asia-Pacific triangle	100
6	Australia	1,405
7	Austria	1,297
8	Belgium	100
9	Bhutan	100
10	Burma	100
11	Cambodia	100
12	Cameroons (trust territory, United Kingdom)	100
13	Cameroun (trust territory, France)	100
15	Ceylon	100
16	China	100
17	Chinese	105
18	Czechoslovakia	2,859
19	Danzig, Free City of	100
20	Denmark	1,175
21	Egypt	100
22	Estonia	115
23	Ethiopia	100
24	Finland	566
25	France	3,069
26	Germany	25,814
27	Great Britain and Northern Ireland	65,361
28	Greece	308
29	Hungary	865
30	Iceland	100
31	India	100
32	Indonesia	100
33	Iran (Persia)	100
34	Iraq	100
35	Ireland (Eire)	17,756
36	Israel	100
37	Italy	5,645

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

VHICKEAS under the provisions of section 201(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Attorney General, jointly, are required to determine the annual quota of any quota area established pursuant to the provisions of section 202 of the said Act, and to report to the President the quota of each quota area so determined; and

Sourcing Questions		
1. 2.	Who was the creator of this source? What was the purpose of this document?	
Contex	tualization Questions	
1.	How might the events from which the document was created affect its content?	
Corroboration Tasks		
1.	Which sources could use the information from the quota chart to support their stance?	
Close Reading Questions		
1.	What statistical evidence from the chart could President Truman have used to support his veto of the McCarran-Walter bill?	