

CON

Admission of Refugees to U.S.  
(Free Ports and Emergency Shelter)

General I-J

Folder 1-I-Jen

In reply please  
refer to: 2957

JUL 26 1944

Dear Mr. Immerman:

The President has asked me to acknowledge and thank you for your recent letter concerning the plan to give temporary asylum to approximately 1,000 refugees from Europe in the Emergency Refugee Shelter being established at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York.

I wish also to thank you on behalf of the War Refugee Board for your support and interest in this program.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Henry Immerman,  
246 West 87th Street,  
Los Angeles, California.

REH Hutchison:inp 7/25/44 JCH -

2957

10  
War Refugee  
Board

SECTION FOR REFUGES  
FOR ATTENTION AND  
AND CONSIDERATION

Los Angeles, 6/27/44.  
Secretary to the President

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

My Dear Mr President:

Permit me to express to you my  
gratitude for your efforts in behalf of the  
European refugees.

I feel particularly in a position to appreciate  
what it means to find a haven in this blessed  
country for these unfortunates subjected to  
persecution, for under the tyranny of the Tzar,  
life in Russia for the Jews was worse than a  
mere existence.

In 1884-86 years ago-I came to my beloved America,  
at the age of 8, grew to manhood, married and  
raised a family.

Most of my dear ones have passed away, but it is  
a great comfort to know that they died and were  
reborn as Americans.

Incidentally, Mr President, I honestly believe  
you are the greatest man ever to occupy the  
White House, and it is my sincere hope that you  
will be our next Chief Executive.

Respectfully yours,

*Henry Immerman*

(Henry Immerman)

246 W. 87 St. ✓  
Los Angeles.  
Calif.

JUN 14 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 1114

Dear Mr. Friedenbergt:

Thank you for your letter of June 7, 1944,  
concerning the establishment of temporary havens in  
the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the  
President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee  
Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of  
his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Amba-  
sador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8,  
1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the  
execution of the project are enclosed.

Your concern for the fate of refugees and  
your interest in the problem of providing places of  
asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Julius Friedenbergt,  
Secretary,  
Independent Order Brith Abraham,  
40 Broad Street,  
Boston, Massachusetts.

Enclosures.

ESTV RBH  
RBHutchison:agr 6-13-44

1114



# Independent Order Brith Abraham

Board of Deputies of the State of Massachusetts

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

JULIUS FRIEDENBERG, SECRETARY  
40 BROAD ST., BOSTON, MASS.  
ROOM 1020  
TEL. HUBBARD 1890

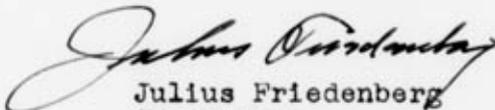
June 7,  
1944

War Refugee Board  
Washington  
D. C.

Gentlemen:

The officers and members of the Massachusetts Board of Deputies of the Independent Order Brith Abraham wish to be recorded in favor of the proposed Legislation called "Free Ports" in the United States.

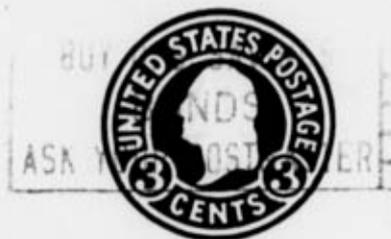
Very truly yours,

  
Julius Friedenberg  
Secretary

JF:eb

RECEIVED  
JUN 11 1944  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

After 3 days, return to  
BOARD OF DEPUTIES I. G. B. A. OF MASS.,  
Julius Friedenber, Sec'y,  
40 Broad Street,  
BOSTON, MASS.



War Refugee Board

Washington

D. C.

TREAS. DEPT.

1417



# Independent Order Brith Abraham

Board of Deputies of the State of Massachusetts

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

JULIUS FRIEDENBERG. SECRETARY  
40 BROAD ST., BOSTON, MASS.  
ROOM 1020  
TEL. HUBBARD 1890

June 7,  
1944

RECEIVED  
MAY 13 1944  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Pres. of the United States  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The officers and members of the Massachusetts Board of Deputies of the Independent Order Brith Abraham wish to be recorded in favor of the proposed legislation called "Free Ports" in the United States.

Very truly yours,

*Julius Friedenber*  
Julius Friedenber  
Secretary

JF:eb

In reply please  
refer to: 1977

JUN 27 1944

Dear Mr. Eskin:

Thank you for your letters of June 19, 1944, to the President and to me, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

The concern of your organization for the fate of refugees and its interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Benjamin B. Eskin,  
Recording Secretary,  
Knights of Liberty Lodge,  
No. 271,  
Thomas J. Roberts Post Hall,  
Park and Claybourne Streets,  
Dorchester, Massachusetts.

*Independent Order Birth Abraham*

Enclosures.

EOR ✓

RH

RBHutchison:agr 6-26-44

1465



**Knights of Liberty Lodge, No. 2**  
INDEPENDENT ORDER BRITH ABRAHAM

*Thomas J. Roberts Post Hall*  
PARK AND CLAYBOURNE STS., DORCHESTER, MASS.

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

JUNE 19, 1944.

WAR REFUGEE BOARD,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

GENTLEMEN:--

THE KNIGHTS OF LIBERTY LODGE #271, INDEPENDENT  
ORDER BRITH ABRAHAM, WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF 187, IN REGULAR  
MEETING HELD IN DORCHESTER, MASS., ON SUNDAY JUNE 18TH, 1944,  
UNANIMOUSLY PASSED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:--

BE IT RESOLVED THAT;

WE, THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE KNIGHTS OF  
LIBERTY LODGE, #271, OF DORCHESTER, MASS., REALIZING THE  
DESPERATE SITUATION OF REFUGEES FROM EUROPEAN COUNTRIES,  
AND THE NECESSITY FOR FINDING A HAVEN FOR THESE PEOPLE, DESIRE  
TO RECORD OURSELVES IN FAVOR OF LEGISLATION FOR THE ESTABLISH-  
MENT OF "FREE PORTS" IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

*Benjamin B. Eskin*  
BENJAMIN B. ESKIN, REC. SEC.

