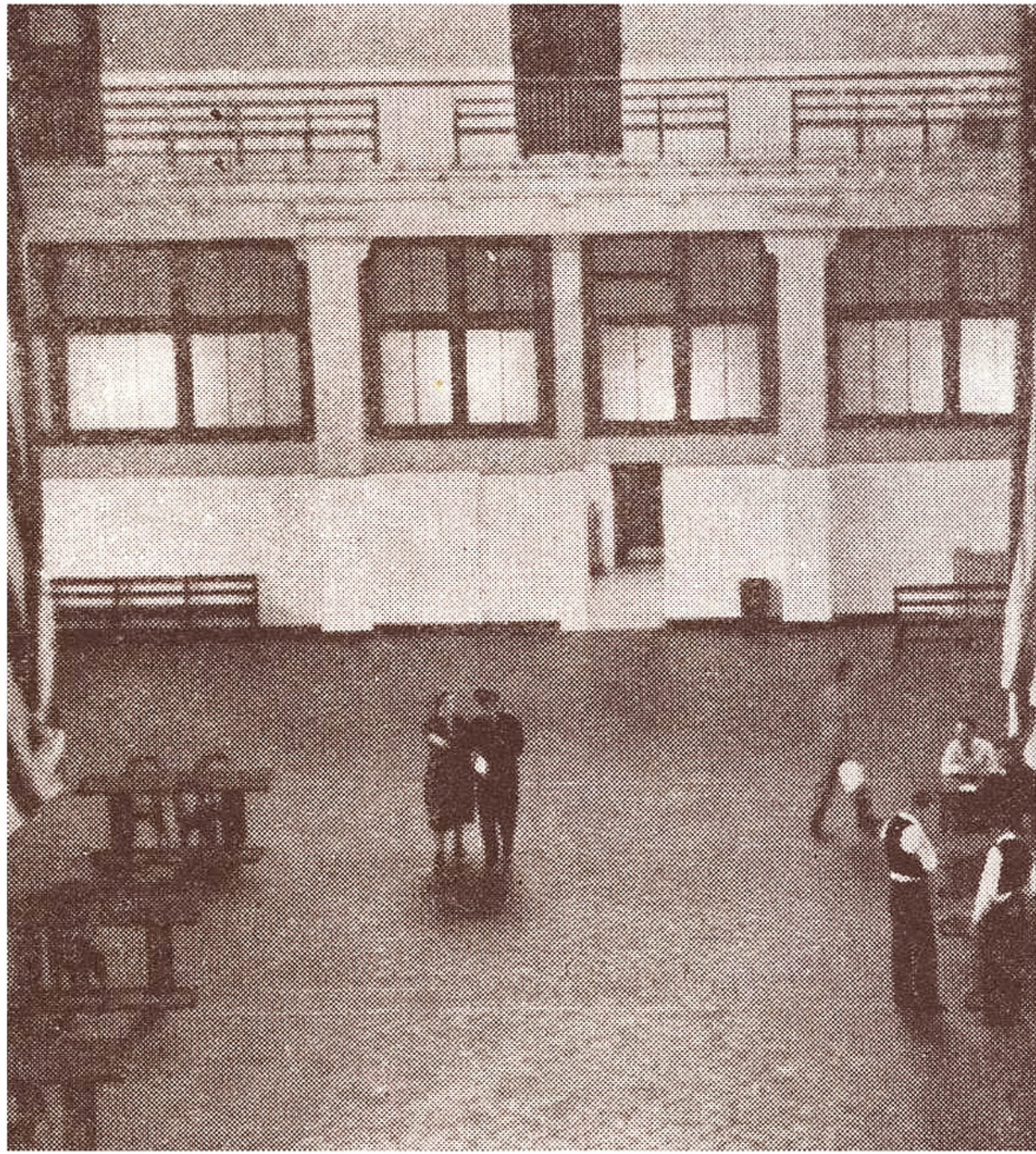


December 11, 1937: p. 13

## Uncle Sam's Gate-Crashers



**GENERAL DETENTION** room at Ellis Island holds aliens whose right of entry is questioned. Criminals and others who are to be deported are segregated elsewhere

**N**EWSPREEL, radio, and the postman who rings twice have combined to tell us that the government is counting the noses of the unemployed. Crisp manila blanks have been distributed to Park Avenue and Tobacco Road. The President has posed for newsreel men and assured the public that the government's intentions toward the jobless are benign. Even the radical press urged its members to cooperate with the forces in power, to make the present census a success.

