

Sumner Welles Papers  
Box 54 Folder 8  
Office Correspondence  
McIntyre, Marvin, 1939

January 26, 1939

Dear Marvin:

With reference to your memorandum of January eighteenth I am sending you herewith a suggested letter for you to send to Eddie Cantor. I have gone into the situation pretty carefully and I don't see how you can very well send more at this time.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely,

Enclosure.

The Honorable  
Marvin H. McIntyre,  
Secretary to the President,  
The White House.

*WATT letter to Eddie Cantor*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
THE UNDER SECRETARY

January 19, 1939

A-M

Mr. Messersmith:

Will you not be kind  
enough to let me have your  
reactions to Mr. McIntyre's  
memorandum and to the request  
contained in the enclosure.



U:SW:MW

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

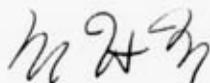
January 18, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY WELLES

The attached is self-explanatory and the President thought I might send it to you for your reaction.

Confidentially, Eddie has been a very ardent worker for the Foundation, etc.

I am wondering whether you could send him a discreet little note of appreciation or whether it would be safe for me to do it.



H. H. McINTYRE  
Secretary to the President

Enclosure

Dear Eddie:

I am sorry to be somewhat late in acknowledging your letter of January 12, 1939 but I wished to inform myself on the question which you raise before replying to you.

There is a general feeling I believe, even among those who are most sympathetic towards the situation in which so many thousands of persons find themselves abroad, that it would be inadvisable to raise the question of increasing quotas or radical changes in our immigration laws during the present Congress. There is a very real feeling that if this question is too prominently raised in the Congress during the present session we might get more restrictive rather than more liberal immigration laws and practice. Naturally, however, the question of the children is an appealing one and if there is any possibility at all of getting any legislation through the Congress on immigration matters it would probably be a measure which would permit the admission of a certain number of children in excess of the present quota or non-quota. I think I should tell you, however, that even some of those most interested in a change which would permit the admission of children are somewhat doubtful as to whether such legislation could pass.

I need not tell you how much the President is interested in this whole refugee problem and you know how much of his thought and time and initiative he has given to this matter. The question of the children is particularly appealing and I know that he has given it, and will continue to give it, his careful thought. You can be sure of that. There are, however, legislative and administrative problems which have to be considered most carefully and I think I should tell you that these aspects are particularly difficult. In any event, you may be sure that this matter is receiving very careful consideration and I am very glad that you let us have your own thoughts on it.

With every good wish,

Cordially yours,

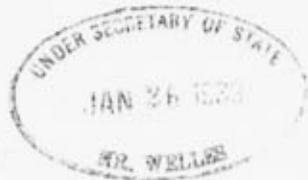
  
Mr. Eddie Cantor,  
Beverly Hills, California.

M.H. McINTYRE  
Secretary to the President.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

A-M



January 25, 1939.

Dear Mr. Welles:

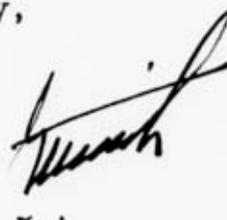
I have prepared the appended reply which Mr. McIntyre may wish to send to Eddie Cantor in reply to Cantor's letter hereto attached of January 12th to him. I think this is about as much as Mr. McIntyre would wish to say on this question of the children at this time. Everyone feels very favorably disposed when it comes to the refugee children, but I think I should tell you that the legislative and the administrative difficulties involved are so serious that I am certainly doubtful whether any such legislation would be finally passed by the Congress. I believe it would be very undesirable to have much discussion of it in the Congress for it would raise all sorts of questions which should not be discussed at this time, and I think we can be sure it would stir up further anti-Semitism which is raising its ugly head in so many parts of the country. I do not believe that the President would wish to take an attitude at this time openly favoring any such change in our immigration laws which would permit the admission of children as non-quota or in excess of the present quotas.

It

-2-

It would be much better to let this question come up in the Congress rather than to have it raised through the initiative of the President. I keep in very close touch with these problems as you know and I believe this would be the wise course to follow.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Franklin D. Roosevelt', written in a cursive style.

*Wes*  
A-M:GSM:MJ

March 1, 1939

Dear Marvin:

With regard to your memorandum of February 27, enclosing a telegram addressed to you by Pat Evans, of Houston, Texas, I should be only too glad to take care of the matter for you as you suggest, but unfortunately the question is one with which this Department has nothing to do. It is a matter that would have to be handled by the Department of Labor. I would suggest that the Secretary of Labor be requested to take a personal interest in the question.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely,

The Honorable  
Marvin H. McIntyre,  
Secretary to the President,  
The White House.

Marvin H. McIntyre - re Pat Evans telegram

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
Washington

Feb. 27, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR HONORABLE SUMNER WELLES:  
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

The attached telegram addressed to me by Pat Evans, of Houston, Texas, is self-explanatory. I will appreciate it if you will be good enough to reply to it direct, stating that I have brought it to your attention.

Thank you.

M. H. McINTYRE  
Secretary to the President.

COPY

Houston, Texas, Feb. 26, 1939

M. H. McIntyre:

One Hans Pohl, a twenty years old half Jew awaits in Houston Texas Jail deportation charges for jumping ship February first. He declares will kill himself if deported back to Hitler (his father is a field director in Germany divorced from a Jew wife). If I as a United States natural citizen would take this man under my care and guidance could not the government grant special amensty for probation of say six months and allow me to report on these findings. This may be in line with our President's foreign policies who knows surely since this a case of life and death. Mr. McIntyre may I ask your good office to do some fast and humanitarian thinking and oblige yours very truly

FAT EVANS      City Engineers Department