

PAGE WITHHELD PURSUANT TO
(b)(6)

PAGE WITHHELD PURSUANT TO
(b)(6)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20536

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

January 15, 1975

AND REFER TO THIS FILE NO.

OO 893.1-C

(b)(6)



Your letter to the President concerning John Lennon has been referred to this Service for reply.

Mr. Lennon entered the United States as a visitor in August, 1971 and was authorized to remain until February 29, 1972. As a result of his failure to honor that departure date, he was informed that he was expected to depart March 15, 1972, and that failure to comply would result in the institution of deportation proceedings.

Upon his failure to depart, a deportation hearing was held and the immigration judge found that Mr. Lennon was deportable in that he had remained in the United States for longer time than permitted. The immigration judge granted Mr. Lennon 60 days in which to depart voluntarily from the United States in lieu of deportation. He appealed the immigration judge's decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals.

On July 10, 1974, the Board of Immigration Appeals dismissed Mr. Lennon's appeal and granted him 60 days from the date of that decision in which to depart voluntarily from the United States. However, on September 6, 1974, a petition to review Mr. Lennon's deportation order was filed in the United States Court of Appeals in New York. The petition for review stays Mr. Lennon's deportation pending determination of the petition by that Court.

Mr. Lennon is guaranteed and indeed has received the same Constitutional rights of "due process" and "equal protection under the law" as would any other alien or citizen of this country, and you may be assured that he received a fair and impartial deportation hearing.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

James F. Greene
Deputy Commissioner

PAGE WITHHELD PURSUANT TO
(b)(6)

000701

1973 JAN 13 PM 4:12

1973 JAN 13 PM 4:12

1973 JAN 13

PAGE WITHHELD PURSUANT TO
(b)(6)

Lennon Wins Right to

BY JOE TREEN

NEW YORK — Can you imagine what must have gone through the judge's mind? Can you imagine the torture and agony he must have felt? Allow John Lennon — ex-Beatle John Lennon, hardly the epitome of middle-class America—allow him to . . . to . . . the word comes hard . . . to investigate the United States Department of Justice? The idea is almost absurd! John Lennon, unfettered and free, flying from one file cabinet to another. Opening drawers. Pulling out files. Asking questions.

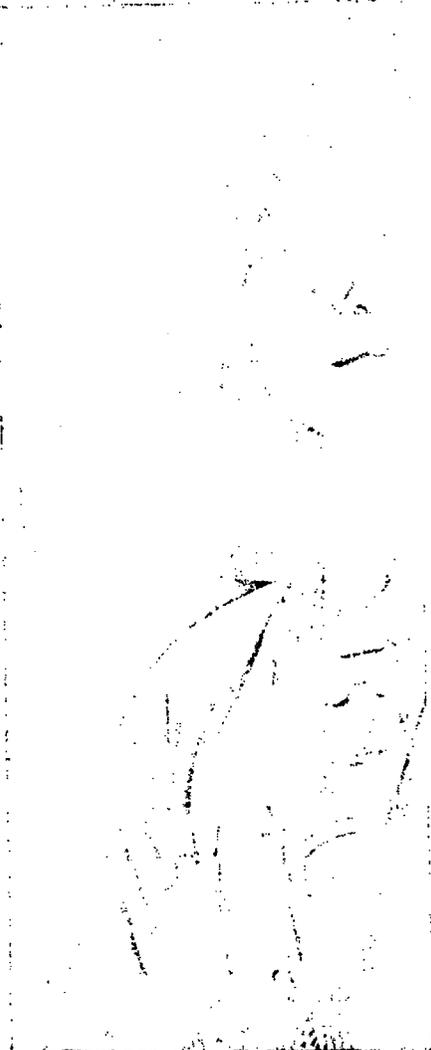
But on the other hand, the judge must have had another thought: What if Lennon is right? What if the local immigration people in New York did try to kick Lennon out because the Nixon honchos down in Washington were afraid he'd disrupt the 1972 Republican National Convention? What if there was a governmental conspiracy against Lennon? What if they did prejudice his case? What if they did plan a big political trial for him as **ROLLING STONE** reported two months ago. (RS December 5th, 1974.)

And so the judge found a compromise. On January 2nd, U.S. District Court Judge Richard Owen ruled that Lennon's lawyers, as they had requested, will be permitted to question federal officials; they will be permitted to see immigration files; they will have a chance to try to prove the Watergate connection in the Lennon deportation case. But there is a catch. Judge Owen is afraid Lennon might "disrupt" the operations of the government. The witnesses, therefore, will be witnesses approved by the judge; the files will be files screened beforehand. Although immigration officials once planned a big political trial for John Lennon, Lennon cannot plan a big political trial for them.

