

REPORT PREPARED BY MISS M. INCEBORD OLSEN,
ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES COMMITTEE
FOR THE CARE OF EUROPEAN CHILDREN

Refugee children who have been brought to the United States by the German-Jewish Children's Aid and later by the United States Committee for the Care of European Children may be grouped in two sections. The first came during the period from November, 1934 to 1941 on the corporate affidavit of the German-Jewish Children's Aid. Those who followed, in June, 1941 and later have been sponsored by the United States Committee. The earlier children came directly from their own homes and native lands while the latter group had already become refugees to countries other than their own and were being persecuted and driven from those temporary shelters. Therefore, since we thought there might be a significant difference in adjustment as related to experiences preceding evacuation and recognized the difficulty in evaluating adjustment too soon after arrival, it was felt advisable to keep the evaluation separate. Interestingly enough, however, findings indicate that the trends in the second group flow along the same lines as those of the earlier groups. We feel that this is significant also in that it can be anticipated that future groups will have experienced the same influences which have effected those children who are part of the latter group here reviewed.

From the total group of Continental children who were brought to the United States under the corporate affidavit of the United States Committee during the period between June, 1941 and July, 1942, a sample number of cases which represent only a section of the activities of the United States Committee have been selected for review. Although many more children have subsequently come here, it was considered best to confine this brief survey of adjustments to those children who have been in the United States for not less than a year and a half. An estimate of adjustment before that much time has elapsed seems (to us) invalid.

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We can reasonably suppose, however, that after almost two years in a new country a child has found his bearings through a grasp of language and customs to such a degree that we can expect him to have lost much of his early fear and strangeness. He has had a chance to forget a good deal of his hardship and anxiety and to learn through a substitute family and community a degree of security and safety, which would permit him to be himself. Such a period of adjustment would be essential with any uprooted child who has had to find his way in a new setting, but is doubly true with the children in this group, most of whom were entirely separated from family and friends. They had seen and had, themselves, experienced the cruel treatment of invading armies and were seeking refuge whatever it might be. In most instances there were no parents to say whether or not they should come to the United States. The children were on their own.

The problem of placement was weighted, therefore, by the fact that preceding their arrival here these children had had injurious and narrowing experiences.

Under the supervision of the European-Jewish Children's Aid, cooperating in the placement and supervision of them, these boys and girls were placed with private families or relatives, their placements being worked out by local children's agencies approved by the United States Children's Bureau for cooperation with the United States Committee. Regular reports from these agencies on the progress of the children form the basis for the following statements:

One hundred and thirty-five records were studied. Of these 135, 81 were boys and 54 girls. Their ages on admission ranged from 6 to 16, with 50% falling between the ages of 10 through 12. Only 14 had not reached their tenth birthday on arrival in the United States.

School reports indicate that for the most part these children are up to the grade level appropriate to their age. A very small percentage have made poor school adjustments, the majority of the group being reported as doing fair or better than fair work, with almost 1/4 showing outstanding achievement. One has graduated from college; 2 now attend. Two boys have reached an age where they might join the United States Army. A small number are employed, but attend evening school.

if they have not completed their educational requirements or graduated from high school. Only a few are old enough to have finished high school.

Social adjustment, as applied to the present adaptation of the child to his home and general surroundings, has been reported good or unusual in about 2/3 of the cases, while only a very small number have shown outstandingly poor ability to settle into their new environment. The basis for these maladjustments seem to lie in deeply entrenched emotional difficulties which have been brought on or intensified by the especially strenuous experiences the children have lived through.

The health of these children has been good. However, there have been a few instances in which special medical problems have developed. Endocrine disturbances have been noted in 1 or 3 cases while cardiac conditions have shown up in 2 children. Malnutrition on arrival and poor teeth have been the most noteworthy health problems. A few children have needed psychiatric treatment.

For the most part the whereabouts of the parents of these children are presently unknown. Some were definitely known to be dead at the time of the children's immigration. One parent of all the group, a step-father, has been able to join his child in the United States.

Generally speaking, then, these children have shown in their health, school and social adjustment a particularly good ability to adapt themselves to their new surroundings. The number of children who have shown serious social or school maladjustment has been relatively small while extraordinary medical and dental problems have been minor.

NRS
NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK 13, N. Y.

May 8, 1944

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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Leon C. Sunstein
Louis S. Weiss
Jonah B. Wise
Executive Committee

Joseph E. Beck
Executive Director

Mr. Albert Abrahamson
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Dear Jim:

Enclosed are four copies of William Green's letter. We supplied it to about twenty-five commentators and to all of the morning papers. It was mailed from Philadelphia today.

Keep your fingers crossed! I have just come from an appointment which may get us editorial comment in every Hearst newspaper in the United States within the next week.

You will want to supply a copy of the enclosed letter to Weinstein.

Sincerely,

Ephraim R. Gomberg
Ephraim R. Gomberg

ERG:rk
Enc.

A DECADE OF REFUGEE AID IN AMERICA

War Relief Control Board Reg. No. 570

000587

Hotel Adelphia
Philadelphia, Pa.,
May 8, 1944.

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States,
The White House, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Permit me to call your attention to a resolution adopted by the American Federation of Labor at its last convention which was held during October 1943. As you will no doubt recall, the millions of men and women who compose the rank and file of the American Federation of Labor membership went on record urging the United States to grant at least temporary asylum to the victims of Hitler's bestial persecution. The term "free port" had not been coined at that time but the sentiment of the membership was and is nonetheless synonymous with the proposal.

I quote the following section from Resolution No. 73 which was adopted at the convention: "To this end, the American Federation of Labor calls upon the United Nations to take immediate steps to rescue the remaining Jews of occupied Europe. We call upon the United Nations, and our own country, to provide for them temporary havens in their territories".

I am writing at this time because I have learned that the War Refugee Board which you established recently is interested in what is referred to as the "free port" plan. Please be advised that I fully and unreservedly support this program of rescue for refugees. I urge you to effect the realization of this humanitarian measure, which is really a small undertaking for a nation as great as ours. We are feeding, clothing and housing over 130,000 captured Nazis while at the same time we have made no move in the direction of alleviating the suffering of at least a small fraction of that number.

