

1. U.S. Congressman John Box Warns of Dangers of Mexican Migration, 1928

... During the present session of Congress immigration discussion and legislation will probably center around four important questions:

1. Shall our deportation laws be strengthened, extended, and better enforced?
2. Shall the endless chain of relationship existing between immigrants and their kindred abroad be permitted to start dragging out of Europe tens of thousands of those whom the laws now exclude?
3. Shall we retain in the law the national-origins provision, written into the acts of 1924, making it more accurately and adequately serve the Nation's purpose to keep itself American, or shall they be suspended or repealed at the dictates of certain hyphenated minorities of our population?
4. Shall the quota provisions of the immigration law be made applicable to Mexico, South America, and adjacent islands?

U.S. Congress, House, Committee on Immigration and Naturalization, *Immigration from Countries of the Western Hemisphere: Hearings: 1930*. 71st Congress, 2d Session, p. 221.

To this last question I shall devote my brief remarks.

The people of the United States have so definitely determined that immigration shall be rigidly held in check that many who would oppose this settled policy dare not openly attack it. The opposition declares itself in sympathy with the policy and then seeks to break down essential parts of the law and opposes any consistent completion of it making it serve the nation's purpose to maintain its distinguishing character and institutions. Declaring that they do not believe that paupers and serfs and peons, the ignorant, the diseased, and the criminal of the world should pour by the tens and hundreds of thousands into the United States as the decades pass, they nevertheless oppose the stopping of that very class from coming out of Mexico and the West Indies into the country at the rate of 75,000, more or less, per year.

Every reason which calls for the exclusion of the most wretched, ignorant, dirty, diseased and degraded people of Europe or Asia demands that the illiterates, unclean, peonized masses moving this way from Mexico be stopped at the border. Few will seriously propose the repeal of the immigration laws during the present Congress, but the efforts of those who understand and support the spirit and purpose of these laws is to complete them and make them more effective by the application of their quota provisions to Mexico and the West Indies, will be assiduously and strenuously opposed.

The admission of a large and increasing number of Mexican peons to engage in all kinds of work is at variance with the American purpose to protect the wages of the working people and maintain their standard of living.

Another purpose of the immigration laws is the protection of American racial stock from further degradation or change through mongrelization. The Mexican peon is a mixture of Mediterranean-blooded Spanish peasant with low-grade Indians who did not fight to extinction but submitted and multiplied as serfs. Into that was fused much negro slave blood. This blend of low-grade Spaniard, peonized Indian, and negro slave mixes with negroes, mulattoes, and other mongrels, and some sorry whites, already here. The prevention of such mongrelization and the degradation it causes is one of the purposes of our laws which the admission of these people will tend to defeat.