B. B. ESKIN,  
149 WINTHROP RD.,  
BROOKLINE, MASS.

3  
Was Refugee  
Post.



1977

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED  
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
AND CONSIDERATION

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_

Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_

To: Files \_\_\_\_\_

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_

Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Knights of Liberty Lodge, No. 271**  
INDEPENDENT ORDER BRITH ABRAHAM

Thomas J. Roberts Post Hall  
PARK AND CLAYBOURNE STS., DORCHESTER, MASS.

JUNE 19, 1944.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:--

THE KNIGHTS OF LIBERTY LODGE #271, INDEPENDENT  
ORDER BRITH ABRAHAM, WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF 137, IN REGULAR  
MEETING HELD IN DORCHESTER, MASS., ON SUNDAY, JUNE 18TH, 1944,  
UNANIMOUSLY PASSED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:--

BE IT RESOLVED THAT;

WE, THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE KNIGHTS OF  
LIBERTY LODGE, #271, OF DORCHESTER, MASS., REALIZING THE  
DESPERATE SITUATION OF REFUGEES FROM EUROPEAN COUNTRIES,  
AND THE NECESSITY FOR FINDING A HAVEN FOR THESE PEOPLE, DESIRE  
TO RECORD OURSELVES IN FAVOR OF LEGISLATION FOR THE ESTABLISH-  
MENT OF "FREE PORTS" IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

*Benjamin B. Eskin*  
BENJAMIN B. ESKIN, REC. SEC.

B. B. ESKIN,  
149 WINTHROP RD.,  
BROOKLINE, MASS.

JUN 15 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 1018

Dear Mr. Kratzok:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of May 29, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know that since my letter of June 5, to you, the President has taken action to establish an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

Your concern for the fate of refugees and your interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Samuel E. Kratzok,  
1907 North American Building,  
N.E. Cor. Broad and Sansom Sts.,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

*Independent order British Holom*

Enclosures.

*EBT ✓*

*RBH*

RBHutchison:agr 6-14-44

RACE 6391

LAW OFFICES  
SAMUEL E. KRATZOK  
1907 NORTH AMERICAN BUILDING  
N. E. COR. BROAD AND SANSON STS.  
PHILADELPHIA

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority  
For Files  
RESPECTFULLY  
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
AND CONSIDERATION  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary to the \_\_\_\_\_

May 29, 1944

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

My dear Mr. President:

I enclose herewith copy of Resolution adopted  
at a meeting of the Max B. Willig Lodge No.4, I.O.B.S.  
of Philadelphia, Pa., held on May 25, 1944, with re-  
spect to the creation of Free Ports for Refugees.

With extreme loyalty to our Country and with  
the utmost confidence in you, I am

Sincerely yours,  
*Samuel E. Kratzok*

*Resolution attached*

SEK:ab  
Encl:



*War Refugee Board*

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT We the Max B. Willig Lodge  
No. 4, Independent Order Brith Sholom, consisting of  
100 members, at a meeting held May 25, 1944, urge the  
President of the United States and his War Refugee  
Board to give serious consideration to the proposal to  
establish Free Ports for refugees in the United States  
for the duration. The establishment of Free Ports for  
refugees will translate into action the humanitarian  
desire of the American people to save as many victims  
of Nazi brutality as can still be saved.

Samuel Kratzok President

Carlson Walper Secretary



In reply please  
refer to: 881

JUN 5 1944

Dear Mr. Kratzok:

Thank you for your letter of May 29, 1944,  
enclosing a resolution adopted by the Max B. Willig  
Lodge No. 4, I. O. B. S. of Philadelphia, concerning  
the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

The interest of your organization in this  
problem is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Samuel E. Kratzok,  
1907 North American Building,  
N.E. Cor. Broad and Sanson Sts.,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Independent order Brith Sholm

EAR RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-3-44

*[Handwritten mark]*

submit to file  
198 102 102

PENNYPACKER 6383

LAW OFFICES  
SAMUEL E. KRATZOK  
1907 NORTH AMERICAN BUILDING  
N. E. COR. BROAD AND SANBOM STS.  
PHILADELPHIA

May 29, 1944

881

RACE 6391

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. JUN 5 1944  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

War Refugee Board  
Washington, D.C. (25)

Gentlemen:

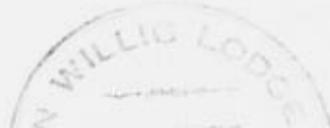
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at a meeting of the Max B. Willig Lodge No. 4, I.O.B.S.  
of Philadelphia, Pa., held on May 25, 1944, with re-  
spect to the creation of Free Ports for Refugees.

Sincerely yours,  
*Samuel E. Kratzok*

SEK:ab  
Encl:

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Samuel Kratochvil President  
Caesar Wolpe Secretary



3  
War Refugee  
Bd.

996

MRS. MYRON I. INGRAM  
3520 LAKE SHORE DRIVE  
CHICAGO 13, ILLINOIS

June 2, 1944. ✓  
Initial *HSI*  
Date *8/10/44*

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

Your Excellency:-

I endorse the plan for a free  
port in the United States to save  
the lives of innocent victims  
of Nazi terrorism.

Yours respectfully,  
Hannah S. Ingram  
(Mrs. M. I. Ingram).

Similar letter  
to Peble already  
acknowledged.

In reply please  
refer to: 906

JUN 8 1944

Dear Mrs. Ingram:

Thank you for your letter of June 2,  
1944, concerning the establishment of temporary  
havens for refugees.

Your interest in this problem is appre-  
ciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mrs. Myron I. Ingram,  
3520 Lake Shore Drive,  
Chicago 13, Illinois.

201 RBHutchison:agr 6-6-44

JW -

906

MRS. MYRON I. INGRAM  
3520 LAKE SHORE DRIVE  
CHICAGO 13, ILLINOIS

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority  
To: Files  
Ans. 6/8/44  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

June 2, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle,  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

I endorse the plan for a free  
port in the United States to save  
the lives of innocent victims  
of Nazi terrorism.

Yours very truly,

Hannah S. Ingram  
(Mrs. M. I. Ingram).

In reply please  
refer to: 1979

JUN 27 1944

Dear Mr. Jones:

Thank you for your letters of recent date to the President and to me, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

The concern of your organization for the fate of refugees and its interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Noah M. Jones,  
International Representative,  
International Brotherhood of  
Boiler Makers, Iron Ship  
Builders and Helpers of  
America,  
Room 204,  
National Market Bank Building,  
Baltimore 2, Maryland.