Lennon's attorney, Leon Wildes, was elated. He issued a press release the day after the judge's ruling and left immediately for the Virgin Islands for a planned holiday. The decision was "a significant step forward," the release said, "in vindicating my client's position that he had been selectively prosecuted because of his antiadministration opinions." Wildes's associate, Steven Weinberg, said the judge's restrictions would not hamper Lennon's inquiry. "He just wants to see that there's some

attitude to the people we are examining

people for



Lennon to examine. There is Senator Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), who has admitted through a spokesman that he sent "some information" about Lennon to then attorney general John Mitchell; a few weeks later the case against Lennon began. There is Mitchell's No. Two man, Richard Kleindienst; sources close to the situation say Kleindienst sent a note—"Let's get on this right away"—which was clipped to Lennon's file in New York. There is Raymond Farrell, then commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, a branch of the Justice Department. There is James F. Greene, then Farrell's associate commissioner. There is Sol Marks, who headed the New York immigration office and there is Vincent A. Schiano, the government lawyer assigned to the case.

Sources say that Marks, acting on Greene's instructions, ordered Schiano to hold a political trial—to show through Lennon's songs, friends and

Quiz Justice Dept.

ideas that he was unit to be a resident of the U.S.—but that Schiano talked him out of it. Greene denies that; Marks says the idea might have been “discussed very tangentially”; and Schiano isn't talking.

But if Lennon's lawyers have their way, that will change. Schiano is high on the list of witnesses they would like to question. “We wouldn't mind examining every one of the defendants,” Weinberg said. But if it got down to a crunch, he said, the big three are Schiano, Marks and Greene. “Because that's where any kind of predetermination was made,” he said. “That's where instructions were given and those were the people who received the instructions.”

Lennon's lawyers also want to see Lennon's file. “We want everything,” Weinberg said. “We are going to examine the government file completely. . . . We want to see how the thing initiated.”

Just what limits Judge Owen places on Lennon's lawyers will not be decided until a closed hearing now set for January 17th. But the limits on Lennon will probably not be decided until after the hearing anyway. Judge Owen, 52, has the reputation of being a thoughtful, careful and fair judge whose caseload is so heavy it takes a long time for him to work out a decision (this one took two months). Even though he was appointed to the bench by Richard Nixon and was in the Justice Department during the Eisenhower administration (he prosecuted some would-be assassins of Harry Truman), Judge Owen has something in common with John Lennon: They are both composers. Owen composes operas. After law school he studied at Juilliard and has written four operas which were well received both in this country and abroad.

His concern that the questions of composer John Lennon may disrupt the government seem unfounded.

Of the seven potential witnesses in the Lennon case, only two—Thurmond and Greene—are still in government. Mitchell and Kleindienst, you may have noticed, are no longer there. Farrell and Marks have retired and Schiano is in private law practice.

Perhaps because they are out of government, Schiano and Marks are expected to say there was illegal interference in the case from Washington. Perhaps because he is still in the Immigration Service, Greene is expected to say that there was not. In fact, in a letter protesting the ROLLING STONE investigation of the case, Greene made his position quite clear:

“Mr. Lennon is simply one of the thousands of tourists who come to this country as visitors for business or pleasure and, lured by the attraction of our nation's economic opportunities and freedom, decide to remain here. Often they do so illegally, as did Mr. Lennon.

“Although he applied for status as a permanent resident, Mr. Lennon is not eligible because he has a prior drug conviction. That is the law as passed by Congress.

“This position was upheld in the Lennon case by the Immigration judge who conducted a hearing and by the Board of Immigration Appeals. If upholding the law, as the public pays me to do, is wrong in the eyes of ROLLING STONE, then I plead guilty.”

