

Embree, William L.

000941

In reply please
refer to: 2883

JUL 15 1944

Dear Mr. Embree:

I have your letter of June 26, 1944, requesting certain information concerning the admission of refugees to the United States.

As your first three questions regarding the number of refugees admitted to the United States since our declaration of war, their nationality, and their right to acquire property here, would appear to come within the purview of the Department of Justice, I suggest that you refer your request for information on these points to the Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.

For the information requested in your fourth question, I suggest that you communicate with the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

In replying to your last two questions, it is necessary to distinguish between persons entering this country under the regular immigration procedure and those to be given only temporary asylum in this country as refugees. The former include persons admitted on a permanent basis who acquire the rights and privileges of legal immigrants and persons admitted for limited periods under temporary visas; both of these groups are subject to applicable provisions of our immigration statutes.

In connection with the recently announced plan to give 1,000 refugees a temporary haven in this country, I am enclosing copies of the President's message to Congress on June 12, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum to the heads of the agencies concerned with the execution of the plan. You will note that these refugees will be brought to the United States outside of the regular immigration procedure, under arrange-

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Refer to Order of
8897 of 1937

ments similar to those by which civilian internees from Latin America and prisoners of war have been brought here. They will be placed in the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, under appropriate military security restrictions and will be returned to their homelands upon the termination of the war.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. William M. Embree,
1817 West 49th Street,
Kansas City, Missouri.

Enclosures.

E. L. H. *R. H. M. J. H.*
EBT:BBH:agr 7-13-44

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NATIONAL FIDELITY LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

W. RALPH JONES, PRESIDENT

HOME OFFICE - WALNUT AT TENTH

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

June 26th, 1944

W. R. B. _____
 Filing Authority _____
 To: Files _____
 Ans. 7/15/44 _____
 No. Ans. Req. _____
 Initial _____
 Date _____

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

Dear Sir:

An Associated Press article under the heading of June 21st, mentions the activity of the War Refugee Board and particularly your appearance before the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

There have been no concrete figures issued as far as I know pertaining to the matter of admitting refugees into this Country and the status or the basis of admittance where the same is considered to be a permanent or a temporary basis.

Would you please send me information dealing with the following points:

1. What are the total number of refugees admitted to this Country since our declaration of war.
2. What nationality or citizenship do these refugees hold.
3. Is a refugee, who is admitted to this Country, permitted to acquire property here.
4. Are refugees' subject to income tax assessed by the United States having such laws?
5. Are said refugee's admitted for a limited time and at the close of war will they be required to return to their native country?
6. If not, is their admittance, subject to the rules and regulations of the immigration department and does each refugee possess a visa as the basis of admittance here.

Yours truly,

Wm. L. Embree
 Wm. L. Embree
 Vice President, Treasurer

P. S. Please send your reply to my residence 1817 W. 49th St.,
 Kansas City, Mo.

WLE:em

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