

# Speak the language of your flag:

America's War on Language: 1918-2018

**Dennis Baron** 

# American Community Survey language question

- a. Does this person speak a language other than English at home?
  - Yes
  - No
- b. What is this language? (For example: Korean, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese)
- c. How well does this person speak English?
  - Very well
  - Well
  - Not well
  - Not at all



# USE ONLY ENGLISH, ROOSEVELT URGES

America No "Polyglot Boarding House," He Tells Iowans.

Washington Post, May 28, 1918, p. 2

EE NEW CENSORSHIP ACT per, or publicaanguage which does the provisions of this pereby declared to be non-, and it shall be unlawful for person, firm, corporation, or association to transport, carry, or otherwise publish or distribute the same, or to transport, carry, or otherwise distribute any matter which is non-mailable by the provisions of the act relating to espionage, approved June 15, 1917."

New York Times, Sept.25, 1917, p. 7.

#### CALLS FOR STRICT BAN ON GERMAN LANGUAGE

American Defense Society Also Urges Vigorous Steps to Put an End to Plots.

Special to The New York Time WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 .- Th ing of an "overwhelming for France, greater activity in the ment of enemy aliens and symps prohibition of compulsory study man in the public schools, and u military training for Americans the ages of 18 and 21 years are several special features urged u Administration and Congress American Defense Society today annnouncement of its policies program,

men manual who

#### TO STRIKE GERMANY FROM MAP OF U. S.

TOW is the time to put a quietus in America on German pride, sympathy, sentiment, and preferment, in the opinion of Representative J. M. C. Smith of Michigan. He has introduced in the House of Representatives a bill to change the names of municipalities, counties, townships, streets and highways from "Berlin" or "Germany" to Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Mary-"Liberty." "Victory." or some other patriotic designation.

purpose of the bill," Mr. Smith ex- sylvania, Vermont, Virginia, West Vir-

fornia, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin; German Valley, Illinois, Iowa, and New Jersey; Germanville, Iowa.

Those towns or villages with "Berlin": Berlin, Alabama, Connecticut, land, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, "A blow at German sentiment is the North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Penn-

#### GERMAN BECOMING DEAD TONGUE HERE

Schools All Over America Banishing be used to her nebecile which favored Study of the Tongue from Courses —A Survey of Their Attitude

50 per cent. and possibly 65, and by same classes. next September it will be near the vanishing point in the elementary classes.

monwealths. In Delaware, Florida, Idaho, New Mexico, and Wyoming this amwantr to prohibition direct from the officials at the expitals. Iowa and Boards of Education, recommend the dropping of German from all schools,

"Nevertheless, a hands-off policy is not meeting this iasus squarely. New as the home of the "Pennsylvania Action hostile to teaching the speech York should lead the way in the abol- Dutch," the trend against the learning of the enemy has been taken either by ishing of the teaching of German as a of German is marked. The State Super-\$ are or local authorities in thirty-six means, though a slight means, of win-intendent of Public Instruction has out of the forty-eight American Com- ning the war by making a dent in Pan only gone so far as to direct the elim-Germaniam, by shaking possibly the inition of unpatriotic literature, but morale of the German people, as they German is being dropped in many come to realize that the great city of schools by the direction of the local New York is unwilling to endure any boards. The Common Council of Phila-North Dakota, through their State longer their language, and desires to delphia demanded that the language be break off more completely the possibil- barred from the public schools. In

portals. Beginning with next Autumn, Worcester will reduce the schools where German is taught from five to two in the preparatory division of the grammar deportment. In smaller cities German is being dropped because the students are no longer electing it.

New Hampehire a few weeks ago passed a law that no textbooks should any political party or sect. The statute was a thirdy disguised attack on the German propaganda. Vermont is making an investigation of German influences on her pupils, Maine has never had much of a Teutonic tide, and there are only twenty-nine of her schools By JOHN WALKER HARRINGTON, high schools only 12,054 pupils studying which teach German. In Shode Island MPTY benches confront teachers German, whereas 23,806 were in German no definite action has yet been taken of the German language all over classes in February, 1917. There are regarding the instruction in the lanthe United States. Instruction only 1,097 at present enrolled in first guage, although a committee was apin the Testonic tongue has fall- term German classes, when in Feb- pointed to examine the courses used in en off in American schools by at least ruary, 1917, there were 5,859 in those the schools of Providence for evidences of German propaganda.

> Even in the Keystone State, famed ity of intimate relations with them Pittsburgh the German texts were not

In 1918 the New York Times reports on calls for banning foreign languages in general, and German in particular.

