

OF 133a Box 2
Immigration
Misc. 1933-1938

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

RIVERSIDE DRIVE at 122ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y.

November 27, 1933.

Ministers

HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK
EUGENE C. CARDER
C. IVAR HELLSTROM

1229

VCS
WJE

Copy to be kept
for White House
(see serial 116)

The President of the United States,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

It is my privilege to present to you the enclosed petition signed by a significant number of the Christian ministers of New York City. Many denominations and all types of religious opinion, within the Christian churches, are represented in these signatures, and we hope that, inasmuch as our plea is on behalf not of Christians but of our Jewish brethren, we may be the more persuasive and convincing.

76C

We have no thought of appealing to you for wide open doors for Jewish refugees. This we feel sure would militate in favor of anti-Semitism in our country and do more harm than good. We understand, so we think, the complexity of the problem, and are aware that the fulfilment of our petition will have to be guarded by well considered conditions and carefully limited numbers.

198a
(Summary)

Nevertheless, we are sure that more generosity can be shown than is now possible under the present policy, and we respectfully urge on your attention this appeal in the interest of humanity and goodwill.

Most respectfully yours,

Harry Emerson Fosdick

January 9th 1934

My dear Dr. Fosdick:

The President has received your letter of November 27, 1933, enclosing a petition signed by Christian ministers of New York City, concerning the position of Jews in Germany and the immigration into the United States of such aliens as their relatives and friends may be ready to receive under definite terms of guaranty for their protection and care.

American consular officers have already been instructed that every consideration possible under the law should be given to the difficulties which these aliens may encounter in meeting the requirements of our immigration laws. The Department of State and the Department of Labor are studying this matter sympathetically with a view to determining the extent to which, if at all, the regulations promulgated by the two Departments may be modified in order that the most liberal treatment possible under the law may be extended to such aliens who may desire to come to this country. Certain questions concerning the meaning of provisions of the immigration laws involved in these cases have recently been submitted to the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to the President.

The Reverend
Harry Emerson Fosdick,
The Riverside Church,
Riverside Drive at 122nd Street,
New York, New York.

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

December 11, 1933

Dear Mr. Howe:

In response to the President's request I
am enclosing a suggested reply to Dr. Fosdick.

Sincerely yours,

William Phillips

Enclosure:

To Dr. Fosdick:

The Honorable

Louis McH. Howe,

Secretary to the President,

The White House.

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

RIVERSIDE DRIVE at 122ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y.

January 2, 1934.

Ministers

HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK
EUGENE C. CARDER
C. IVAR HELLSTROM

*cc
in record*

Secretary of the President,
White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

On November 27 I forwarded to President Roosevelt at Warm Springs, Georgia, a petition signed by a large group of Christian leaders in New York City, men like Bishop Manning, John Haynes Holmes, Bishop McConnell, and others. It concerned the possibility of a more generous attitude toward Jewish refugees from Germany.

I have not yet received even acknowledgment of this petition received at the President's office. I am wondering if you can at least enable me to say to the ministers who are interested in this petition, and are pressing me for a response, that it has been received. I realize vividly the pressure under which you all work and the endless quantity of mail received, but if you can help me in this regard I shall appreciate it.

Sincerely yours,

Harry Emerson Fosdick

at respectfully yours,

Robert A. Ashworth,	Educational Secretary of The National Conference of Jews and Christians, 289 Fourth Avenue, New York City.
Henry A. Atkinson,	General Secretary of The Church Peace Union, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York City.
W. Russell Bowie,	Rector of Grace Church, 802 Broadway, New York City.
George A. Buttrick,	Minister of The Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, 921 Madison Avenue, New York City.
S. Parkes Cadman,	Minister of Central Congregational Church, 64 Jefferson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.
Samuel McCrea Cavert,	General Secretary of The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, 105 East 22nd Street, New York City.
Edmund B. Chaffee,	Director of The Labor Temple, 242 East 14th Street, New York City.
Allan Knight Chalmers,	Minister of The Broadway Tabernacle, Broadway and 56th Street, New York City.
G.A. Clarke,	Minister of Emmanuel Baptist Church, 36 St. James Place, Brooklyn, New York.
Everett R. Clinchy,	Director of The National Conference of Jews and Christians, 289 Fourth Avenue, New York City.
Henry Sloane Coffin,	President of Union Theological Seminary, Broadway at 120th Street, New York City.
John L. Davis,	Minister of Washington Square Methodist Episcopal Church, 133 West 4th Street, New York City.
Samuel M. Dorrance,	Rector of St. Ann's Church, 131 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, New York.
William E. Dudley,	Minister of Flatbush Congregational Church, Dorchester Road and East Eighteenth Street, Brooklyn, New York.
J. Stanley Durkee,	Minister of Plymouth Church, Orange Street, Brooklyn, New York.
Phillips Elliott,	Minister of The First Presbyterian Church, Hicks Street, Brooklyn, New York.
Anthony H. Evans,	Minister of West Park Presbyterian Church, Amsterdam Avenue and 86th Street, New York City.
Frederic S. Fleming,	Rector of Trinity Church, Broadway and Rector Street. New York City.