But when the census blanks have been counted one significant group of pensioners will not appear. They are the foreign men and women who have reached their places on relief rolls without passing through Ellis Island. They include the connoisseurs of charity, who have left their native countries in disgust at the fare the jobless receive there, to get either a job or a superior type of relief here.

The leather-lunged General Hugh Johnson is one of the heartiest supporters of the belief that the n\*\*\*\*r in this woodpile is a Chinaman or a German or a Swede—or some other alien who is abusing our hospitality by his illegal presence here. Using as a guide the percentage of such aliens uncovered by the draft, the General concludes that there are many millions of such international gate-crashers on our relief rolls. If their numbers were known, he believes, public protest would force their departure.



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**NO SINECURE** is the job of Rudolph Reimer, Commissioner of Immigration

Aliens who have sneaked into the country are, by the fact of their entry, law-breakers. For the most part they are undesirable citizens of any country. They live off the American taxpayer, without his knowledge or consent. They are wily enough to escape the detection of the immigration authorities—except when some major crime uncovers a few of them by accident.

These aliens, unless they were definitely feeble-minded, tore their unemployment blanks to shreds. They had no desire to call the government's attention to their illegal presence, and they know that the relief administrators have not yet been empowered to ask embarrassing questions as to citizenship. They will not appear in the count of unemployed.

We can only guess at their number. The census of 1930 tells us that there were then 6,384,613 unnaturalized aliens in the country. Since then we have admitted 949,903 through ports of entry and experts believe that even larger numbers have been smuggled in. The United Spanish War Veterans last April estimated the number of aliens illegally here as exceeding three million. Representative Samuel Dickstein of New York puts the number of them on relief at two million.

The law has a curious attitude of letting bygones be bygones with respect to the alien who managed to break in before June 3, 1921. Such a person may go to a port of entry, confess all, and be "deemed to have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence as of the date of his entry."

Yet in the face of this almost sentimental hospitality, we have a vast population of aliens who dodge any form of registration. Bruno Richard Hauptmann, murderer of the Lindbergh baby, had entered the country illegally twice. Anna Sage, John Dillinger's "woman in red," was another contraband resident. The San Francisco general strike of 1934 brought thousands of such illegal residents to light.



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Gate-crashing aliens sometimes get in by means as dramatic as those limned by Ernest Hemingway in his stories of Chinese smuggled from Cuba. Sometimes they come in on a temporary permit and overstay their time. Often they are sailors who desert their ships. Many cross the Canadian border at the least-patrolled points, or saunter in from Mexico. They



**UNDESIRABLE** aliens are the upper two, both of whom, with long police records, will be deported. The young visitor below them, a recent arrival from Newfoundland, waits while his visitor's visa is examined



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arrive on ships and in automobiles, in trains and on foot.

These men and women cannot become citizens without exposing themselves as lawbreakers. They live in constant fear of detection and consider every representative of the government an enemy. They proved their undesirability by their lawless method of entry. To allow them to stay is like saying to a housebreaker, "Now that you're in, you might as well sit down and have a drink."

Whenever a practical suggestion is made for ferreting out the alien gate-crasher and deporting him, there is protest from the left wing. An uproar greeted even so mild a plan as that submitted to Congress in September, 1928, for the "vountary registration of aliens." Senator Blease introduced it in the upper house and it was sponsored by Secretary of Labor Davis. The Federated Press, a radical news service, attacked it under this headline: "Davis Tries Bluffing Aliens into Blacklist Registration Scheme." In spite of the fact that the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor supported the plan, Sidney Hillman, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, said: "A law of this kind will merely provide the anti-labor forces with a new weapon to be used in terrorizing the workers from joining organizations which protect their economic and social rights." Norman Thomas, the usually mild leader of the Socialist Party, said: "If to



**SPECIAL INQUIRY** Board of the Immigration Bureau shows Inspectors Thomas Galvin, Patrick King, and Sterling Helmick at work on particular cases



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curb bootleg immigration we have to imitate the Czar of Russia, we had better begin to inquire whether our immigration policy is right. . . . The next step," he added, "will be a registration of workers in general."

