

La Follette, Robert M., Jr (Gov.)

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SEP 22 1944

My dear Senator:

The Attorney General has referred to me your letter of September 6, 1944, with which you enclosed a letter addressed to you under date of August 10, 1944, by Mr. Curt Kanow, Milwaukee 1, Wisconsin, concerning the temporary admission of approximately a thousand refugees to the United States outside of the immigration laws.

I am enclosing a copy of my letter of today to Mr. Kanow, together with copies of the documents referred to therein. Mr. Kanow's letter to you is returned herewith in accordance with your request.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable Robert M. La Follette, Jr.,

United States Senate.

Enclosures.

EBT:bwler:agr 9-21-44

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SEP 22 1944

Dear Mr. Kanow:

Your letter of August 10, 1944, to Senator La Follette, concerning the temporary admission of refugees to the United States outside of the immigration laws, has been referred to me.

The only refugees who have been admitted to this country outside of the immigration laws are the 982 recently brought to the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, where they are being cared for under appropriate security restrictions until they can be returned to their own countries at the end of the war.

Details of the plan were set forth in the President's 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. The refugees involved were victims of enemy persecution who had fled from their homelands to Southern Italy, where they constituted a burden to our military forces in an active theater of war operations, and military necessity required some temporary disposition of them. They were brought to the United States outside of the regular immigration procedure under arrangements similar to those by which prisoners of war have been brought here for custody and by which civilian nationals of Germany, Italy, and Japan deported from Latin America were brought to this country for internment and ultimate repatriation to their own countries.

In reciting the legal basis for admitting refugees in this manner, the Attorney General held that, since these refugees were not permitted to enter the United States under the immigration laws, they obtained no rights to be at liberty in the country or to remain here, and that the procedure does not, therefore, involve setting aside the immigration statutes. He further stated:

"The propriety of temporarily detaining aliens in this country outside of the requirements of the immigration laws

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has been recognized for many years. One of the earliest instances of this practice occurred in the Russo-Japanese war when the crews of Russian war vessels were interned in the United States outside of the regular procedure under the immigration statutes For obvious reasons, this is a practice that can be followed only in exceptional circumstances.

"It may be pointed out that as an emergency matter these persons might be permitted to enter the United States under the immigration laws by waivers of documents by the Secretary of State and, if necessary, by waiver of grounds of inadmissibility by the Attorney General. It was believed more desirable, however, not to apply the immigration laws, which create various rights and privileges, but to deal with this group as we have with the prisoners of war and other Axis nationals who are admitted to this country temporarily and detained here outside, but not in violation of, the immigration laws."

Copies of the documents referred to in this letter are enclosed for your information.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Curt Kanow,
P. O. Box 747,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Enclosures

*Original signed
by Mr. Pehle*

EBT *WJM* *Jot*
EBTowler:agr 9-20-44

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EDWARD J. ENNIS
DIRECTOR

REPLY TO:
CMR/ml

Department of Justice
Alien Enemy Control Unit
Washington

September 15, 1944

War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

I enclose a letter dated September 6, 1944, from Senator Robert M. La Follette, Jr., with its attachment, and a copy of the Attorney General's reply dated September 15, 1944.

The Senator's inquiry being concerned with matters within the jurisdiction of the Board, I am referring the letter to you for whatever disposition you care to make of it.

Very truly yours,

Edward J. Ennis
Edward J. Ennis
Director

Enclosures

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September 18, 1944

Senator Robert M. La Follette, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

Your letter of September 6, 1944, addressed to Mr. Edward J. Shaughnessy of the Immigration and Naturalization Service and enclosing a letter addressed to you by Mr. Curt Kanow of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, commenting upon the admission of refugees into the United States, has been submitted to my attention.

Since this matter is one which falls within the competence of the War Refugee Board composed of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Treasury, I am referring your letter to the Board for reply. The individuals referred to in Mr. Kanow's letter were not admitted under the Immigration Laws which are administered by this Department.

Sincerely,

Attorney General

United States Senate

Washington, D. C., Sept. 6, 1964

Respectfully referred to

Mr. Edward J. Shaughnessy
939 D Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

The communication attached deals with a matter of concern to your office.

It would be very helpful if you would have someone on your staff reply directly to this person.

Kindly return the attached papers to me with a copy of the reply made.

Respectfully,


Robert M. La Follette, Jr. ^{U.S.S.}

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Y

CURT KANOW
P.O. Box 747
Milwaukee 1, Wisconsin

8/10/44

Dear Senator --

What are you doing to stop the utter disregard
of our laws on the part of our President with regard
to our immigration laws.

Please get busy and stop any further influx
of refugees.

Please do something and let me hear from you --

Sincerely,

(Sgd.) Curt Kanow

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