

## President's Proposals To Change Refugee Act

Following is the text of 10 amendments to the Refugee Relief Act proposed by President Eisenhower today:

1. The act, at present, contains specific categories of eligibility with specific numbers allotted to each category. It now appears that because of some of the technical requirements of the act and the growing prosperity in Western Europe, there may not be enough applicants to fill the quotas in some categories. I recommend that there be a provision for the use of unused numbers. Such unused numbers might well be used, for example, for orphans on a world-wide basis.

2. The act limits the term "refugee" to those who have not been "firmly resettled." Experience has shown that this provision tends to exclude the hard-working and the adjustable, the very people we want most as new citizens. Moreover, it appears that "resettlement" is such a vague term as to create conflicts in interpretation and delays in clearing applications.

I recommend that this limitation be withdrawn so that, where the refugee otherwise qualifies on a selective basis, he will not be barred because he is diligent and competent.

### Would Accept Escapees

3. A similar difficulty is presented by the terms of the act which require that an "escapee" or "expellee" also be a "refugee." Under the act, this unduly limits the escapees and expellees who may be admitted. This, again, serves to exclude some of the most desirable people who have, at great sacrifice, at least temporarily resettled themselves. I am sure it is enough that a person be a qualified "escapee" or "expellee" to meet the standards on which we all agree. They should also be required to be "refugees" within the narrow definition of the act.

4. The requirement that a "refugee" be living away from his traditional home has excluded many tragic victims of disaster whom I am sure the Congress intended to admit. This includes Netherlands' farmers whose land has been ruined by floods of salt water, Greek mountain people whose herds have been despoiled by Communist invaders and

many similar victims of catastrophe. The restriction should be relaxed.

5. The act contains a salutary provision enacted by the Congress for the benefit of aliens who are here in the United States and who fear persecution if required to return abroad. There is a limitation, however, within this section which has caused undue hardship in some cases. It requires that the person show "lawful entry as a bona fide non-immigrant," before he is eligible for this humanitarian relief.

I recommend to the Congress that the section be amended to permit the Attorney General to waive this requirement in meritorious cases where the person is otherwise qualified under the act. It is estimated that this would not involve more than a few hundred cases, but in the case of each individual human being, such an amendment would satisfy the beneficent purposes of the Congress.

### To Relax Passport Rule

6. Obviously people who have risked their lives to escape from totalitarian nations often have no passports. The Refugee Relief Act, however, requires passports and in many cases this has served to defeat the very purpose of the Congress. I recommend amendment to permit waiver of the need for passports and similar documents in the discretion of the Secretary of State and the Attorney General as is already provided in the basic immigration and nationality laws.

7. Under the act, no escapee or refugee is entitled to a visa unless there is available complete information regarding his history for two years past, except on waiver by the Secretaries of State and Defense, if it is determined to be in the national interest.

No such requirement is applicable in the case of regular immigrants under the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952. This two-year history, in the case of recent escapees, is often impossible to obtain. Yet these are the very people who have been actively stimulated to risk the perils of escape by our own information program broadcast through the Iron Curtain. I have faith in the competence of our security personnel,

and I recommend that this inflexible requirement be eliminated from the law, leaving it to the sound discretion of the security officer to make his recommendation on the basis of all the facts available. If he is in doubt, he will not certify the refugee or escapee as a proper security risk.

8. Another obstacle to the achievement of the purposes of the act is the requirement of individual sponsorship and guarantees of each application for admission. Where responsible, voluntary welfare organizations are prepared to give assurances with respect to applicants by name, it is unnecessary to add the burdensome requirement that individual sponsorship of each such applicant also be provided. I recommend that where such agency assurances are given, individual assurances assurances not be required in addition.

### To Prevent Splitting Families

9. At present, special visas may not be issued to wives, husbands or children of persons admitted under the act unless they all come to the United States together. If the members of the person's family are following at a later time and are otherwise admissible, then the special visas should be equally available to them.

10. There are many refugee families in Western Europe whose members would make useful and productive citizens of the United States. But who would face separation if they should avail themselves of the provisions of the refugee act. This they are unwilling to do. They would face separation because of the fact that one of their members is ineligible for admission to the United States under the health standards of our general immigration laws, particularly as respects tuberculosis.