November 27, 1933

The President of the United States,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

The plight of the German Jews has touched the heart of the world with pity. Repudiated by their own country, they have been driven like their ancestors of old into strange highways in search of shelter, protection, and sympathy. We are credibly informed that 40,000 German Jews have received the generous hospitality of France. Other thousands have entered into Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Czecho-Slovakia, and Great Britain. Into our own country only a few scattered individuals have come, although American Jews, numbering more than three millions of our most respected citizens, stand ready to receive and care for their distressed brethren. Our immigration laws have made it impossible for us to join other nations in receiving German refugees in this crisis.

This tragic circumstance prompts our urgent appeal. We believe that ways and means should be found to grant asylum on our shores to afflicted German Jews seeking escape from their country. We recognize that in our present national situation such admission may necessarily have to be conditioned on guarantees that the refugees will be cared for by their friends and relatives here so as not to become dependent on public charity. With whatever limitations and conditions public welfare may dictate, we plead, nevertheless, for a much more generous policy than at present obtains. Such action would be in accord with the best traditions of our Republic, and with the sacred precepts of our Christian faith.

We therefore respectfully ask you, as President, to take action, consistent with the law, which may permit entrance into our country of such refugee Jews as American Jews and their friends may be ready to receive under definite terms of guarantee for their protection and care.

We the undersigned believe that, in presenting this petition, we are speaking for the overwhelming majority of Christians not only in our city but in the country at large.

We have the honor to remain,

Most respectfully yours,

Robert A. Ashworth,

Educational Secretary of The National Con-

RAYMOND L. FOLMER,	Minister of St. Paul's Church, 283 West 86th Street, New York City.
Harry Emerson Fosdick,	Minister of The Riverside Church, Riverside Drive at 122nd Street, New York City.
William Hiram Foulkes,	Minister of Old First Church, Newark, New Jersey.
Charles K. Gilbert,	Suffragan Bishop of Diocese of New York, Synod House, Amsterdam Avenue and 110th Street, New York City.
John Haynes Holmes,	Minister of The Community Church of New York,
Robert E. Hume,	Professor of the History of Religions, Union Theological Seminary, Broadway at 120th Street, New York City.
Charles E. Jefferson,	Pastor Emeritus of The Broadway Tabernacle, Broadway and 56th Street, New York City.
F. Ernest Johnson,	Executive Secretary of the Department of Research and Education of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, 105 East 22nd Street, New York City.
John Paul Jones,	Minister of Union Church of Bay Ridge, 201 - 80th Street, Brooklyn, New York.
A. Edwin Keigwin,	Minister of West End Presbyterian Church, Amsterdam Avenue at 105th Street, New York City.
John LaFarge,	Associate Editor of America, 329 West 108th Street, New York City.
John Howland Lathrop,	Minister of Church of the Saviour, Monroe Place, Brooklyn, New York.
Henry Smith Leiper,	Executive Secretary of The Universal Christian Council of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, 287 Fourth Avenue, New York City.
A.S. Lloyd,	Suffragan Bishop of Diocese of New York, Synod House, Amsterdam Avenue and 110th Street, New York City.
Rivington D. Lord,	Minister of First Baptist Church, Lee Avenue and Kent Street, Brooklyn, New York.
Eugene W. Lyman,	Professor of the Philosophy of Religion, Union Theological Seminary, Broadway at 120th Street, New York City.
Malcolm James MacLeod,	Minister of The Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas, Fifth Avenue and Forty-Eighth Street West, New York City.
William T. Manning,	Bishop of Diocese of New York, Synod House, Amsterdam Avenue and 110th Street, New York City.
Francis J. McConnell,	Resident Bishop of The Methodist Episcopal Church, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York City.
William P. Merrill,	Minister of The Brick Church, Fifth Avenue and Thirty-Seventh Street, New York City.
J.V. Moldenhawer,	Minister of The First Presbyterian Church, Fifth Avenue and Twelfth Street, New York City.
G.B. Muste,	Minister of First Reformed Church, 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