I understand that tiny Switzerland, despite its neutrality and hazardous geographical position on the map of Europe, has welcomed to its territory a far greater number of men and women driven out by the Nazis than might be expected of her. These refugees live in camps and are permitted much more freedom of movement than the original "free port" suggestion calls for.

I am proud to know that a great many newspapers in our country have published editorials supporting this proposal. It is encouraging to note that the carnage in which mankind at present finds itself engaged on a world-wide scale has not lessened the American's traditional sympathetic and humane attitude toward his fellow men.

I urge you, Mr. President, in my own name and in the name of all the members of the American Federation of Labor to cause the creation of "free ports" in this country for refugee victims of the cruel war - now, before it is too late. Such action on your part, I believe, will clear the way for similar action in other parts of the Allied and neutral world.

Sincerely yours,
(signed) William Green
President,
American Federation of Labor.

100589

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Philadelphia, Pa.,
May 8, 1944.

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President of the United States,
The White House, Washington, D.C.

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Sincerely yours,
(signed) William Green
President,
American Federation of Labor.

000590

MRS
NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK 13, N. Y.

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Louis S. Weiss
Jonah B. Wise
Executive Committee

Joseph E. Beck
Executive Director

April 27, 1944

Mr. Albert Abrahamson
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jim:

Thank you very much for the conferences you arranged and for the time you gave me. I am sure it must have been a sacrifice.

Apropos the Nathan and Fanny Loewenstein matter, I am quoting from a memorandum sent to me by Mr. Rosenwald:

"The following excerpt from a letter by my lawyer from Mr. Gordon P. Merriam, Chief of the Division of Near Eastern Affairs, Department of State (Washington), under date of March 25, 1944, may be of interest to you:

"I might add, however, that the War Refugee Board, Treasury Building, Washington, D.C. is fully informed regarding the conditions under which refugees may transit Turkish territory, and your client might find it to his advantage to address the War Refugee Board in this connection."

Thank you again for all your help.

Sincerely,

Ann S. Petluck
Ann S. Petluck, Director
Migration Department

ASP:VG

A DECADE OF REFUGEE AID IN AMERICA

War Relief Control Board Reg. No. 570

000591

NRS

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK 13, N. Y.

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Jonah B. Wise
Executive Committee

Joseph E. Beck
Executive Director

April 21, 1944

Mr. Albert Abrahamson
War Refugee Board
Room 288¹/₂, Main Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Jim:

Bill Rosenwald and I are arranging to come to Washington on Thursday, April 27 to see Mr. Pehle at 2:30 P.M. that day. I told Charlie Riegelman that you had made the appointment for us and he was most appreciative. He sends you his kindest regards.

I'm looking forward to seeing you.

Cordially,

Joe
Joseph E. Beck

From Abrahamson file

A DECADE OF REFUGEE AID IN AMERICA.

War Relief Control Board Reg. No. 570

000592

524
Cables: NACOMREF, New York

NRS
NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK CITY

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. _____
No. Ans. Req. JK
Initial EB
Date 4/19/44

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Wolfgang S. Schwabacher
Leon C. Sunstein
Janah B. Wise
Samuel Walchock

Joseph E. Beck
Executive Director

March 28, 1944

Mr. J. W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle: In reply to: 338

At the suggestion of several members of our Executive Committee we have asked the United States Committee for the Care of European Children to join with us in sending a report on the children who have been brought into this country on their corporate affidavit as well as the corporate affidavit of the European Jewish Children's Aid. I talked with Miss Olsen, Director of the United States Committee, this morning and she was very much interested. Our material is being correlated now and I hope that the material which is already in the office of the United States Committee can be correlated quickly so that the joint report will be forthcoming shortly.

Sincerely yours,
Joseph E. Beck
Joseph E. Beck

AIDS AMERICA'S NEWCOMERS... AIDS AMERICA

000593

1530 - 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

7B5

March 20, 1944.

Dear Stanley:

Thank you very much for sending me the memorandum which you prepared in 1940 dealing with a proposed plan of colonies for refugees in this country. We are studying it carefully in connection with our own tentative thinking on the matter of a similar plan.

I note your kind offer to be of help and you may be sure we shall call on you when the proper occasion arises.

Cordially yours,

Albert Abrahamson,

Mr. Stanley M. Isaacs,
475 Fifth Avenue,
New York 17, N. Y.

From: Albert Abrahamson
files

000594

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

Thursday, March 16, 1944
3:00 P.M.

122 East 42 Street
New York City

The Executive Committee of National Refugee Service, Inc. held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 16, 1944, at 3:00 o'clock, at the office of Mr. William Rosenwald, 122 East 42 Street, New York City.

The following were present:

Eugene L. Ach
Richard S. Goldman
Mrs. Walter A. Hirsch
Stanley M. Isaacs
Alexander S. Keller
Mrs. David M. Levy

Edwin Rosenberg
William Rosenwald
Wolfgang S. Schwabacher
Leon C. Sunstein
Jonah B. Wise

Also:

Albert Abrahamson
Joseph E. Beck
I. Edwin Goldwasser

Irma Graff
Sidney Hollander

The following were not present:

Alexander E. Arnstein
Walter H. Bieringer
Herman W. Block
Joseph P. Chamberlain
Monroe Goldwater
Harry Greenstein
William Haber
Adolph Held
Joseph C. Hyman

Carlos L. Israels
Mrs. Henry M. Ittleson
Stanley J. Kann
Milton W. King
Theodore Levin
Clarence E. Pickett
Charles A. Riegelman
Louis S. Weiss

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee held on February 17 were approved.

RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF MICHAEL G. APPEL

The Executive Committee noted with deep regret the passing of Michael G. Appel, a member of the Board of Directors of National Refugee Service. On motion made, seconded and carried, the Committee authorized that a resolution to this effect be entered in the records, and a copy be sent to the family of the late Mr. Appel.

Mrs. Abrahamson files

000595

REPORT ON MEETING WITH MR. JOHN W. PEHLE,
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Mr. Beck reported on a meeting which Professor Chamberlain and he had with Mr. John W. Pehle, Acting Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, on Thursday, February 24. Attached is a copy of the Minutes of that meeting.

