

Poll Shows Favor for Fingerprinting Of Aliens as Curb on Crime and Spying

By DR. GEORGE GALLUP
American Institute of Public Opinion

NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—In the wake of the recent trial of German spies in this country several bills are now pending in Congress to require all aliens living in the United States to be fingerprinted and registered with the Government.

Sponsored in the Senate by Senator Reynolds (D. N. C.) and in the House by Rep. Starnes (D. Ala.), this plan meets with widespread popular approval in a national survey by the American Institute of Public Opinion. The majority of voters favor the idea because it "would help to check up on spies" or "would enable the Government to keep a better line on aliens," or "because it might deter aliens from engaging in crime or other under-cover activities."

A cross-section of voters in all sections and in all income levels was asked: "Do you think all persons living in this country who are not citizens should be fingerprinted and registered with the Federal Government?"

The vote was:
Yes 84%
No 16%

Although registration of aliens is widely practiced in foreign countries, including England, the minority of American voters in the survey expressed the view that it would be unfair to "discriminate against a particular class of people" or that fingerprinting would be "too expensive and would call for too much red tape."

The survey likewise reveals the fact that the majority of voters not only favor fingerprinting of aliens but also think that everybody in the nation should be fingerprinted.

Many officials of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have long advocated universal fingerprinting as a means of identifying people who are killed in accidents, kidnapped, dogged by impersonators and forgers or who are suffering from amnesia.

Many schools and clubs have adopted the practice and a bill for universal fingerprinting is now

pending in the House of Representatives. The basic question has always been, would public opinion stand for this practice? One indication is seen by the answers to the following question which the Institute put to a cross-section of voters: "Do you think everybody in this country should be fingerprinted by the Federal Government?"

The vote was:
Yes 71%
No 29%

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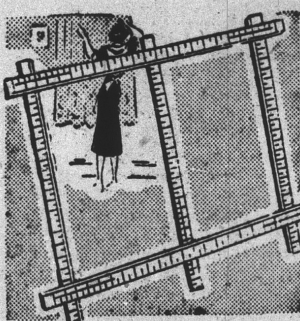
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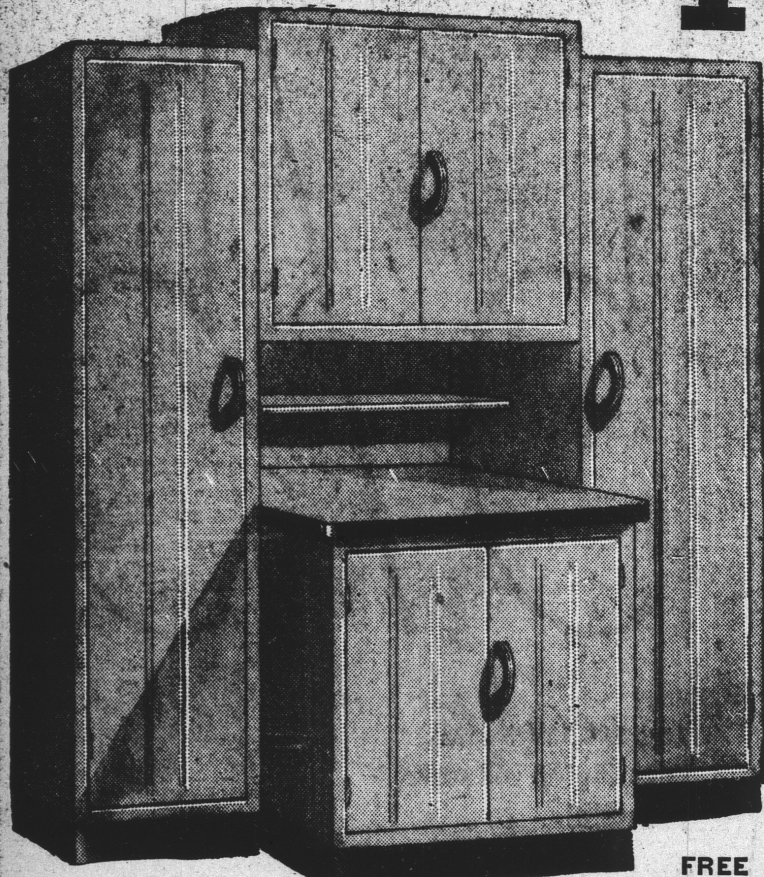
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