

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

The Declaration of Independence



WHY YOU SHOULD SUPPORT THE
American Committee for
Protection of Foreign Born

The American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born mobilizes public support for the following program to gain equal rights for the foreign-born in the United States:

1. *To combat discrimination on grounds of race, nationality or non-citizenship.*
2. *To prevent destruction of families by deportation.*
3. *To preserve the American tradition of asylum for political and religious refugees.*

IMMIGRANTS BUILT AMERICA

The founders of this country hoped to establish a nation in which no one group would discriminate against another on the grounds of race, religion, nationality or political opinion. The promise of bread, land and equality drew millions of people to these shores.

Without immigration there would have been no United States.

EXCLUSION AND DEPORTATION

As long as there was a need for new sources of labor, the policy of the Open Door was maintained. Today the gates of America are closed to immigrants. The foreign-born now here, who played a major part in building the United States, are being denied the chance to make a living and are threatened with deportation.

In the last twenty years about 200,000 people have been deported. Few of them have ever been heard from again. Countless families have been broken up never to be reunited.

Congressman Dies has introduced a bill through which he claims three and a half million people could be deported in one year. Senator Reynolds has introduced a bill with a similar purpose.

As a part of this scheme for wholesale deportation, measures have been introduced in national and state legislatures and in city councils to register and fingerprint non-citizens and to deny them jobs.

DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination against the foreign-born in industry and in the administration of relief in various states is widespread and is growing.

Tens of thousands of Mexican workers have been cut off relief and forced to return to Mexico in the past few years.

In 1932, 1,400 non-citizens were dismissed from the New York City hospitals. (Only 600 citizens were hired to replace them.)

In 1936, the Relief Administration of New York City dismissed non-citizens from Emergency Relief Bureau jobs. This discrimination is being extended to include other public works jobs and private employment. Measures to bar all non-citizens from relief have been introduced in the New York City Board of Aldermen.

DEPORTATION AS A STRIKEBREAKING WEAPON

The "deportation delirium" of 1919-20 was an attempt to crush the rising strike movement as expressed in the steel strike and the Seattle general strike of that period.

Wholesale raids by immigration officers were part of the effort to crush the San Francisco general strike of 1934.

Twenty-four labor organizers were deported because of their activities in the coal strike and in the struggle against evictions in Gallup, N. M., in 1935.

In the Shoeworkers' general strike of 1933, in the textile strike of 1934, in the recent struggles of the needle trades and of the automobile and food workers, many labor leaders have been held for deportation.

Many of the organizers in the struggle for unemployment insurance have also been deported.

OBSTACLES TO OBTAINING CITIZENSHIP

The expense and red tape involved in naturalization are no small obstacle to acquiring citizenship. Harold Fields, in an article on "Unemployment and the Alien" in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* for May, 1935, states that the average expense is from \$20 to \$40, and in many cases the fees, expenses of witnesses, fares, etc., may be as high as \$50 to \$100.

Thousands of people are excluded from citizenship on the ground of race. Those who do not take the oath to bear arms are barred. Exclusion for reasons of political opinion and trade union activity is being extended. A judge in Southern California recently denied citizenship to a member of the Utopian Society although this organization believes only in peaceful change in the form of government.

In some cases, for example that of Emil Gardos, editor of the Hungarian language daily, *Uj Elore*, citizenship of foreign-born citizens has been revoked on the ground of political opinion.

We urge the simplification of the naturalization laws to lower the fees and to eliminate all discrimination on the grounds of race, nationality or political opinion.

THE TIDE FLOWS OUT

Congressman Blanton, William Randolph Hearst and others have proposed that all immigration be stopped. The fact is that the tide is flowing out anyway. Since 1930 more people have left the country than have entered it. In 1933, for instance, while 23,000 entered, 80,000 departed.

DIVIDE AND RULE

We are told that if millions of foreign-born workers were deported there would be more jobs for the American workers.

Propaganda and legislation against the foreign-born are intended to break up labor organizations by pitting native against foreign-born workers and to weaken labor's struggle for higher wages, shorter hours and better working conditions.

The laws ostensibly aimed at non-citizens are used to suppress all workers in their efforts to organize and strike. *In the San Francisco general strike, of 373 arrested as "aliens," 272 were American citizens.*

THE HANDS OF HITLER STRETCH ACROSS THE SEA

Many refugees now living here face deportation to fascist countries where they would be put to death or imprisoned. The concentration camps of Hitler are being used as a threat against the foreign-born who resist tyranny in the United States. From this it is only a step to the establishment of concentration camps for American citizens in this country.

"Shall we refuse the unhappy fugitive from distress that hospitality which the savages of the wilderness extended to our forefathers arriving in this land?"

Thomas Jefferson, 1801

COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

The American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born is an independent, non-partisan body. It is composed of representatives of trade unions, fraternal and cultural societies and church groups. It has an Advisory Board of prominent educators, ministers, attorneys and writers.

The Committee cooperates with the American Civil Liberties Union, the International Labor Defense, trade union defense committees and language organizations. It assists in preparing the defense on deportation cases throughout the United States.

The Committee issues bulletins, press releases, pamphlets and other literature concerning the foreign-born in the United States.

WHAT THE COMMITTEE HAS DONE

The American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born has defended scores of persons held for deportation because of political opinion or trade union activity.

Notable victories have been won in some of these cases.

Mrs. Stella Petrosky, mother of eight American-born children, was held for deportation to Poland. Although the immigration inspector at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, had recommended that she be deported as a radical, the Labor Department cancelled the warrant in her case following nation-wide protest.

An important court victory in a deportation case involving political opinion was won by our Committee in 1935. Paul Kettunen was charged with affiliation with the Communist Party because he had sold copies of the *Daily Worker*. He had been put on board the S. S. *President Harding* bound for Finland when a writ was served on the captain and the deportation halted. Later the Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the order of the Labor Department and Kettunen was released. A threat to extend the deportation laws and infringe the freedom of the press was thereby checked.

The Committee played an important part in defeating the Michigan Alien Registration Act in 1931, the Dies Bill in 1932, and in the fight against recent measures for registration and fingerprinting of non-citizens.

THE FIGHT MUST GO ON

The number of these measures is increasing and reactionary forces are becoming more vociferous in their demands for wholesale deportation and discrimination against the foreign-born.

All organizations and individuals who believe in American traditions of democracy must be heard. Their full cooperation is needed to win the fight for equal rights for the foreign-born in the United States.

MEMBERSHIP

Individuals are invited to become supporting members of the Committee at \$1.00 per year or sustaining members at \$10.00 per year. (Sustaining members receive the weekly press releases and monthly bulletins.)

Organizations interested in the work of the Committee are urged to affiliate with it.

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**American Committee for Protection of
Foreign Born**

Date.....

American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born

100 Fifth Avenue, New York City

I wish to join your Committee as a sustaining member at \$10.00 per year

.....
(Sustaining members receive weekly press releases, monthly bulletins and other publications issued by the Committee.)

I wish to join as a supporting member at \$1.00 per year.

I hereby contribute \$.....to the work of the Committee.

Send me further information about the Committee.

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