PAGE WITHHELD PURSUANT TO
(b)(6)

PATRICIA SCHROEDER
FIRST DISTRICT, DENVER, COLORADO

DISTRICT OFFICE:
DENVER FEDERAL BUILDING
1981 STOUT STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80202
(303) 837-2354

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1313 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4431

December 16, 1974

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

POST OFFICE AND CIVIL
SERVICE COMMITTEE

Amor

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515



Mr. James F. Greene, Acting Commissioner
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Constitution Avenue and 10th Street
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Greene:

Recently, I have received several inquiries concerning the deportation of John Lennon. My constituents' concern is that Mr. Lennon is receiving discriminatory treatment because his work and lifestyle are offensive to the Service. These deportation proceedings are based upon a previous conviction in Great Britain for possession of marijuana. I would greatly appreciate any information you might supply me with in regard to Mr. Lennon's case, especially in comparison to other deportations going on now.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,

Pat Schroeder
Patricia Schroeder
Congresswoman

PS/ds/ck

RECEIVED
DEC 13 7 46 AM '74
CONGRESSIONAL
MAIL DESK

CO 703.1135

SIGNED AND MAILED

JAN 14 1975

CO 763.1135

Dear Mr. Schroeder:

This refers to your letter of December 16, 1974, concerning the deportation matter of Mr. John Lennon.

Mr. Lennon entered the United States as a visitor in August, 1971, and was authorized to remain until February 29, 1972. As a result of his failure to honor that departure date, he was informed that he was expected to depart March 15, 1972, and that failure to comply would result in the institution of deportation proceedings.

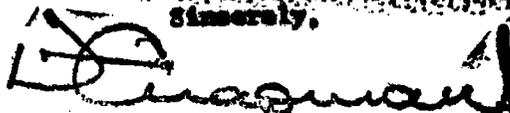
Upon his failure to depart, a deportation hearing was held and the immigration judge found that Mr. Lennon was deportable in that he had remained in the United States for longer time than permitted. The immigration judge granted Mr. Lennon 60 days in which to depart voluntarily from the United States in lieu of deportation. He appealed the immigration judge's decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals.

On July 10, 1974, the Board of Immigration Appeals dismissed Mr. Lennon's appeal and granted him 60 days from the date of that decision in which to depart voluntarily from the United States. However, on September 6, 1974, a petition to review Mr. Lennon's deportation order was filed in the United States Court of Appeals in New York. The petition for review stays Mr. Lennon's deportation pending determination of the petition by that Court.

In Fiscal Year 1974, this Service deported 18,824 aliens to all parts of the world, while another 718,768 were required to depart without the issuance of deportation orders. Admittedly, few, if any, of these aliens were as well known as Mr. Lennon. However, I think you will agree, from the number of illegal aliens expelled, as indicated above, that this Service has little time or inclination to single out any alien, be he John Lennon or plain John Smith, for arbitrary treatment.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,



L. F. Chapman, Jr.
Commissioner

Honorable Patricia Schroeder
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

CC: CO 243.129-C ✓

CC: Commissioner's Reading File

ENF:HB:me

PAGE WITHHELD PURSUANT TO
(b)(6)

PAGE WITHHELD PURSUANT TO
(b)(6)

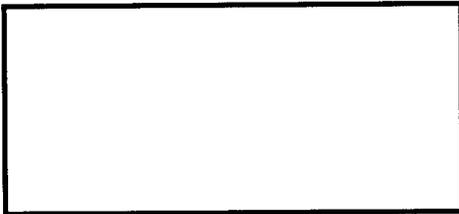
PAGE WITHHELD PURSUANT TO
(b)(6)

LENNON

December 19, 1974

~~CO 892.71-C~~

(b)(6)



This refers to your recent letter concerning John Lennon.

Mr. Lennon entered the United States as a visitor in August 1971 and was authorized to remain until February 29, 1972. As a result of his failure to honor that departure date, he was informed that he was expected to depart by March 15, 1972, and that failure to comply would result in the institution of deportation proceedings.

Upon his failure to depart, a deportation hearing was held and the immigration judge found that Mr. Lennon was deportable in that he had remained in the United States for longer time than permitted. The immigration judge granted Mr. Lennon 60 days in which to depart voluntarily from the United States in lieu of deportation. He appealed the immigration judge's decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals.

On July 10, 1974, the Board of Immigration Appeals dismissed Mr. Lennon's appeal and granted him 60 days from the date of that decision in which to depart voluntarily from the United States. However, on September 6, 1974, a petition to review Mr. Lennon's deportation order was filed in the United States Court of Appeals in New York. The petition for review stays Mr. Lennon's deportation pending determination of the petition by that court.

File

Mr. Lennon is guaranteed and indeed has received the same constitutional rights of "due process" and "equal protection under the law" as would any other alien or citizen of this country, and you may be assured that he received a fair and impartial deportation hearing.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

James F. Greene
Deputy Commissioner

SMD
SMD:ba:ba
aw

PAGE WITHHELD PURSUANT TO
(b)(6)

Mr. Pillsbury
Lennon Case.