This bracketing of aliens illegally within our borders and American workingmen is curious. One might rather suppose that the laborer would be the first to wish to remove outlaw competitors from abroad. They threaten his job when he has one. They encroach on his relief allowance when he hasn't. Can it be that a large number of the radical leaders belong to the unenviable class of gate-crashers and would be eligible for deportation if once a check of our alien visitors were made?

The simple, statistical measure of registration has always met with suggestive opposition in Congress. The Cable bill, the Aswell bill, the 1932 Dies Deportation bill brought such complaints as Edward McGrady's, "It smacks too much of European espionage," and Representative Dickstein's description, "An attempt for an opening wedge to compel registration of aliens, with the idea of scaring them into a sort of espionage system, like that prevailing in the Russia of the Czars."

The American Committee for Protection of the Foreign Born, of 100 Fifth Avenue, New York, gives a hint of the reason for this opposition in an instructive mimeographed pamphlet called *Who's Who in Deportations*. Case after case of men illegally in the country is here reviewed, together with measures that left wing sympathizers have taken to permit them to remain.

There is, for instance, Antonio Pugioni, "42 years old, single, born in Sardinia. Came to the United States in 1912. Arrested in Hunger March in Washington, D.C., August 18, 1932. Held in jail, then transferred to insane ward, where he was held for four and one half months until the International Labor Defense attorneys forced his release. Released in custody of his attorney. Charged with illegal entry."

Here was a man illegally in the country for twenty years, a border-line mental case, without suffering the inconvenience of a check-up.

Then there is Theodore Pappas, "40 years old. Married. Member of the Needle Trades Industrial Union. As a result of his participation in the general strike in the

