

## IMMIGRATION - 1954

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*“Open unto us the gates, at the time when the gates are closed.”* (Yom Kippur Service)

The Refugee Relief Act of 1953 (Public Law 203) passed by the 83rd Congress was designed to admit to the United States within three years, under non-quota immigration visas, 214,000 persons who were either refugees from or had escaped or been expelled from, certain specific areas. While thus designed to meet emergency needs, the provisions laid down for administration of the act were so restrictive that its purpose thus far has been defeated. In nine months less than twelve persons have been admitted under the act, at an administrative cost of \$600,000 for the first six refugees.

The failure of the emergency act underscores the futility of seeking to solve the vast immigration problem by temporary, patchwork programs and underscores the urgent need for prompt revision of the basic United States immigration law, set forth in the McCarran-Walter Act (Public law 414).

*Therefore, Be It Resolved,* That the Executive Board of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods in annual session assembled in New York, New York, on behalf of its United States units, urges that President Eisenhower, who has repeatedly condemned the McCarran-Walter Act as restrictive and discriminatory, present to the Congress at the earliest possible moment an Administration measure which will bring the United States' basic immigration code into harmony with American traditions of humanity and fair play.