

Judge Marc Kee Zia

Bishop Swanton

Father Don Anger

Father Monico

COMMENTS BY

HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

MAY 18, 1965

BEFORE FOURTH NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE AMERICAN  
COMMITTEE ON ITALIAN MIGRATION

"Immigration - New Horizons 1965"

I welcome the opportunity to address this outstanding Conference.

I bring you the warm personal greetings of President Johnson.  
Your fight for justice in immigration is his fight -- my fight -- America's fight.

The Subcommittee Hearings conducted by Congressman Feighan this morning -- and earlier this year -- offer an impressive record for reform of the obsolete Immigration and Nationality Law.

President Johnson will continue to work closely with the Congress to end -- once and for all -- the intolerable discrimination in the immigration statute.

*Berlin wall!*  
Last October, in addressing a Columbus Day Rally in Newark, I emphasized that our beloved country despises "walls." The cruel wall against fine potential immigrants -- of Italian or other ancestry -- is absolutely contrary to our American ideals.

The Anti-Italian-Wall must come "tumbling down." It will come down, provided other groups of dedicated Americans work as hard as you have -- on behalf of justice in immigration.

↳ The ~~bigoted~~ quota system based on 1920 National Origins should and will be eliminated by the 89th Congress.

↳ The system violates the most elementary humanitarian tradition of uniting families.

It defies the American tradition of recognizing each human being on his individual merit. That means ignoring any arbitrary factor, beyond the individual's control, such as where he or she may happen to have been born.

But let this point be perfectly clear. We Americans are proud of our varied ancestry, of the varied lands from which we are descended. Any individual can be proud -- very proud -- to have been born in Italy. You and I know how much humanity is indebted for all that Italy has given to civilization. The United States is infinitely richer, wiser, finer thanks to the tremendous achievements of the sons and daughters, the grandsons and grand-daughters of Italy, such as are so well represented by the distinguished officers and members of your Committee.

Yet, indifferent to all this, the blind National Origins Quota System persists -- for the present -- as a stain on our statute books.

That System defies the very ideals of our religious faiths. Those  
ideals were magnificently expressed by the beloved Pope John XXIII  
in his unforgettable encyclical, *Pachem in terra* "Peace On Earth" wherein he urged

a just policy of world-wide immigration. In that universal spirit,

I commend this audience. You have fought for justice for human

beings of every background. We owe so much to what you have

already achieved in facilitating improvements in the immigration

law.

I look forward to the day -- in the not too distant future --

when we will celebrate -- what I hope and believe will be a great

victory for true immigration justice.

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON ITALIAN MIGRATION

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LUNCHEON MEETING - FEDERAL ROOM 12:15 P. M.

Statler-Hilton Hotel

Washington, D. C.

Tuesday, May 18, 1965

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MR. MAIULLO: May I have your attention, please, ladies and gentlemen?

I am happy to see all the smiling faces here. The only thing I am unhappy about is -- I am 79 years old, and I would like to be 59. I could enjoy more.

I am one of those boys that was born in Italy, but I came here when I was a year old. Father came here 90 years ago the first time, and he worked in New York for 25 and 50 cents a day. Today my namesake, who is 19 years old, my grandchild, is in Vietnam. What we Italians have given to civilization, and what we have given to this country and to the world is beyond words.

I am proud of being an Italian, and I know you all are.

The Vice President of the United States is going to be here and please, when he comes, do not crowd him. He will see to it that each and every one of your delegations can be photographed and he will cooperate with you one hundred per cent, if he has time.

Well, I am hoping that he has time, and if he comes.

WARD & PAUL

917 G St., N. W., Washington 1, D. C.



1 It is not the function of a toastmaster to take up a lot  
2 of time, particularly when you have very interesting and out-  
3 standing speakers.

4 We have with us today the Most Reverend Edward Swanstrom,  
5 Auxiliary Bishop of New York, Director of Catholic Relief  
6 Service, founder and board member of ACIM.

