

CITIZENS COMMITTEE
ON DISPLACED PERSONS

CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON DISPLACED PERSONS

*To Secure Emergency Legislation Permitting the United States to
Admit Its Fair Share of Europe's Displaced Persons*

39 EAST 56th STREET, NEW YORK 16, N. Y. MUrray Hill 4-7850



Chairman

EARL G. HARRISON

Vice Chairman

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T. C. CASHEN
MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM J. DONOVAN
JAMES A. FARLEY
MISS VIRGINIA C. GILDERSLEEVE
WILLIAM GREEN
F. H. LA GUARDIA
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PHILIP MURRAY
EDWARD A. O'NEAL
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MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
MRS. HARPER SIBLEY
EDWARD S. STETTINUS
CHARLES F. TAFT**

Secretary

WILLIAM S. BERNARD

Treasurer

JOHN J. RABKOS

July 21, 1947

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Val-Kill Cottage
Hyde Park, Dutchess Co.
New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you very much for sending Mrs. Boone's check on to us. The Committee will make good use of this, as you know. A letter of thanks has already been sent to Mrs. Boone.

At the moment we are waiting to hear if any action will be taken on the Stratton Bill, now that the hearings are concluded. We are prepared, of course, to continue our fight throughout the summer and fall until the next session of the Congress.

With our gratitude for your continued help,

Sincerely yours,

Earl G. Harrison
Chairman

EGH:eh

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Treasurer
JOHN J. RASKOB

July 15, 1947

*Check was
sent to Mrs
Harrison on
July 12*

Miss Malvina Thompson, Secy to
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
39 Washington Square W.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Miss Thompson:

As you no doubt know, copies of the enclosed telegram were recently sent to a number of people throughout the country. We have recently received a wire from one of the persons on our mailing list - Mrs. Rowan Boone, 11 Edgehill St., Princeton, N. J. - which reads:

Have sent check for your Committee to Mrs. Roosevelt. Forgive delay.

Has this check come to your attention by any chance? If not, we are anxious to let Mrs. Boone know that it has gone astray. Enclosed is a stamped addressed envelope for your convenience in replying.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara J. Sanders
Barbara J. Sanders

BJS:eh
encl.

July 12, 1947

Dear "Puss":

Many, many thanks for your very generous check. I will explain that you do not want this used for overhead expense.

I hope you will come to Hyde Park to stay with me. I should like to take you to see the Wiltwyck School some time when you are down this way. You have helped them so much, they should have a chance to see their good friend and I am sure you would be interesting in seeing the boys, and the school.

Warm love,

July 12, 1947

Dear Mr. Harrison:

I am enclosing a check for \$1000.
from Mrs. Rowan Boone, who is at
present in Saranac Lake, New York

Mrs. Boone does not want this money
used for office expenses and salaries,
but to actually go to helping the
displaced persons, either in Europe
or when and if they are allowed to
come here.

Very sincerely yours,

August 24, 1947

Dear Charl Williams:

A friend of mine is working with the Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons and learned on a recent trip that the Parent-Teachers groups in the various states have done very little to support the legislation which we all want for these Displaced Persons.

The National Executive Committee of the PTA approved it by a resolution passed on June 5th.

I understand there must be ratification by thirty states, and to date Nebraska is the only state to ratify.

Could you urge Mrs. Hughes to exert her influence on the state committees?

Affectionately,

*Cit. Comm. on Dis
Persons*

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Secretary
WILLIAM S. BERNARD

Treasurer
JOHN J. RASKOB

August 18, 1947

Miss Elisabeth Gardiner
c/o Mrs. Charles Fayerweather
New Lebanon
Columbia County, New York

Dear Miss Gardiner:

As requested, I am sending you the full name and address of the President of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. She is

Mrs. L. W. Hughes
Arlington
Shelby County, Tennessee

Sincerely,

Anna Clark

Anna H. Clark

P.T.A.

AHG:aa

*approved by National Exec. Com. June 5th
now must be approved or ratified by 30 State
Exec. Com.s Nebraska has ratified.*

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Chairman

EARL G. HARRISON

November 25, 1947

Vice Chairmen

ALLEN T. BURNS
T. C. CASHEN
MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM J. DONOVAN
JAMES A. FARLEY
MISS VIRGINIA C. GILDERSLEEVE
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HERBERT BAYARD SWOPE
CHARLES P. TAFT

Secretary

WILLIAM S. BERNARD

Treasurer

JOHN J. RASKOB

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
29 Washington Square, West
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

At the request of Mr. Lessing Rosenwald, I am enclosing clippings from the New York Times and the New York Herald Tribune, dated November 10, with reference to the action of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs on the displaced persons issue. As these clippings indicate, no action either for or against legislation on behalf of the displaced persons was taken at the Rochester meeting because Mrs. Edwards, who is President of the New York City Federation, withdrew the resolution which she had originally introduced and which was published in the CALL to the convention.

Our own organization, the Citizens Committee, called the attention of both newspapers to the fact that the Stratton Bill is not a "dead issue", and both the Times and the Herald Tribune later published editorials which indicated definitely that the Stratton Bill is not dead.

