

War Refugee Board, Volume 1
(Folder 3 of 3)

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The Evening Star

JAN 28 1945

Gen. O'Dwyer to Direct War Refugee Program

By the Associated Press.

Resignation of John W. Pehle as executive director of the War Refugee Board and appointment of Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer as his successor was announced last night.

Mr. Pehle resigned because of press of his duties as assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury, the announcement said. It added that Gen. O'Dwyer is being returned to inactive status by the War Department to permit him to take the new assignment. Gen. O'Dwyer recently returned from Italy, where he served with the Allied Control Commission.

The War Refugee Board is composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. It seeks to aid persecuted civilian minorities in Nazi-occupied Europe.

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WRB—Success Or Failure

It Has Saved Thousands Of Refugees, But As It Nears End Of Its Work, The Verdict Is: Too Little and Too Late

By Murray Frank

RECENT primary developments in Europe have practically brought to a standstill the rescue activities of the War Refugee Board. There is talk in Washington of an early winding up of the Board's functions and its possible re-formation, such being the impression that it is not believed to possess the necessary and special facilities, as well as the know-how and facilities. No one, it is thought here, is quite a bit part of the Board's basic line that it will be left for the future, when all pertinent documents have an objective evaluation become available. What is attempted here is merely an objective study of the Board's work, its major problems, and the causes of its success or failure.

The historic American principle of humanitarianism and the traditional concept of humanitarianism were faced with a supreme and difficult test. It was a test of the degree of sympathy and understanding of the plight of one billion beings in Nazi Europe who have not the usual lack of perception, a test of the true American spirit of help for the persecuted of the blood stained Europe of our century.

Sympathy, But No Help

Not a day passed without our seeing notices in the newspapers of some new association, some new charity which would befall the persecuted of Europe's Jews. We stood by their side and tried to encourage them. There were hundreds of organizations of various types, each with its own mission in the field of relief and rescue, magnificently equipped, many in those of their own funds. But what of our people in Europe? What, if anything, was being done for them? What measures were being taken to extricate them from the nightmare that Hitler has set up before their death throes, that continent of Europe? The answer can be summed up in a few words: the unaided efforts of Europe's persecuted millions and the help of a few million of their own funds. What countries have not contributed to this complex and vast effort?

After four years of war and the rescue of millions of European Jews, the United States at long last had organized up to live up to its world-renowned reputation as the benefactor of the oppressed. The War Refugee Board was created by President Roosevelt on January 22, 1944, consisting of

Secretary of State Cordell Hull, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, and Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr. In all probability, it was the President's intention that the Board remain small for more effective action. The Board's purpose was stated succinctly by the President in his Executive Order, where he says that "it is the policy of this government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war."

Obviously, the President and the members of the Board were keenly aware of the danger facing the arriving Jews in Europe and of the urgency to rescue them. Action was the order of the day. To attain the desired action, 35-year-old John W. Peltle, Assistant to Secretary Morgenthau, was designated as the Board's Executive Director. In his capacity as Director of the Treasury's Foreign Funds Control, Mr. Peltle had wide experience in negotiating with foreign governments, which relation brought him into close touch with problems facing the War Refugee Board and made his name well known to relief agencies in the United States. Shortly after assuming his position, he stated that the job of rescuing the remaining Jews of Europe "is one that has to be done in the next few months." He reiterated the same thought to this writer in a personal interview, stressing that "every person" is a relative of the Jew and will be too late.

For greater effectiveness and speedier accomplishments, Mr. Peltle began and with a handful of representatives in strategic neutral countries. When necessary, he would call on Federal agencies or international and private organizations, such as UNRRA, International Red Cross, Joint Distribution Committee, and others, for their help or services. The Board utilized their personnel, their experience and their funds. It was often asked: Why is the Board's work financed largely with private funds? There was no question prevalent that Congress would be asked to appropriate funds for the Board's operations, but the request was never realized. At a meeting of the U. S. War Refugee Fund in Chicago, on September 21, Mr. Morgenthau observed that this was never done.

