

# NEW YORKERS FIGHT IMMIGRATION BILL AS RACIALLY UNFAIR

Twenty of State's 22 Democrats in Congress Issue Protest Against "Favoring Nordics."

WANT CENSUS OF 1920 USED

They Would Accept 1910 Figures for Quota Basis, but Will Oppose Those of 1890.

SAY LABORERS ARE WANTED  
And Declare That South and East European Races Are Not Inferior to the Northerners.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Organized opposition to the Johnson restrictive immigration bill developed today, when twenty of the twenty-two members of the New York State Democratic delegation in the House endorsed a declaration in which it was charged that the bill was deliberately framed to favor the Nordic races and discriminate against races from Southern and Eastern Europe.

The Johnson bill would base the quotas on the number of nationals of any country resident in the United States under the census of 1890, as opposed to the present basis of the 1910 census. The New York Congressmen hold that such racial and religious discrimination is a "new but perilous doctrine for democratic America," which was founded upon the principle that "all men are created equal."

The Administration leadership in the House has put immigration legislation next to tax legislation on the Congressional program, as the present law expires at the end of the fiscal year and a considerable majority of the members feel that some new restriction law is essential to the best interests of the country.

The New York Democrats do not openly take exception to this contention, but they hold that the basis for fixing the quotas should not be changed.

When the Johnson bill was framed it was forecast that strong opposition would appear against it on the part of delegations from large cities such as New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Chicago, which have big foreign communities. There is much speculation as to whether this fight will develop sufficient strength to force Congress to retain in the new law provisions making the 1910 census the basis of quota-fixing.

Text of the Protest.

The declaration by the New York Democrats follows:

"The undersigned, being Democratic members of the House of Representatives from the State of New York, are unalterably opposed to the rigidly restrictive immigration bill reported by the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization and known as 'the Johnson bill, H. R. 6540.'

"The foreign-born population of our country and those born here of a foreign parent comprise 33½ per cent. of the total population. Of these, at least 25 per cent. are recent immigrants and constitute the young men and women of today's laboring classes, so necessary to our industrial prosperity.

"We are underhoused, underconstructed and underdeveloped and are in sore need of those who are willing to do our work, both skilled and hard and laborious, and this bill would tend to keep out that class of immigrants best suited for such occupations.

"It would not, moreover, bring into this country a better class or a more assimilable body of immigrants.

"Our national policy, as expressed in the act of 1917, a distinctly selective measure, has been to welcome to our shores all immigrants who are desirable; that is, all who are mentally, morally and physically fit, and friendly to our form of government.

"The proposed bill goes even further than the present law in fixing an arbitrary number of immigrants who can be admitted.

"It is the avowed purpose of the Immigration Committee to have this law embody our permanent policy of immigration, and bind us to a program which is inflexible, unscientific and unjust, and is, furthermore, an attempt to treat a human problem upon a cold, mathematical formula, since its basis is quantitative rather than qualitative.

See "So-Called Nordics" Favored.

"The 'Johnson bill' is particularly objectionable because it discriminates against certain nationalities already go-

Continued on Page Two.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

# NEW YORKERS FIGHT IMMIGRATION BILL

Continued from Page 1, Column 3.

ing to make up a great part of our population, and fans the flames of racial, religious and national hatreds and brands forever elements already here as of an inferior stock.

"It discriminates against Italy, who gave us the great Columbus; it discriminates against Poland, who gave us our revolutionary heroes, Kosciuszko and Pulaski; it discriminates against Russia of the great Tolstoy; against Hungary, who gave us the great patriot Kossuth; against Greece, the land of Venizelos; against Czechoslovakia, from whence hailed the distinguished Masaryk; against Yugoslavia, who sent us the great inventor Michael Pupin, and finally against France, from whence came the immortal Lafayette and Rochambeau.

"Have we so soon forgotten the World War, when the youth of those same nationalities, residents in the United States, joined hands with their relatives across the seas and brought victory to us and our allies in that great conflict? Shall we exclude those compatriots in arms by a mere mathematical formula? Is it fair? Is it American?

"This proposed law would adopt as a basis of entrance 2 per cent. of the foreign population of 1890. In its determined effort to be as unfair as possible, the committee, in addition to reducing the percentage from 3 per cent., adopts as a basis census figures thirty-four years old, instead of taking the census of 1920, now available, or even the census of 1910, the basis of the present law. This basis was deliberately selected to favor the so-called Nordic races and discriminate against races from Southern and Eastern Europe, which discrimination is, indeed, a new but perilous doctrine for democratic America, founded upon the declaration that 'all men are created equal.'

"Our great country is still big enough, geographically, politically and socially to receive those persons knocking at our doors, whether of brain or brawn, who answer our mental, moral and physical requirements and can contribute to our science, our art, our literature, our commerce or our industry."

The members of the New York Democratic delegation signing the statement are:

John F. Carew, John J. Kindred, Christopher D. Sullivan, Thomas H.

Cullen, James M. Mead, Anthony J. Griffin, William E. Cleary, John F. Quayle, David J. O'Connell, Loring M. Black Jr., Sol Bloom, George W. Lindsay, Emanuel Celler, Parker Corning, Samuel Dickstein, John J. Boylan, John J. O'Connor, Frank Oliver, Anning S. Prall and Royal H. Weller.

President Coolidge and Secretary of Labor Davis both have endorsed immigration restriction legislation, but have not expressed an opinion concerning the basis on which quotas should be made.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.