7 MOST REVEREND EDWARD E. SWANSTROM: Mr. Chairman,  
8 Congressman Fieghan, distinguished guests and friends:  
9

10 You have an interesting talk coming to you, so I am not  
11 going to take any of your time at all. Somebody, a number of  
12 people have said they have wondered that I haven't had anything  
13 to say here. It was probably the first time in my life that  
14 they have been able to keep me quiet, but I must say it has  
15 been a very happy privilege to have an opportunity to meet so  
16 many old friends, even though I haven't talked to them  
17 collectively, I have talked to most of you individually; and I  
18 must say I have been deeply impressed by your spirit, your  
19 enthusiasm, and the spirit of optimism about the passage of a  
20 law that will do away once and for all with the national origins  
21 quota system.

22 I think we are reaching a point where we are going to  
23 achieve the objective that we have been struggling for all these  
24 years. Certainly Judge Marchisio and Father Donanzan, for the  
25 leadership that they have given to it, and you, the leadership  
that you have given to your committees in the various states

1 throughout the United States, are certainly to be highly con-  
2 gratulated.

3 As you know, my work is with the Catholic Relief Services,  
4 National Catholic Welfare Conference. We have programs in every  
5 part of the world and it is a very sorry world we are living in.  
6 There are hundreds of thousands of refugees scattered throughout  
7 Africa and Asia. Thank God the refugee problem in Europe is  
8 largely a thing of the past, but there is so much to be done,  
9 and so it is well that we get this thing out of the way, get a  
10 decent, humane, Christian, sound basic immigration law, so that  
11 we can concentrate all of our attention on these other problems.

12 Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity of  
13 saying these few words of greeting and congratulations to you  
14 publicly. I assure you it is a happiness and a privilege to be  
15 with you, and my prayers are with you for the success of your  
16 endeavor.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. MAIULLO: All I am hoping is that he prays to God  
20 that we get this miracle we all want.

21 Now, we all talk about miracles. We are going to have a  
22 wonderful miracle when this law is passed.

23 We have with us today as our principal speaker a man who  
24 has made a marvelous reputation for himself.

25 You know, my boy Joseph Anthony, who is also a lawyer and



1 is going to be 53 years old, and fortunately I sent him to  
2 Harvard (laughter). He came back with a wife by the name of  
3 Muriel Kelly O'Connor. Maybe some of you have heard me say  
4 this before, but I have four children, three girls and a boy,  
5 and they have all had part of their education in Italy, but  
6 not one of them married an Italian. (Laughter)  
7

8 The joker of it all is, as you Italians know, we all love  
9 our different districts in Italy where we came from, so my son  
10 spent a year in Milano with his mother, because his mother was  
11 taking singing lessons, after having four children she made her  
12 debut. (Laughter)

13 And when he came back, naturally I had to take him to see  
14 my father and mother. So he started talking Italian to his  
15 grandparents, and my mother looked at him and said, "Poor boy,  
16 they took you to Italy and turned you into a Lombard."

17 Anyhow, our speaker here, Michael Fieghan, who is a  
18 Democrat from Cleveland, the 20th Congressional District of  
19 Ohio, United States Representative, was born in 1905 at Lakewood,  
20 Ohio; the son of John T. and Mary English Fieghan. He attended  
21 public and parochial schools in Lakewood, graduated from St.  
22 Ignatius High School, Cleveland; a graduate of Princeton  
23 University, with an A.B. degree, in 1927; graduate of Harvard  
24 Law School, LL.B., that degree in 1931. A member of the Ohio  
25 State Legislature, 1937-1940. Minority Floor Leader in 1939  
and 1940. Married, with two children, William M. and Flora M.

1 Fieghan. Elected to the 78th Congress, November 2nd, 1942, and  
2 to each succeeding Congress. Member of the Committee on the  
3 Judiciary since 1943, and now Ranking Member, Chairman of the  
4 House Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization, of the  
5 Joint Committee on Immigration and Naturalization Policy;  
6 member of the Select Committee to investigate Communist  
7 aggression, 83rd Congress.

8 In 1960, the President of the Italian Republic conferred  
9 the cross of Knight, Commander of the Order of Merit, for his  
10 interest in the problems of immigration.

11 In 1962, he was elected Hibernian of the year, one of the  
12 outstanding Irishmen, naturally.

13 And in 1964, he received the Freedom Award for the  
14 distinguished leadership in combating Communism, from the Order  
15 of LaFayette, in New York.

