

LIFE  
Time & Life Building  
Rockefeller Center  
New York 20

June 5, 1959



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Dear 

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I thought you would like to know the result of my talk with Besterman at the House Sub-Committee about the progress of Ted's citizenship. I took the liberty of enquiring since, as you know, I am very interested in this matter and would hate to see anything go awry with our plans for citizenship now that they have advanced so far.

Besterman, I am happy to say, was most encouraging. He pointed out that the full Committee would meet to approve the recommendations of the Sub-Committee on June 9th. He anticipates no trouble whatever at this meeting since the full Committee invariably passes on the Sub-Committee's recommendations. On the 16th it is tentatively planned to bring this to the floor and get House approval. Besterman anticipates no difficulties here either. I am sure there will not be since John McCormack has himself displayed such a lively personal interest in this matter. Just to make sure, of course, I shall get in touch with John in the matter -- although I believe Walters has already done so.

Besterman did bring up a matter which I daresay must cause you people some concern, i.e. the question of the double identity. I was prepared to argue with him on the score of introducing the bill under both names and I pointed out the pitfalls therein as I saw them. I must say, though, that his explanation of the Sub-Committee's view was so convincing that I could not but accept it. He pointed out that the Sub-Committee, on the advice of the Immigration Service, had felt two names necessary for this reason: to eliminate any question of the legality involved. It is very possible, as he explained, that a Federal judge might question now or later the propriety, if not the entire legal basis, of a citizenship granted to an obvious pseudonym. With the Deriabin name included, however, there is no room for doubt that U.S. citizenship has been conferred on a certain specific person, who may, if he wishes, exercise his prerogative of changing his name. Besterman reminded me that it is always possible /

possible to change one's name again, even at the very moment of accepting citizenship. I feel sure that this could be arranged, with citizenship granted, with the formal swearing-in taking place in some relatively inconspicuous locality.

Besterman suggested I might well say a word or two to the Senate people when the House bill goes there for action -- Sourwine seemed favorable to the matter. Besterman rightly advised me not to attempt anything until after House passage, however. I will of course ask various people to use their good offices in the Senate and I know John McCormack will be happy to lend his own recommendations.

Sincerely,

/s/ Frank Gibney