

STATEMENT OF JOHN B. TREVOR, JR., CHAIRMAN OF THE IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE, AMERICAN COALITION OF PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES, INC., 15 EAST 90th STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y., 10028, GIVEN BEFORE THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL RESOLUTIONS (PLATFORM) COMMITTEE ON AUGUST 15, 1972.

Ladies and gentlemen, my name is John B. Trevor, Jr., and I am appearing before you as Chairman of the Immigration Committee of the American Coalition of Patriotic Societies, Inc., of 15 East 90th Street, New York City.

The American Coalition is composed of over ninety cooperating patriotic, civic and fraternal societies. For over three decades the function of the American Coalition has been, and is, that of "watchdog" on all matters which concern the preservation of our Constitution and of our American way of life, particularly in the field of immigration.

Over the years we have carefully investigated and examined all important legislation pending before Congress which the "Coalition" believes to affect the interest of the United States in a major way. This legislation has been in the fields of immigration restriction, military and naval appropriations, communist activities, freedom of religion, pacifist propaganda and other matters. The "Coalition" has sought to oppose legislation which it believes is against the best interest of the country and to support beneficial legislation.

The Coalition never, under any circumstances, supports or opposes any political party or any particular candidate for political office. We operate by appearing before committees of Congress, other groups of various kinds, and by urging our cooperating societies, correspondents, and others who receive our literature or attend our

meetings to support or to oppose specific items of legislation or concepts likely to be incorporated in legislation. On many occasions we have had ample evidence that our suggestions have resulted in many letters to legislators, newspapers and others. Our files contain many resolutions from local organizations all over the country obviously modeled on our resolutions. On a number of occasions we have had reason to believe that our efforts have been pivotal in securing the adoption of legislation we favored.

Having told you about the organization I have the honor to represent, I will now put before you the matters I urge you to incorporate in your platform. The American Coalition of Patriotic Societies, Inc. has a current resolution on immigration which reads as follows:

Resolution No. 4 - IMMIGRATION

WHEREAS, National and world population is increasing to levels threatening maintenance of hard-won gains in livings standards; and

WHEREAS, The present Immigration Law is permitting entrance of excessive numbers of immigrants and an unbalanced immigration profile favoring elements hard to assimilate in the existing population;

RESOLVED, That the American Coalition of Patriotic Societies directs the Coalition's Immigration Committee to support such legislation as will tend to reduce total immigration along a more balanced profile, in accord with the national origins of the country as a whole, and to oppose legislation of opposite tendencies.

Let me point out that illegal immigration is a seri-

ous and rising problem. While I am reluctant to accept as unquestionably correct any of the published figures on the total number of illegal immigrants now in the country, it is a matter of record that the number of illegal aliens expelled from the country has risen from 104,500 in 1965 to 412,000 in 1971. This rise must indicate the gravity of the problem. Relatively minor changes in existing laws would make illegal immigration unprofitable and unattractive. Removing the economic incentives for illegal immigration is an obvious step. This means penalizing employers of illegal immigrants and tightening up procedures for issuing social security cards so illegal immigrants cannot get them. Strengthening the safeguards at our borders is also needed. I urge that you support legislation aimed at these ends. Such legislation should not be diluted with provisions aimed at eliminating or correcting other real or alleged defects in the present laws.

A second point deserving of your attention is a substantial reduction in world totals of legal immigration. At present immigration is estimated to account for up to twenty percent of our population rise. With increasing emphasis on stabilizing and limiting world population, and with significant unemployment levels, our immigration laws should be tightened up. Consideration should be given to the bilingual situation developing in some of our larger cities. The example of Canada suggests that bilingualism is divisive and dangerous to national unity.

Finally, the fact that in recent years the nations from which we have drawn many of the major groups in our population are, in effect, discriminated against in regard to the number people they can send to us is a situation that needs correction.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your courtesy

in allowing me to appear before you, and I urge that in preparing your platform you give consideration to the points I have raised.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN B. TREVOR, JR., Chairman,
Immigration Committee,
American Coalition of
Patriotic Societies, Inc.