"Let me explain why I think it better that if our financing was done mostly by both private agencies and the Government. When the Board was first established, it was obvious that such was essential. It was equally apparent that there were hundreds of private organizations in the world which were equipped with everything except the kind of support which could be obtained from the Government of the United States. It seemed perfectly logical that a relationship should be established between the private agencies and the Government. . . . But in part the Government could contribute the weight of its prestige, its diplomacy, its communication channels, its financing and transportation facilities. For their part the private agencies could give details on which sources of persons of their experience and skill to available funds. . . ."

Poor Psychology

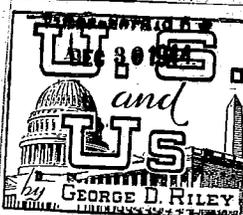
There was no way of knowing whether greater accomplishments by the Board would have been possible if government finances had been available to it, instead of the limited resources of private organizations. Psychologically, the effect was bad. It caused suspicion that this Government was not wholeheartedly behind the Board and the fact, it was to be noted, that and again the strength of the Board was expressed that the Board created not so much for the purpose of rescuing the persecuted of Europe as for the purpose of assisting the persecuted of America. It was observed that Mr. Peltle's mission was to lay out of the Board's work as possible, in the field of private and international agencies, and to direct aid to the victims.

Older governments, such as the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States, had expanded their efforts to help the persecuted of Europe. The Board's work was financed largely with private funds. There was no question prevalent that Congress would be asked to appropriate funds for the Board's operations, but the request was never realized. At a meeting of the U. S. War Refugee Fund in Chicago, on September 21, Mr. Morgenthau observed that this was never done.

The New York Times, January 22, 1944, p. 1.

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War Refugee Board



Veterans' Administration, which is putting the pay-day lag system into effect, is giving its employees a financial kick to start off the New Year by withholding six days from the first pay check to be issued after January 1. . . . Rather than adopting a more practicable solution to the now universal lag pay-day system, by withholding only one or two days each pay day until a 10-day withholding level has been reached, this agency has chosen to take out better than half on one check. . . . Other agencies, WPB for example, have found that by taking only one or two days out in

each pay period, employees have been better able to get by. An employe on terminal leave after resignation is not entitled to re-employment rights, if his resignation was not the result of his impending entry into the armed forces. . . . All jobs in War Refugee Board are exempted from the Civil Service Act. . . . Even War Service appointees without classified status are subject to political activity restrictions. . . . Time is rolling around again to think of preparing new efficiency ratings. . . . Reallocation of a job to a higher grade does not preclude counting of previous service in the lower grade toward a periodic pay advancement in the higher grade, if the increase in pay resulting from the reallocation is less than the pay increments of the lower grade. . . . USO calls attention to its facilities open to girls in Federal civilian service: 1814 N. St. NW., kitchen, photo darkroom, sculpture, sewing; Penthouse Club, Seventeenth and K Sts. NW.; Jewish Club, Sixteenth and Q Sts. NW.; 1912 N. Capitol, kitchen, game room, civilian men admitted; Colored Club, 901 Rhode

Island Ave. NW., kitchen, lounge, game room, and 211 King St. Alexandria. There is a statutory limitation of \$9,000 (P-9 and CAF-16) for all salaries under the Classification Act. . . . Only such jobs for which there is specific congressional authority to lift this limit are permitted to exceed the \$9,000 ceiling. Federal Works tells employes that the reason it is 24 days in arrears paying for overtime in the Southeast Section is because its pay-roll section is attending conferences and going to school. . . . GPO employes' Christmas trees showed great originality in contriving ornaments of cotton and paper. . . . James Ray, Claims, GAO, is showing pardonable pride in the combat lieutenant commission given his son in France, with the Engineers. Today's Floral Salute— From Nebraska BLACKISTONE, INC., 1407 H St. NW. Her roommates and friends

were there and a Christmas party was going full blast at the home of Margaret Cram, G.P.O. They were opening parcels when Santa brought what was more precious than all else—a phone call from the Norfolk Naval Base from her fiancée, Wayne Johnson, fire controlman 3/c, her high school sweetheart. Miss Cram, came from Oakdale, Nebr., but she couldn't go home or phone this Christmas, even as so many other youngsters here couldn't. Maybe a year from now, she can do all the things she's been saving up to do. She and the others.



