

The Bethlehem Globe **April 17, 1923**

Harding Backs Up Judge Gary on Immigration

President is Said to Have Stated That Head of U.S. Steel Corporation Was Quite Correct In Statement That Serious labor Shortage is Threatened by Law's Operation.

Washington, April 17.- (By Associated Press)- President Harding was said at the White House to have stated that E.H. Gary, chairman of the board of the United States Steel Corporation, was quite correct in his statement, made to his corporations' stockholders yesterday, that a serious labor shortage was threatened through the operations of the restrictions of the immigration law.

Secretary Davis, it was said, presented today to the President a report contributed by the labor department, showing that a labor shortage already exists in some of the trades calling for skilled labor. The report was said to indicate that the shortage was being felt, especially in the steel industry.

Secretary Davis has been at work for several weeks on a new immigration bill, but White House officials said they were unable to say whether provision was to be made in it for allowing skilled laborers to come into the country in excess of quota limits in case of labor shortage.

At the same time, Chairman Johnson, of the house immigration commission, issued a statement, defending the law, and declaring large corporations, who had attacked it, wanted cheaper labor.

"If the immigration laws are relaxed," Mr. Johnson said, "for every immigrant who will come as a possible employe of the steel and other corporations, nine will come to drag down the living standards of the United States. The corporations want cheaper labor. Cheap labor makes a cheap country. Common labor works for twenty cents a day in Haiti and forty cents a day in Porto Rico where thousands are unemployed.

"A few weeks ago Charles M. Schwab, in an interview, said, that he had never seen such extreme misery as now exists in England through unemployment. Our restricted emigration act helped to transfer 5,000,000 people in the United States out of work to work at good pay in 15 months' time. If any selective law is enacted, it should apply to the immediate blood relatives of those now here before we begin to take in new foreign laborers without giving thought of the later admission of their families."

In his report to the President, Secretary Davis said that despite the labor situation, he believed that throwing open the gates of immigration and flooding the country with workers and non-workers at the present time would serve to bring prosperity to an end.