

Pool, ARTHUR G.

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ARTHUR G. POOR

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W. R. B.  
Filing Authority  
To: Files  
Ans. 80 VIRGINIA AVENUE  
No. Ans. 1000 JERSEY ✓  
Initial *AGP*  
Date *7/13/44*

April 19, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle  
War Refugee Board  
Washington, D. C.

Not for Publication

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I notice in this morning's New York Times that the Administration is giving consideration to establishment of "free ports" to admit war refugees barred by the immigration laws.

I wish to protest. I protest not the idea of giving these people asylum, but I protest their behavior and freedom from restriction, etc., in this country.

If it is the purpose to admit them and set aside some territory for them to remain in until the war is over, that is alright. If, however, they are to be permitted to roam at will, then I protest.

This country is full of refugees already and it is a damn shame. There are refugees here from every country--those of our enemies and those of our Allies. Reports indicate that Florida was full of French, German, Norwegian and English refugees. They spent money like water (where did they get it?) They crowded the restaurants and hotels so that our service men couldn't eat and their wives had no place to stay. They forced prices up so that our boys couldn't buy things.

New York is full of them. They are crowding all the hotels, bars, theaters and night clubs. Most of them appear to be French and German. They have more money than they know what to do with (and most of them in New York have the disgusting habit of taking fancy dogs with them into stores, into restaurants, etc.). They are insulting. They are disgusting.

And many of them are young--why aren't they fighting? Why aren't young Frenchmen, Englishmen, Canadiens, Norwegians either in their own army or ours?

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We also read in today's paper that these same French refugees are in collaboration with so-called French dressmakers (under Nazi rule) in trying to re-establish the French styles. Are these the kind of refugees we want here?

We all believe in giving aid to the destitute and the needy. Let's have a haven in this country for those who need help, not just for escapists.

Let's stop refugees from crowding good American boys out of hotels, restaurants, etc.; let's stop wealthy refugees from making a vulgar display of money when we are supposed to do without in order to buy bonds; let's stop refugee doctors from taking over the practise of our American doctors called into the service; in short it's time to tell those kind of people where to get off--and where to get off, right now.

If they don't like it, they can go back where they came from.

I trust that you will do everything in your power to see that those refugees who actually need asylum can get it in this country--and I hope that you will also do all in your power to stop such conditions as I speak of above.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



P.S. My oldest son is with the Marines in the Pacific  
My second son enters the service next month  
My youngest son will be in the war next year

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