16 Let me remind you, my friends, that in the City of Boston,  
17 in the old days, the employment agencies had on their windows  
18 "Irishmen need not apply." Here we have one of the greatest  
19 Irishmen in the United States that is going to address you this  
20 afternoon.

21 (Applause.)

22 ADDRESS OF THE HONORABLE MICHAEL A. FIEGHAN,  
23 A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE 20th  
24 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF OHIO.

25 (Prepared statement follows:)

1 MR. MAIULLO: Would you mind taking it easy, please?

2 The Vice President has not arrived as yet, but we hope he  
3 will be here shortly.

4 I want to make an announcement. The Caucus Room, as you  
5 all know, the reception is going to be at four-thirty, but there  
6 will be no bus transportation. Each and every one of you will  
7 have to get there on your own.

8 It is in the Cannon Building. That is named after old  
9 Joseph Cannon, if I remember correctly, he used to be a member  
10 of the House.

11 I want to impress upon you, when the Vice President gets  
12 here, please do not crowd him.

13 Now, two years ago, when we went over to the White House,  
14 poor, late President Kennedy, I understand, was mobbed. Now,  
15 I know what I am talking about, because I was there.

16 If the Vice President has time, we will arrange to have  
17 these different delegates come up and have a picture taken with  
18 him.

19 I want to compliment the Congressman on his marvelous  
20 talk that he made. And as I said before, I am proud of being  
21 an Italian, and I know you, who are here, of Italian origin,  
22 are also proud of the fact. But, believe me, my friends, we  
23 are going through troubled days. The whole world is upset.  
24 There is a philosophy today that if you can't earn any money,  
25 you shouldn't have any money, and Communism is infiltrating



1 all over the world; but one thing I am sure of -- the people  
2 that I come in contact with of my nationality, we ask for no  
3 charity, all we ask is for an opportunity to work and to study  
4 and be decent American citizens.

5 (Applause.)

6 MOST REVEREND SWANSTROM: I am sure you would want for me  
7 to say for you that we are all very deeply indebted to Congress-  
8 man Fieghan for his very forthright speech and his enunciation  
9 of principles that should be embodied in sound legislation,  
10 and pledge him our full support through those people throughout  
11 the United States that we can reach, that he may see a bill  
12 through to final passage.

13 MR. MAIULLO: Of course, I am a little more optimistic  
14 than a lot of others. We had an Irishman as President, pretty  
15 soon we may have another one, and I hope it will be Congressman  
16 Fieghan.

17 MOST REVEREND SWANSTROM: I told you if I got started  
18 you couldn't keep me quiet.

19 I want to say that I am proud that I am an Italian, in a  
20 certain sense. The Holy Mother Church doesn't allow priests  
21 to get married, but my brother got married, he had two children,  
22 and they both married Italians. (Applause.)

23 Of course, my Irish mother probably turned over in her  
24 grave, and I don't know what my Swedish father did. But I  
25 just want to say one thing more: I think there has been enough

1 jokes told here during these days, and we have been all too  
2 serious, and while we are waiting for the Vice President, I  
3 was moved to tell you a story that only a Bishop can tell.

4 It seems one day a sister was conducting a class and she  
5 said, "Say, Johnnie, who tore down the walls of Jericho?"

6 "Oh, not me, sister. I was home with my mother all day."

7 Well, the sister thought it was kind of funny and the next  
8 day the pastor happened to come into the class. So she told him  
9 what she had said and what Johnnie had said. And he said, "Look,  
10 sister, this Johnnie is a very honest boy. If he said he was  
11 home with his mother, he was home with his mother." (Laughter.)

12 So it happened that the bishop came along about three days  
13 later and the sister couldn't get over it, so she told him what  
14 Johnnie had said and what the pastor had said, so the bishop  
15 said, "Look, sister, I don't want any trouble in my diocese.  
16 You have those walls repaired and send the bill to me."

17 (Laughter.)