Margaret Cram - Cordell Studios

Now retired: Alma E. Sadler, Albert N. Prentiss, Ida May Lark, Treasury; John F. Daly, Commerce; John N. Erb, Richard

M. Thornton, D. C. Government; Clyde K. Kriechbaum, Ella W. C. Hodgson, Navy; Hadlai F. Watson, Theodore Ruhoff, War; Annie H. Alves, Agriculture; Ida B. White, G.O.P.; William S. Towner, Interior; Arthur E. Waide, Post Office; Walter E. Spencer, G.A.O. The following are awarded free portraits as the compliments of U. S. & Us and Cordell Studios, 3009 Fourteenth St. NW.: Theodore Thygesen, Veterans' Administration; Mary Kenny, James Curtis Cook and Louise Newlinny, all of War Department. . . . Veterans' Administration Record N Unit 6 will have its New Year war bond party Monday at 9:30 a.m., and will hear Seaman 1/c John F. Peifer discuss the value of landing craft. . . . These are on the unit's committee: Helen Thomas, Georgia Lucas, Rebecca Jenkins, Cecelia G. Jackson, Gladys Holland, Thomas J. Glenn, Irene Goodman, Catherine Hill, Leona Johnson, Mabel Johnson, Bernice Mack, Wila Belle Martin, Delors Mottague, Matilda Mowlin, Lois J. Robinson, Byrdie Ross, Lucy Scott and Stephen Welch.

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House Rejects Salary Increase For Congress

By VIRGINIA FASLEY

The House yesterday turned down a proposal to up members' salaries \$2,000 and clerical allowances \$3,000 as it debated the \$415,000,000 deficiency appropriation bill reported out this morning with Administration estimates trimmed by 25 per cent.

Covering everything from control of the Hessian fly to secret research work on robot bombs and the new B-36—the largest airplane that has ever been attempted in this country—the chief item on the list is \$339,000,000 for the Navy, most of it for the bureau of yards and docks.

Salary Increase Fails

The attempt to add a rider increasing salaries and allowances for Members of Congress failed after both Representative Celler (D.), of New York, and Representative Cochran (D.), of Missouri, had presented amendments.

The bill as written by the Appropriations Committee contains legislative clauses hitting at the President's power to create emergency agencies without congressional approval. It orders that any money spent by such agencies as the War Refugee Board and the Conference of Allied Ministers of Education in London be taken from the President's emergency fund.

The committee refused to appropriate any money for United States participation in the United War Crimes Investigating Committee, cut out a request from Secretary of Interior Ickes for \$3,360,000 to prepare a development plan of Alaska and \$1,075,000 to investigate Alaskan oil resources, and turned down "at this time" a request for \$75,000,000 to blueprint postwar public works to be conducted by the States.

New B-36 Revealed

The fact that secret tests for a new giant super bomber are being made were revealed with the release yesterday of closed hearings held by the committee.

The new plane was described by Dr. George W. Lewis, director of aeronautical research for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

Dr. Lewis said that the B-36, as well as planes he identified as the B-42 and B-35, are being designed "to keep step with the needs of the military services, such as very large airplanes for long range needed in the Pacific theater."

Also his outfit is investigating several new types of airplanes for the Army and Navy "involving the application of gas turbines and jet propulsion units, including jet propulsion and power units for guided missiles or robot bombs."

New York Post
DEC 6 1944

Jews' Torture 'Unbelievable'

Washington, Dec. 6—Persecution of Jews in Europe is "so terrible as to be almost unbelievable," a House Appropriations Committee has been advised by John W. Pehle, director of the War Refugee Board.

Pehle's statement, disclosed today in publication of testimony on a catch-all bill before the committee, said there could be no doubt "of the extermination policy carried on by Germany" against Jews.

Added Funds Approved

A \$415,324,712 measure supplementing funds already provided for miscellaneous agencies was

Special to The Post

recommended by the House Appropriations Committee. It will boost to an estimated \$68,000,000 the new funds voted by Congress this year.

Over half the new bill's total, \$286,626,582, was earmarked for the Navy.

Also approved were a number of items, aggregating \$17,559,000 for the collection of statistics to be available to government and business for programming and promoting postwar readjustment.

