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REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

by CONGRESSWOMAN

FLORENCE P. DWYER



Volume I, Number 12.

May 2, 1957.

One of the major problems with which most Congressional offices must deal is that of the constant stream of requests for help in immigration matters.

The vast majority of these requests are from constituents who are seeking to bring loved ones to this country from other lands. Each of these cases - and I have received more than 100 such requests from residents of every community in Union County so far this year - is worthy of favorable consideration.

Each of these cases has a dramatic story to tell - of hardships, of the sorrow of separated families, of dreams of a new life in a free country, of fear and oppression behind the Iron Curtain.

Many of the people who seek Congressional help in their efforts to get members of their families into this country are, themselves, immigrants. They are devout, good citizens, with a deep appreciation of the benefits and opportunities of life in America; and their fondest hope is that their loved ones overseas can join them here in their new homeland.

IMMIGRATION CASES DIFFICULT

I have found, in discussing with the people the personal problems involved in such cases, and in working on the cases, a great sympathy with those who

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encounter the difficult barrier of immigration regulations. I wish it were possible for each of these cases to get quick and favorable consideration.

Unfortunately, under our present strict immigration laws, this is not possible.

Several factors complicate the immigration problem.

First, and most important, the countries in which the demand for immigration to America is greatest have the smallest quotas and the longest waiting lists.

Second, under the Displaced Person Act of 1948, DP's entering the United States have been charged to the quotas of the countries of their birth, regardless of the country from which they may have emigrated. As a result, certain countries, such as Poland, Greece and Yugoslavia, have had 50 percent of their quotas mortgaged for years into the future.

Greece, for example, has an annual quota of 308 persons. However, because of the number of Greek citizens entering the United States from other countries under the DP Act, 50 percent of the Greek quota has been mortgaged to the year 2018. In other words, for the next 61 years, under the present law, Greece will only have a 154 quota each year. Yet, in Greece today, 109,000 persons have filed applications for American immigration.

The longest waiting list is reported by the State Department to exist in Italy. With an annual quota of 5645, Italy, as of last February 1, had 151,000 applicants.

IRON CURTAIN QUOTAS

There is a constant and heavy demand for the small quotas allotted citizens of the Iron Curtain countries, with practically all of the applicants being refugees now living outside their homelands.

Poland, which - since the Poznan riots of last year - has won a degree of independence from Moscow, now is permitting some of its citizens, mostly older people, to emigrate to America. But the other Iron Curtain nations, including the Soviet Union, rarely authorize such emigration.

The quotas of all these nations are mortgaged for years in advance.

Poland's 6488 quota is mortgaged until the year 2000, cutting its present annual quota to 3244. Yet, the State Department reports a waiting list of 80,000 Polish applicants.

Yugoslavia, with half of its annual 933 quota mortgaged until the year 2015, has a waiting list of 150,000. The Soviet Union, with half of its 2697 quota mortgaged until the year 1981, has 35,000 applicants.

Among the countries with large quotas, only Western Germany has an excess of applicants. There, 44,000 persons are seeking United States entry under a 25,814 annual quota.

Such nations as Great Britain, Belgium and Ireland are below their quotas. However, under the present law, their unused quotas cannot be transferred to other nations with long waiting lists.

President Eisenhower's proposed revisions of the Immigration laws - changes which are now before this session of Congress - will ease many of these immigration problems. But, until such changes are made, many deserving people will continue to face the barrier of our immigration laws.

ECONOMY BOX SCORE

Through April 18, the economy drive in Congress - given impetus by a continuing flood of letters from the public - had succeeded in chopping more than \$1.1 billion from the 1958 budget. These cuts included:

Treasury and Post Office	\$ 80,364,000
Interior	60,794,000
General Government	4,900,500
Independent Offices	537,993,300
Labor-Health, Education, Welfare ...	134,446,000
District of Columbia	3,000,000
Commerce	217,827,940
State, Justice, USIA, Judiciary	101,850,009

TOTAL \$1,141,175,749