Enclosures  
EBT ✓ RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-26-44

J. A. FRANKLIN, INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT  
J. N. DAVIS, ASST. INT'L. PRESIDENT

WM. E. WALTER, INT'L. SECRETARY-TREASURER

L. A. FREEMAN, EDITOR-MANAGER  
"THE BOILERMAKERS JOURNAL"

1978

ORGANIZED  
~IBBO~



AFFILIATED WITH  
THE A.F. OF L.

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# International Brotherhood

of **BOILER MAKERS, IRON SHIP BUILDERS AND WELDERS**  
OF AMERICA

PRINTED  
IN U. S. A.

NOAH M. JONES, REPRESENTATIVE

MARYLAND, DELAWARE, VIRGINIA,  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND  
NORTH CAROLINA

2140 WILKENS AVENUE  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Room 204,  
Nat'l. Mar. Bk. Bldg.  
Balto. 2, Md.

June 20, 1944.

Mr. John W. Pehle,  
Board Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
Washington,  
D. C.

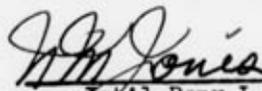
Dear Mr. Pehle:-

We, the boilermakers of Local 193, as a whole are heartily in favor of the plan to establish free ports in the United States, where refugees may find shelter until they can establish permanent homes.

This plan would not only provide temporary human "free port" zones and safe refuge from the tyranny of the despots, but would also demonstrate to the world, the determination of the American Government and the American people to alleviate the sufferings of these poor unfortunates.

We assure you this plan has our wholehearted support, and we respectfully urge its adoption.

Yours respectfully,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Int'l. Repr. L. 193.

NMJ:RC

RETURN IN FIVE DAYS TO  
NOAH M. JONES, REPRESENTATIVE  
2140 WILKENS AVENUE  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND



Room 204,  
Natl. Mar. Bk. Bldg.  
Balto. Md. (2)



Mr. John W. Pehle,  
Board Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
Washington, D. C.

J. A. FRANKLIN, INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT  
J. N. DAVIS, ASST. INT'L. PRESIDENT

WM. E. WALTER, INT'L. SECRETARY-TREASURER

L. A. FREEMAN, EDITOR-MANAGER  
"THE BOILERMAKERS JOURNAL" 1979

ORGANIZED  
~1880~



AFFILIATED WITH  
THE A.F.O.F.L.

# International Brotherhood

## of BOILER MAKERS, IRON SHIP BUILDERS AND HELPERS OF AMERICA

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_

Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_

No. Files \_\_\_\_\_

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

No. Ass. Req. \_\_\_\_\_

Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

PRINTED  
IN U.S.A.

NOAH M. JONES, REPRESENTATIVE  
MARYLAND, DELAWARE, VIRGINIA,  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND  
NORTH CAROLINA

2140 WILKENS AVENUE  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Room 204,  
Nat'l. Mar. Bk. Bldg.  
Baltimore, Md. ✓

*Handwritten signature: Noah M. Jones*

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED  
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
AND CONSIDERATION

*William T. Jones*  
Secretary to the President

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

Dear President Roosevelt:-

We, the Boilermakers of Local 193, as a whole are heartily in favor of the plan to establish "free ports" in the United States, where refugees may find shelter until they can establish permanent homes.

This plan would not only provide temporary human "free port" zones and safe refuge from the tyranny of the despots, but would also demonstrate to the world, the determination of the American Government and the American people to alleviate the sufferings of these poor unfortunates.

We assure you this plan has our wholehearted support, and we respectfully urge its adoption.

Yours respectfully,

*Handwritten signature: Noah M. Jones*

Int'l. Repr. L. 193.

NMJ:RC

free post

**wmca**  
INCORPORATED

*America's Leading Independent Station*

WMCA BUILDING, 1057 BROADWAY, NEW YORK 19, N.Y. CIRCLE 6-2300

April 25, 1944

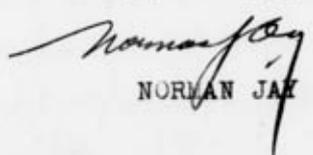
Mr. J. W. Pehle  
The War Refugee Board  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle;

I am enclosing herewith  
a copy of an open letter, which I  
addressed to you on my Very Truly  
Yours broadcast over this station  
on Monday evening, April 24, at 9:30  
P.M.

If you care to comment in  
any way, I should be very glad to  
hear from you.

Very truly yours,

  
NORMAN JAY

NJ:KK

FOR INFORMATION OF THE  
MEMBER STATES OF THE  
UNITED STATES  
AND  
THE  
COUNTRIES OF THE  
AMERICAS

April 24, 1944

DEAR MR. FEHLE:

AMERICA HAS A CONSCIENCE. I THINK WE'RE BEGINNING TO SEE IT IN THE ENTHUSIASTIC NATION-WIDE SUPPORT ACCORDED THE PROPOSAL ADVANCED BY SAMUEL GRAYTON, COLUMNIST OF THE NEW YORK POST, THAT THE UNITED STATES ESTABLISH FREE PORTS FOR EUROPEAN REFUGEES. I THINK WE'RE GOING TO SEE IT **EVEN** MORE IF AND WHEN THE PROPOSAL BECOMES A PROJECT AND AMERICA CAN HEAVE A NATIONAL SIGH OF RELIEF AS IT FORESAKES THE UNNATURAL ROLE IT HAS PLAYED IN BARRING REFUGEES FROM ITS SHORES.

AMERICA WELCOMES YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT, SIR, THAT THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD, OF WHICH YOU ARE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IS OFFICIALLY CONSIDERING THE PLAN. FOR, ASIDE FROM THE COMPARATIVE FEW WHO'VE SWALLOWED THE FASCIST POISON, WHOSE HUMAN INSTINCTS HAVE BEEN CHILLED BY A STEADY DIET OF STUBBORN UNREASONING HATE, AMERICANS HAVE BEEN DECIDEDLY UNCOMFORTABLE IN THE INVOLUNTARY ROLE THEY'VE BEEN PLAYING AS THE CHAMPIONS OF EXCLUSION.

