

July 15, 1955 (per Mr. Hoffmann's office)

The Speaker of the  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I enclose herewith a draft of bill which would authorize the acquisition of sites and the erection of suitable buildings and necessary adjunct facilities for a Border Patrol Training School and for Immigration Border Patrol Sector Headquarters, including living quarters for officers, provided no Federal or other buildings adapted or suitably located for these purposes are available, and to maintain, operate, remodel or repair such premises and to expend from funds appropriated for the enforcement of the immigration laws the amounts necessary for such purposes. I hope it may be possible to have this measure introduced and passed at the present session of Congress in order that there may be a basic authorization upon which to premise budgetary estimates and congressional appropriations for the fiscal year 1957.

Section 103 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (66 Stat. 173, 8 U.S.C. 1103) provides that the Attorney General shall have the power and duty to control and guard the boundaries and borders of the United States against the illegal entry of aliens. This duty is carried out by the Border Patrol of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. For a number of years that Service has maintained a training school for border patrolmen in which new appointees are required to undergo a very intensive and rigid course of instruction to give them an adequate knowledge of the immigration and nationality laws and to train them in the specialized techniques necessary for carrying out their arduous duties. The physical requirements, as well as the standards of instruction, are of a very high order. From the ranks of the Border Patrol emerge some of our most capable officers to higher positions in the administration and enforcement of our immigration laws. The training school, however, has never been properly

housed. For the past year it has been located in hastily constructed, temporary type, one-story wood buildings located at Fort Bliss, Texas. These buildings were built some fifteen years ago and became available for the training school only because they had been abandoned by the Army as no longer economically usable. In order to use them at all minimum repairs were required, but it is clear that their use must be considered as on a makeshift basis. Needless to say, it is difficult to inculcate in the trainees high standards of instruction and morale in such quarters. We cannot improve the situation without authorization of law which enactment of the draft bill here presented would provide.

The operations of the Border Patrol extend for the most part along our boundaries with contiguous countries. By far the larger responsibilities occur on our southern land border which extends from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean, and, to a lesser extent, along our entire northern boundary. These forces have been found to operate most effectively if disposed on a sector basis, but the present inadequacy of buildings does not afford proper headquarters from which the duties and responsibilities of the patrol in these various sectors may be directed. The draft bill submitted herewith would authorize the establishment of such sector headquarters if and as appropriations are made available, thereby greatly increasing the efficient functioning of the Border Patrol.

For the foregoing reasons I cannot too strongly urge the necessity for the enactment of the proposed legislation at this time. If a bill is introduced, the Immigration and Naturalization Service is prepared to offer more detailed information in its support.

I am informed by the Bureau of the Budget that there is no objection to the submission of this request.

Sincerely,

Attorney General