Honorable Ernest W. McFarland  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator McFarland:

I know you are aware of the need to consider new immigration legislation at the coming session of Congress. You are also aware of the fact that there are a number of bills on this subject pending in both the House and the Senate. Senator McCarran, as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, has a Bill on this subject pending before his Committee.

As you may also know, I and fourteen of our colleagues have joined in sponsoring a bill on the same subject of immigration. This bill, S. 2343, is a short bill proposing a number of basic reforms in our present immigration laws, including the use of unused quotas and the liberalization of our immigration procedures to provide for the best possible use of our quotas to admit into this country persons who are refugees from the Communist terror and from other forms of political and religious persecution, and, in general, persons who have a positive stake in the cause of freedom.

S. 2343 also proposes the outright elimination of all barriers based on race and all distinctions based on sex, and further proposes to repeal the absolute prohibition on admission into this country of truly reformed members of totalitarian organizations. S. 2343 is thus designed to facilitate the discharge of our international obligation to help meet the problem of surplus populations in various countries whose economic rehabilitation is handicapped by this pressure. We are already committed to this general program under the terms of the Mutual Security Act.

You may be interested further to know that the same group of Senators who co-sponsored S. 2343 are at work now in drafting an omnibus immigration bill, re-codifying our immigration and nationality laws—in a manner similar
to the McCarran, Walters, and Celler bills—but including the forward-looking immigration principles set forth in S. 2343. It is expected that this bill will be introduced shortly after the opening of the new session.

A further matter of interest in this connection is the fact that more than a score of private groups in this country, including all the major religious groups and most of the groups interested in the various aspects of immigration have made plans to conduct a nation-wide program of education among their memberships. Some of these campaigns are already underway. The purpose of these efforts is to enlighten public opinion on the need for new immigration legislation along liberal principles, while at the same time maintaining the necessary safeguards to prevent the entrance into this country of undesirable elements. The present barriers are, in many major respects, onerous, exclusionist, and incapable of intelligent administration, according to a great deal of evidence which has been compiled.

In any event, any scheduling of immigration legislation must take cognizance of the fact that this whole subject is one in which public opinion will be very interested. The scheduling must also allow time for extensive debate on this very controversial subject which is so important to our foreign policy and to the conduct of our foreign relations.

I thought it best to advise you of these circumstances in advance of any considerations which you and the Policy Committee might give to the legislative schedule for the coming session.

With kindest personal regards.

Very sincerely yours,