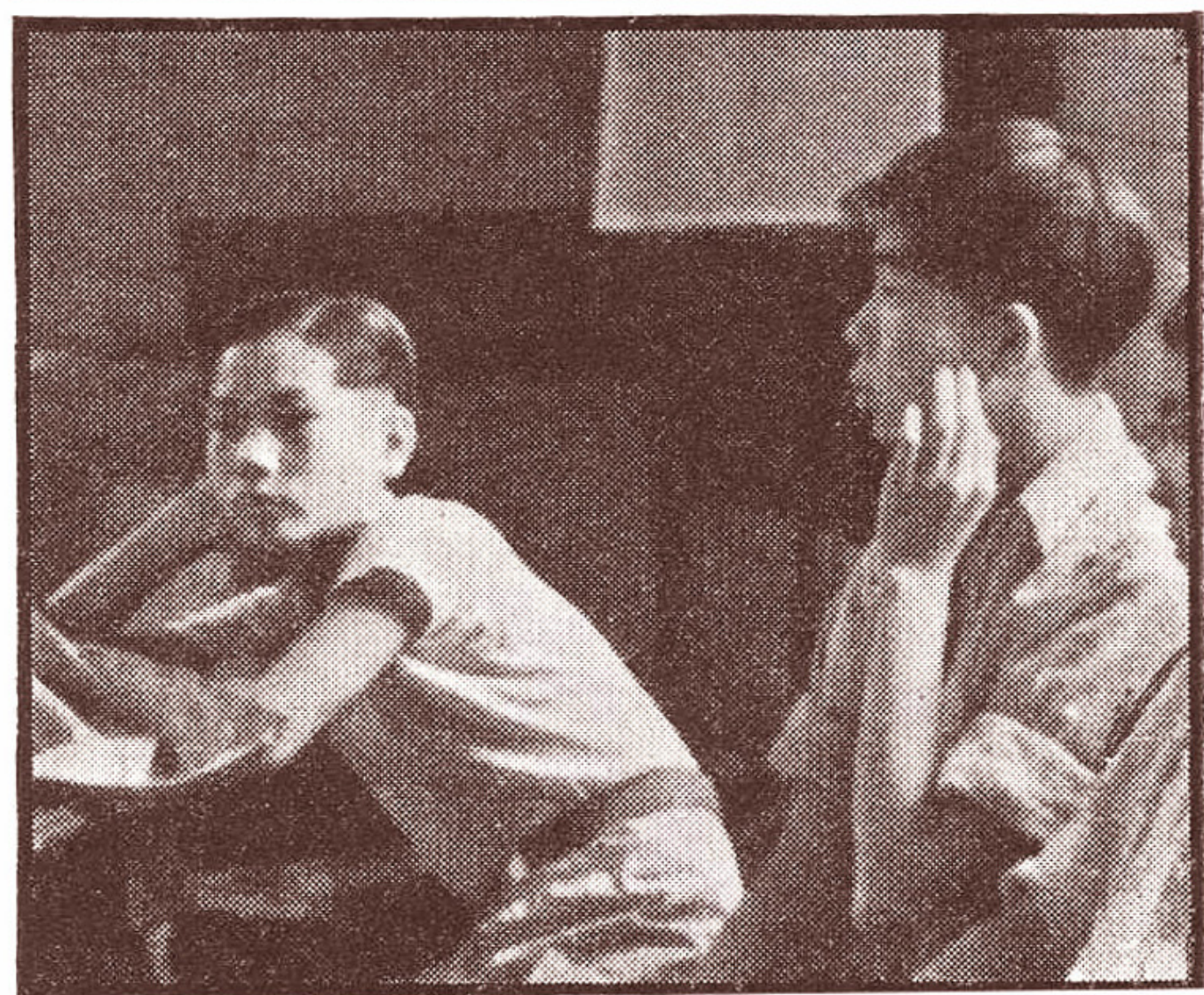
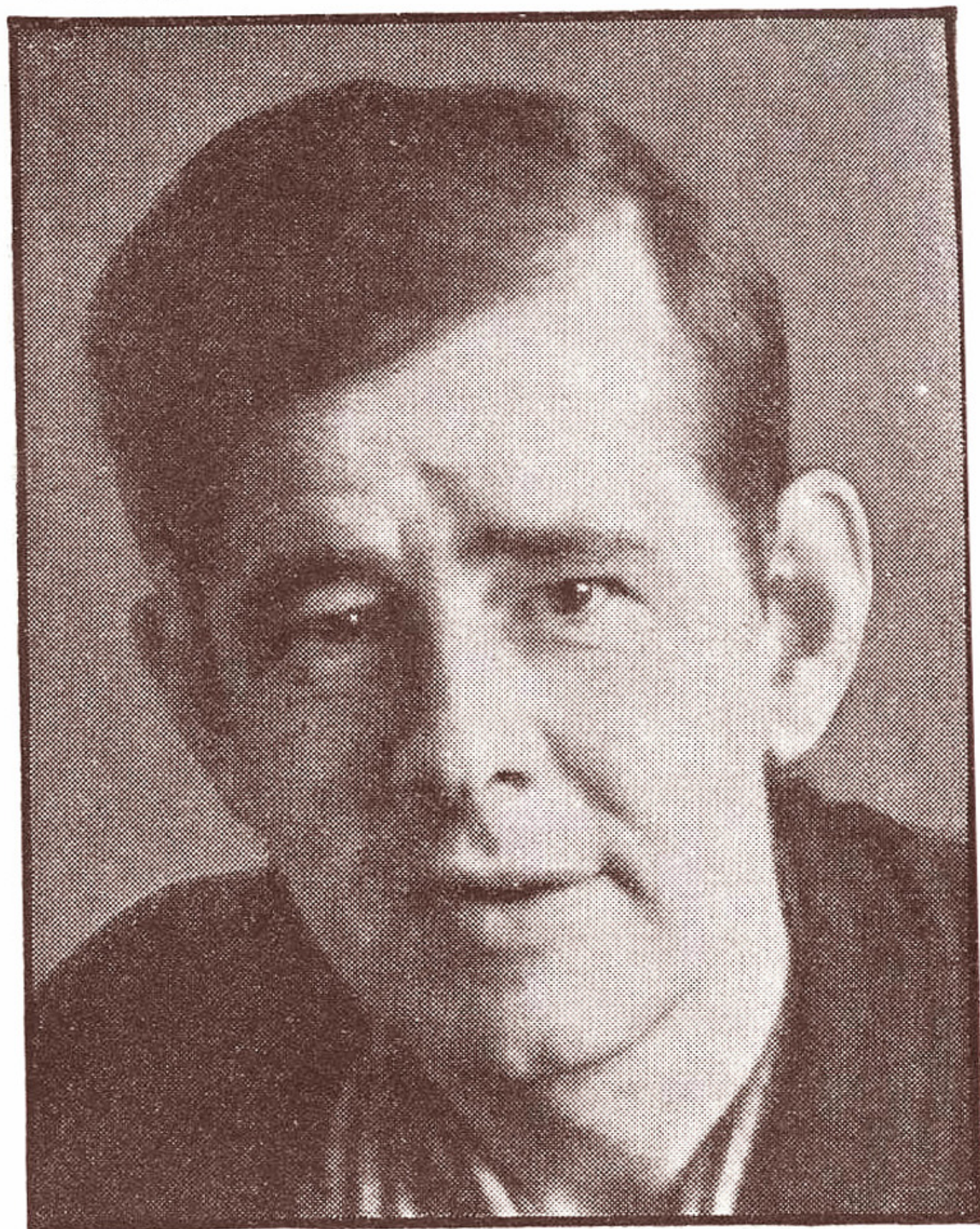