DOING SOMETHING FOR THE UNWANTED OF OTHER LANDS HAS BEEN IN THE AMERICAN TRADITION SINCE THIS NATION'S BIRTH. AMERICAN HOSPITALITY AND GENEROSITY TO THOSE IN NEED HAVE BEEN OUR TRADEMARKS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. YET OUR RECORD IN RECENT YEARS IS HARDLY ONE THAT WILL BRING PRIDE TO THOSE OF US WHO VIEW HUMAN LIFE AND SPIRIT AS PRECIOUS... WHO CAN FEEL SORROW AT THE SUFFERING AND ANGUISH TO WHICH FELLOW-HUMANS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD- DEFENSELESS AND INNOCENT- ARE BEING SUBJECTED BY A PHILOSOPHY OF GOVERNMENT THAT HAS MADE BARBARISM A NATIONAL POLICY. FOR AS A NATION WE'VE CLOSED OUR HANDS, OUR DOORS AND OUR HEARS- AND OUR EYES TO THE ROLE OF AMERICA IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

BUT, SIR, I DONT WANT TO APPEAR TO BE CHAMPIONING THE LIFTING OF IMMIGRATION QUOTAS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. I ONLY WANT TO ASK, AS MR. GRAYTON DOES, THAT WE DO THE VERY LEAST THAT WE CAN UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. MR. GRAYTON POINTS OUT THAT WE HAVE A "FREE PORT" RIGHT HERE IN NEW YORK CITY INTO WHICH FOREIGN GOODS- JUST PLAIN MERCHANDISE, MIND YOU- MAY BE BROUGHT WITHOUT PAYING CUSTOMS DUTIES. GOODS BROUGHT INTO IT FROM OVERSEAS ARE DESTINED EITHER FOR TRANSSHIPMENT TO OTHER COUNTRIES OR FOR TEMPORARY STORAGE HERE. AND MR. GRAYTON ASKS WHY WE CANT SET ASIDE A "SMALL BIT OF LAND, A KIND OF RESERVATION" FOR HUMAN BEINGS AS WE DO FOR GOODS. HE MAKES NO FURTHER DEMANDS THAN THAT. HE MAKES NO PLEA FOR PERMANENT REFUGE OR FOR USEFUL OR NON-USEFUL WORK OR FOR CITIZENSHIP FOR THESE HOMELESS. HE ASKS ONLY TEMPORARY STORAGE UNTIL THE WILD WINDS OF WAR HAVE STOPPED BLOWING.

THIS ISNT, AS YOU SEE, A QUESTION THAT REQUIRES ANY RESEARCH. IN URGING THAT THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD ACT FAVORABLY ON THE PROPOSAL, NEITHER MR. GRAYTON NOR I NOR ANY OF THE OTHERS WHO ENDORSE THE PROPOSAL HAVE TO PROVE HOW INTIMATELY AMERICA'S GROWTH HAS BEEN RELATED TO IMMIGRATION. FOR AFTER ALL, WHAT IS BEING SUGGESTED IS NOT IMMIGRATION. WE DONT HAVE TO PROVE THE OBVIOUS POINT THAT ASSIMILATING FOREIGN-BORN INTO AMERICA'S BLOOD-STREAM THROUGHOUT THE YEARS OF THIS NATION'S HISTORY HAS ENRICHED ALL OF US. FOR WHAT IS BEING SUGGESTED IS NOT ASSIMILATION. WE DONT HAVE TO PROVE THAT ACCEPTING PEOPLES OF OTHER NATIONS INTO OUR OWN HAS INVIGORATED OUR CULTURE...AND HAS PROVIDED THE MANPOWER AND BRAINPOWER TO BUILD AMERICA INTO THE GREATEST INDUSTRIAL POWER IN THE WORLD. FOR WHAT IS BEING SUGGESTED IS NOT ABSORPTION.

NO, MR. PEHLE, WE'RE NOT SUGGESTING ANYTHING THAT MIGHT UPSET OUR NATIONAL POLICY TOWARD FOREIGN-BORN. THAT MIGHT TAKE US INTO THE REALM OF POLITICS AND GIVE SOME OF OUR NATIONAL HALF-PINTS A CHANCE TO SOUND OFF ABOUT ALIEN INFLUENCES AND THREATS TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF AMERICANS AND OTHER EXAGGERATIONS THAT SERVE SO ADMIRABLY TO COVER UP THEIR OWN EMPTINESS. AND WE'D RATHER STAY IN THE REALM OF SIMPLE HUMANITARIANISM.

WE'D RATHER MAKE IT AS SIMPLE AS FINDING A BABY ON YOUR DOORSTEP AND TAKING IT INTO YOUR HOUSE FOR CARE UNTIL YOU CAN HAND IT OVER TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES. WE'D RATHER KEEP IT AS SIMPLE AND NON-DEBATABLE AS A RESCUE AT SEA.

SOMEHOW, SIR, THE CIVILIZED PART OF THE WORLD DOESN'T WEEP FOR THOSE WHO MANAGE TO KEEP A STEP AHEAD OF NAZI BUTCHERY. FRANKLY, I DON'T KNOW WHY. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THEIR SITUATION HAS NEVER BEEN REAL TO US. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE WE'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED WHOLESALE SHATTERING OF HOMES AND DISPERSAL OF FAMILIES. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS TO BE HUDDLED ON A BARGE FLOATING DOWN THE DANUBE...OR FREEZING IN SOME MID-EUROPEAN WHEAT FIELD. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE WE'VE NEVER KNOWN THE TORTURE OF WONDERING WHAT'S BECOME OF OUR KIDS OR WIVES OR MOTHERS. MAYBE THE HUMAN MIND CAN'T EMBRACE THE AWFUL HORROR OF IT UNLESS IT'S HAD SOME COMPARABLE EXPERIENCE- AND THANK GOD WE HAVEN'T.

BUT WE WON'T HESITATE LONG IF WE KEEP THE SIMPLE FACT IN MIND THAT THESE REFUGEES ARE RUNNING FROM DEATH BUT HAVEN'T ANY PLACE TO GO. THE LIMEWILNS AND GAS CHAMBERS ARE CLOSE BEHIND THEM- AND THEY FIND THEMSELVES ON A DEAD-END STREET.

DEATH WITH A GERMAN ACCENT STALKS THEIR HEELS- AND GOVERNMENTS WHOSE FRIENDSHIP THEY HAVE EVERY RIGHT AND REASON TO EXPECT CLOSE THE GATES TO THE ONLY AVENUES OF ESCAPE.