In connection with the report on the experiences of the European-Jewish Children's Aid which Mr. Beck indicated he would sent to Mr. Pehle, Mrs. Levy suggested that there would be value in submitting a joint report of the United States Committee for the Care of European Children and the E.J.C.A., including the experiences with the British children, rather than only a report of the experiences of the E.J.C.A. After discussing the matter, it was the sense of the meeting that we should include any material which can be obtained from the U.S. Committee without unduly delaying submission of the report.

With regard to the question of "internment camps" in the United States for people brought over in groups, the Executive Committee instructed Mr. Beck, when he informs Mr. Pehle of the results of the inquiry he will make in this connection on his visits to communities in the next few weeks, to indicate that the Committee sees no serious objection to this suggestion, provided the camps are used as an additional and last resort for rescuing persecuted persons from occupied territories in Europe.

REPORT ON NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON POST-WAR IMMIGRATION POLICY

Mr. Rosenwald reported that at the last meeting of the Executive Committee, a sum was appropriated to the National Committee on Post-War Immigration Policy, not to exceed \$2,500 toward the budget of that organization for a period of the first six months after its inception, subject to such safeguards as may be suggested by counsel. Mr. Rosenwald indicated that the matter had been discussed with counsel and the appropriation will, accordingly, be sent to the Committee.

REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH FEDERATION AGENCIES

Mr. Goldwasser briefly reviewed the progress of the negotiations with Federation concerning local-national responsibility. He reported that a program had been worked out with Mr. Waldemar Kops, Chairman of the Federation Sub-Committee, which Mr. Kops had presented to the Federation group. The program in brief states that N.R.S. will continue to provide relief and employment service for refugees until they have reached the five-year period of residence in this country. At the five-year mark these persons are to be referred to the Jewish Social Service Association and the Jewish Family Welfare Society of Brooklyn and will no longer be the responsibility of N.R.S.

Several meetings have been held with the J.S.S.A. representatives and with representatives of the Jewish Family Welfare Society of Brooklyn, looking toward the accomplishment of this program. At these discussions, it was indicated that N.R.S. would be willing to turn over cases approaching five-year residence in the United States six months or a year in advance of the five-year period, so that the Federation agencies could familiarize themselves with those cases prior to that time. N.R.S. would reimburse the Federation agencies for the cost of carrying these cases during the period between the transfer of the case and the time it reached the five-year mark.

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Mr. Goldwasser indicated that the question of cost for cases which may be transferred prior to the five-year mark is now under discussion. J.S.S.A., through Federation, submitted its estimate. J.S.S.A. requests \$27. per case per month; \$14 as direct cost and \$13 as indirect cost. The latter is the cost per case for overhead. Mr. Goldwasser stated that he agrees with Mr. Beck that there is no justification for the inclusion of the indirect cost, since the overhead would not be increased by the transfer of these cases, and has so indicated to the Federation Sub-Committee. Mr. Goldwasser pointed out to the Federation Sub-Committee that while the direct cost is higher than the N.R.S. figure for direct cost, it is not excessive. Dr. Hexter had informed Mr. Goldwasser on the telephone, prior to the meeting of the Federation Sub-Committee, that after a year's experience it could be determined which of the indirect items were really applicable to the situation and should be continued. Mr. Goldwasser replied to Dr. Hexter that this arrangement would not be satisfactory to him and he would not recommend its approval to the Budget Committee of N.R.S.

Mr. Goldwasser stated that in the course of the discussion at the Federation Sub-Committee meeting, it was felt that there should be an analysis of the items in both the estimate from J.S.S.A. and the one from N.R.S. Mr. Goldwasser indicated that he was sure that N.R.S. would have no objection to such an analysis. The question was raised as to which agency will bear the cost of relief for a case that has reached the five-year period for the time between the date of the five-year anniversary and the receipt from the City of relief, since there is usually a three to six-week wait after application is made. Mr. Goldwasser informed the Federation Sub-Committee that in his opinion he felt it was reasonable to request that this cost be borne by N.R.S., with the understanding, of course, that applications be made to the City promptly, so that N.R.S. would be assured of a minimum waiting period. Mr. Beck stated that his objection to N.R.S. paying the interim relief is that by so doing, the agency disregards the idea that after five years residence in the United States a person ceases to be a refugee. Further, that the payment of such interim relief implies participation of N.R.S. in the transfer of these cases to public relief. He would favor paying for all of these cases for an additional three to six weeks rather than just for those waiting to be transferred to the public rolls.

After careful consideration, a motion was made, seconded and carried that N.R.S. is willing to assume only additional costs that J.S.S.A. or Brooklyn J.F.W.S. may have in taking over the cases under five years which are now under discussion.

The consensus was that the payment of a small amount for the original cases over five years which are to be turned over to public relief should not stand in the way of arriving at an agreement. However, it is desirable that any such payment should not directly relate to the principle of turning over cases to public relief.

WORKING FUND RESERVE

Mr. Rosenwald reported that the working fund reserve has been found inadequate and, by instruction of the officers, has been increased. On motion made, seconded and carried, this act of the officers was ratified.

000597

REPORT ON COMMUNICATIONS AND MEETING WITH THE
NRS CHAPTER OF THE SOCIAL SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION

Mr. Beck reported that correspondence had been received from the N.R.S. Chapter of the Social Service Employees Union asking for a meeting with the Executive Committee to discuss the question of the transfer of the local cases to Federation agencies. After discussing the matter with several of the officers, Mr. Beck informed the Union that this subject is not within the area of negotiations with the Union, but rather within the area of participation of staff; a meeting was arranged with the Negotiations Committee of the Union to clarify this issue. The Negotiations Committee agreed that the subject was not one for negotiation, but the committee would have liked to meet with the Executive Committee in order to express the following points:

1. that NRS should not delegate responsibility for a definite policy on public agency referrals on cases after five years.
2. if there is to be any transfer of caseload, it should be a complete transfer and not a partial transfer, since the former would be preferable for the staff.

It was agreed, as a result of the meeting with the Negotiations Committee, that an Administration-Union committee would be appointed to work out an orderly plan for the disposition of N.R.S. staff.