SAUERKRAUT MAY BE LIBERTY CABBAGE Camouflaged

1918

An Order of Fries, Please, But Do Hold the French By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG

WASHINGTON, March 11 The French may have Champagne, Brie, croissants and even kisses. Americans, at least in the cafeterias of the House of Represematives, now have freedom fries and freedom toast. With frustration rising in the

Capitol over French opposition to President Bush's Policy on Iraq, Representative Bob Ney, the Ohio Republican who is chairman of the House Administration Comme nouse rummusu anon com-mittaa which ie raenawihla far

\*\*\*Update\*\*\* Von Serving In All House Office Buildings "FREEDOM FRIES" Stephen Crowley/ the New York Times French fries? Mais non!

Name Is Better Suited to American Sensibility. Dealers

House it enacted by the states of Represents the sembled, That the names of the United and Only of the United sembled, Villabeld, That the names of all cities of the streets, his, be named of Dossessions, named in the streets, his, be named in the streets. Territories in the United States its from the

Territories or possessions name Germany possessions of Liberlin or be changed amed Berdesis ation. Victory, or to from Berdes. 2. That the above municipality where shall West Point the above proper the names occur shall specified to make proper proceedings to make all letters the past

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2003

Gernan Language and Character.

Editor of The New York Times:

# LEAGUE STARTS WAR ON GERMAN PRESS

National Campaign Organize Language Language VALUE OF GERMAN

LANGUAGE ASSAILED

APPEAL Educator Says It Is a Barbarous Tongue,
Which Is Lacking in Cultural Worth
and of No Commercial Importance



First. English should and must be the only medium of instruction in public, private, denominational or other similar schools.

Second. Conversation in public places, on trains and over the telephone should be in the English language.

Third. All public addresses should and must be in the English language.

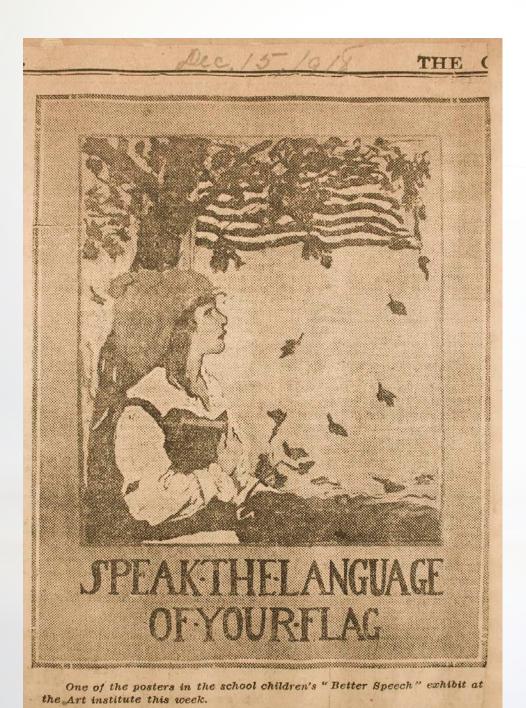
Fourth. Let those who cannot speak or understand the English language conduct their religious worship in their homes.

Ottumwa Semi-Weekly Courier, June 4, 1918, p. 7.

# MEANT TO STOP GERMAN PLOTS

GOVERNOR HARDING'S PROCLA-MATION DESIGNED TO PRE-VENT HUN PROPAGANDA.

"I am telling those who insist upon praying in some other language that they are wasting their time, for the good Lord up above is now listening for the voice in English."



1918: Better American Speech Week

#### The Watch Your Speech Pledge, 1918

### BETTER AMERICAN SPEECH WEEK

OCT. 27, to NOV. 2, 1918

ONE LANGUAGE FOR A UNITED PEOPLE

#### SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF YOUR FLAG.

SLOVENLY SPEECH BESPEAKS A SLOVENLY MIND

WATCH YOUR SPEECH PLEDGE:

I love the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

#### I love my country's LANGUAGE. I PROMISE:

- (1) that I will not dishonor my country's speech by leaving off the last syllables of words;
- (2) that I will say a good American "yes" and "no" in place of an Indian grunt "um-hum" and "nup-um" or a foreign "ya" or "yeh" and "nope";
- (3) that I will do my best to improve American speech by avoiding loud harsh tones, by enunciating distinctly and speaking pleasantly, clearly and sincerely;
- (4) that I will try to make my country's language beautiful for the many boys and girls of foreign nations who come here to live;
- (5) that I will learn to articulate correctly one word a day for one year.

Better American Speech Committee Chicago Woman's Club

#### Carter Practice School, Chicago:

Vol. I FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1918 No. 3
CARTER PRACTICE SCHOOL ROOM 308

#### **EXTRA EDITION**

Desperate Spies Tried!
One Acquitted!