18 MR. MAIULLO: You know, when you look around and see all  
19 these marvelous priests over here that can't get married, it  
20 reminds me that only a few weeks ago my daughter-in-law Muriel  
21 Kelly O'Connor gave a fashion show to raise money for Father  
22 Miceni, for the PIME, and Father Miceni, being in Europe, sent  
23 two of his best friends over there, two wonderful Catholic  
24 priests, to attend this marvelous luncheon which was given by  
25 these women at the Grosse Point Golf Club, in Detroit. Well,



1 they had a fashion show. Finally a woman appeared in a beauti-  
2 ful negligee and it was beautiful, as I understand it, because  
3 you could see through it. (Laughter)

4 So my daughter-in-law said, "Father, I am embarrassed  
5 to think that we have something like this."

6 He said, "Oh, never mind, you know we are on a diet but  
7 we can look at the menu." (Laughter)

8 The most marvelous thing about life, after all, is love.  
9 Without love you can't continue life.

10 I am hoping that all of you, when you go back to your  
11 cities, that you will make ACIM greater than it is today.  
12 We have started a program in Detroit and probably some of you  
13 remember two years ago, we were talking about why the chapters  
14 were dying out, they didn't have as many members as they ought  
15 to have. And I suggested at that time that we give beautiful  
16 dinners and take advantage of the fact that we Italians love  
17 music and love songs. And in the last two years we have had  
18 two beautiful dinners in Detroit, in '63 and '64.

19 Now, when you go back, keep in mind there is hardly a  
20 group of people who can be more proud of their professional  
21 men, doctors, lawyers, architects, businessmen, contractors --  
22 we Italians are proud of that. And what we should look forward  
23 to is to build up each chapter with these men. Our friends  
24 would have the Muto Siorso Society, a lot of you know and  
25

1 understand and have a great place for them, but we want to  
2 build up ACIM, and there is a good reason for building up ACIM.  
3 After the passage of this bill, ACIM should not die. ACIM  
4 should be the fighting spirit to show the whole world what we  
5 Italians have contributed, and to keep up the Italian image,  
6 because, after all, unless you fight for your own, nobody is  
7 going to fight for you.

8 We would like to have you stay here and out of the hall-  
9 way, which has been cleared by the Secret Service for the  
10 arrival of the Vice President.

11 I don't want Father here to come up and tell another  
12 story. I don't know just what kind of a story he is going  
13 to tell, but between the two of us, we might tell some  
14 beautiful stories.

15 MOST REVEREND SWANSTROM: I might say the Vice President  
16 has been delayed, maybe only a few minutes, maybe five or ten  
17 minutes. The Secret Service men are here. They expect him  
18 any minute. And if we can, we could call just a little recess,  
19 but please do not leave the room. Let's wait for him. Other-  
20 wise, if we start milling out into the hall, it will start all  
21 sorts of confusion, so let's just wait here patiently for him.

22 (A recess was taken.)

23 MR. MAIULLO: I have been requested to tell you something.  
24 Do not ask for autographs, because I think you will enjoy more  
25 having a picture taken rather than taking up his time with

1 autographs. And if you want my autograph, you can have it any  
2 time.

3 (A further recess was taken.)

4 MR. MAIULLO: Ladies and gentlemen, I have the honor to  
5 present to you one of our famous men of the United States, one  
6 who came up from the ranks, the Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey,  
7 Vice President of the United States.

8 (Applause, and standing ovation.)  
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1 ADDRESS OF THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY,  
2 VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
3

4 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you very much, Toast-  
5 master Tony. It is sure nice to be introduced by you once  
6 again.

7 And Judge Marchisio and Father Donanzan, Father Monaco,  
8 and others, and my good friend Bishop Swanstrom, it is very  
9 good to see you.

10 You know, had I known there were going to be the ladies  
11 here, I would have hurried up. (Laughter) It just seemed to  
12 me like the Judge was telling me that just a few men were going  
13 to drop into Washington, and come on over whenever you have  
14 time. But to be very honest with you, I am highly gratified  
15 and singularly honored by your invitation and very regretful  
16 that I could not be here at a more convenient time to you, and  
17 to be able to spend a little more time with you.

18 But history books tell you that Vice Presidents don't  
19 have much to do. (Laughter) I don't know who wrote those  
20 books. (Laughter) That may have been the case once, but it  
21 sure isn't the case now, I can tell you that.