SELF-HELP AND FUND-RAISING

Mr. Beck presented a letter which Self-Help has circulated for the purpose of raising funds for rescue work abroad, which had been brought to the attention of N.R.S. by Mr. Henry Bernstein of the Greater New York U.J.A. The question of what responsibility N.R.S. has in respect to duplication of operations by agencies which it subventions wholly or in part, when a portion of the operations of such agencies duplicates either existing functions of N.R.S. or of the other agencies within the U.J.A., was raised.

After a brief discussion, it was felt that no action should be taken at this time, and the Executive Director was asked to explain the situation to Mr. Bernstein.

Although there were several other items on the agenda, since it was late, the meeting was adjourned.

4/7/44

000598

NR 8

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 Centre Street
New York City

March 14, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle, Acting Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

You will recall that at the conference Professor Chamberlain and I had with you in behalf of National Refugee Service on February 24, you requested further information on two subjects:

1. the experience which we had with the internees from Central and South America at Seagoville, Texas and Camp Algiers, New Orleans.
2. an analysis of the results of the work with the children of the European-Jewish Children's Aid.

We are attaching a brief statement regarding Central and South American internees. A further report regarding the actual adjustment status of the persons referred to in the report will be coming in to us within the next ten days from the various communities in which the persons are now living. A summary of this can be made available to you if it will be useful.

The report on the children should be ready in about ten days or two weeks. We have been in touch with the principal communities in which the children are placed and the data regarding the children is now being assembled.

We would like to reiterate the statement which we made to the War Refugee Board prior to your appointment as its Director. The National Refugee Service, as the largest American agency dealing with refugees in the United States, stands ready to be of help to you and the Board in your program of rescuing persecuted peoples. Our resources and experiences within the United States and those of our cooperating Committees in hundreds of communities throughout the country are available to you and your Board for all refugees who are admitted to the United States either temporarily or permanently.

We are informally gathering sentiment from leaders of local communities regarding their feeling as to "internment camps in the United States" -- camps in which persons might be established pending security investigation. We realize that this is, at this point, only a vague idea.

000599

March 14, 1944

Dear Mr. [Name]:

On this occasion, we are pleased to advise you that you have been selected to receive the next large amount of money to be distributed to the mid-western states. In our opinion, you are the best qualified person to receive this money and I would be glad to have you call your local community center for more information. My name is [Name] and I am the National Director.

Sincerely,
Joseph E. Beck

000600

NRS
NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK CITY

*We know of no way
Ref. Cross
Message
NRS*

March 14, 1944

**OFFICERS AND
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- Joseph P. Chamberlain
Chairman of the Board
- William Rosenwald
President
- Charles A. Riegelman
*Vice-President and
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Secretary
- Walter H. Bieringer
Herman W. Block
Samuel A. Goldsmith
I. Edwin Goldwasser
Monroe Goldwater
Harry Greenstein
Joel Gross
William Haber
Mrs. Waller A. Hirsch
Joseph C. Hyman
Stanley M. Isaacs
Mrs. Henry Itleson
Alexander S. Keller
Milton W. King
Peter I. B. Lavan
Mrs. David M. Levy
Clarence E. Pickett
Edwin Rosenberg
Wolfgang S. Schwabacher
Leon C. Sunstein
Jonah B. Wise
Samuel Wolchok
- Joseph E. Beck
Executive Director

Mr. Albert Abrahamson
1530 - 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jim:

I am taking the liberty of writing to you before sending an official communication to the War Refugee Board. I hope you won't mind. Mr. Beck thought it might be well to check with you first on it since Mr. Pehle had mentioned to him that the War Refugee Board would not be considering individual cases.

The problem I have in mind is an individual case but I think it will tie up with a group movement which the War Refugee Board might have under consideration. Relatives of Mr. William Rosenwald residing in the United States wrote to him recently asking him to prepare a letter addressed to the Turkish Consul in Chicago and to the Turkish Consulate in Washington, in behalf of relatives now in Theresienstadt. The names of the persons abroad are:

Nathan and Fanny Loewenstein
c/o Juedische Komitee fuer Theresienstadt
Philipp, de Montygasse 18,
Prav V. An die Postnachsendestelle
Theresienstadt.

They are in possession of valid Palestinian visas. Their sons, who are in Palestine, have been attempting for some time to facilitate their immigration to that country. The one obstacle is obtaining a transit visa through Turkey. Mr. Rosenwald had asked us to prepare the letter to the Turkish Consulate. We discovered that the Turkish Consul in Chicago was merely a honorary consul--an American citizen--and that there would not be much value in sending this letter. However, a letter was prepared for him addressed to His Excellency, Mehmet Munir Ertegun at the Turkish Consulate in Washington.

I question whether an individual letter such as this will have any value. JDC thought it might be able to work it out through Lisbon.

New Abrahamson files

AIDS AMERICA'S NEWCOMERS... AIDS AMERICA

000601

Mr. Edward Popper, New York
Joseph S. Politzer, New York
Joseph M. Prosser, New York
Joseph L. Ruddy, New York
Michael J. Ruddy, New York
Udover Katsman, Washington, D. C.
Stacey J. Rich, New York
Helen J. Rich, New York
Mr. Maurice B. Rich, New York
Mr. Charles A. Reynolds, New York
Miss Rebecca E. Adams, New York

Mr. Albert Abrahamson

- 2 -

It is my feeling, however, that the best source would be the War Refugee Board. I understand that there is a project under consideration for the transfer of persons from Theresienstadt. Do you think it would be a good plan to forward this material to Mr. Pehle or will this letter suffice?

Thank you for this and other kindnesses.

Sincerely,

Ann S. Petluck, Director
Migration Department

ASP:VG

air mail - special delivery

000602

NRS

NRS

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK CITY

March 7, 1944

OFFICERS AND
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Chairman of the Board

William Rosenwald
President

Charles A. Riegelman
Vice-President and
Chairman of the
Executive Committee

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Daniel E. Koshland
David H. Sulzberger
Paul Felix Warburg
David M. Wolchmaker
Henry Wineman

Morris Wolf
Vice-Presidents

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Treasurer

Alexander E. Arnstein
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Secretary

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Clarence E. Pickett
Edwin Rosenberg
Wolfgang S. Schwabacher
Leon C. Sunstein
Jonah B. Wise
Samuel Wolchock

Joseph E. Beck
Executive Director

John Marsalka

Mr. Albert Abrahamson
1530-16 Street-NW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jim:

I assume that you know in a general way about the National Study of Refugee Adjustment which is now being organized. Four agencies - The Christian Committee, Friends, Catholic Committee and U. S. Committee for the Care of European Children - have agreed to join with NRS in sponsoring this project. A Sponsoring Committee of prominent citizens is now being formed as well as a Steering Committee of a dozen or fifteen persons who will be responsible for active supervision of the project.

