

KNUTE NELSON, MINNESOTA, CHAIRMAN.
WILLIAM P. DILLINGHAM, VT. CHARLES A. CULBERSON, TEX.
FRANK B. BRANDGEE, CONN. LEE S. OVERMAN, N. C.
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ALBERT B. CUMMINS, IOWA. HENRY F. ASHURST, ARIZ.
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GEORGE W. NORRIS, NEBR.
RICHARD P. ERNST, KY.
SAMUEL M. SHORTRIDGE, CALIF.
SIMON MICHELET, CLERK.

United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.

April 20, 1922.

Hon. Ed. Fletcher,
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

I am sending to you, under separate cover, a copy of a bill (S. 3403) I introduced in the Senate, the purposes of which are "To provide a uniform rule of naturalization and to amend and codify the laws relating to the acquisition and loss of citizenship; to equalize the citizenship status of men and women; to establish a method for the registration of aliens for their better guidance and protection; and for other purposes."

I am also sending you a statement explanatory of the bill and in general terms outlining its scope and purposes.

The bill has the approval of Secretary of Labor Davis and of naturalization experts throughout the country and it is hoped and believed will have the approval of the American people.

I shall be glad to receive from you any suggestions which you think will improve the bill and thereby more effectively carry out its main purposes.

I have the honor to remain,

Yours sincerely,

Samuel M. Shortridge

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United States Senate,

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STATEMENT EXPLANATORY OF SENATE BILL 3403,

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SHORTRIDGE.

Senator Samuel M. Shortridge has introduced a bill providing for the enrollment of all aliens annually; the payment by each alien of an annual fee of \$24.00; codifying all naturalization laws; changing the name of the Naturalization Bureau to the Bureau of Citizenship and reorganizing its activities and making provision for the money realized to go into a citizenship instruction fund for the education of aliens in the American form of government and its ideals.

The Shortridge bill has the approval of Secretary Davis of the Department of Labor and Chief Naturalization Examiner, Raymond F. Crist.

From a strictly California angle the bill is especially desirable as it will give the most accurate statistics obtainable on the total Japanese population since it will require every alien to register. It will provide means of determining who are legally in this country and prevent illegal entry.

The Federal Government has the right to provide for the registering of all alien and to fix an enrollment charge or fee.

Equal rights for women in citizenship matters are recognized for the first time in this bill as it will do away with the existing law which gives automatic citizenship to women whose husbands become naturalized and compels American women to lose their citizenship by marriage to an alien. It will retain the citizenship of an American-born woman who marries an alien. Likewise the children of an American-born woman will be American citizens even though born in a foreign country, providing they register at an American consulate upon reaching their 21st birthday.

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Naturalization experts have endorsed the changes in the naturalization code, and have estimated that California school funds will be enriched to the extent of \$8,000,000 annually by the operation of this bill if it is enacted. The school funds of other states will gain in proportion to the number of aliens registered. This money will go directly into the control of the present school authorities who will be authorized to establish schools for aliens. Free text books, prepared by the naturalization authorities will be supplied and the courses would consist of American history, American civics, and the common school branches. While the educational classes are not compulsory upon the alien, he will find it difficult to gain American citizenship unless he does take advantage of them and his annual tax of \$24.00 will continue until he is naturalized.

Whereas applicants for citizenship now are required to speak English, the bill increases the requirements to ability to "speak, read and write the English language understandingly". The bill calls for greater knowledge of American history and of the American form of Government.

In small communities and in rural districts the school authorities would be appointed registrars while in large cities the officials of the naturalization bureau as now organized would take charge of the enrollment.

The penalty for refusal of a newly arriving immigrant to enroll is deportation under the existing immigration laws; or an additional fee of \$2.00 a month for each month of delinquency may be imposed at the discretion of the registrar. Minor children under 18 years would not be required to enroll but those between 15 and 21 would be required to enroll and pay a fee of \$10.00. While alien wives of aliens would be required to register, their husbands may perform this function for them and no fee would be exacted unless the wife is gainfully employed.

The bill specifies that immigrants will have to register with the American consul abroad before starting on their journey to the United States. When they arrive at the port of entry their destination would be noted and the registrar in that city notified of their coming so as to make demand for registration.

Republican party pledges to give independent naturalization rights to married women and to require the registration of all aliens as expressed in the platform adopted by the National Convention at Chicago, in June, 1920, will be redeemed in the enactment of this bill.

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-3-

The bill provides for the character of evidence required at naturalization hearings and the presence of witnesses at such hearings is done away with, thus effecting a saving estimated by naturalization authorities to be \$14,000,000 annually to applicants and witnesses.