- William T. Manning, Bishop of Diocese of New York, Synod House, Amsterdam Avenue and 110th Street, New York City.
- Francis J. McConnell, Resident Bishop of The Methodist Episcopal Church, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York City.
- William P. Merrill, Minister of The Brick Church, Fifth Avenue and Thirty-Seventh Street, New York City.
- J.V. Moldenhawer, Minister of The First Presbyterian Church, Fifth Avenue and Twelfth Street, New York City.
- C.B. Muste, Minister of First Reformed Church, 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.
- Reinhold Niebuhr, Professor, Applied Christianity, Union Theological Seminary, Broadway at 120th Street, New York City.
- Norman V. Peale, Minister of The Marble Collegiate Church, Fifth Avenue at 29th Street West, New York City.
- Daniel A. Poling, President and Editor-in-Chief of Christian Herald Association, 419 Fourth Avenue, New York City.
- Karl Reiland, Rector of St. George's Church, 207 East 16th Street, New York City.
- Christian F. Reisner, Minister of Broadway Temple, Broadway from 173rd to 174th Streets, New York City.
- Daniel Russell, Minister of Rutgers Presbyterian Church, Seventy-Third Street at Broadway, New York City.
- Harold G. Salton, Minister in Charge of The Tompkins Avenue Congregational Church, 480 Tompkins Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.
- George Paull T. Sargent, Rector of St. Bartholomew's Church, Park Avenue and 51st Street, New York City.
- Paul Scherer, Minister of The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Central Park West at 65th Street, New York City.
- Guy Emery Shipler, Editor of The Churchman, 19 East 47th Street, New York City.
- Minot Simons, Minister of All Souls' Church, Eightieth Street and Lexington Avenue, New York City.
- Ralph W. Sockman, Minister of Christ Church, Park Avenue at Sixtieth Street, New York City.
- Frederick K. Stamm, Minister of The Clinton Avenue Congregational Church, 350 Clinton Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.
- Ernest Milmore Stires, Bishop of Diocese of Long Island, One Seventy Remsen Street, Brooklyn, New York.
- Edward J. Walsh, Vice-President of St. John's College, 75 Lewis Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.
- Harry F. Ward, Professor, Christian Ethics, Union Theological Seminary, Broadway at 120th Street, New York City.
- Edmund M. Wylie, Minister of Park Avenue Presbyterian Church, Park Avenue and 85th Street, New York City.

ONE MILLION

EAST SIDE NEWS

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

196 EAST BROADWAY
NEW YORK CITY

TELEPHONE DRY DOCK 4-9173

My passport

*ack 4/6/38
MW*

April 5, 1938

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President: ✓

I am enclosing herein our feature story "LIBERTY SHIP" MAY BRING REFUGEES HERE to which we respectfully invite your attention.

I would appreciate very much an expression of your opinion in relation thereto for publication in our newspaper. ||

Ever faithfully yours,

Harry H. Schlacht
HARRY H. SCHLACHT

HHS:SH
ENC:

July 2, 1937

133-A

Respectfully referred to the Department of Labor (Immigration and Naturalization Service) for consideration and reply.

✓

M. H. McINTYRE
Secretary to the President

elb

Let. to the President from Samuel Ellman, Ellman Importing Co., Lafayette Bldg., Phila., Pa., 7/1/37; asks aid in bringing his two sisters, Rose and Clara Ellman, of Trembowla, Poland, to this country.

July 6, 1937

133-A

Respectfully referred to the Secretary
of Labor for consideration and reply.

