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**Immigrant of 1884 Finds This Country
Still a 'Blessed Land of Opportunity'**



The New York Times

Morris Cukor, who emigrated here seventy years ago, observes, "Opportunity is more alive today than it ever was."

1954

Seventy years ago a 14-year-old Hungarian immigrant passed through old Castle Garden, his first step toward becoming an American.

Morris Cukor settled in New York's East Side and became a fervent patriot and a Democrat. He thrived in the atmosphere of "Politicians' Row," as Seventh Street between Avenues C and D was then known, and reveled in the election that year of Grover Cleveland as President.

He decided to become a lawyer and became a student at New York University Law School. While still studying there he was admitted to practice on Feb. 13, 1890. He specialized in international law and before World War I represented the Austria-Hungarian Embassy in this country. Meanwhile, he joined the Masons and Tammany Hall and became active in Hungarian-American societies.

By his own estimate, Mr. Cukor attained the pinnacle of his success in 1918 when he was appointed legal adviser of the United States Selective Service System and an associate member of the city's draft board. For three years, until he resigned in 1921, he was president of the Municipal Civil Service Commission.

In his office yesterday at 261 Broadway, Mr. Cukor reiterated his confidence in America. It is still "a blessed land of opportunity" for the new immigrant, he said.

"The older I get, the more I realize that those imperishable and glorious opportunities for everyone are still open to all of

us," he commented. "In that respect seventy years' experience here shows that, if anything, opportunity is more alive today than it ever was. Each man can carve out his own fortune. That is true for immigrants and their children, although they are not coming in in such large numbers."

New arrivals appreciate American traditions just as keenly as did the old-timers, Mr. Cukor observed, and he said immigration laws should be without discrimination as to race or creed.

Mr. Cukor declined to discuss the Administration in Washington, the McCarran Act, the hydrogen bomb or Senator Joseph R. McCarthy. He preferred to recall the time when President Theodore Roosevelt dined at the Little Hungary in Houston Street and when President William Howard Taft ate a specially-prepared goulash, "bogracz gulyas," at the old Cafe Boulevard, Second Avenue and Tenth Street.

He has never observed a birthday or wedding anniversary. Vital statistics were not carefully kept when he was born in Hungary sometime in January, 1869. His wife, the former Cora Woodruff, whom he married in 1914, died June 12, 1952. They had no children. Mr. Cukor spends the summer months in Beverly Hills, Calif., with his nephew George Cukor, film director, and his sister, Mrs. Bertha Rose.

He will be the subject of a Voice of America program April 17, when Senator Herbert H. Lehman and others speak on our treatment of immigrants.