THEY WANT ONLY A PLACE TO REST THEIR WEARY BODIES. THEY WANT ONLY TO FEEL THAT THE MURDERERS CANT PLAY CAT-AND-MOUSE WITH THEM ANY MORE. THEY WANT ONLY THE SMALLEST POSSIBLE MEASURE OF SECURITY... A WORD THAT HAS COME TO HAVE NO MEANING AT ALL FOR THEM SINCE THE NAZIS OVERRAN THE BALKANS.

WE'VE GOT IT IN OUR POWER, SIR, TO SET UP THESE "FREE PORTS" FOR REFUGEES AND THUS TO ENCOURAGE ALL OTHERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO DO LIKEWISE. WE'VE GOT IT IN OUR POWER TO RELIEVE TO SOME SMALL EXTENT AN INCOMPREHENSIBLE SUFFERING. WE CANT DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE MILLIONS WHO HAVE PERISHED OR HAVE BEEN ENGULFED IN THE NAZI WAVE. BUT CAN WE TURN OUR BACK ON THOSE WHO STILL LIVE? CAN WE.. WHEN THE SOLUTION IS TO TREAT THEM WITH THE SAME CONSIDERATION- AND NO MORE- THAT WE GIVE TO MERCHANDISE?

I THINK YOU'LL FIND THE ANSWER, MR. PEHLE, INSCRIBED ON THE STATUS OF LIBERTY. IT GOES:

"GIVE ME YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR, YOUR HUDDLED MASSES YEARNING TO BREATHE FREE- THE WRETCHED REFUSE OF YOUR TEEMING SHORE. SEND THESE, THE HOMELESS, TEMPEST TOST TO ME. I LIFT MY LAMP BESIDE THE GOLDEN DOOR."

VERY TRULY YOURS,

NORMAN JAY

JUN 15 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 819

Dear Miss Blackwell:

Since my replies to your recent letters concerning temporary havens in the United States for refugees, the President has taken action for the establishment of an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. I am sure you will be interested in reading the attached copies of the President's recent message to Congress, his cablegram of June 8, 1944, to Ambassador Robert Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of the same date to the agency heads concerned with the execution of the plan.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you again for the interest which you have expressed in this matter.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Miss Marion Blackwell,  
Executive Secretary,  
International Institute  
of Boston, Inc.,  
190 Beacon Street,  
Boston, Massachusetts.

Enclosures:

EBTowler:db 6/14/44

EBT ✓

In reply please  
refer to: 819

JUN 1 1944

Dear Miss Blackwell:

The President has referred to me your  
letter of May 20, 1944, concerning the establishment  
of temporary havens for refugees.

Your interest in this problem is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Miss Marion Blackwell,  
Executive Secretary,  
International Institute  
of Boston, Inc.,  
190 Beacon Street,  
Boston, Massachusetts.

ERT RBH RBHutchison:agr 5-30-44 JCH-

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100 100/10 100000

*Star Refugee Board*

819

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE  
of Boston, Inc.  
190 BEACON STREET, BOSTON, MASS.  
Telephone KENmore 1081

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. *W/1/44*  
Miss Marie B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Secy. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

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May 20, 1944

Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
President of the United States  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

I am very much interested in the new plan that has recently been suggested to save refugees by the establishing of a system of "Free Ports" in the United States and I wish to have you know of my approval of the proposal and earnestly hope that you will urge its adoption. Certainly it is the least that we in the United States, as we are, should do everything in our power to help those who have been displaced from their homes in Europe.

Very sincerely yours,

*Marion Blackwell*

(Miss) Marion Blackwell  
Executive Secretary

mb/ia

MAY 29 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 797

Dear Miss Blackwell:

Thank you for your letter of May 20, 1944,  
concerning the establishment of temporary havens for  
refugees.

Your interest in this problem is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Miss Marion Blackwell,  
Executive Secretary,  
International Institute of  
Boston, Inc.,  
190 Beacon Street,  
Boston, Massachusetts.

EAT EBowler:agr 5-24-44

Jot -

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INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE  
OF BOSTON, INC.  
190 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.  
Telephone KENmore 1081

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_

Filing Authority

To: Files

MISS MARION BLACKWELL 5/20/44  
Executive Secretary

Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

May 20, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle, Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I am very much interested in the new plan that has recently been suggested to save refugees by the establishing of a system of "Free Ports" in the United States and I wish to have you know of my approval of the proposal and earnestly hope that you will urge its adoption. Certainly it is the least that we in the United States, as we are, should do everything in our power to help those who have been displaced from their homes in Europe.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ MARION R. BLACKWELL

(Miss) Marion Blackwell  
Executive Secretary

mb/ia

JUL 21 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 3003

Dear Miss Cooper:

I have your letters of July 11, 1944, to the President and to me, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

The concern of your organization for the fate of refugees and its interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle  
Executive Director

Miss Helen S. Cooper,  
Secretary,  
International Institute,  
St. John Street at Leith,  
Flint 6, Michigan.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ RBH RRButchison:agr 7-17-44

*W. R. B. 3003*

**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE**  
BUREAU of SOCIAL SERVICE for FOREIGN SPEAKING PEOPLE  
ST. JOHN STREET AT LEITH  
FLINT 6, MICH.

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

July 11, 1948

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED  
FOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
AND CONSIDERATION

*William S. Cooper*  
Secretary to the President

W. R. B. 3003  
 Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
 To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
 No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

My dear Mr. President:

The Directors of the International Institute of Flint have asked me to tell you of our great interest in the proposal to establish a system of "free ports" in the United States, to provide a temporary haven for war refugees who cannot enter the country under existing immigration laws.

We hope that all the details of this humanitarian project can be worked out satisfactorily, and that the proposal will be adopted.

Respectfully yours,  
*Helen S. Cooper*  
Helen S. Cooper  
Secretary

HSC/ps

3002

**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE**  
BUREAU of SOCIAL SERVICE for FOREIGN SPEAKING PEOPLE  
ST. JOHN STREET AT LEITH  
FLINT 6, MICH.

