

CARAWAY, HATTIE W. (HOW)

100406

In reply please  
refer to: 2879

JUL 15 1944

My dear Senator:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 24, 1944, with which you enclosed a letter from Mr. Kay D. McNeely of Dermott, Arkansas, suggesting the use of the Jerome Relocation Center as a haven for war refugees.

Arrangements have already been made for the recently announced Emergency Refugee Shelter to be set up at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, as described in the enclosed documents.

I shall be grateful if you will convey to Mr. McNeely our sincere appreciation of the spirit of interest and cooperation prompting the suggestion contained in his letter which is returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Honorable Hattie W. Caraway,  
Hotel Marion,  
Little Rock, Arkansas.

Enclosure.

Jerome Relocation  
Camps.

EBT JH  
MBTowler:agr 7-13-44

Original signed by  
J. W. Pehle

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

June 24, 1944

Hotel Marion - Little Rock, Arkansas

2879

THE WHITE HOUSE

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*ackd  
6/27/44  
HWH*

*Wor*

The President  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am enclosing a letter from Hon. Kay D. McNeely, regarding the use of the Jerome Relocation Camp at Dermott for European Refugees of War.

If you will have proper reference made to this communication I will appreciate it.

Sincerely,

*Hattie W. Caraway*

encl.

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED  
FOR CONSIDERATION

*William D. Harrell*  
Secretary to the President

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UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

Dermott Ark. June 3d, 1944

Senator Hattie W. Caraway,  
Washington,  
D. C.

Dear Senator Caraway:

I heard over the Radio last night that the President said that the United States would take care of a number of the European Refugee of War, that they could be housed in one of the War abandoned Camps. We have the Jerome Relocation Camp at Denson Ark. 8 miles from Dermott, which I believe would be an ideal camp for same, you know of course that this camp will be closed this month, and so far as I know nothing is to be done with same, it would not require much expense to prepare same for the occupancy of the refugees.

This camp was built for a capacity of 10,000 people, has splendid Barracks for Living quarters, good mess halls in every block for preparing and serving meals, barracks for Baths, Laundry and sanitation, has a good supply of pure water, with first class water works and upto date sewer and disposal for a city of this size, streets are all graveled, as good a lighting system as can be found any where, a first class hospital. in fact this camp can be inhabited the day the Japanese are moved out.

I talked to a few of the leading business men here this morning and they have the same idea that I have that it would be the proper place for a refugee camp all ready to go. I wish you would contact the proper person or department and see what their reaction would be to the idea of turning this camp into a War refugee camp and let me know what you think the prospects would be, We really hate to see this fine camp not in use for thing pertaining to the prosecution of the War.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Kay D. McNeely  
• Kay D. McNeely  
Postmaster

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