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# Fingerprint Each Person in America, Stevenson Demands

Unsigned report in *The Evening Call* [New York], † v. 10, no. 341 (Dec. 7, 1917), pg. 1

Archibald E. Stevenson, chairman of the Committee on Aliens of the mayor's Committee on National Defense, announces that steps have been taken to induce the federal authorities to require every man and woman, citizen and alien, in the United States to register and to receive an identification card, including signature, photograph, and fingerprints.

According to Stevenson it will be impossible thoroughly to enforce the alien enemy regulations without the proposed change, because officers charged with enforcing the law have no unfailing means of ascertaining whether or not the particular person before them is an enemy alien.

"I am communicating with Attorney General Gregory," Mr. Stevenson said. "This plan of universal registration must become national in scope to become successful. Mayor

Mitchel wrote Attorney General Gregory last summer and receive a reply which virtually approved its immediate adoption. A few days ago I received from the head of the fingerprint bureau of the city of New York the offer of their plant for the work, and with it assurance of the strong approval of Chive Magistrate McAdoo.

"The passage of a law requiring all men and women to carry identification cards would give a sense of security to every loyal citizen, while enabling the public to put secret enemies where they ought to be.

"The committee on aliens will have its work greatly increased by a declaration of war on Austria-Hungary. We are now trying to find jobs for Germans thrown out of work by the recent zone orders, and will attempt to do the same for Austrians when the time comes."

†- The Socialist Party's *New York Call* changed its name to *The Evening Call* on Dec. 3, 1917, in an effort to do an end run around post office censorship when the "Morning Call" lost its mailing privileges. Volume numbers were retained under the new name and the paper's format was unchanged. The revised publication seems to have been geared towards newsstands for delivery.

*Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.*

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