22 I gather that the President feels that one of the best  
23 ways to keep a Vice President out of trouble is to keep him  
24 busy, and so I have been having a very happy and busy day  
25 today. I have just left a group of writers for our large  
industrial journals, who were asking me a host of questions

1 about many, many subjects, hopefully that I might know a little  
2 bit about each, and I suppose realistically that I knew far  
3 too little about many, but I did the best I could, and we went  
4 overtime just a little bit.

5 I want to thank you for coming to Washington. I am sure  
6 that my friend Mike Fiegham here, and I know the others who  
7 have visited with you, Senator Kennedy and Senator Javits, and  
8 others that have been or will be with you, members of the  
9 Congress, are all grateful that you are here in Washington,  
10 because you are here at the right time. You are at the right  
11 place, at the right time, for the right program; and we are  
12 going to succeed this time, just as surely as -- (standing  
13 applause, and ovation).

14 Some of you here know that my interest in immigration  
15 legislation is not something new found. I have been interested  
16 in it ever since I have been in the Congress. As a matter of  
17 simple justice, it didn't really have any great political  
18 significance out in my state, where most of the people are  
19 either Scandinavian, German, Dutch, or Finn, or Irish, and  
20 the Irish get in, no matter what you do about it. (Laughter)  
21 But I was interested in it because I was brought up to believe  
22 that people are very important, and there is such a thing as  
23 human dignity, and people ought to be treated as respectable,  
24 responsible, dignified individuals.

25 I have always felt that our immigration policy more or



1 less reflected our national attitude about the world in which  
2 we live, and about the people of this world. And as we  
3 Americans have grown to know each other a little better, I  
4 think we have come to understand that the people more or less  
5 earn their way, and that each group and each ethnic group and  
6 each so-called nationality group has something important to  
7 contribute to the life of this great republic and to this  
8 cause of freedom.

9  
10 Now, you have heard all of these things, but we need to  
11 refortify ourselves once in a while. It is so easy to do the  
12 wrong thing and sometimes it is so difficult to do the right  
13 thing.

14 It is so easy to close doors and to lock them, and as  
15 the lock stays on a long time and gets rusty, it is so hard  
16 to open them once again.

17 I happen to believe that a nation that has an open heart  
18 and has an open door will have an open mind and a sense of  
19 justice. And when we close our doors to people, as we have,  
20 we also tend to close our minds to the cause of human freedom  
21 and justice.

22 I am one of these people that never liked walls. Don't  
23 fence me in. You know, I like freedom, I like movement, I  
24 guess I have what you might call just claustrophobia. I just  
25 like to be in the wide open spaces, for example, out in the  
Midwest. But I surely like to feel that there is a chance to

1 communicate and a chance to have fellowship.

2 The ugliest development in recent history is the Berlin  
3 Wall. Of course, it is a monument to the failure of Communism.  
4 It is a living, or should I say, an ugly testimonial to fear  
5 and to hatred and to godlessness.

6 And because I don't like walls, I would like to see as  
7 many walls as possible removed, walls between the peoples.  
8 One of the reasons I have been for the civil rights program  
9 is because I didn't think it was right for us to have walls  
10 between us, dividing us on the basis of race or creed or color.

11 I feel that any nation that indulges itself in bigotry  
12 or intolerance or prejudice is a sick nation. And I say that  
13 nations that do that ultimately destroy themselves, as they  
14 try to seal themselves off from what they think are the enemy,  
15 they become the enemy from within their own selves.

16 We have seen this happen again and again, and I feel  
17 that an immigration policy that puts a wall up and denies  
18 certain people, because of the accident of geography, or  
19 because of a particular year that was picked out as a sort  
20 of a base year, that that kind of a wall is wrong. And I  
21 believe that as we condemn the Communist Berlin Wall, we ought  
22 to remove a couple of our own, the walls of prejudice --  
23 (applause).

24 So we have been in the process of doing this for quite a  
25 long time. And, by the way, in a free country like this, it

1 takes some time to get things done. As I said, it really  
2 doesn't take much time to destroy, you can do that in a hurry,  
3 but to build takes time -- to build a beautiful cathedral  
4 takes ages; to build a great society takes generations; to  
5 build a great nation takes many decades and many generations;  
6 and to build a policy of human relations, and immigration  
7 policy is a part of the human relations policy of a country,  
8 it takes some time. You have to suffer. You have to find out  
9 the mistakes that you have made, you have to sense what this  
10 has denied you, and then do something about repairing it.