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Date \_\_\_\_\_

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

RECEIVED  
JULY 11 1934  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

John W. Pehle, Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

The Board of Directors of the International Institute of Flint has asked me to tell you of our great interest in the proposal to establish a system of "free ports" to provide temporary haven for war refugees who cannot enter the country under existing immigration laws.

We hope it will be possible to work out the details of this project in a satisfactory way, and that enough "free ports" can be established in this and other countries, to take care of the refugees from Nazi tyranny.

Sincerely yours,

*Helen S. Cooper*

Helen S. Cooper  
Secretary

HSC/ps

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE  
ST. JOHN STREET AT LEITH  
FLINT 6, MICH.



John W. Pehle, Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Washington, D. C.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

To:

- (1) Mr. Pehle ..... (Room) (Sdg.)  
(2) ..... (Room) (Sdg.)  
(3) ..... (Room) (Sdg.)

Herewith a copy of a declaration  
by the Workers Delegates at the I.L.O.  
conference with respect to Nazi  
persecutions and the opening of  
Free Ports in the democratic  
countries.

L. S. Lesser  
5/15/44

From: ..... (Date)  
..... (Room) (Sdg.)

10

COPY

The undersigned members of the Workers' Delegations of the twenty-sixth session of the International Labor Conference held in the City of Philadelphia, once again call the attention of peace and liberty loving people the world over to the unspeakable crimes perpetrated by the Nazis upon the defenseless civilian populations groaning under their yoke.

In the Nazi orgy of persecution and death, the Jews have been singled out for total extermination. The closer Hitler comes to military defeat by the armed forces of the United Nations, the greater becomes his determination to carry out his mad design of annihilating a whole people.

More than three million Jews have already been murdered in cold blood. Only mass graves are now to be found where once Jewish communities were rooted. The Nazi axe is about to fall on the last remnants of the Jewish population in Hitler dominated and occupied Europe.

For more than eleven years Jews have borne the brunt of Nazi aggression. They have resisted to the utmost the Hitler march to world domination. Under the leadership of their labor organizations, and with the aid of the underground movement, the surviving Jews in the ghettos of Poland took up arms, and rose in open revolt against the Nazi armies. They fell in battle after exacting a severe toll from the Hitler hordes. Their last words to the world were, "Do not count the dead - remember the living.

Hundreds of thousands of Jews facing death may still be saved if the democratic world comes to their immediate aid. Not another minute must be lost.

We urge the governments of the United Nations to repeat their warnings that the Nazi criminals will have to account with their lives for their crimes against defenseless people of every faith, race and nationality. No citizen of Germany or of a satellite country should be able to claim ignorance of the crimes committed by the dictatorial regimes, as an excuse for condoning, or remaining passive in the face of the Nazi butcheries.

We urge that the remaining Jews in Nazi Europe be recognized as war prisoners by the governments of the United Nations.

We urge that "Free Ports" be established in the democratic countries to provide shelter to refugees who succeed in escaping from the Nazi countries until such time as they will be able to go back as free men to their liberated native lands.

We urge that the gates of Palestine be kept open for Jewish immigration.

We salute the memory of the heroes of the ghetto who have fallen in the cause of freedom and democracy. We greet the surviving Jews who continue to fight for a civilized world and human brotherhood. They are not forgotten or forsaken. The hour of liberation is at hand. A just world, emerging from the defeat of the greatest enemy of mankind has ever had to face, will remember the sacrifices of the first and worst victims of Nazi aggression.

M O R E

*Internall Labor Conference*

Signatures:

UNITED STATES

Robert J. Watt

AUSTRALIA

Percy James Clarey

BELGIUM

Jef Rens  
Paul Finet

BRAZIL

Dario de Mattos Lima

BRITISH EMPIRE

Joseph Hallsworth  
Anne Loughlin

CANADA

Percy R. Bengough  
Norman S. Dowd

CHILE

Arturo Velasquez Quiroga

CHINA

Chu Hsueh-fan

CUBA

Carlos Fernandez R.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Josef Kosina

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Jose Maria Morales

FRANCE

Charles Louis Laurent  
Albert Guigui

INDIA

Jamnadas Mehta

MEXICO

Vicente Lombardo Teledano  
Alejandro Carrillo

NETHERLANDS

Jacobus Hendrik Oldenbroek  
Roelof Adriaan Schotman

NEW ZEALAND

Francis Cornelius Allerby

NORWAY

Konrad Nordahl  
Einar Johansen

PERU

Juan P. Luna

POLAND

Alojzy Adamczyk  
Ch. Wasser

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Willem Johannes de Vries

SWEDEN

Gunnar Andersson

YUGOSLAVIA

Cesar Milos

PALESTINE

I. Mereminski

INT. FED. OF TRADE UNIONS

Walter Schevenel, Genl. Secy.

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JUL 21 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 3007

Dear Mr. Dardieck:

I have your telegram of July 13, 1944, in support of House Resolution No. 576, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

The concern of your organization for the fate of refugees and its interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

~~(Signed)~~ J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. M. Dardieck,  
Legislative Committee,  
INO Branch 253,  
Los Angeles, California.

Enclosures.

EDT ✓ RBHutchison:agr 7-19-44

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To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Date \_\_\_\_\_

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WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1944 JUL 11

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LOSANGELES CALIF JUL 13 1944

JOHN W PEHLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD

TREASURY DEPT

DEAR SIR IN SUPPORT OF H REX. 576 WE THE MEMBERS OF IWO BRANCH 253  
ARE IN FULL SUPPORT OF THIS BILL YOURS TRULY.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE M DARDIECK.

JUL 14 10AM

JUN 20 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 1395

Dear Mr. Goldberg:

The President has referred to me your resolution concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

The concern of your organization for the fate of refugees and its interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. J. Goldberg,  
President,  
Lodge 182 of I.W.O.,  
48 Church Street,  
Lynn, Massachusetts.

*International Workers' Order*

Enclosures.

*EAT*

*RBH*

RBHutchison:agr 6-19-44

*President*

1395

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

*W. R. B. [unclear]*

We, the officers and membership of  
.. *S. Lodge 192* .. of *S. M. O.*  
Organization *Symmas* city or town

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

realizing the desperate situation of refugees  
from European countries, and the necessity for  
finding a haven or refuge for these people,  
desire to record ourselves in favor of legislation  
for the establishment of "free ports" in the  
United States of America.