Socialist Norman Thomas



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fur industry in 1932 he was attacked by gangsters. When he went into court he was held for deportation on the charge of illegal entry. He entered from Greece in 1916. Defended by the Needle Trades Union and the A.C.P.F.B. Bail of \$2500 put up by the union. Was deported to Greece."



**ALIENS ALL**—but their cases differ. The top man will be deported for illegal entry. A wrong date on their passport causes delay at Ellis Island for the middle couple. The Chinese boys await proof of parentage



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Now that our chance to count those on relief has been missed, attention may be drawn to the series of bills to be presented to this Congress by Senator Robert R. Reynolds of North Carolina and Representative Joe Starnes of Alabama. One bill, sponsored by them, to prohibit the employment of aliens by any federal agency, passed the House during the last session and is now before the Senate Committee on Education and Labor.

The Reynolds-Starnes bills are drastic. One of the most important calls for the registration and fingerprinting of all aliens now in the country. Another would extend the quota system so that we may have some check on the Puerto Rican and Central and South American flood of immigrants. Another would make mandatory the deportation of any alien on relief for six months or more. Another would cut down the quotas of immigrants from European countries by 90 per cent. Another would refuse entry to any alien who leaves his immediate family abroad.

These bills are so sweeping that they are less apt to focus congressional interest on aliens than the bill introduced by Representative Martin Dies of Texas. This has passed the House and is now before the Senate Committee on Immigration. It provides for prompt deportation of alien criminals guilty of carrying firearms, of narcotic violations, of "moral turpitude," and of bootlegging other aliens within our borders. The Dies bill also would turn over to the Secretary of Labor the power of revoking deportation orders in the case of certain "hardship" cases. There are 3000 of these now pending. In many of them the illegal entry is the result of a technical mistake in making out entry papers. In others the deportation of an alien of good character would throw his dependents on the American taxpayer for support.

We have within our gates a vast and rather sinister army of aliens who, for reasons of their own, thought it best to avoid the officials posted at our ports of entry. We are giving millions of them jobs. We are supporting millions more in charity. They will never become citizens, and few could pass the requirements for naturalization. Many are mentally deficient—many more are sworn to overthrow democratic government.

Out of gratitude to a country which has welcomed them, is it too much to ask the properly qualified alien to register, in order that his fraudulent countrymen may be detected and sent home?

—*Gretta Palmer*