It is contemplated that the actual study itself will be directed by a professional research person, with the assistance of a small staff. Since the study is to be national in scope, it is likely that much of the data will have to be gathered thru agencies in various communities with the study staff itself making an intensive survey of two or three cities. However, all of this is very tentative since it is recognized that the final form and method will have to be largely shaped by the study director.

The Steering Committee, of which Alvin Johnson has just accepted the chairmanship, will meet on Wednesday, March 15, and one of its first tasks will be the selection of the study director. I have been serving as secretary to the project during this organizational phase and am currently trying to line up possible candidates and information about them. Broadly speaking, it seems to me that the kind of person required is one who has had experience in organizing and directing social research, who knows something about social work and social agencies, although he himself need not be a social worker, who is able to organize a project in such a way that it can be completed in a limited time (we visualize that this study should take no more than a year) and who is a facile and competent writer.

Can you think of anyone who might be qualified and available for this job? Preferably, it should be a full time person although in a pinch we might consider a part time director

Alvin Johnson
plus

AIDS AMERICA'S NEWCOMERS... AIDS AMERICA

000603

Mr. Albert Abrahamson

page 2

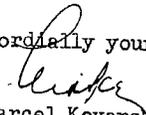
March 7, 1944

combined with a good full time assistant. The salary has not been fixed but we are looking for a top notch person.

I am enclosing a very tentative outline of purpose and content which was prepared some months ago. The details are, of course, subject to change but I thought this might be useful if you should have occasion to speak to anyone about the study.

I shall appreciate any suggestions which you are able to make. If any aspect is not clear or if you have any further questions, just let me know and I shall try to answer them.

Cordially yours,


Marcel Kovarsky
Administrative Assistant

MK:BD

P.S. How are you enjoying your new job?

000604

A PROPOSED NATIONAL STUDY OF THE ADJUSTMENT OF REFUGEES

I. Purpose: To determine the degree of economic and social adjustment of the refugees who have entered the U. S. within the last ten years, to ascertain their special contributions to American culture and economy in order to counteract misconceptions and the growing manifestations of anti-immigration sentiment.

"Among various groups throughout the country--both organized and unorganized--there has stemmed a growing anti-immigration bias...."

"Strong factors are attempting to destroy the traditional ideology of the United States as a haven for refugees and a country to which immigrants shall continue to come. We believe that a study which will show what has happened to persons who have recently come into the country as immigrants and what these persons have given to U.S. will be helpful in providing factual evidence proving the values of immigration and the immigrants."

II. Scope: To include all refugees (from racial, religious and political Nazi persecution) for whom organized sources of information are available. To limit the inquiry to objective manifestations and not get into psychological and emotional factors.

III. Content:

A. Background:

1. A general statement of the attitudes the refugees brought with them and how these were met and interpreted - the techniques and processes developed to handle their special problems. (In connection with this special reference might be made to Resettlement and Children's Programs.)
2. The atmosphere they found - the economic and social scene in America from 1933 - and changes in this picture after we entered the war.
3. A description of the group as a whole, covering such indications as age, education, occupation, country of origin, reasons for coming to America, 'who' brought over 'whom', present geographic distribution, size of families, marriage to citizens or inter-marriage within refugee group, number of children born here,

000605

relatives abroad and relationship, (i.e. broken families and composition).

B. Criteria of adjustment

1. Economic

- a. Present occupations - whether or not previous skills were utilized or retraining had taken place.
- b. Wage earners, how many and who, earnings.
- c. Extent of self support, sources of income other than earnings.
- d. Dependency on social agencies, private and public (question of risk of becoming public charges).

2. Social and cultural

- a. Citizenship - interest in becoming U.S. citizens (as an indication of intent to remain).
 - (1) Applied for 1st papers and how soon after arrival.
 - (2) Applied for 2nd papers.
 - (3) Became citizens.(Explanations of delays and restrictive measures).
- b. T.V.'s attempts to change status and achievement.
- c. Facility with English language.
- d. Reading habits.
- e. Forms of recreation and cultural activities.
- f. Religious affiliation.
- g. Philanthropic activities, financial and other contributions.
- h. Participation in clubs, protective or fraternal groups (their own or American) also community organizations, trade associations and unions.
- i. Civilian defense and war-relief activities (Pointing out restrictions).
- j. Service in armed forces.
- k. Scholastic achievements of children.
- l. Degree of criminality.

000606

C. Special achievements and contributions made by -

1. Physicians
2. Musicians, writers, artists, scholars.
3. Scientists and inventors.
4. Business men

(with special emphasis on aid to the war effort)

IV. Organization and Procedure

A. Auspices: Advisable to have an advisory committee made up of people well known to the general public, and of unquestioned integrity and lack of bias. Some outstanding refugees should be involved.

B. Methods:

1. Use of primary and secondary data (questionnaires and interviews for former, research for latter).
2. Combination of a broad inquiry for limited types of information and an intensive survey in several selected communities.
3. A preliminary sampling and testing.

C. Existing resources (for contacts with refugees and material about them)

1. Literature (see attached bibliography).
2. Other papers and theses.
3. Refugee organizations and publications.
4. Social agencies and committees.

1. Statistics
2. Case-records
3. Field reports
4. Minutes
5. Pamphlets

000607

D. Timing: Extent of undertaking and size of staff will determine this.
Value in short span for up-to-date results.

Unresolved questions

1. Whether direction of study should be undertaken directly by N.R.S. or by a designated non-sectarian body such as a Department of a University.
2. Details of scope, method and procedure, staff and timing.
3. Whole question of financing.