By *J. Goldberg* president  
Secretary of President *a. stopper*  
Address.. *48. church. St. see.*  
*Symmas.*



RESPECTFULLY REFERRED  
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
AND CONSIDERATION

*William D. [unclear]*  
Secretary to the President

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AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

Lodge 192 I.M.V.  
a stopper sec.



to the President of U.S.A  
Washington  
D.C.

1332

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Print name \_\_\_\_\_  
M. R. V. \_\_\_\_\_

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WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
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BROOKLYN NY JUNE 9 1944

JOHN W PEHLE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD TREASURY BLDG

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*6/30/44*

NOW MORE THAN EVER THE FURTY OF HITLER WILL RISE IN REPIRASALS OF THE INVASION. THOUSANDS OF JEWS STILL CAN BE SAVED FROM SLAUGHTER BY OPENING FREE PORTS HERE. MANY SHIPS COMING BACK HERE FROM EUROPE ARE PRACTICALLY EMPTY. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN SAVE THEM. RESOLVED WE, THE, TWO HUNDRED MEMBERS OF LODGE 27 INTERNATIONAL OWRKERS ORDER URGE YOU TO USE YOUR AUTHORITY IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY TO SAVE THEM

CELIA OKIN SECRETARY.

JUN 13 1944

WASHINGTON D.C. 546P  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
RECEIVED

*No address*

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SEP 2 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 3259

Dear Miss Isenberg:

I have your recent communication concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you were glad to learn of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, where approximately 1,000 refugees, who had fled from their homelands to Southern Italy, are being cared for until they can be returned to their own countries at the end of the war. Copies of his message to Congress on June 12, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, to the heads of the agencies concerned with the execution of the project are enclosed.

I assure you that the War Refugee Board is doing everything in its power to rescue the victims of enemy persecution and to find havens of refuge for them where they can remain in safety until the end of the war. In this connection, you will be interested to know that arrangements have been and are being made to provide other facilities to care for refugees in areas nearer to their homelands.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Miss Shirley Isenberg,  
69-81 108th Street,  
Forest Hills, New York.

Enclosures.

EAST v Pehle  
Hutchison agr 8-18-44

3259

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mr. Pehle, I urge you to do your  
utmost in support of the plan to  
establish immediately free ports in the  
United States as temporary refuge  
for the homeless victims of Nazi dom.  
Not to do so is inhuman and cruel.

Sincerely, Shirley Isenberg  
69-81 108 St  
Forest Hills, N.Y.

JUN 17 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 1014

Dear Miss Israel:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944 to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

Your concern for the fate of refugees and your interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Miss Anita Israel,  
1589 Prospect Place,  
Brooklyn 33, New York.

Enclosures.

EST ✓ EBTowler:inp 6/15/44

1014

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

mir anta Israel

1589 Prospect Place  
Brooklyn, New York  
June 7, 1944

Mr. John Tihel  
War Refugee Board  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir,

Since the beginning of  
humanity people have been  
persecuted for their believing  
in certain faiths or customs.  
Today we too are faced with  
the problem of religious  
persecution. Many millions  
of people are now as a  
result of this left entirely  
homeless. It is up to us the  
free people of the United  
States to see to it that they

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are given a place of refuge.  
These people do not ask for  
a permanent place to settle  
they only plead for a  
temporary home until victory.  
In the fifth book of the  
Bible the book Deuteronomium  
It is quoted by the Lord  
"The Lord Thy God will restore  
thy captivity and have mercy  
upon thee, and he will again  
gather thee from all the nations  
whither the Lord Thy God hath  
scattered thee." I wish only you  
to prove that they will not  
depend upon us endlessly. By  
our helping them we will be  
rewarded with a speedy victory,  
and these helpless victims will  
return to their promised land to  
enjoy the future lifetime of peace.



JUL 21 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 1681

Dear Mr. Jacobson:

The President has referred to me your recent letter concerning the Emergency Refugee Shelter being established at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, to give temporary asylum to approximately 1,000 refugees who have fled from their homelands to Southern Italy.

Details of the plan were outlined by the President in his message to Congress on June 12, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum to the agency heads concerned with the execution of the project. Copies of these documents are enclosed as a matter of interest to you.

I assure you that the War Refugee Board is doing everything in its power to rescue the victims of enemy persecution and to find havens of refuge for them where they can remain in safety and be cared for until they can be returned to their own countries at the end of the war. In this connection, I am sure you will be interested to know that arrangements have been and are being made to provide other facilities to care for refugees in areas nearer to their homelands.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. M. Walter Jacobson,  
57 East 88th Street,  
New York, New York.

Enclosures.

EAT ✓  
MBTowler: 7/20/44

1681

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To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
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Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

*W. R. B.  
War  
Refugee  
Board*

57 EAST 88TH STREET  
NEW YORK

*June 18, 1944*

President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr President -

I wish to congratulate  
you on the noble action taken  
to open a refugee camp on our  
shores.

Saving a thousand hunted  
human beings is a fine deed.

I know you will open more

such camps as quickly  
as you can do so.  
The need is urgent as  
you know.

Again, my felicitations  
and sincere hopes for more  
camps - Yours respectfully  
M. W. Jackson

AUG 2 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 3056

Dear Miss Jamieson:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of July 16, 1944, concerning the plight of the Jewish people in Europe.

On January 22, 1944, the President created the War Refugee Board for the purpose of taking all possible measures to rescue and save the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death, and to afford them all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war.

To accomplish the purpose for which it was created, the War Refugee Board has initiated numerous measures to assist persons to escape from enemy and enemy-occupied countries, to find havens of refuge for them, to obtain better treatment for those for whom escape is not possible, and to induce the satellite countries to desist from cooperating with the Nazi policy of persecution and extermination of minority peoples. The Board has stationed representatives in strategic countries in order to expedite these measures.

In connection with the problem of finding places of asylum for those who are enabled to escape from enemy-controlled areas, you will be interested to know that the President has recently taken action to establish an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, which is equipped to care for approximately 1,000 refugees until they can be returned to their homelands at the end of the war.

I assure you that the Board is doing everything in its power to achieve its humanitarian objectives, knowing that the measure of its success will be the number of lives saved.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Miss Florence Jamieson,  
52 East Palmer,  
Detroit, Michigan.