M. H. McINTYRE
Secretary to the President

elb

Let. to the President from Leon Sobel, 93 Barrett St., Brooklyn, N.Y.,
7/1/37; asks that his brother, Leisor Sobel, and his family be allowed
to come to the U.S. from Poland. x

✓

CIGARETTE TAX OPPOSED

EAST SIDE NEWS 29

CIRCULATED THROUGHOUT GREATER NEW YORK
 (Entered as second class matter April 15, 1925 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879)

VOL. XVII, No. 14 WEEKLY

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1938

SUBSCRIPTION ONE DOLLAR PER ANNUM
 (Five Cents per Copy)
 124 East Broadway, New York, N. Y.

"LIBERTY SHIP" MAY BRING REFUGEES HERE

Better Housing Week Starts Here Monday

SETTLEMENT HOUSES AND SCHOOL CHILDREN TO TAKE PART IN DEMONSTRATIONS

Stirred by the collapsing walls of old law tenements, the lower East Side is reaching a high pitch of excitement with its Better Housing Week program to be held from Monday to April 10th. For the first time in the history of the housing movement, an entire community is participating in a demonstration portraying its housing needs and demanding immediate action in the form of a law rent project.

The schools, the settlements, the social clubs, the fathers and mothers of the community, all are working actively upon the program which includes essays in the schools, original plays to be presented, and art and craft work on housing to be exhibited in the settlement houses, forums and dances in the social clubs, a block party in the community, a mass meeting at Seward Park High School, a day devoted to radio programs, and trips to Williamsburg housing project for mothers.

This comprehensive program is being sponsored and planned by the Lower East Side Public Hearing Conference, an organization which is completing its fifth year of housing activity and which was the first such group to stir and awaken the Senate with its testimony on the Wagner housing bill in 1935.

Among the organizations participating are the Henry Street Settlement, Madisons House, Christodora House, Recreation Rooms and Settlement, Grand Street Settlement, Church of All Nations, Ellis House, Hamilton House, Educational Alliance, Junior High School 51, Stanton and Fresh Streets, and many other organizations.

Repairs Being Made on Manhattan Bridge

The lower deck of the Manhattan Bridge is getting a new steel and concrete roadway which is expected to be completed some time this year. The Department of Public Works has already placed advertisements for contracts for the job.

The lane will cost \$150,000 and will be paved with steel I-beams and concrete to attain a surface suitable to accommodate the nearly 10,000 vehicles that use the bridge daily.

WPA Teachers Group Fights To Keep Jobs

The WPA Teachers Union, local 653, American Federation of Teachers, today announced that more than 40 organizations, including churches, settlement houses, trade unions, institutions, faculties of public and private schools, and other public agencies, representing more than 150,000 residents of New York City, have endorsed and signed the resolution calling upon the WPA Administration to continue the educational and recreational projects for the summer months. Some of the resolutions were accompanied by letters praising the services rendered by the WPA educational and recreational projects and saying that curtailment would mean suffering for many thousands of children, who lack facilities to continue their activities.

With more resolutions coming in every day, Madeline Gilmore, general manager of the union, stated that copies of the resolutions are being forwarded to President Roosevelt, Aubrey Williams, Acting (Continued on Page 16)

Mothers Club to Hear Speaker

"My Fifth Trip to Russia", a travel lecture, will be presented by the WPA-Adult Education Program at the Mothers' Sunshine Club, Educational Alliance, 197 East Broadway, at 2 p. m. on Wednesday, April 6th.

Mrs. Susan H. Woodruff will be the lecturer and will illustrate her talk with a unique collection of slides depicting the industrial, agricultural and cultural life of the country. The public is invited to attend the free meeting.

CIGARETTE TAX SCORED ON EAST SIDE

Councilmen Are Urged to Vote Against Oppressive Measure

The East Side, representing the largest working population in the city, is definitely opposed to the imposition of a cigarette tax. East Side News survey reveals. A vigorous protest was manifested last night in scores of organizations of every racial description against this proposed measure now pending in the City Council. The cigarette is commonly regarded here as the "poor man's luxury" and proponents of this tax were roundly denounced throughout this area.

Local councilmen were beseeched by delegations at this proposed measure. Strong representation will be made by organized groups during the next few days to Mayor La Guardia, members of the Board of Estimate and City Councilmen in the hope that other means may be found to avoid the imposition of a cigarette tax.