11 So I am here for the following reasons:

12 I first want to bring you personally the warm personal  
13 greetings of President Johnson, and his personal commitment  
14 to use every means within his legitimate powers as President  
15 of the United States to see to it that the immigration bill  
16 that is before the Congress, this reform legislation, at  
17 least in its basic features, is adopted and made the law of  
18 the land. (Applause.)

19 Your fight for justice in this immigration field is our  
20 fight, my fight, his fight, and America's struggle.

21 The Subcommittee hearings that have been conducted here  
22 by this distinguished Congressman, Congressman Fieghan, --  
23 I believe you were at it this morning, if I am not mistaken.

24 MR. FIEGHAN: Yes.

25 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: And I am sure many times during



1 the year, offer an impressive record for reform of the obsolete  
2 immigration and nationality law. And we are going to stay at  
3 it until we work out a program here that meets your require-  
4 ments, your sense of justice, because that is what we need.

5 I know you people here. I have been working with you a  
6 long time. I can remember when we worked together back in the  
7 86th Congress, the 84th Congress, the 85th, I was on every  
8 immigration bill. I worked with the late and beloved President  
9 Kennedy. I was a co-sponsor with him one year, of the bill,  
10 and then he was my co-sponsor the next. We used to change off.  
11 And when he became President, he presented to the Congress  
12 once again this legislation that he had authored in the Senate,  
13 and I had been privileged to co-author with him. And then when  
14 he was taken away from us, the new President, the man who  
15 succeeded him, followed through and this year, on his own  
16 right, President Johnson offers the same basic legislation to  
17 the Congress. We have been at this fight a long, long time.

18 There are no tricks in this. This isn't somebody trying  
19 to ram something down somebody's throat in a hurry. The  
20 Congress of the United States has heard the arguments on this  
21 program again and again and again, and we are going to refine  
22 this legislation. I want to be very frank with you, I don't  
23 think that any bill that is just sent over, comes over perfectly.  
24 That is the purpose of the hearings, to take a good look at it,  
25 to see what we can do, to hear what you have to say, to take

1 into consideration your suggestions. And I can tell you that  
2 the man that is in this room right now, from this House  
3 Judiciary Committee, and the man that was here with you,  
4 I believe Ted Kennedy was with you earlier, and that Senator  
5 Javits has been here with you, if he hasn't, he will be, they  
6 are Republicans and Democrats alike, you don't need to have  
7 any partisanship on this. We can just get everybody in the  
8 act that wants to get in on it. There is plenty of glory for  
9 everybody when you are doing the right thing. (Applause.)  
10

11 Well, I can tell you that we are going to process legis-  
12 lation and we will have it on the statute books and it will  
13 have, it will pass the Congress, it will be signed in the  
14 House of Representatives by the Speaker, it will be signed in  
15 the Senate by the Vice President, and it will be signed in the  
16 White House by the President of the United States.

17 (Applause and standing ovation.)

18 Now, isn't it an interesting thing that a person can  
19 bring an immigrant into this country for the purpose of being  
20 a servant in your home, and you can have them, but if you want  
21 to bring your own mother in from Italy, you can't get her.  
22 There is something wrong with that. (Applause.)

23 There is just plain something wrong with that. That is  
24 just as simple a way as I can put it to you. And we are going  
25 to see to it that that wrong is corrected.

There is plenty of room in America, may I say, for good



1 people. There is plenty of room in America for people of  
2 skill, plenty of room in America for people that want to work,  
3 plenty of room in America for people that love God and country  
4 and family. This isn't going to hurt America. And the Labor  
5 Department has testified that it won't injure the labor force  
6 if we amend the immigration law. The American labor movement  
7 is for this. And we are going to get it done, and we are  
8 going to be a richer country because of it.

9  
10 Of course, I have a little prejudice on this matter.  
11 Now, my mother was an immigrant, she came in through Ellis  
12 Island, and when the President the other day was signing that  
13 bill to make Ellis Island a part of our national historical  
14 monument or park system, he reminded us of some of the people  
15 that had come through Ellis Island.