#### COURT-MARTIAL EVERY FRIDAY

BEWARE! Bad-English spies are being interned every day! Protect our native tongue now and ever. Use good English. Speak as well as you can! Think before you speak! Cherish and protect the language of your country.

#### USE GOOD ENGLISH

Watch your speech!! The room is flooded with secret service agents! Oh, yes, and so is the playground. If 306 doesn't get you, 308 will.

PLANNING OUR DRIVE FOR

I hereby pledge myself a secret service agent to protect the language of my country, to capture all spies of Bad-English and to keep my position secret.

> Signed this 24th Day of November 1918, John Smith

#### 67TH CONGRESS, H. R. 14136.

## A BILL

To define the national and official language of the Government and people of the United States of America, including the Territories and dependencies thereof.

By Mr. McCormick.

FEBRUARY 1, 1923.—Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

Rep. Washington Jay McCormack, Montana

#### ILLINOIS MAN WANTS AMERICAN LANGUAGE

Special from Monitor Bureau

CHICAGO, April 6 --Effort to legislate the "English language" out of existence so far as Illinois' grade schools are concerned has been made at this session of the Illinois legislature. In place, thereof, the Senatogs have been asked to consider the "American language."

The project comes up in Senate Bill No. 23 which amends the school law to provide "for instruction in the elementary branches in public schools in the American language instead of the English language." Senator Frank J Ryan of Chicago introduced the bill.

#### It's Legal-We Speak English

Residents of Illinois can stop worrying about learning to speak "American," and revert back to English, because Gov. Ogilvie yesterday signed a bill making English the official language of the state. A state law passed in 1923 designated "American" as the official language of Illinois, but some legislators pointed out that there was no such language.

Chicago Tribune, Sept. 24, 1969, p. 3.

1906 pledge for prospective citizens:

Eighth. I am not a disbeliever in or opposed to organized government or a member of or affiliated with any organization or body of persons teaching disbelief in organized government. I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy. I am attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and it is my intention to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to \_\_\_\_\_, of which at this time I am a citizen (or subject), and it is my intention to reside permanently in the United States.

Ninth. I am able to speak the English language.

#### **English Language Amendment, 1981**

- Sec, 1. The English language shall be the official language of the United States.
- Sec. 2. Neither the United States nor any State shall make or enforce any law which requires the use of any language other than English.
- Sec. 3. This article shall apply to laws, ordinances, regulations, orders, programs, and policies.
- Sec. 4. No order or decree shall be issued by any court of the United States or of any State requiring that any proceedings, or matters to which this article applies be in any language other than English.
- Sec. 5. This article shall not prohibit educational instruction in a language other than English as required as a transitional method of making students who use a language other than English proficient in English.
- Sec. 6. The Congress and the States shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

The English Language Unity Act has been before the US Congress since 2005.

115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

#### H. R. 997

To declare English as the official language of the United States, to establish a uniform English language rule for naturalization, and to avoid misconstructions of the English language texts of the laws of the United States, pursuant to Congress' powers to provide for the general welfare of the United States and to establish a uniform rule of naturalization under article I, section 8, of the Constitution.

#### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2017

Mr. King of Iowa (for himself, Mr. Collins of Georgia, Mr. Gohmert, Mr. Barletta, Mr. Duncan of South Carolina, and Mr. Franks of Arizona) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

#### A BILL

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HR 997 requires what would appear to be a high level of English literacy for citizenship:

`Sec. 164. Uniform English language rule for naturalization
`(a) Uniform Language Testing Standard.--All citizens should be able to read and understand generally the English language text of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the laws of the United States made in pursuance of the Constitution.

#### The 2017 Immigration in the National Interest Act

#### 115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3775

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish a skills-based immigration points system, to focus family-sponsored immigration on spouses and minor children, to eliminate the Diversity Visa Program, to set a limit on the number of refugees admitted annually to the United States, and for other purposes.

the proposed 2017-18 immigration reform bill in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress

- to establish a skills-based immigration points system,
- to focus family-sponsored immigration on spouses and minor children,
- to eliminate the Diversity Visa Program,
- to set a limit on the number of refugees admitted

minimum of 30 points required for visa

The language requirement:

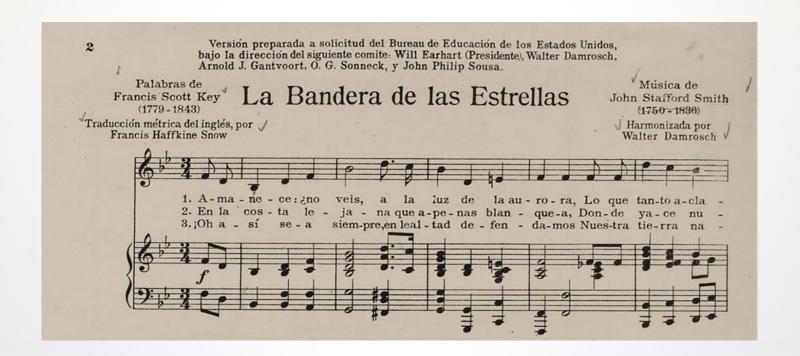
Applicants with equal points and equal educational attainment shall be ranked according to their respective English language proficiency test rankings.

