

Senator Reynolds of Buncombe County, admirer of fascism, is happy. His fingerprint proposals are being accepted. "His wildest dreams are now becoming legislation."

Washington, D. C.

SEN. ROBERT RICE REYNOLDS is feeling pretty cocky these days. After a period of comparative silence the Tarheel fuehrer is again orating, pacing back and forth across the Senate floor, waving his arms with characteristic ebullience. "To mention the registration and fingerprinting of aliens in this country three months ago was almost a crime against the government of the United States," he informs his colleagues. "Today it is a popular thing to register and fingerprint aliens." Our Bob can be pardoned for being a little boastful. He has every reason.

It was not so long ago that Senator Reynolds was considered one of the capitol's minor side-shows. Tourists in search of a little light entertainment were frequently advised to take in a few minutes of his four-hour tirades. A few progressive observers were seriously disturbed by the fact that Reynolds was grooming himself for the role of America's fascist leader. But for the most part Buncombe County's leading citizen was considered a joke. Now the most outspoken apologist for Hitler and Mussolini in Congress has suddenly emerged as a leading statesman, virtually a major prophet. His wildest dreams are becoming legislation.

As Reynolds himself points out, nobody paid much attention even a few weeks ago to his pet proposal for the registration and fingerprinting of non-citizens. Now the administration has put its stamp of approval on this scheme. Ironically enough, it was that liberal statesman, Atty. Gen. Robert Jackson, who conferred the blessing. Jackson emphasized that one of the most important reasons for transferring the Bureau of Immigration from the Department of Labor to the Department of Justice was to systematize and coordinate the registration procedure. Jackson was unwilling at the moment to go as far as Reynolds and fingerprint all non-citizens now in this country; he would just fingerprint applicants for visas before they are admitted to this country. But this little controversy will soon be settled when the Senate votes on the worst anti-alien bill drafted thus far—the omnibus measure introduced by Rep. Howard Smith of Virginia, smalltown banker, foe of organized labor. With Senate sanction almost certain, the bill provides for compulsory fingerprinting and registration of non-citizens, and incidentally makes it a crime to organize what in effect amount to anti-war activities. Needless to say, this measure has the endorsement of Senator Reynolds, whose only complaint is that one of his own anti-alien bills was not chosen for passage.

EMPLOYERS' BLACKLIST

The Tarheel fuehrer's great contribution to our national life has been his amendment

to the La Follette Oppressive Labor Practices Bill barring all Communists from employment in private industry. Of course, a Communist is not defined, and it will be necessary in these grave times to take a broad view of the matter. Because Senator La Follette himself agreed to eliminate from his bill a provision barring investigation by employers of the political and economic views of workers, the Reynolds amendment makes possible an un-

restricted witch hunt. Communists or those suspect of anything approaching Communism would be condemned to starvation. The unconstitutionality of this proposal is obvious. But that too may be overlooked in the interests of "national defense." The La Follette bill also has another Reynolds amendment tacked onto it which sets up a 10 percent *numerus clausus* for non-citizens in business and industry. In the agricultural regions of

Are These Alien Words Today?

The campaign by the administration and Congress to register, fingerprint, and stigmatize the foreign born reached hysterical heights in the Senate last week. By a vote of fifty-five to four the Upper House sanctioned the transfer of the Bureau of Immigration from the Labor Department to the Department of Justice—to J. Edgar Hoover's Federal Bureau of Intolerance. The following statements should remind the Senators and alien-baiters that this bigotry violates the deep-rooted American tradition of equality and hospitality for the foreign born.

"I am opposed to the registration of aliens. . . . This proposal would create abuses and problems more fundamental and more destructive of American freedom than any evil it might aim to cure." (1926) *Alfred E. Smith, former governor of New York.*

"Not only must we treat all nations fairly, but we must treat with justice and good will all immigrants who come here under the law. Whether they are Catholic or Protestant, Jew or Gentile; whether they came from England or Germany, Russia, Japan, or Italy, matters nothing. All we have a right to question is the man's conduct. If he is honest and upright in his dealings with his neighbor and with the state, then he is entitled to respect and good treatment. Especially do we need to remember our duty to the stranger within our gates. It is the sure mark of low civilization, a low morality, to abuse or discriminate against, or in any way humiliate such a stranger, who has come here lawfully and who is conducting himself properly. To remember this is incumbent on every American citizen, and it is of course peculiarly incumbent on every government official, whether of the nation or of the several states." (1906) *President Theodore Roosevelt.*

"The proposed plan to require compulsory registration of all aliens in the United States must be abhorrent to all fair-minded and thinking people. I am thoroughly opposed to any such scheme. It would immediately set apart our alien population and set a stigma on them. . . . It is un-American to discriminate against any class of the population and that is exactly what compulsory registration would do." (1936) *Herbert H. Lehman, governor of New York.*

"I am unalterably opposed to legislation which sets the immigrant apart to be specially registered, identified, numbered, and watched. Such tactics interfere with genuine Americanization. The proposal is based on the narrow and provincial idea that every immigrant must be viewed with suspicion. I regard the immigrant as a potential citizen to be encouraged and treated with sympathy and consideration.

"Special registration and the required possession of identifying documents for alien immigrants will serve no useful purpose, will of necessity require similar identification for all citizens, and will create another organization of federal agents. The scheme will impose a degree of regimentation by the federal government of the inhabitants of the several states which we have heretofore considered intolerable and unthinkable." (1926) *Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York.*

"The registration of aliens in this country can serve only to add another evil to the many problems confronting the American people. This proposal, if enacted, would spread suspicion and antagonism, confusing and dividing the people. . . . The proposal to register the alien is contrary to the American tradition of hospitality and equality to the immigrant." (1939) *Eleanor Roosevelt, Dorothy Parker, Fannie Hurst, Dr. Mary E. Woolley, Tallulah Bankhead, and forty other prominent American women in an open letter to the General Federation of Women's Clubs.*