16 Now, mother could get in under the present immigration  
17 law, that is true, because she came from Nordic stock, but  
18 let me say she was an immigrant. She was an immigrant, and  
19 it's the immigrants that built this country, of course.  
20 Everybody knows that. And the Italian immigrant, surely made  
21 a distinct contribution. Where do you think America would  
22 have been without a man like Fermi? (Applause.)

23 And, might I add, some rather responsible churchmen have  
24 been Italians, the Holy Father. (Applause.)

25 So when I hear about some people are less desirable than  
others, I wonder who they are talking about. I hope they are

1 not mentioning my mother. (Laughter) And I trust they are  
2 not taking on Bishop Swannstrom down here, either. (Laughter)

3 So what we are really talking about, in other words, is  
4 adding strength to America through justice, and a nation that  
5 embraces justice is not going to in any way weaken itself.  
6 And a nation that has the courage to admit a mistake and  
7 correct it stands all the stronger.

8 The only people that can't admit a mistake are weaklings.  
9 They have got to go through life insisting that their mistakes  
10 are assets. They have got to insist that they were always  
11 right. It is only the strong that can afford to be peace-  
12 makers, it is only the strong that can afford to admit their  
13 mistakes, it is only the strong that can abandon hate and  
14 embrace love. That is a fact.

15 If you are a weakling, if you are a coward, if you are a  
16 bully, you can't do any of those noble things, because you  
17 don't dare, because the minute that you take down that false  
18 guard, you are exposed for the ugliness that is in your nature,  
19 and we don't want to be an ugly people. We want to be a people  
20 that the world can look up to.

21 Now, immigration policy isn't just domestic policy, it  
22 also relates to foreign policy. You can't very well go around  
23 the world preaching the doctrine of human equality and of  
24 democracy and freedom and justice, and then have written in  
25 your own laws that you don't believe in it at all, because

1 somebody is going to catch up with you.

2 So I don't need to say much more to you. You know what  
3 my views are. I can just tell you that if the good Lord gives  
4 me the strength to be at all effective and persuasive, that I  
5 will do everything within my power to redeem a pledge that  
6 has been made to the American people by at least three  
7 Presidents in the last ten years, President Eisenhower,  
8 President Kennedy, and President Johnson -- yes, four --  
9 President Truman, above all. President Truman, President  
10 Eisenhower, President Kennedy, and President Johnson.

11 It seems to me that the 89th Congress might well want  
12 to do something to honor the good works of these good men,  
13 and one of the sure ways that we can do it that indicates  
14 that there isn't an iota of partisanship, you can vote  
15 Democratic, you can vote Republican, I'd like to talk to you  
16 about how you ought to vote a little later. (Applause.)  
17 But however you want to vote, you can tell your Congressman  
18 and your Senator to get busy and vote for this bill.

19 Now, you are going to go up to Capitol Hill, as I  
20 understand. I am not going to keep you a minute longer.  
21 There are a lot of folks up there just waiting for you, and  
22 if they are not waiting for you, you just rap on the door,  
23 and you go there and ask them to help themselves. That is  
24 what we are doing in this business, to help themselves redeem  
25 the good name of the Congress of the United States, because



1 the Immigration Act of 1924 is outdated and obsolete. It was  
2 wrong when it started. (Applause.)

3 Now, when you meet a good Republican, you just tell him  
4 to help keep the good name of Dwight Eisenhower; and when you  
5 meet a good Democrat, and there are all shades of Democrats,  
6 you can say, "Well, whether you are a Truman Democrat or a  
7 Kennedy Democrat or whether you are a Johnson Democrat, or  
8 even if you agree with that fellow Humphrey, would you mind  
9 voting for a new Immigration bill."

10 (Applause.)

11 Well, that's about all I wanted to tell you. I just  
12 wanted to come over here and join in on what I consider to be  
13 the noble work, and you are here now, you are going to talk  
14 to the right people, you are not lobbying, even though that  
15 is a good idea, too. If it makes you feel any better, lobby,  
16 then. You get on up there and let's get this job done, and  
17 then I'll give you some work to do on the next project after  
18 we have completed this one.

19 Thank you, very much.

20 (Standing ovation.)

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