RM

Mr. O'Brien

all

to

✓ \$



JOHN LENNON

Politics and the J

By William P. Jobs
Star-News Staff Writer

Former Beatle John Lennon's complex legal struggle against deportation is now nearing its third year, and there are growing indications that the Immigration and Naturalization Service responded to political pressure in deciding to press its case against the British musician.

Although the Immigration Service says Lennon is unable to remain in the United States because of a minor drug offense, records show that some 118 other offenders with more serious narcotics backgrounds have been permitted to live in this country.

Sources close to the case suggest that Immigration's unusual interest in Lennon developed when officials of former President Richard M. Nixon's administration were informed that Lennon planned to appear at a

leftist rally at the 1972 Republican convention.

LENNON'S POLITICAL attention with the Vietnam-era support directly linked to the INS action in the United States. Lennon's intention of going to the Gulf government was misinformed.

In February 1972 Sen. Frank Lautenberg, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, who was a leading Nixon ally, obtained intelligence data on Lennon from the Justice Department through the Justice Department's Service chain of command to

Washington Star-

tern Pennsylvania and West

mar 01 1972

WASHINGTON, D.C., SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1972

John Lennon Case



SEN. THURMOND

of INS' New York District office, with orders to immediately revoke Lennon's visitor's visa.

Some officials with intimate knowledge of the case also claim that Thurmond's data, which included an accompanying cover letter, was also sent to William Timmons, Nixon's congressional liaison.

Timmons said last week through an aide that he does not recall receiving any intelligence material from Thurmond, but remembers "the senator's concern about Lennon and his wife remaining in the country."

See LENNON, A-8

Sunday Edition

DRIPPYDROPS — Increasing cloudiness today with chance of rain by evening. High in 46s. Rain probably continuing into Monday. Low tonight in 30s, high tomorrow in 40s. Details: E-14.

Republican National Convention

activism and his association with anti-war movements drew the attention of several de-... today insists he had no... P. convention, and says the...

from Thurmond, R-M.C., a Internal Security Committee... they-Atty. Gen. John N... sources say, was designated... to Sol Marks, then-director

News

BUENOS AIRES.

...in asking for sacrifice

DECEMBER 15, 1974



nation

Labor Talks Stall Miners

What was expected to be a week of resumed coal production after a month-long United Mine Workers strike sputtered by the end of the week, then related mine construction worker contract talks broke down. And union officials warn that even more miners will be idled tomorrow unless a new contract for construction workers materializes. In Friday, industry spokesman estimated that 30,000 of the nation's 600 union miners, mostly in Western Pennsylvania and West

July, and new funds were pumped into the system under the direction of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to modernize and make safer the decaying hospitals, which Nixon called outmoded and under-used.

Beef Proposal

President Ford's Consumer adviser, Virginia Knauer, in a letter to Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz, said his department should consider revising its proposed beef grading system. She said a new grade should be created between "choice" and "good" beef to reflect beef in the "good" category which is not marbled enough to be "choice."

World



Miki Urges Sacrifices

Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Miki called for international cooperation to tame global inflation and the oil crisis and said Japan would try to maintain friendly relations with all nations, in his first policy speech before parliament since he assumed the reins of the government Monday.

Miki also said Japan must hold the line on imports of natural resources and hold back on fiscal expenditures.

The new premier struck an entirely new tone in asking for sacrifice instead of promises.

nine-man military firing squad pumped 144 bullets into the three condemned thieves. The executions brought to 245 the number of men publicly shot in the military government's crackdown on crime.

Guerrillas Slain

Two Argentine guerrillas and a policeman were shot to death Friday night in a gunbattle at a "people's jail" used to hold kidnappers, police sources said. The guerrillas were shot when they tried to break through a police cordon around the house in the town of Temperley, about 10 miles south of Buenos Aires.

AP Wire

LENNON

Continued From A-1

The information on Lennon was obtained by Thurmond in his capacity as a member of the Internal Security subcommittee, but it is unclear whether other committee members had access to the intelligence file.

Jay Sourwine, general counsel to the committee, was asked if his staff has any "private" files on Lennon.

"I can't discuss private files on anybody," Sourwine replied. "We do not have any hate lists, prescribed lists, lists of subversives or anything of the sort," he added. "I would not discuss in any case what we have that is not public source material. It's classified."

LEON WILDES, a prominent New York attorney specializing in immigration affairs who represents Lennon, claims that high administration officials' interference in what was essentially an Immigration Service matter is an illegal incursion on the right of immigration district directors to exercise discretion in such cases.

