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Lehman, Herbert, 1953.

HERBERT H. LEHMAN
NEW YORK

COMMITTEES:
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE
BANKING AND CURRENCY

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 24, 1953

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

During the closing days of the first session of the 83rd Congress, eight Senators and twenty-four Members of the House of Representatives jointly introduced a new omnibus Immigration and Citizenship Bill (S. 2585) as a complete substitute for the McCarran-Walter Act.

I have been made aware of your interest and concern over our present immigration and naturalization laws through your testimony before the President's Commission on Immigration and Naturalization last year. Because of your interest in this matter, I am sending you a copy of the new bill and a detailed summary of its provisions. In major respects the new Immigration and Citizenship Bill follows the proposals recommended by you and many others in the Hearings before the President's Commission.

It is my hope, as well as that of the other co-sponsors, that we will be able to obtain hearings on this new bill during the next session of Congress, and that the Administration will give the bill its serious consideration.

As you know, both candidates for the Presidency pledged, during the last campaign, to bring about revision of the McCarran-Walter Act. I believe it will take a concerted effort by all of us during the coming months to impress upon the Members of Congress and the Administration the need to proceed rapidly in this direction.

I would be most pleased to receive any comments or suggestions you may have with regard to the proposed Act. The Bill in its present form represents many months of work by a large group of technical specialists, authorities from our leading law schools, members of the Immigration Bar, and many others. However, a bill of this complexity calls for continued analysis and study before it can be perfected.

If you, or organizations with which you work, publish any analysis or statements with regard to this new bill, I would appreciate receiving a copy of such material.

May I personally thank you for your past concern and interest in this most important matter. I join with you in the hope that the day will soon come when the United States can have on its statute books a just and honorable immigration and citizenship law.

Yours very sincerely,

Herbert H. Lehman