

MOTT, James W. (How.)

000220

In reply please  
refer to: 3229

AUG 18 1944

My dear Mr. Mott:

Mr. Edward J. Ennis, Director of Alien Enemy Control Unit, Department of Justice, has referred to me your letter of July 21, 1944, requesting information concerning the admission of refugees to the United States outside the quota system.

I presume you have by now received my letter of August 3, in answer to your letter of July 21, to the Board regarding the same subject. You may be interested to know that the 984 refugees referred to in my letter arrived at the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, on August 5, 1944.

If we can be of any further service to you in this matter, please do not hesitate to call on us again.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Honorable James W. Mott,  
House of Representatives.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

EBT

RBH Hutchison 8-12-44

100221

EDWARD J. ENNIS  
DIRECTOR

REPLY TO:

3229

Department of Justice

Alien Enemy Control Unit

Washington

August 7, 1944

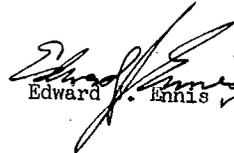
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Ans. 8/18/44 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

War Refugee Board  
Treasury Department  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs:

I enclose a letter dated July 21 from Congressman James W. Mott, together with a copy of the Attorney General's reply dated August 5, 1944. Since the Congressman's inquiry concerns 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

000222

JAMES W. MOTT  
1st DISTRICT  
OREGON

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Salem, Oregon  
July 21, 1944

Hon. Francis Biddle,  
The Attorney General,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Biddle:

Mr. D. M. McDade, State Commander, American Legion, Department of Oregon, has inquired (relative to the opening of ports of entry for refugees which are being admitted to this country outside the quota system.)

For the purpose of answering this inquiry, I will appreciate it if you will furnish me a statement covering the number of refugees admitted to date outside the quotas, the number proposed to be admitted, the basis upon which they are being admitted, and the statutory authority for their admission.

The Secretary of State advises me that these matters fall within the competence of the Department of Justice and the War Refugee Board which has recently been charged by the President with overall responsibility for the transfer of refugees to the United States.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am,

Very cordially yours,

*James W. Mott*  
JAMES W. MOTT  
131 New Bligh Building  
Salem, Oregon

JWM/b

RECORD

39-012-11

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
AUG 3 1944
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
ATTORNEY GENERAL
ALIEN ENEMY UNIT

FILES DIVISION  
JUL 28 9 05 AM '44  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

M. W. Q.

HOME ADDRESS:  
SALEM, OREGON

COMMITTEES:  
NAVAL AFFAIRS  
PUBLIC LANDS  
ROADS

BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION  
AND NATURALIZATION

RECEIVED  
JUL 27 1944  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

000223

August 7, 1944

War Refugee Board  
Treasury Department  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs:

I enclose a letter dated July 21 from Congressman James W. Mott, together with a copy of the Attorney General's reply dated August 5, 1944. Since the Congressman's inquiry concerns 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

000224

August 5, 1944

Honorable James W. Wott  
141 New Bligh Building  
Salem, Oregon

Dear Congressman Wott:

I have your letter of July 21 stating that the Secretary of State advises you that the opening of ports of entry for refugees admitted outside the quotas falls within the competence of this Department and the War Refugee Board, and requesting a statement covering the number of refugees admitted or proposed for admission and the basis and statutory authority for their admission.

This matter 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, and I am referring your letter to the Board for reply. The individuals involved are not being admitted under the immigration laws which are administered by this Department.

Sincerely

Attorney General

100225

AUG 3 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 3109

My dear Mr. Mott:

I have your letter of July 21, 1944, requesting information concerning the admission of refugees to the United States outside the quota system.

In replying to your questions, it is necessary to distinguish between persons entering this country under the regular immigration procedure with temporary visas and those brought temporarily to the United States outside of the regular immigration procedure. Information concerning the former would fall within the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

To date no refugees have been admitted temporarily to the United States outside of the regular immigration procedure. In connection with your question as to the number proposed to be admitted, it is expected that in the next few days 984 refugees will be brought to the United States in this manner.

Regarding the basis upon which they are being admitted, I am enclosing copies of the President's message to Congress on June 12, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned with the execution of the plan. You will note that these refugees are being brought to the United States under arrangements similar to those by which civilian internees from Latin America and prisoners of war have been brought here. They will be placed in the shelter at Fort Ontario under appropriate security restrictions and will be returned to their homelands upon the termination of the war.

With respect to the authority under which these refugees are being brought here, I am advised that the Attorney General recently replied to an inquiry along similar lines as follows:

".....The propriety of temporarily detaining aliens in this country outside of the requirements of the immigration laws has been recognized for many years. One of the earliest instances of this practice occurred in the Russo-Japanese war

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when the crews of Russian war vessels were interned in the United States outside of the regular procedure under the immigration statutes. A recent illustration of the practice is afforded by the case of the German, Italian and Japanese nationals who have been deported by Latin American countries to the United States under an arrangement whereby they are interned in this country and will ultimately be repatriated to their own countries. Similarly, prisoners of war brought here for custody do not enter under the immigration laws and they obtain no right to remain here or to be at liberty within the country. For obvious reasons, this is a practice that can be followed only in exceptional circumstances.

".....the President's message to Congress, dated June 12, 1944, .....indicates that the present proposal relates to a particular group of persons who are now a burden on our military forces in an active theater of war operations and that military necessity requires some temporary disposition of them. 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."

Very truly yours,

*(Signature)* J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Honorable James W. Mott,  
~~131 New High Building,~~  
Salem, Oregon.

Enclosures.

Note: Letter sent to  
House of Representatives

*Original signed by*  
*Gen. Friedman*

*EST* *RM* *JH*

RBHutchison:agr 7-31-44

000227

JAMES W. MOTT  
1st DISTRICT  
OREGON

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

3109

HOME ADDRESS:  
S. E. OREGON  
W. M. M.  
Filing Authority  
NAVY AFFAIRS  
To: Price  
ROADS  
Ans. 8/13/44  
No. Ans. Req.  
Initial  
Date

Salem, Oregon  
July 21, 1944

War Refugee Board,  
Department of the Treasury Building,  
Washington, D. C.

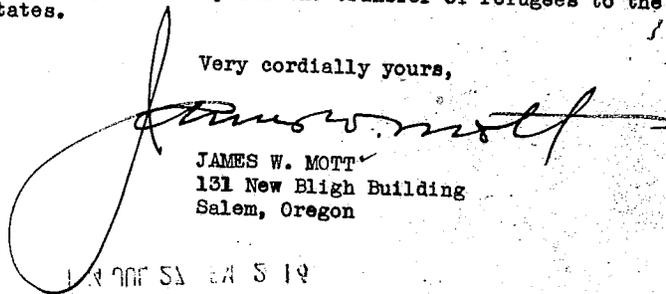
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The Secretary of State advises me that these matters fall within the competence of the Department of Justice and the War Refugee Board which has recently been charged by the President with overall responsibility for the transfer of refugees to the United States.

Very cordially yours,



JAMES W. MOTT  
131 New Bligh Building  
Salem, Oregon

JWM/b

JUL 21 1944

WASHINGTON D.C.  
MR. GEORGE BOYD  
RECEIVED

000228