Child Health Day May 1

Plans for celebration of Child Health Day over the May 1 weekend and a slogan for the observance, "Speed Children on the Road to Health," were announced this week. This year is the tenth anniversary of the observance of Child Health Day.

As May 1 falls on Sunday celebrations on the playgrounds and elsewhere will be held Saturday and in classrooms on Monday, in addition to the Sabbath Day observance in churches and Sunday schools, and the radio programs to be broadcast that day.

HOMES ON EXHIBITION

Home clearance projects in miniature and model modern homes are outstanding in the seventeenth annual Women's Exposition of Arts and Industries, closing this evening at Grand Central Palace.

The largest unit in the show, this division includes small scale models of housing projects such as the Williamsburgh Houses and the Hillside Homes.

School Children Act To Assist Movement

EAST SIDE NEWS' SUGGESTION WINS WIDE PRAISE — INSPIRED ROOSEVELT'S RECENT APPEAL TO NATIONS

A "liberty ship" expedition, designed to bring Jews, Catholics and other oppressed peoples who are faced with extinction by the Nazi purge, to be financed by school children of America was suggested by the East Side News to city officials and school authorities.

Court Is Lenient To 1st Offender Of Labor Law

A fine of \$10 instead of the prescribed penalty of a maximum sentence of \$500 fine or a year in jail, or both, was imposed upon the import Kait Sportwear Mills, of 155 Bleecker Street, for violation of the State unemployment law. The punishment was meted out by Magistrate Thomas A. Aurelio of the Municipal Term of the Magistrate's Court on Thursday.

An officer of the firm pleaded guilty to two charges involving failure to file quarterly reports and to pay payroll taxes for 1935, 1936 and part of 1937.

The light fine was suggested by Assistant Attorney General Isaac Laasius in view of the plea.

"In my opinion, a more substantial fine should be imposed, or a jail sentence," said Magistrate Thomas A. Aurelio, pointing out that the law prescribes a maximum sentence of \$500 fine or a year in jail, or both, for each violation.

"In all future offenses we will ask a prison sentence," Laasius assured him.

The court, too, warned that future violations would be dealt with more severely.

Merchants Will Get 'Cash' Tips

Secret Service agents here announced details of plans to educate shopkeepers in detection of counterfeit currency and at the same time disclosed that two new types of bogus \$5 silver certificates and a new \$10 Federal Reserve counterfeit bill have appeared in the city.

Secret Service agents will canvass the neighborhood, issuing invitations to merchants.

The idea has gripped the interest and imagination of school children on the East Side and they evinced the greatest enthusiasm to contribute for a humane cause. Appreciation of the plan and willingness to cooperate in its fulfillment has been displayed by patriotic organizations. The plan will be presented to Mayor La Guardia and other outstanding citizens who have expressed a desire to provide a sanctuary for the unfortunate victims of the Hitler terror.

It was the East Side News that scooped the nation's press when it announced on March 17 that the President would lift immigration bans to rescue persecuted Jews. The East Side News was the first to voice the "mercy plea" which the record will show, was incorporated in Secretary Hull's plea to 29 nations of the world. Now comes our suggestion for a "liberty ship" by children of immigrants. Those interviewed by this writer have said that nothing more timely or humane could be advanced. This is not a Government enterprise but a gesture that comes from the very heart of a people that has enjoyed the blessings of America to their less fortunate brethren across the sea.

Officials have told the East Side News reporter that the idea will meet with overwhelming support throughout the country.

Civil Service Information Available Without Charge

Any citizen may now without charge full information about examinations or other requirements for appointments in the Government service by writing to the secretary of the United States Civil Service Board, any local post office, or to the United States Civil Service Commission at Washington, D. C.

On request, the commission will place an inquirer's name on a waiting list to receive prompt information of future examinations.

April 6, 1938

133-a

Dear Mr. Schlacht:

This will acknowledge your letter of April fifth addressed to the President and I regret to advise you that the President will not be able to express the opinion which you desire. So many very meritorious undertakings are brought to his attention that in the interest of fairness to all the President is obliged necessarily to pursue a policy of not commenting. In the circumstances, I am sure you will understand his position and will excuse him.

Very sincerely yours,

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

Mr. Harry H. Schlacht,
East Side News,
196 East Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

1938

wdh-mw