Sept. 21st, 1943

000608

NOTES ON MEETING WITH MR. PEHLE
Thursday, February 24, 1944

Prior to going to Mr. Pehle's office, Professor Chamberlain and I met for a half hour to talk over content of our approach. It was decided that some of the problems discussed at the Executive Committee would be brought into the discussion only if the trend of the conversation with Mr. Pehle indicated that they fitted in. We would first attempt to get Mr. Pehle's reactions without presenting any point of view.

Therefore, when we met with Mr. Pehle (and one of his assistants, Mr. Lesser) Professor Chamberlain and I outlined the program of N.R.S., how it operates and its relationship to hundreds of local communities throughout the country. We emphasized the fact that we are an American agency although in our migration service we have some interests prior to entry. We asked Mr. Pehle whether the War Refugee Board was considering anything in relation to the United States and how he saw N.R.S. fitting into such a picture.

Mr. Pehle started off by stating that he was interested and hoped that something could be done to bring additional persons into the United States since, among other things, it would put the War Refugee Board in a better "bargaining" position vis-a-vis other countries. He realized the problems involved and the differences of opinion in governmental circles regarding the desirability and potentialities of such action. For example, he knew that there were persons in Spain who had advisory approval to the United States but had no visas because of some thinking that such individuals might just as well go to a camp in North Africa. Mr. Pehle said that such individuals, he thought, might sooner be admitted to the United States, so that North African camps would be reserved for persons rescued from occupied territory.

Mr. Pehle believed that the War Refugee Board would probably be concerned with movement of people in groups probably to be placed in camps. He knows there is resistance to camp placements. However, he thinks it is the only way in which a quick and sizeable job can be done. He realizes that the success of any rescue plan will depend on the ability to keep movement in and out of neutral countries; that in order to keep neutral countries open for new groups, those brought into neutral countries will have to be moved out and moved out quickly. The program indicated the possibility of camps in North Africa and, in the eastern Mediterranean, movement into Palestine.

In speaking of camps, Mr. Pehle said he had thought rather preliminarily of the idea of camps in the United States. He thought that there might be more movement if people eligible to enter the United States might be brought over in groups, established in camps, and have security investigations made for possible release after they are in the camps. This might hasten the process of security investigation which is one of the delaying factors in present admission procedure. He was concerned with the reaction within the country by Jewish groups to such camps which might be called "internment" camps. He asked us what we thought the reaction might be. We suggested the possibility, with Mr. Pehle's permission, of making inquiries in the next few communities visited by us regarding attitudes toward such camps.

000609

In the process of discussion, the experience with internment camps in Algiers and Seagoville was mentioned. In these instances security investigations by the Department of Justice led to the release of some of the people brought from South and Central America. He was interested in the experiences, although he realized it had a different background and purpose from that of the War Refugee Board. He asked that we write up our knowledge and experience and give him a report. In the course of discussion, Professor Chamberlain mentioned previous discussion with the State Department regarding a group settlement in the Virgin Islands indicating that they had thought of the possibility of about 500 people being cared for in the Virgin Islands and that these people might in all likelihood be admitted to the Islands without needing to qualify in all the present immigration requirements. Mr. Pehle made no direct comment on the possibility of the Virgin Islands, although he indicated an interest.

Mr. Pehle also stated that one of his particular interests is the possibility of further movement of children. He thought the public attitude in the United States entirely favorable for admission of children. He would like to know more about the experiences of the European-Jewish Children's Aid program and asked if we would not give him a report. We said we would be glad to work up a report, especially on those children originally brought in by the E.J.C.A. who have been here a long enough time for evaluation.

My impression throughout the conversation was that Mr. Pehle is sincerely interested in trying to do something in terms of the United States, if relationships with other departments permit. He brought out many of the questions we originally intended to ask of him without the need on our part to broach them. He indicated in a short period of time a fair understanding of many of the difficulties. As a matter of fact, he knew a little more about the N.R.S. than I had anticipated, which was probably the result of a conversation he had had with Jim Abrahamson. His expressed interest in requesting the two reports was, I believe, sincere and with the hope that the material could be of help to him in formulating plans. It is true that it was obvious that much of this is still in the formative thinking stage and that plans relative to the United States probably have had little attention up to this time.

4/7/44

000610

JL

NRS
NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK CITY

OFFICERS AND
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Chairman of the Board

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Jonah B. Wise
Samuel Wolchock

Joseph E. Beck
Executive Director

February 21, 1944

Mr. J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Your letter addressed to Mr. Charles Riegelman, President of National Refugee Service has been received today. I will talk with you about the statement which you have requested when I see you in Washington on Thursday morning.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph E. Beck
Joseph E. Beck
Executive Director

AIDS AMERICA'S NEWCOMERS... AIDS AMERICA

000611

In reply please
refer to: 90

FEB 19 1944

Dear Mr. Riegelman:

Your letter of February 2, 1944, to the Secretary of War has been referred to me.

The interest of the National Refugee Service in the work of the Board and the offer of its assistance and support are greatly appreciated.

No doubt, you have by now received my letter of February 8, 1944, requesting the advice and cooperation of agencies concerned with the problems of the Board. It is expected that the statement requested in that letter will be very helpful, and I shall be pleased to receive your suggestions as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Charles A. Riegelman,
President,
National Refugee Service, Inc.,
139 Centre Street,
New York, New York.

EBT

BBH

BBHutchinson:agr 2-18-44

000612

In reply please
refer to: 90

FEB 19 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your letter of February 8, 1944,
and its enclosures, transmitting a copy of a letter from
Mr. Charles A. Riegelman, President of the National Refugee
Service, Inc.

The matter referred to in Mr. Riegelman's letter
will receive prompt attention.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

The Honorable Henry L. Stimson,
Secretary of War.

RBH
EBHutchinson:agr 2-16-44

EBH

JH ✓

000613

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FEB 8 1944

490
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NO ANS. REQ.
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DATE 2/9/44
ETA

Mr. John Pehle,
Assistant to the Secretary,
Treasury Department,
Washington 25, D. C.

Letter to Natl Refugee
Service, Inc. numbered
70

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am pleased to inclose a copy of a letter dated February 2, 1944, from Mr. Charles A. Riegelman, President of the National Refugee Service, Inc., tendering the services of his organization to the War Refugee Board. Your attention is invited to the statement that similar letters have been sent to the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury.