It gives the Government and the applicants the right to appeal from unfavorable decisions of the courts.

In California and other large states proof of residence will be greatly simplified. Proof of residence in the county where the applicant lives will be required only of the two citizens who testify. Residence in any other part of the state could be shown by depositions taken where the citizens live, whereas entire state residence must now be proved by two witnesses, which is often impossible to do. The present law also unnecessarily requires two citizens to go to the courthouse three times to prove state residence. Only one trip will be necessary under the Shortridge Bill in proving residence.

The law as decided by the Supreme Court of the United States in the celebrated California case of MacKenzie V. Hare, that deprived Mrs. MacKenzie, a native American, of her right to vote, will be repealed if the Shortridge bill becomes a law. This provision will end an inequality existing for nearly a century and a half against which American women have vigorously protested.

Original in vault

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I have the honor to remain,

Yours sincerely,

Samuel M. Shortridge

February 9th, 1929.

Hon. Samuel M. Shortridge
U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator Shortridge:

The attached letter to Phil Swing is for your information and anything you can do to help the thing along will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

EF:GMF

February 20th, 1929.

Honorable S. M. Shortridge,
U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:—

Enclosed find letter from my friend, Black, a
thoroughly responsible man, that is explanatory.

Anything you can do for him will be personally
appreciated.

With kind personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

MF:GMF
Encl.

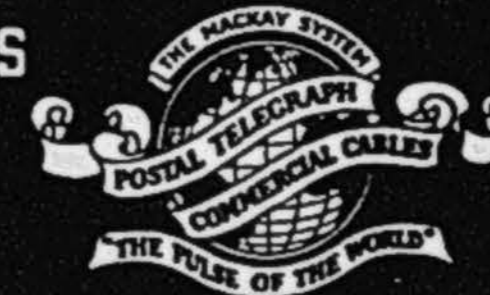
POSTAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL CABLES

CLARENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT

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SAN DIEGO, CAL.
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This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless otherwise indicated by signal in the check or in the address.

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NL	NIGHT LETTER
NITE	NIGHT TELEGRAM
LCO	DEFERRED
NLT	CABLE LETTER
WLT	WEEK END LETTER

138GS B

57 GOVT NL

160M-39371

ST WASHINGTON D C FEB 22 1929

ED FLETCHER,

1020 NINE ST SANDIEGO CALIF

REFERRING TO THE MATTER OF PURCHASE OF DRYDOCK NOW LOCATED
AT NEWORLEANS I AM ADVISED BY THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
UNITEDSTATES ARMY THAT THIS DRYDOCK BELONGS TO THE NAVY AND
THAT HE HAS REFERRED YOUR REQUEST TO THE BUREAU OF YARDS
AND DOCKS FOR CONSIDERATION STOP WILL ADVISE YOU ON RECEIPT
OF FURTHER DATA ON THIS MATTER.

SAMUEL M SHORTRIDGE.

422PM

February 25th, 1929.

Hon. Samuel M. Shortridge
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Shortridge:—

I wish to thank you very much for your night letter
of February 22nd regarding the drydock at New
Orleans.

Yours very truly,

EF:GMF

March Fifth,
1929

Hon. Samuel M. Shortridge,
U. S. Senator,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

Thanks kindly for your letter of the twenty-sixth and
the information regarding the Navy Department.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

EF:AK

August 5th, 1929.

Honorable Samuel Shortridge,
United States Senator,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

A number of us are good friends of Commander C. K. Winn. Personally I think he has had a rotten deal from Dr. Bunker, and I approve every word that G. A. Davidson has written in his letter to you of August 3rd.

I have also read the summary of the Dr. Bunker case which is now on file in the U. S. Navy. You should read it, Senator. I understand my friend, William B. Gross, is sending it to you and you can count on everything Bill Gross says being absolutely true.

It tickled me to see the shot at Senator Johnson running home and you left to do the work on the tariff. More power to you.

Yours sincerely,

EF:GMF

DECEMBER
28
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Hon. Samuel Shortridge,
U. S. Senate,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator Shortridge:

Just a word to let you know that Mrs. Fletcher and I are thinking o you as the New Year rolls in.

I realize your position is not a pleasant one and probably at this time there are more problems of the Nation for you to help solve than at any time since the World War.

With absolute faith in your sincerity and ability to solve these problems I drop you this line of cheer and urge that you carry on to the best of your ability and render the greatest service to the greatest number.

Wishing you Many Happy Returns of the New Year,
I am

Sincerely your friend,

E
F
:
A
K

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 25 Folder: 9

General Correspondence - Shortridge, Samuel M.



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