

MILLEN, T. E.

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In reply please  
refer to: 3372

NOV 17 1944

Dear Mr. Miller:

I have your letter of October 27, 1944, requesting information as to the number of refugees in the United States at the present time.

In replying to your question it is necessary to distinguish between persons entering this country under the regular immigration procedure and those given 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. Information concerning the number of persons so admitted would fall within the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The only refugees admitted temporarily to the United States outside of the regular immigration procedure are the 982 recently brought to the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. As indicated in the enclosed documents, these persons, who had fled from their homelands to Southern Italy where they constituted a burden to our military forces, were brought to the United States outside of the regular immigration procedure, under arrangements similar to those by which civilian internees from Latin America and prisoners of war have been brought here. These refugees will be cared for in the shelter under appropriate security restrictions until they can be returned to their own countries at the end of the war.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. T. E. Miller,  
Executive Vice-President,  
The Shaw - Walker Company,  
405 Lexington Avenue,  
New York 17, New York.

RBH Hutchison:inp 11/16/44

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To: Files  
Ans. 11-17-44  
Date

October 27th, 1944

United States Government  
War Refugee Board  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Director of War Refugee Board

Gentlemen:

Could you possibly tell us how many refugees there are in  
the United States at present?

Very truly yours,

*T. E. Miller*  
Executive Vice-President

T. E. MILLER  
gm

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