

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION

WASHINGTON

ADDRESS REPLY TO
COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION
AND REFER TO

No. 55409/General -A


May 8, 1928

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECOND ASSISTANT SECRETARY:

In connection with the attached letter from Senator Carl Hayden, dated the 10th ultimo, addressed to the Secretary in which he asks for the benefit of this Department's views as to the desirability of the legislation proposed in H. R. 11755 (A Bill To establish a border patrol for the more efficient enforcement of laws applicable to the international and maritime borders of the United States), attention is invited to a letter addressed by the Assistant Secretary under date of March 26, last, to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget with which that official was handed copy of a letter from the author of the said bill in which letter similar comment was requested.

It will be noted that the Assistant Secretary did not reply directly to Congressman Hudson, the author of the bill. Possibly you will care to advise Senator Hayden similarly. Senator Hayden's correspondent, Mr. Frank O. Smith, characterizes the proposed measure as "very vicious" and, furthermore, that the bill would eliminate the customs patrol, etc. It might be pertinent to remark in this connection that Mr. Smith's conclusions may be correct so far as the elimination of the customs patrol is concerned, but it is not necessarily a foregone conclusion that there would be such an elimination since in the final analysis the question whether the officers of the customs patrol would be transferred to the unified border patrol is left by the terms of the measure entirely to the discretion of the President. In fact, no governmental agencies are mentioned by name for consolidation with the proposed border patrol organization.

The letter to General Lord, hereinabove mentioned, is in a folder marked "Bureau of the Budget, Border Patrol" (bills by Congressmen Johnson and Hudson), ~~temporarily loaned to me~~ ^{held} by Miss Moynihan. I attach copy of a communication addressed to the Commissioner General of Immigration under date of March 22, 1928, in which attention is invited to Circular 49 of the Bureau of the Budget outlining the procedure to be observed in communications dealing with pending legislation.


GEORGE J. HARRIS

Assistant Commissioner General.