For the construction and operation of hospital and domiciliary

facilities for the use of rapidly returning war veterans, the committee voted the Veterans' Administration \$10,571,000 to augment funds provided earlier this year for that purpose.

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PEHLE IN OLRICH TREASURY POST

Washington, Nov. 30. — Secretary Henry Morgenthau has assigned to John W. Pehle, Assistant to the Secretary, supervision over the Treasury's Procurement Division.

Mr. Pehle succeeds Ernest L. Olich, who has returned to active duty as president of Munsingwear, Inc., of Minneapolis, Minn.

The activities of Procurement Division are dual in character. One office, headed by Clifton E. Mack, purchases materials and goods for Lend-Lease and Government uses.

Another office, the Office of Surplus Property, handles disposal of consumer goods declared surplus by the armed forces.

Mr. Pehle has been with the Treasury Department for more than 10 years. His former duties included direction of the Foreign Funds Control, which has control of over 7 billion dollars of foreign assets in the United States. He is also executive director of the War Refugee Board in which position he will continue to serve.

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Morganthau

New Treasury Surplus Head

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

DEC 1 1944

*Peble Chosen to Head
Disposal of Army-Navy
Surplus for Treasury*

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Treasury's job of disposing of billions of dollars worth of surplus goods was put under the supervision of John W. Peble, a lawyer.

Indications are that another man possibly with merchandising experience will be appointed to carry out the big selling operation under Mr. Peble's direction.

Mr. Peble succeeds Ernest L. Olric, president of Mousingwear, who was his own operating chief in the Office of Surplus Property. Mr. Olric has resigned to go back to his company.

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The Washington Post
DEC 1 1944

The Federal Diary

By Jerry Klutz

The appointment of John W. Pehle to head up the surplus consumer war goods unit at Procurement takes him out of the running as assistant director of the Budget Bureau. Pehle gets one of the toughest jobs in Government. His office will need a staff of more than 10 000 to sell the surpluses . . . Corrington Gill of the Committee for Congested Production Areas now has support for the budget vacancy. His committee will fold on January 1 . . . Chairman Downy will build up his Senate Civil Service Committee. His clerk after January 1 will be Eleanor Jackson, who is now an assistant attorney general for the State of California. And yesterday he asked the Senate to give him an assistant clerk to be paid \$3200. Downy has plans to give his committee some real life.

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The Washington Post

DEC 1 1944

John W. Pehle, Treasury Aide, To Supervise Surplus Selling

By the Associated Press

The Treasury's job of disposing of billions of dollars worth of surplus goods was put yesterday under supervision of John W. Pehle, a lawyer.

Indications are that another man—possibly with merchandising experience—will be appointed to carry out the big selling operation under Pehle's direction. When Pehle was asked about this, his only comment was that "no appointment has yet been made."

Pehle, assistant to the Secretary, has been in the Treasury 10 years. He was given supervision over the whole procurement division by Secretary Morgenthau. This division has the double function of buying goods for Government agencies and disposing of surpluses of Army-Navy goods sold to the public.

Pehle succeeds Ernest L. Orlich, president of Munsingwear, who was his own operating chief in the Office of Surplus Property. Orlich has resigned to go back to his company. Pehle will continue to serve as executive director of the War Refugee Board.

The buying function of the procurement division is headed by Clifton E. Mack, as director of procurement.

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DEC 1 1944

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THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

NOV 30 1944

**Pehle Named to
Succeed Olrich**

WASHINGTON—(AP)—John W. Pehle, assistant to Secretary Morgenthau, has been given supervision over the Treasury's procurement division.

He succeeded Ernest L. Olrich, who has returned to his position as president of Munsingwear, Inc., of Minneapolis.

Whether Pehle will have charge of the recently organized office of surplus property as Olrich did, or whether someone else will be appointed under Pehle's supervision has not been learned. The OWP disposes of consumer-type goods declared surplus by the armed forces.

Pehle will continue as executive director of the war refugee board. He has been with the treasury department more than ten years.

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was Refugee Board

The Evening Star

NOV 30 1944

Pehle Heads Treasury's Procurement Division

By the Associated Press.

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He succeeded Ernest L. Olrich, who has returned to his position as president of Munsingwear, Inc., of Minneapolis.