We in the United States no longer regard tuberculosis with dread. Our treatment standards are high and modern treatment is increasingly effective. The United States, to its own benefit, could permit many of these families, within the existing numerical limitations, to enter under safeguards provided by the Attorney General and the Surgeon General of the United States assuring protection of the public health and adequate treatment of the afflicted individual, and also assuring that such individual will not become a public charge. I urge that the Congress give consideration to amendments that would enable this to be done.

## 7 Receive Scholarships To Study at Harvard

The Harvard Club of Washington has granted seven freshman scholarships to outstanding Washington area school graduates for study at Harvard University.

Students receiving the awards are: Kenneth Clayton, Dunbar High School; John Debecki and Lawrence Smith, Archbishop Carroll; Philip DuSault, George Washington; Lawrence Hanson, Jr., Anacostia; Robert Pearlstein, Washington-Lee, and Erik Ronhovde, St. Albans. An honorary scholarship was given to Edmund Games, of Woodrow Wilson High School.

## REFUGEES

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to enable the United States to participate with other nations in a great humanitarian effort for the relief of tragic victims of the postwar world, and for the reduction, in a measure, of overpopulation stresses in friendly nations."

### Cites Immigrants' Achievements

"The immigrant has brought greatness to our land and a tremendous love for his adopted country," Mr. Eisenhower said. "The foreign-born and their descendants—which include all of us—have given devoted allegiance to the United States, in war and in peace, and have helped give to America a unique position of leadership among the nations."

He said the changes he proposed would reaffirm America's "great tradition of sanctuary." The President in three provisions called on Congress to put a broader construction on the word "refugee." He thinks escapees and expellees should qualify as refugees; that the requirement that applicants should be persons "living away from their traditional homeland" be dropped; and that people who through their industry have "firmly resettled"

themselves should still be eligible for admission under the act.

### Would Transfer Quotas

He also recommended that unfilled quotas in countries where there are fewer applicants than are allowed for in the act should be allocated to applicants in other countries whose quotas have been used up. He suggested that orphans might be suitable candidates for these unused numbers.

The passport requirement, which has operated against many refugees from Iron Curtain countries, who could hardly have provided themselves with this document, should be waived, Mr. Eisenhower said.

Mr. Corsi, a New York Republican, was fired after 90 days' service as special immigration advisor to Secretary of State Dulles. He charged that the Refugee Act had been sabotaged.

Mr. McLeod has contended that delays in bringing refugees and relatives had been caused by a necessary "tooling-up period" on the program.

### Tourists Increase

In the last four years, tourists visiting the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have increased from 8,627 to 74,361, Annam reports.

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## Students Rebuked On Shivers Stand

LOS ANGELES, May 27 (AP)—President Fred D. Fagg of the University of Southern California yesterday rebuked the school's student senate for opposing the appearance of Texas Gov. Allan Shivers at the university's commencement June 11.

President Fagg immediately re-extended the invitation to Gov. Shivers and told the students their action Wednesday night was "immature" and "ill-

advised."

The university head said he had talked with Gov. Shivers on the telephone.

"I told him that I imagined that he, as a public figure, is well acquainted with the fact that there are those who agree and those who disagree with his public utterances," President Fagg said.

"However, I assured him that the university reaffirms its cordial invitation to him to address our commencement exercises on June 11."

"The historic purpose of a

graduation address is to inspire graduating seniors to recognize the importance of tolerance, integrity and intelligence," the student resolution said. "Gov. Shivers has consistently demonstrated lack of these ideals."

**Memorial (Yizkor) Services**  
Second Day of Pentecost (Shavuoth)  
Sat., May 28 (7:00-8:00)  
10:30 A.M.  
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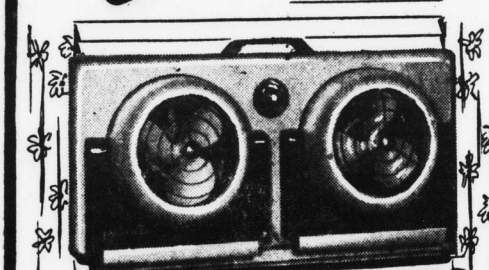
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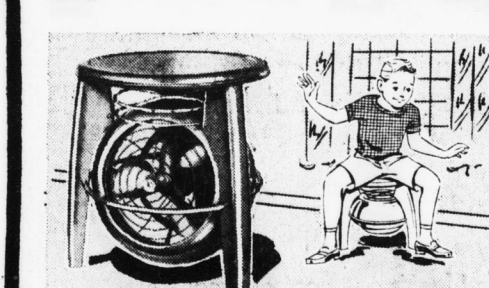
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