Wildes charged in a suit separate from his deportation defense of Lennon, that evidence obtained by the government was the product of illegal surveillance activities.

A document he filed in the Lennon litigation indicates that at least one investigative arm of the government was involved in gathering information on Lennon and his wife, Yoko Ono.

The paper is a memorandum from "Supervisor, Intelligence Division, Unit 2" of a government agency that was not identified to "Regional Director, Group 8" on "The supervision of the activities of both John and Yoko Lennon."

THE DOCUMENT reads as follows:

"It has come to the further attention of this office that John Ono Lennon, formerly of the Beatles, and Yoko Ono Lennon, wife of John Lennon, have intentions of remaining in this country and seeking a permanent residence therein, as set forth in a previous communication this has been judged to be inadvisable and it was recommended that all applications are to be denied.

"Their relationships with one (6521) Jerry Rubin, and one John Sinclair (4536), also their many commitments which are judged to be highly political and unfavorable to the present administration. This was set forth to your office in a previous report. Because of this and their controversial behavior, they are to be judged as both undesirable and dangerous aliens.

"Because of the delicate and explosive nature of this matter the whole affair has been handed over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service to handle. Your office is to maintain a constant surveillance of the residence and a periodic report is to be sent to this office. All cooperation is to be given to the INS and all reports are to be digested by this office."

LENNON'S effort to remain in the United States was complicated from the outset by another factor.

In 1971 and early 1972, Lennon was attempting with his wife, Yoko Ono, to gain custody of her daughter, Kyoko, from a previous marriage. A 1968 divorce settlement between Yoko and film producer Anthony Cox awarded custody to neither party. When it became apparent that Cox was not going to permit visitation rights with the child, the Lennons returned to the divorce court in the U.S. Virgin Islands to seek legal relief.

The tangled legal fight climaxed in Houston, Tex., when the Domestic Relations Court there awarded Yoko temporary custody of the child under the condition that it be "exercised within the territorial limits of the United States."

The Houston court handed down its decision on March 3, 1972, just two days after Marks declined to grant Lennon an extension of his visa which expired Feb. 29; and two days after Marks, in refusing the extension, gave Lennon until March 15 to leave the country.

The timing of the custody proceedings played a central role in Lennon's run-in with INS officials. It was the original reason Lennon sought an extension of his visitor's visa — a process Wildes terms "routine."

INTERVIEWS WITH present and former government officials directly involved in the case indicate this sequence of events:

Mitchell, on receiving the data from Thurmond, passed it along to Richard Kleindienst, deputy attorney general at the time.

Kleindienst, in turn, sent the file to Raymond E. Farrell, then commissioner of Immigration, who passed it to James F. Greene, then associate commissioner and now deputy commissioner.

Greene forwarded the file to Marks in the New York District office, and Marks ordered his top trial attorney, Vincent A. Schiano, to begin work on the Lennon case.

In the meantime Marks had rejected Lennon's request for a visa extension, citing Lennon's 1968 conviction in England for possession of cannabis resin, an offense falling under the excludable offenses provisions of the Immigration Act. Lennon was able to enter the United States under a waiver of the provision.

ONE FACTOR Immigration officials refused to acknowledge at the time, and which Wildes pried from the service through legal action, was the formerly secret INS operational policy of granting "non-priority" status to selected aliens. If an alien wished to reside in the United States but had a narcotics record, it was possible, by applying the non-priority status, for the agency to "lose" the case, often for years at a time.

In a specific example, Immigration has applied this classification to one alien whose offenses include rape, burglary, robbery, disorderly conduct and various serious narcotics violations.

Immigration officials say non-priority status is determined by the "equities" of applicant aliens — considerations of a humanitarian nature which reviewing officers determine outweigh derogatory information on file.

Citing Lennon's multi-million dollar business interests in the United States and some 150 persons whose livelihood depends on his music enterprises, Wildes sought non-priority status for Lennon, but it was denied.

IN THE days following Marks' denial of the visa extension, Immigration officials in New York began to stumble over one another in a frenetic drive to carry out the deportation order.

On March 6, agents delivered to Lennon an order revoking his permission to remain in the country until March 15.

The revocation order, which Wildes claims was issued without foundation or explanation, was followed by a similar demand on March 7. The March 6 order, in the form of a letter from Marks, failed to take into account the March 1 visa extension denial which allowed Lennon until March 15 to leave under a voluntary departure clause.

