

ELLIS ISLAND ENDS ALIEN PROCESSING

**Last Detained Person Leaves
—20,000,000 Immigrants
Cared For in 62 Years**

Without ceremony, the career of Ellis Island as an immigration station came to a virtual close yesterday.

The last detained alien—a Norwegian seaman who had overstayed his shore leave—was a passenger on the Battery-bound ferry at 10:15 A. M. He was paroled under the new liberalizing regulations detailed on Thursday by Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr. and has promised to be back on his ship on time when she returns to port.

Actually, the ferry will continue to ply its short course for up to a fortnight. But it will carry fewer immigrants and more radio, television and camera men. After sixty-two years, during which it processed more than 20,000,000 persons, "the island" is going to get a good deal of farewell attention for itself alone.

Edward J. Shaughnessy, district director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, explained that in the last few weeks there had been a gradual transfer of forty-six detention cases from the island to Federal detention centers in the metropolitan area. By definition of Mr. Brownell Thursday, only those "deemed likely to abscond or those whose freedom of movement could be adverse to the national security or the public safety" are to be detained henceforth.

Furniture and equipment are being transferred, where practicable, from the island to the district office at 70 Columbus Avenue. The ultimate disposition of the buildings and the island itself is still a question.

Mr. Shaughnessy said only one of the 16,000 citizens newly sworn in New York Thursday had phoned in, contrary to instructions, about getting the certificate of naturalization. He said it was the wife of a soldier, who needed a passport within a few days, and he was sure every effort would be made to make the document available in time.

The peak of immigrant traffic through Ellis Island came in 1907, when 1,200,000 persons were examined there. But gradually, as admission and detention processes changed, the alien population decreased.

As Mr. Brownell explained Thursday, "the little island between the Statue of Liberty and the skyline and piers of New York seems to have served its purpose for immigration."

In recent months, the maximum figure of detention cases was fewer than 300, and only part of the main building was in use. The move from the island will save the Government \$900,000, the Attorney General said.