EAT RBH Hutchison:agr 7-29-44

JW

Detroit, Mich  
July 16, 1944 3056

War Refugee Act

The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
White House,  
Washington, D.C.

RECEIVED  
ACTUALLY RECEIVED  
ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Harwell  
Secretary to the President

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Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mr. President:

I feel very strongly that this country should take the lead in giving the greatest possible aid to the Jews of Europe in their present plight. To fail to do so is to consent, in effect, to the atrocious treatment they are receiving.

I believe as many as possible should be admitted to this country by the proper administration of our present immigration laws and that many more should be given temporary asylum here. I believe our influence should be exerted to hasten the colonization of Palestine by the Jews, and that neutral countries should have our financial aid and encouragement in aiding him and giving him refuge. Food should be furnished the Jews and other people in Nazi-held countries on the Greek plan. The work of our War Refugee Board should have our utmost help and encouragement.

Sincerely yours  
Florence Jamieson  
52 - E. Palmer

SEP 2 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 3242

Dear Mr. Jaskow:

The President has referred to me your letter of August 1, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you were glad to learn of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, where approximately 1,000 refugees, who had fled from their homelands to Southern Italy, are being cared for until they can be returned to their own countries at the end of the war. Copies of his message to Congress on June 12, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, to the heads of the agencies concerned with the execution of the project are enclosed.

I assure you that the War Refugee Board is doing everything in its power to rescue the victims of enemy persecution and to find havens of refuge for them where they can remain in safety until the end of the war. In this connection, you will be interested to know that arrangements have been and are being made to provide other facilities to care for refugees in areas nearer to their homelands.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Joseph L. Jaskow,  
Princess Shop,  
911-913 Third Avenue,  
Huntington, West Virginia.

Enclosures.

*EST*  
RBHutchison:atr 8-17-44

3242

FUR DEPARTMENT

STORAGE  
RETYLING  
REPAIRING  
CLEANING  
GLAZING

*War Refugee Bd*

# Princess Shop

Stylists—Designers—Fur Specialists  
PHONE 9882

EXPERT FURRIERS  
~~W.L.P. GUARANTEE~~  
Filing Authority ON  
To: ~~FMS~~ PREMISES  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

911-913 THIRD AVENUE  
HUNTINGTON, W. VA.

August 1, 1944

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED  
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
AND CONSIDERATION

*William D. House III*

Secretary to the President

President of the United States  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Our great nation is now engaged in a conflict with two governments responsible for the persecution and enslavement of many peoples. Not only are we fighting so that our way of life may be secured; we are fighting to redeem and ensure the liberty of the oppressed.

The people living in these conquered countries will, when Victory has been achieved, be the basis for their nations' reconstruction. In view of this, would it not be wise to establish free ports now for these refugees, offer them comfort and security within the borders of our land until such time as their own countries will be rehabilitated.

I respectfully submit the above proposal for your consideration, and ask that you do all within your power to further it.

Respectfully yours,

*Joseph L. Jaskow*  
Joseph L. Jaskow

JLJ/vw



NO JOB TOO SMALL OR TOO LARGE

JUN 14 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 929

My dear Mr. Mayor:

The President has referred to me your letter of May 31, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

Your concern for the fate of refugees and your interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Honorable Edward J. Jeffries, Jr.,  
Mayor of the City of Detroit,  
Detroit, Michigan.

Enclosures.

EAST ✓ PBA RBHutchison:agr 6-13-44

*Board*

# City of Detroit

EDWARD J. JEFFRIES, JR.  
MAYOR

*War Refugee*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority  
To: Filed \_\_\_\_\_  
RESPECTFULLY REFERRED  
FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF Ans. Res. II  
Initialed \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the President

May 31, 1944

The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt  
President of the United States  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

It has come to my attention that the War Refugee Board which you established recently is interested in what is referred to as the "Free Ports" plan.

After hearing this matter discussed at length I am of the opinion that we can do no less than adopt a program of this type.

It seems these days that our civilization has been only a veneer at most, and in many places it has worn very thin. We owe it to ourselves and to the rest of the world to prove that we do believe human beings have a right to live, and under as favorable circumstances as can be provided.

I am pleased to urge you to sponsor the "Free Ports" program.

Respectfully,

*Edward J. Jeffries*  
Mayor

EJJ/f

JUN 21 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 2619

Dear Mrs. Jennings:

The President has referred to me your recent letter concerning the Emergency Refugee Shelter being established at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, to give temporary asylum to approximately 1,000 refugees who have fled from their homelands to Southern Italy.

Details of the plan were outlined by the President in his message to Congress on June 12, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum to the agency heads concerned with the execution of the project. Copies of these documents are enclosed as a matter of interest to you.

I assure you that the War Refugee Board is doing everything in its power to rescue the victims of enemy persecution and to find havens of refuge for them where they can remain in safety and be cared for until they can be returned to their own countries at the end of the war. In this connection, I am sure you will be interested to know that arrangements have been and are being made to provide other facilities to care for refugees in areas nearer to their homelands.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mrs. Percy Hall Jennings,  
Cold Spring Harbor,  
Long Island,  
Woodbury, New York.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓  
EBTowler: 7/20/44

2619

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

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W.R.B.  
✓

*Woodbury 2/2*

COLD SPRING HARBOR  
LONG ISLAND

REPLY REQUIRED  
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
AND CONSIDERATION

June 23, 1944

*William D. Barrett*  
Secretary to the President

The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. President:

The horrible sufferings and  
wiping-out of the Jews of the world is  
troubling the conscience of this Chris-  
tian land.

The United States of America  
should seriously attend to the problem  
of saving as many of the remaining Jews  
as possible.

We should be generous in pro-  
viding permanent and temporary homes for  
hundreds of thousands of refugees, not  
just for "1000".

We should ease immigration in-  
to this country and into Palestine to take

2619

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

care of these homeless ones. We can absorb them in our melting pot, and make good citizens, so setting an example that the other nations would be ashamed not to follow.

Financial help and food supplies should be provided for them with all speed.

Your War Refugee Board should be empowered to help them quickly, and so express our horror at this unspeakable sacrifice of human beings.

We appreciate being Americans who can write freely to our elected representatives to express our desires.

Thanking you for your help so urgently needed, I am

Yours sincerely,

*Elizabeth Anchinloss Jennip*

*Mrs. Percy Hall Jennip*