

SOCIOLOGY

Immigration Revision

The newly proposed immigration bill aimed to abolishing the national origins quota system would return to the U.S. a "Nation of Nations" tradition—By Edith Lederer

► AMERICAN SOCIETY, established to reflect a "Nation of Nations" tradition may come one step closer to this goal when the national origins quota system of immigration is eliminated, as President Lyndon B. Johnson proposed in his immigration message to Congress.

Recalling that "over the years the ancestors of all of us—some 42 million human beings—have migrated to these shores," the President has asked for a revision of immigration laws that would give first preference for admission to the United States to "those with the kind of skills or attainments which make the admission especially advantageous to our society."

Engineers and scientists, who lead the list of preferences, would have an easier time coming to this country. Presently, a skilled immigrant needed in the economy must find an employer in the U.S. to sponsor his petition. However, under the proposed new bill no sponsor is needed.

This emphasis on the individual himself has long been an American tradition, the President noted. "The fundamental, longtime American attitude has been to ask not where a person comes from but what are his personal qualities," he said.

"Violation of this tradition by the national origins quota system does incalculable harm. The procedures imply that men and women

from some countries are, just because of where they come from, more desirable citizens than others. We have no right to disparage the ancestors of millions of our fellow Americans in this way. Relationships with a number of countries, and hence the success of our foreign policy, is needlessly impeded by this proposition," President Johnson pointed out.

If this bill is passed, Congress would eliminate discrimination against newly independent countries of the Western Hemisphere and against people of Asian or Oriental origin.

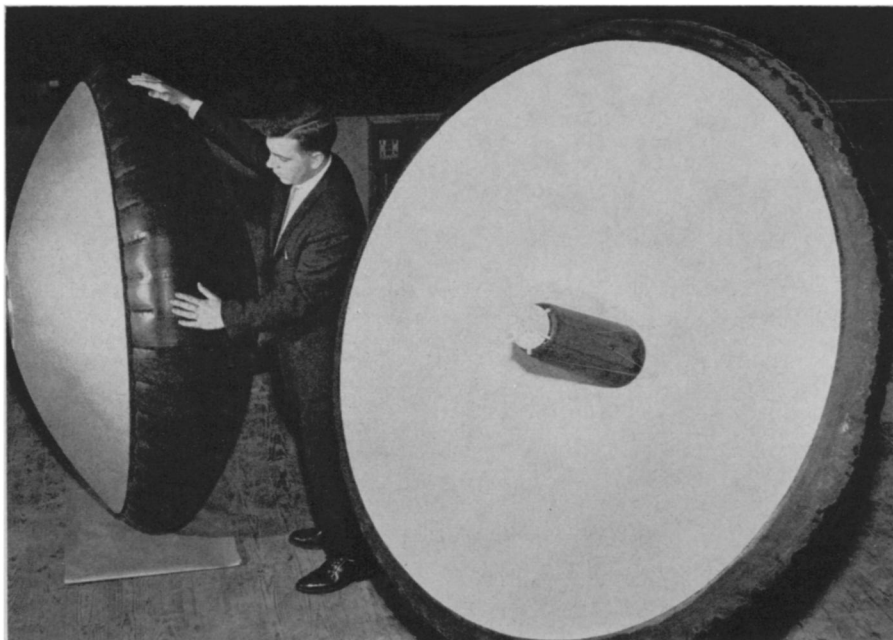
In addition, close relatives of citizens and permanent residents would gain preference for U.S. entry. Parents of American citizens would not even have to wait for a quota number to enter.

Issuing visas would be based on a "first come, first served" basis, and as a general rule, no country would be allotted more than 10% of the available quota numbers—expected to be about 350,000.

However, the bill would permit the President to set aside up to 30% of the quota numbers for NATO nations to insure that immigration from close allies is not suddenly curtailed.

President Johnson said that transition to this new pattern of immigration would take place gradually over a five year period.

• Science News Letter, 87:51 January 23, 1965



Goodyear

INFLATABLE ANTENNAE—These discs are models of inflatable antennae that can be packaged and inflated repeatedly. They were designed to be carried by mobile military forces by Goodyear Aerospace Corporation that is building and testing the model on the right.

EDUCATION

Science Education Need Stressed by Johnson

► MAJOR PROGRESS in all phases of scientific education is called for in President Lyndon B. Johnson's Message to the Congress on educational opportunity.

Like the State of the Union Message, this Presidential communique heralds the increasing importance of science in the eyes of the Administration.

Included in the overall national educational goals outlined by the President are these recommendations of major significance to the scientific world:

1. An additional \$179 million for college laboratories, classrooms and libraries.

2. An additional \$110 million to further basic research in the universities, to provide science fellowships and to promote science education.

3. The establishment of regional educational laboratories for research, train teachers, and implement tested research findings.

4. Provide grants for research and support construction of research facilities.

In connection with his recommendations for stepped up research, the President called attention to the work of the National Science Foundation in "developing courses which capture the excitement of contemporary science."

He urged the same methods be applied to regional laboratories for education.

The President added that the educational gap we face is one of quality as well as quantity.

The President called upon the nation's universities to expand their role to assist in solving problems of the community. These include poverty, residential blight, air and water pollution, inadequate mass transportation and health services, strained human relations and overburdened municipal services.

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EDUCATION

Talking Baby Talk Makes Two Languages for Child

► NEVER USE baby talk to young children, a speech expert warned parents in London. Otherwise, the children will have two languages to learn instead of one.

"If mothers could only realize what harm they do they would never talk down to a child," said Mrs. Barbara Hicks, a fellow of speech and drama at the College of Music, London.

"It's just as easy to say 'train' as to say 'puff-puff'. If a young child has a lisp, so many parents think it's pretty. They laugh and say 'Isn't it sweet?' instead of correcting it. So it takes years to overcome a fault which could have been easily nipped in the bud."

Mrs. Hicks was commenting on a report showing that speech defects are increasing among school children in England.

"A speech defect is just as much a disability as a deformed foot," she said.

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