Immigration was forced, sources say, to press the Lennon departure before March 15 when the musician and his wife on March 3 filed an application for a "third preference" visa — one granted to members of the arts or the professions — and a stage in a petition for permanent residence. This strategy by Wildes apparently was unanticipated by Immigration and derailed the smooth departure higher officials had anticipated.

The third-preference visa application thrust the New York INS office into such turmoil that it ordered Lennon to appear at a show-cause hearing on March 16 — one day after he was to have been out of the country.

THE AGENCY now claimed two points for its case — the 1968 drug offense and a charge of overstaying a visa. Apparently officially ignored was the fact that the overstay was created by two simultaneous and conflicting demands on Lennon — that he leave the United States by March 15, and that he appear at the deportation hearing March 16.

A deportation hearing was held on May 17, 1972. On March 23, 1973, the immigration judge issued a ruling that Lennon was deportable because of the narcotics violation, and ordered him to leave the United States within 60 days.

At the same time the judge granted Yoko permanent residence in the United States.

Lennon then appealed the immigration judge's ruling to the Board of Immigration Appeals, which upheld the government's position. Wildes has since appealed the board's ruling to the 2nd U.S. Court of Appeals in New York City, where arguments will be heard early next year.

AT ONE POINT, the Labor Department issued a certification in Lennon's behalf, and Immigration did grant him the third preference status, but adhered to the position that he is deportable on the basis of the narcotics charge.

Thurmond, recalling in a recent interview his role in the case, said he received the information on Lennon

from a committee staff member and, "as quick as he showed it to me," sent it to Mitchell.

"I thought the attorney general should have the benefit (of the information)," Thurmond said, adding, "Frankly, I don't know whether we sent it to the White House."

"We frequently forward matters to various agencies as pertained to them for their appropriate action," Thurmond said.

HE DECLINED, however, to reveal the substance of his report to Mitchell or the contents of the cover letter.

"In order to protect the people of this country, I feel Congress should turn over matters to the appropriate branches of government," Thurmond said.

Greene, looking back on his initial involvement with the Lennon episode, contends the case "was definitely properly handled" by the Immigration Service, and denies he was given orders on its disposition by Farrell, who was the head of Immigration.

While insisting that Lennon is deportable solely on the basis of his drug conviction, Greene could not explain why the 118 other alien narcotics violators have been given preferential treatment by the Immigration Service, other than to say that their "equities" were greater than Lennon's.

Schiano, who is now in private immigration practice in New York City, said the way in which the Lennon case was handled reflects the widespread opportunity and potential for corruption of the immigration process.

"**I THINK** the case may be a vehicle for re-evaluation of the law," he commented recently.

A bill in Congress, sponsored by Rep. Edward Koch, D-N.Y. and Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., would permit the attorney general to exercise discretion in immigration cases involving narcotics offenses. An aide to Koch said the bill is stalled in the House immigration subcommittee, and probably will be reintroduced in the new Congress in January.

Schiano charges that political pressures were brought to bear in the Lennon case as in no other in his lengthy Immigration career. "There was this atmosphere, and they leaned on the service to get something going," Schiano said.

Declaring that someone higher in the administration sought a political trial of Lennon, Schiano says he was against that tack from the outset.

Schiano is convinced that by keeping politics out of the prosecution phase of the Lennon case, he avoided unnecessary complications. "I robbed him of his case by keeping it clean," Schiano said.

WILDES HAS a personal theory on what may have contributed to Lennon's troubles with Immigration.

"In my opinion the Senate Internal Security Committee had a staff study that said: 'These groups are all troublemakers, they carry bombs and so on. They are not crowd-getters but they do make a lot of noise.'"

"And then we have an alien who was one of the biggest crowd-getters," and who was Wildes says the staff believed, going to the Republican National Convention. That, Wildes says, was enough for Thurmond to start the ball rolling.

Wildes also believes Nixon himself was personally informed of Lennon's activities and directed Kleindienst to produce a report. One source noted that, attached to Lennon's file in the New York Immigration office, there is a note from Kleindienst saying, "Let's get on this."

EVEN THOUGH the evidence in the case indicates violations of the letter and spirit of immigration law, INS officials refuse to change the service's position.

In an interview with a Washington Star reporter in 1962, former commissioner Farrell said:

"We shouldn't always follow the law to the letter but use a little of the milk of human kindness in our dealings with people."

Lennon continues to live and work in New York City. He and Yoko are no longer living together, though neither has filed for a legal separation. Personal friends of both have said that the combined strain of the custody fight and the immigration dispute probably contributed centrally to a breakdown of their relationship.