Whether Mr. Pehle will have charge of the recently organized Office of Surplus Property as Mr. Olrich did, or whether some one else will be appointed under Mr. Pehle's supervision has not been learned. That office disposes of consumer-type goods declared surplus by the armed forces.

Mr. Pehle will continue as executive director of the War Reliefs Board. He has been with the Treasury Department more than 10 years.

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New York Post

NOV 3 1944

Procurement Post to Pehle

Special to The Post

Washington, Nov. 30—Secretary Morgenthau today announced that John W. Pehle, assistant to the secretary and executive director of the War Refugee Board, had been assigned to supervision over the Treasury's Procurement Division. Pehle succeeds Ernest L. Olrich.

The activities of Procurement Division are dual in character. One office, headed by Clifton E. Mack, purchases materials and goods for lend-lease and government uses. Another office, the Office of Surplus Property, handles the disposal of consumed goods declared surplus by the armed forces.

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New York Post
NOV 22 1944

Washington Memo

By Charles Van Devander and William O. Flayer Jr.

War Refugee Board to Carry On Until Germany Is Defeated

Washington, Nov. 22.

The War Refugee Board—which some people have feared might be prematurely abolished under the Russell amendment prohibiting executive agencies from continuing more than a year without Congressional approval—is going to stay on the job as long as there's a war on in Europe.

The WRB's allotted year will expire next Jan. 22, after which time it will have to look to Congress, rather than to the President, for its finances.

Therefore, the board, composed of Secretaries Hull, Stimson and Morgenthau, is submitting to the deficiency sub-committee of the House Appropriations Committee, now in session, a request for \$150,000.

The Board's executive director, John W. Pehle, estimates that this amount will be sufficient to meet WRB requirements for salaries, supplies and other expenses through June, if necessary.

Thus far, no Congressional opposition to such a grant is in prospect—certainly not from any sources acquainted with the WRB's activities.



IRA HIRSCHMANN

As a matter of fact, however, it had looked until recently as though there would be little or no reason for extending the life of the Board beyond the prescribed period.

Less than two months ago, for instance, Victory-in-Europe day seemed so much closer at hand than it does now that Pehle, at a press conference, indicated the WRB work was just about done; and, at the same conference, Ira Hirschmann, who had been representing the board in the Middle East, announced his return to private life on the ground that his assignment—that of arranging to funnel out Balkan refugees via Turkey—had virtually been completed.

Both Pehle and Hirschmann made it clear at the time, though, that the WRB couldn't really call it quits so long as there were still any Jews or members of other persecuted minorities to be rescued, if possible, from areas still occupied by the Nazis—such as Germany itself, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, etc.

There still are, and there will continue to be—until V-Day itself. And, though their numbers are far smaller (growing smaller and smaller each day under the Nazi extermination program) and the difficulties of getting them out of these territories are far greater than they were in the Balkans generally, the WRB will continue to maintain its staffs here and abroad and to do all it possibly can to further rescue activities.

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New York Post
NOV 22 1944

Once the European war is over, however, and there are no more "occupied" territories, the WRB will quietly fold its books, close its doors and go out of existence.

As the Board's prospective demise nears, considerable pressure is being brought by various interested groups to make it a permanent government agency, so as to insure continuation of some of the work it has been doing, both directly and indirectly, in behalf of persecuted minorities all over the world.

Its educational value alone, for example—the role it has played in promoting sympathy, understanding and active assistance, within the U. S. itself as well as abroad, for the victims of oppression—is regarded as inestimable.

But, contrary to the tendency in most government agencies, the WRB's members and administrative personnel look upon the office and its functions as strictly emergency affairs—and, after the emergency has passed, they have no desire to be "perpetuated."

At their first meeting here Economic Stabilizer Fred Vinson told WLB member Frank Graham the story of a remarkable inning of baseball in which he played, as shortstop for Centre College, against the University of North Carolina, of which Graham is now president, back in 1909.

On the first pitched ball, Vinson singled. On the next two balls, two more Centre men safely bunted, loading the bases. On the fourth pitched ball, the batter grounded to short, the shortstop threw to second, the second baseman threw to first and, after Vinson had crossed the plate, the first-baseman threw to home, catching the man who had been on second and retiring the side. All, Vinson stepped, on four pitches!

