

ACTION ON REFUGEES?

8 When the Hungarian revolt and Russia's brutal suppression shook the world last fall the Administration quickly found means to admit thousands of Hungarian refugees to the United States under the "parole" provision of the McCarran-Walter Act. True, we did not admit enough; but the 30,000-plus that we have admitted, and the ones we are continuing to admit under a reduced but still active program, show that we can move quickly and effectively when we want to.

But under Attorney General Brownell's interpretation of the law the Administration will do nothing about the Egyptian refugees unless Congress itself takes action. Thus nothing is being done—because Congress has not acted and, except for a few individual members, gives no sign of any real concern about this tragic and shocking problem, or about any of the other related problems dealing with our illiberal, restrictionist and sometimes savage immigration legislation.

If President Eisenhower is at fault in not pressing with sufficient vigor for revision of the law, as we believe to be the case, the Democratic leadership of Congress is equally if not more responsible for the dismal record. Neither Speaker Sam Rayburn in the House nor Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson in the Senate gives evidence of any desire for action on the immigration principles repeatedly expressed by the President and by a handful of liberals in both parties. And certainly any really meaningful revision of the law would be opposed by Representative Walter and Senator Eastland—both Democrats and both in key positions on immigration matters. Mr. Walter even tries to make it appear that it is playing the Communist game to attack the McCarran-Walter Act. We say that he is talking nonsense, and that the Communists are the ones who profit by some aspects of America's present immigration policy.

The least that should be done at this session is to adopt the President's very moderate bill, recommended by the President last January. Even though the prospects of success are almost nil, he ought to put the great weight of his office fully behind his proposals, and meanwhile take the administrative action open to him of extending a helping hand to refugees from Egypt as well as from Hungary.