Points are determined by decile in an appropriate proficiency test (IELTS, TOEFL, or other approved test):

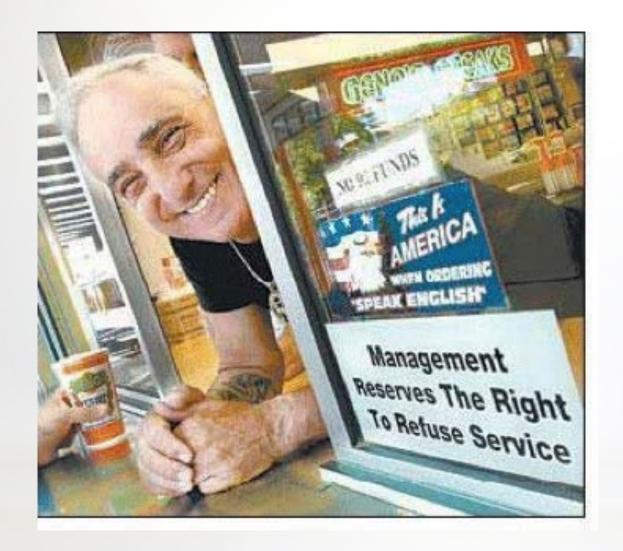
10<sup>th</sup> decile: 10 pts. 9<sup>th</sup> decile: 9 pts. 8<sup>th</sup> decile: 8 pts. 6-7<sup>th</sup> decile: 6 pts. < 6<sup>th</sup> decile: 0 pts.

#### My point score:

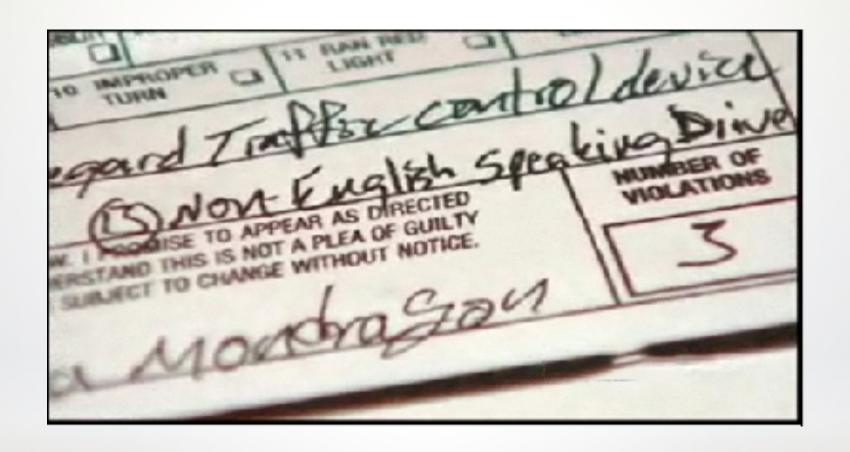
- 10 pts. English language proficiency (est.)
- 0 pts. for age (> 50)
- 6 pts. for BA from US institution
- 0 pts. for PhD from US institution in a non-STEM subject
- 0 pts. for "Extraordinary achievement" Nobel Prize in science or social science = 25 pts; 15 points for Olympic medal (or equivalent sporting contest).
- 8 pts. (of possible 12 pts) for job offer with salary higher than median household income.
- 0 pts. (out of possible 6 pts) for investment in a US-based business > \$1.35m (or 12 pts. for investment > \$1.8m for 3 years), and maintain a management role in said business. my total: 24 pts



Spanish language version of the Star Spangled Banner, commissioned by the Bureau of Education as part of its Americanization campaign in 1918, and supervised by John Philip Sousa.



Joey Vento, late owner of Gino's Steaks, poses at the take-out window.



Dallas, Texas, police issued tickets for "Non-English speaking driver" even though there was no legal requirement that drivers speak English.

whitehouse.gov/espanol went from this





to this, on Jan. 20, 2017:

The pro-Russian news site Tsarizm.com interviews ProEnglish Stephen Guschov at CPAC.



Stephen Guschov, ProEnglish

L. Todd Wood, Tsarizm

# SPEAKING HER MIND Government should set target date for 'everybody in the country' to speak English says former integration tsar

Dame Louise Casey also blasted Theresa May for delaying the Government's long-awaited Integrated Communities Strategy