

X - 78 - 53. New York Times, October 12, 1943, "President Urges Congress Repeal
Chinese Exclusion Act as War Aid"

President Urges Congress Repeal Chinese Exclusion Act as War Aid

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11.—President Roosevelt asked Congress today to act promptly on a pending bill to repeal Chinese exclusion laws as a means of assuring our Chinese Allies that we regard them as full partners in the war against Axis aggression.

Repeal of the exclusion laws, the earliest dating back to 1882, and the putting of Chinese under the same immigrant quota regulations of the 1920's would allow an immigration of about 100 Chinese a year, Mr. Roosevelt said. This, he said, would certainly not cause unemployment in this country or provide any measurable competition in Americans search for jobs.

"I regard this legislation," he said, "as important in the cause of winning the war and of establishing a secure peace," commenting

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LIFT CHINESE BAN, ROOSEVELT URGES

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long years she stood alone in the fight against aggression. Today she has continued her gallant struggle against very great odds.

"China has understood that the war first required the concentration of the greater part of our strength upon the European front. She has understood that the amount of supplies we could make available to her has been limited by difficulties of transportation. She knows that substantial aid will be forthcoming as soon as possible—aid not only in the form of weapons and supplies, but also in carrying out plans already made for offensive action. We and our Allies will aim our forces at the heart of Japan—in ever-increasing strength until the common enemy is driven from China's soil.

"But China's resistance does not depend alone on guns and planes and on attacks on land, on the sea

and from the air. It is based as much in the spirit of her people and her faith in her Allies. We owe it to the Chinese to strengthen that faith. One step in this direction is to wipe from the statute books those anachronisms in our law which forbid the immigration of Chinese people into this country and which bar Chinese residents from American citizenship.

Would Silence Propaganda
"Nations like individuals make mistakes. We must be big enough to acknowledge our mistakes of the past and to correct them. "By the repeal of the Chinese exclusion laws we can correct a historic mistake and silence the distorted Japanese propaganda. The enactment of legislation now pending before the Congress would put Chinese immigrants on a parity with those from other countries. The Chinese quota would therefore, be only about 100 immigrants a year. There can be no reasonable apprehension that any such number of immigrants will cause unemployment or provide competition in the search for jobs. "The extension of the privileges of citizenship to the relatively few Chinese residents in our country would operate as another meaning-

ful display of friendship. It would be additional proof that we regard China not only as a partner in waging war but that we shall regard her as a partner in days of peace. While it would give the Chinese a preferred status over certain other Oriental people, their great contribution to the cause of decency and freedom entitles them to such preference.

"I feel confident that the Congress is in full agreement that these measures—long overdue—should be taken to correct an injustice to our friends. Action by the Congress now will be an earnest of our purpose to apply the policy of the good neighbor to our relations with other peoples."

Second Step by President
WASHINGTON, Oct. 11 (UP)—The message of the President marked the second time within a fortnight Mr. Roosevelt has asked Congress for legislation to combat propaganda which seeks to woo all Asiatics into Japan's so-called Greater Asia co-prosperity sphere. Recently he requested authority to advance from July 4, 1946, the date on which the Philippine Islands are scheduled to receive full independence, in a move to offset the "phony" independence Japan

has promised the conquered islands, and if Congress should put immigration on a par with other countries 105 more could be admitted annually.

House leaders say the legislation will succeed, but there is opposition and speeches from both sides may be expected. Representative Elmore, Republican, of Missouri, argued strongly against it before the Rules Committee last week and Representative Allen, Democrat, of Louisiana, has been fighting the proposal.

Predict Passage of Repealer
WASHINGTON, Oct. 11 (AP)—The 1940 census showed 37,242 for-