For your information, I also inclose a copy of my reply to Mr. Riegelman. It is my understanding that you, as the newly-appointed Acting Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, will make the necessary recommendations in this regard to the Board at the proper time.

Sincerely yours,



Secretary of War.

Incls.-

Ltr fr Mr. Riegelman;
Ltr to Mr. Riegelman.

000614

FEB 8 - 1944

Mr. Charles A. Riegelman,
President, National Refugee Service, Inc.,
139 Centre Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Riegelman:

Receipt of your letter of February 2, 1944, conveying the generous offer of the National Refugee Service, Inc., to be of all possible assistance in the work of the President's War Refugee Board, is gratefully acknowledged.

At the present time the work of the War Refugee Board is still in the formative stage. It is hoped that we will soon be enabled to turn to good use the proffered services of such organizations as yours with their world-wide interest in the rescue of all refugees. In the meantime, I am pleased to hand your letter to Mr. John Pehle, Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury, who has just been appointed Acting Executive Director of the War Refugee Board.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) HENRY L. STIMSON

Secretary of War.

FEB 11 1944

000615

NRS
NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK CITY

February 2, 1944

The Honorable Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War
Member of the War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Stimson:

The National Refugee Service expresses its deep gratitude for the formation by the President of the War Refugee Board and for his liberal directive outlining its area of operation. We are proud that the United States has assumed leadership in the great task of rescuing the persecuted.

We understand from the President's directive that the War Refugee Board is authorized to invite the help and services of private agencies which have had experience in aiding and planning for refugees. The National Refugee Service is the largest private philanthropic agency in the United States working with refugees who reside in this country. Having mobilized the professional and volunteer social resources of more than a thousand communities in every state of the Union, we have been able to assist and guide a large majority of the 270,000 refugees who have been given either temporary or permanent haven here. The primary objective in all of our work has been to help refugees to become integrated in the American scene and to become useful and constructive participants as residents here and in the war effort. To this end, we have worked in close collaboration with many governmental agencies and departments, including the Department of State, the Department of Justice, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Office of Procurement and Assignment of the War Manpower Commission, and the Office of Strategic Services of the War Department.

It is a privilege to pledge to the War Refugee Board the aid and services of National Refugee Service. Here, within the United States, our organization has developed a comprehensive body of experience in working with and resettling thousands of refugees during the past ten years. We stand ready to make this experience and our facilities available to your Board for all refugees who are admitted to the United States either temporarily or permanently, and to provide such aid as may be required to the extent of the funds from all sources which may now, or in the future, be at our disposal for these purposes. We similarly pledge the support of more than a thousand cooperating committees in communities throughout the country.

Respectfully,

s/CHARLES A. RIEGELMAN
Charles A. Riegelman, President
National Refugee Service, Inc.

Similar communications have been forwarded to the Honorable Cordell Hull and the Honorable Henry Morgenthau, Jr.

000616

February 4, 1944

Dear Charlie:

I have received your letter of February 2, 1944, concerning the President's new War Refugee Board and the interest of your organization in the problem of rescuing and bringing relief to the victims of enemy persecution.

Your organization is to be congratulated for the splendid work it has done in this field and your offer of service to the new board is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Henry

Charles A. Kierelman, President
National Refugee Service, Inc.,
137 Centre Street,
New York, New York.

000617

NRS

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK CITY

February 2, 1944

OFFICERS AND
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEJoseph P. Chamberlain
Chairman of the BoardWilliam Rosenwald
PresidentCharles A. Riegelman
Vice-President and
Chairman of the
Executive CommitteeGustave H. Kann
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Manroe Goldwater
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Mrs. David M. Levy
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Edwin Rosenberg
Wolfgang S. Schwabacher
Leon C. Sunstein
Jonah B. Wise
Samuel WolchuckJoseph E. Beck
Executive Director

The Honorable Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
Secretary of the Treasury
Member of the War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Morgenthau:

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Respectfully,



Charles A. Riegelman, President
National Refugee Service, Inc.

Similar communications have been forwarded to the Honorable Cordell Hull and the Honorable Henry L. Stimson.

AIDS AMERICA'S NEWCOMERS... AIDS AMERICA

000618

A Victim of Punctuality

By MARGUERITE KOTT

Charles A. Riegelman, by his own admission, wastes more time being on time than any person he knows.

"Somehow or other, I can't get out of the habit of being punctual," he said ruefully.

This has plagued him through some 30 odd years' practice as a corporation attorney and almost as many years of participation in a host of philanthropic societies.

Knowing his "weakness," it is conceivable that he was among the first to arrive last weekend for the annual meeting of the National Refugee Service at the Hotel Commodore. Here he relinquished his duties as vice president of the NRS and chairman of the executive committee, to succeed William Rosenwald as president.

The tremendous responsibility of expediting the vast program of the NRS in its ambitious task of bringing aid to the victims of Nazism has been, and will continue to be, Mr. Riegelman's chief function within the organization.

He Prefers Modest Role, Gives Credit to Agencies

Just how much credit Mr. Riegelman personally deserves for the magnificent record chalked up by the NRS in its five years' service is still a mystery after an hour's probing. His executive contributions, almost solely for not work, are often unnoticed — which is the way he wants it.

"I prefer the audience to the plate," at all times," he explains.

But proudly he credits all of the agencies working with the NRS in its granting of financial assistance to more than 32,000 people; its placement of some 28,000 people in gainful employment; its retaining of some 2,000 emigrants in new occupations; and its resettlement of 13,500 persons in areas of their choice.

These achievements, financed by the United Jewish Appeal, are much more important to Mr. Riegelman's estimation than anything that might be said of him. For Mr. Riegelman is dignified, solemn and self-effacing.

He works behind a desk piled high with legal folders, books, papers and pens. Today he sat calmly amid the confusion at 160 Broadway and apologized: "This is the closest I've come to seeing the bottom of this desk in months."

He Tries to Look Severe, And He Almost Succeeds

A tall and slender man, Mr. Riegelman attempts to look severe, and with the help of exaggerated facial lines and deep-set flinty eyes, he almost succeeds.