We have learned from Mrs. Spierberg, who led the battle against this resolution, that many of the delegates regretted that the resolution was withdrawn and wanted it brought up on the floor because they felt certain that, aside from five women who were responsible for the introduction of the resolution in the very beginning, most of the delegates would have voted enthusiastically in favor of the Stratton Bill. However, it was thought best not to disrupt the convention, and no vote was taken after the resolution was officially withdrawn. Emma Bugbee of the Herald Tribune and Lucy Freeman of the Times, as well as Virginia Blood, were present at the convention when this excitement took place.

Sincerely yours,

Cecilia Rasovsky Davidson

Cecilia Rasovsky Davidson

CHD:aa
Enclosures

CLIPPING: NEW YORK STATE WOMEN'S CLUBS FEDERATION

State Women's Clubs Session Opening With D.P. Controversy

MOOREHEAD, N.Y., June 17. A resolution opposing the change in the immigration law to permit the entrance of displaced persons into this country was the center of a controversy at the opening of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs today.

The resolution appeared on the printed call to the convention by Mrs. La. Kay, chairman, executive president of the New York City Federation of Women's Clubs and chairman of the New York committee on immigration, whose name appeared on the printed program. She had said that she would not appear at the convention if the resolution was adopted.

Mrs. Kay said she had written to the national committee of the Federation of Women's Clubs asking that the resolution be withdrawn. She said she had also written to the national committee asking that the resolution be withdrawn. She said she had also written to the national committee asking that the resolution be withdrawn.

printer's error. The language of a resolution she said, had slipped into a folder of material going to the printer and had been printed in the final call by mistake.

She also said the resolution should not come before the convention because the situation in which it referred was "dead, and anyway, it had never been approved either by the district or legislative committee or by the resolutions committee."

The resolution which was proposed to the State Federation, referred to the fact that the General Federation had adopted a resolution in favor of admitting D.P.s, but stated that since then the U.S. Congress had adjourned without acting on the matter.

The resolution continued: "Whereas, the national security and economy is at present strained, there being a severe housing shortage and a very high cost of living (among other things), and, "Whereas, the admission of several hundred thousand displaced persons to this country would severely strain the national economy and...

"That the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs... asks the Congress not to extend the present immigration laws by increasing the quota of any country or by waiving the present qualifications required of any prospective entrant or to in any way alter or change the present laws governing the admission of aliens for the purpose of permitting the entry of displaced persons who would otherwise not be permitted to enter the United States."

The presence of the printed resolution on the call to the convention was a mystery. Mrs. Edwards said that it was due to a

CLUBS FEDERATION SIDESTEPS D.P. ISSUE

Women Delegates Reach Rochester and End Session
Big Resolution Withdrawn
BIG PRE-CONVENTION TOPIC

Sponsor of Call for Opposing Entry of Displaced Persons
City Chairman Tries to Stop Resolution

It seems to be the case that the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs has sidestepped the issue of admitting displaced persons which they had expected to vote on today.

The resolution, which was proposed to the State Federation, referred to the fact that the General Federation had adopted a resolution in favor of admitting D.P.s, but stated that since then the U.S. Congress had adjourned without acting on the matter.

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to the national organization.

Call It "A Dead Issue"

In explaining why she withdrew the resolution, Mrs. Edwards said: "It is a dead issue. See The Chicago Tribune for Oct. 24, where the Straton Bill was declared dead and the whole matter referred to the United Nations for action."

The resolution has been in the hands of the delegates for thirty days, published in the call to convention with twelve other resolutions. It was the chief pre-convention topic of conversation.

Even though the resolution has been withdrawn, the matter may still come up in a motion made from the floor, according to Mrs. Kenneth S. Strayer of Staten Island, the state federation's president.

"If the feeling is strong enough you may hear more about it," she said.

Mrs. Strayer noted a point: The admission of displaced persons at the June meeting, however, after the General Federation for the first time in its history reversed itself and approved a resolution for the entry of 400,000 displaced persons into this country. It is believed that some of the same reasons that caused the General Federation to change its mind were at work causing the withdrawal—fear of public opinion, and pressure from members within the organization who thought it the better part of feminine valor to be discreet concerning displaced persons.

Mrs. Mullen for Avoidance

Earlier in the day Mrs. Edward G. Mullen, chairman of the resolutions committee, was asked if the resolution were likely to be brought up for a vote, and she answered, "We hope not."

The resolution, she said, was received in hurried fashion. To ask Congress not to amend the present immigration laws by increasing the quota of any country or by waiving the present qualifications required of any prospective emigre or to in any way alter, change the present laws governing the admission of aliens for the purpose of permitting the entry of displaced persons who would otherwise not be admitted to enter the United States.

It stated that this recommendation was being made because the national security and economy is at present strained and because this country is already sending and will continue to send all possible aid to needy foreign countries in which these displaced persons are now situated.

Sixteen resolutions, including an emergency one on universal military training and another on the high cost of living, will be voted on at this, the fourth state convention to be held in Rochester.