Mr. Riegelman's crowded schedule makes 24 hours seem as short as a soldier's furlough, so he has necessarily become a clock watcher. Although no two days are predictable or alike, he is up by 7 and at his desk by 8:30.

Interruptions ranging from a conference with heads of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, of which Mr. Riegelman is a director, to a discussion of plans for the George Junior Republic Assn. (a self-governing colony for children) are expected and occur with regularity.

On "good" days Mr. Riegelman can leave his office by 6:30, but as often as not he might be headed for another appointment. He

endeavors to dine at night with his wife, but she, as president of Bronx House, and an active worker in the League of Women Voters, is frequently en route to a committee meeting herself.

Their family reunions are few and far between.

After 37 years experience, Mr. Riegelman has resigned himself to the fact that no one in his family stays put much of the time. A daughter, Carol, is with the Montreal office of the International Labor Organization, and a son, William, recently back from American Field Service work in Egypt, is now an at-



Close-up
FEBRUARY 3, 1944

PUNCTUALITY is outstanding characteristic of Charles A. Riegelman, who finds days too short for his many activities.

money with the State Dept. in Washington.

Family reunions are few and far between. A pleasant coincidence after two years' separation occurred last August when Carol arrived by Clipper from England, where she had been on business, and William telephoned (collected) from Miami, after his return to the States.

"We had a short visit together and then it was back to work," Mr. Riegelman's formula seems to be nine-tenths work and play when possible. Two weeks of each summer are spent "with the boys" fishing in the Gaspé region of Canada. After 20 consecutive years, Mr. Riegelman probably has many a fish story to tell, but he limits his comments to explaining how a 35½-pound salmon happens to be mounted conspicuously on the wall.

It was "taken" June 27, 1936, and Mr. Riegelman attests to the fact that it was not purchased in a fish market.

He Likes American Foods And Conservative Clothes

"I remember the day very well. It took me two hours to land it after I hooked him, and it was a hot day and I was completely exhausted when I finished."

Mr. Riegelman describes himself as "a very ordinary fellow with undiscouraged tastes." Specifically he likes only American foods, conservative clothes,

music as a listener, and most Garden events—but he is fanatic about none of them. Steaks are his only obsession in foods. He prefers solids in both his suits and ties, will take Brahms for concert performance and Wagner for opera.

When he goes to a movie it is usually with an ulterior motive that rarely concerns the performance itself. "I go to Radio City in the summertime to keep cool," he explains. When he reads it is a light detective novel, but he confesses that he is not a qualified critic of anything he reads. "I can't remember the authors' names and rarely the plots."

He Doesn't Notice Wife's New Clothes Often Enough

Mr. Riegelman has an engaging and frank way of answering questions, which is consistent with his professed dislike of people "who pretend to be what they aren't and know what they don't."

The hectic nature of his program has done tricks to his sleeping habits. "I sleep less than anyone I know," he said, refusing to specify the hours. "When I finally retire, it's usually to think."

Anything over eight is a crowd in Mr. Riegelman's definition. He considers himself a reasonably observant man, but smiles faintly at the admission: "Just between us I don't notice my wife's new clothes as often as she'd like me to."

Mr. Riegelman finds his chief

source of stimulation in the law and can't remember the time when he felt any ambition to be a fireman or a policeman or anything else. Still, if he were granted a special wish, he'd ask for less crowded days—and a chance

to devote all his time to social welfare.

"I probably won't want to see you again after I read about this," Mr. Riegelman said bluntly, extending his hand. But his eyes finally twinkled.

Let's Look At the Record 1934 • 1944 In 10 Years the National Refugee Service and its predecessor agencies

- aided the adjustment of most of the 270,000 refugees of all nationalities and faiths in the U.S.A.; provided relief and family services to 32,000; made 22,000 job placements, many in war industries; placed 2,000 physicians in small towns and institutions urgently needing doctors.
- provided over 315,000 migration services; helping American relatives to aid the escape of refugees abroad; aided 15,000 newcomers to resettle inland away from crowded seaports; arranged reception and placement of 1,000 refugee children.
- guided and assisted 1,000 communities in organizing refugee-aid programs; helped the newcomers to comply with wartime security measures affecting aliens, to enter fully into the American way of life, become American citizens, and do their share for victory on the home front and the battlefronts.

NRS is a constituent agency of the United Jewish Appeal and a beneficiary of its campaigns.

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 Centre Street New York 13, N. Y.

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NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 Centre Street
NEW YORK CITY

February 2, 1944

The Honorable Cordell Hull
Secretary of State
Member of the War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hull:

The National Refugee Service expresses its deep gratitude for the formation by the President of the War Refugee Board and for his liberal directive outlining its area of operation. We are proud that the United States has assumed leadership in the great task of rescuing the persecuted.

We understand from the President's directive that the War Refugee Board is authorized to invite the help and services of private agencies which have had experience in aiding and planning for refugees. The National Refugee Service is the largest private philanthropic agency in the United States working with refugees who reside in this country. Having mobilized the professional and volunteer social resources of more than a thousand communities in every state of the Union, we have been able to assist and guide a large majority of the 270,000 refugees who have been given either temporary or permanent haven here. The primary objective in all of our work has been to help refugees to become integrated in the American scene and to become useful and constructive participants as residents here and in the war effort. To this end, we have worked in close collaboration with many governmental agencies and departments, including the Department of State, the Department of Justice, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Office of Procurement and Assignment of the War Manpower Commission, and the Office of Strategic Services of the War Department.

It is a privilege to pledge to the War Refugee Board the aid and services of National Refugee Service. Here, within the United States, our organization has developed a comprehensive body of experience in working with and resettling thousands of refugees during the past ten years. We stand ready to make this experience and our facilities available to your Board for all refugees who

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are admitted to the United States either temporarily or permanently, and to provide such aid as may be required to the extent of the funds from all sources which may now, or in the future, be at our disposal for these purposes. We similarly pledge the support of more than a thousand cooperating committees in communities throughout the country.

Respectfully,

CHARLES A. RIEGELMAN, President
National Refugee Service, Inc.,

Similar communications have been forwarded to the Honorable Henry L. Stimson and the Honorable Henry Morgenthau, Jr.

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