Graham listened to the story and then said quietly: "Yes, I remember that inning very well. I was sitting on the bench at the time—as a substitute for North Carolina."

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November 3, 1944

HENRY MORGENTHAU JR. - THE VOICE BEHIND THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

By MURIEL LEVIN

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WASHINGTON---

It is not generally known, but Henry Morgenthau, Jr., for twelve years Secretary of the Treasury, is the weighty voice behind the War Refugee Board.

A tall, shy man whose relations with the press - and consequently the public - have been awkward, Morgenthau is the type of administrator who fosters initiative in the experts he harnesses for the Treasury Department, though he maintains the whiphand throughout. Legendary are the daily meetings of his "9,30 group," gathered at a round table every morning, each of his assistants in turn has a chance to voice his problems and gripes, and the group, very much dominated by Morgenthau, seeks ways out of dilemmas.

It was not at one of these meetings that the idea of the War Refugee Board was advanced, according to Herbert E. Gaston, senior Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, upon whom Morgenthau leans heavily for public relations. But it might well have been, and it was this willingness to listen to his underlings that resulted in his being approached by a group of young Treasury Department aides, among whom were Randolph Paul, then general consul, and John W. Pehle, a special assistant in charge of the foreign funds control.

They knew, too, that Morgenthau, son of a distinguished Jewish lawyer and philanthropist, who made a fortune in Bronx real estate, has had a well-developed "social conscience" since his teens when his desire to improve social conditions drew him to work at the Henry Street Settlement in New York. Later, when he had forsaken real estate and banking for farming in upstate New York, he and his young wife, Elinor Fatman, a niece of the Lehmans, furnished East Fishkill Township with its first clinic, organized a small mobile library, and ran a crusading farm magazine.

Appalled by the terror in Europe, brought into focus for them through their dealings with refugees here whose funds they controlled, the Treasury Department aides broached to Morgenthau the idea of U. S. action to save the Jews from the fate decreed by the Nazis. They talked fast and often - and sold Morgenthau the bill of goods. He agreed to talk to the President.

The Roosevelts and the Morgenthaus have been friends for more than thirty years. In 1912 when Roosevelt was a New York State Senator, Morgenthau, Sr., whom Wilson later appointed U. S. Ambassador to Turkey, was chairman of the finance committee of the Democratic National Committee. It was at Democratic headquarters in Manhattan, then, that the two men met, and they began to see a good deal of one another a few years later when both were country squires in Dutchess country. All during Roosevelt's serious illness the Morgenthaus were around. Then, in 1928, Morgenthau participated in gubernatorial campaign tours, and went to Albany with Roosevelt, first to head his Agricultural Advisory Committee, which drafted farm-relief measures, and later to act as Conservation commissioner. He followed Roosevelt to Washington in 1933 as chairman of the Federal Farm Board. He quickly consolidated all government farm lending agencies into the Farm Credit Administration, which soon was lending millions to farmers.

He became Roosevelt's Secretary of the Treasury in January, 1934, when Secretary Woodin resigned because of ill-health just three months after Morgenthau had been appointed Under-Secretary of the Treasury. His relations with his boss have continued to be intimate, despite the "models of formality" by which he communicates with the White House. Both families visit one another and make merry together.

Just how Morgenthau convinced his old friend is something that he has not revealed. But on January, 23, 1944, the President set up by Executive Order a War Refugee Board consisting of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury and

11/5/44

the Secretary of War, to rescue from the Nazis as many as possible of the persecuted minorities of Europe. He stressed that "it was urgent that action be taken at once to forestall the plan of the Nazis to exterminate all the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe."

Appointed acting executive director was one of the young Treasury Department aides, John W. Pehle, whom Morgenthau granted leave of absence from his regular post. The WRB office was set up in the Treasury Department building, and drew much of its personnel and equipment from that Department.

Whether or not Morgenthau directly dictates the day-to-day policy is a moot question, but the Secretary is kept fully informed of what is going on at every moment. There is little doubt that he of the three Board members plugs, backs, fights for the WRB. When the President's policy on immigration to the United States appeared a little hazy, Morgenthau and Pehle were seen crossing the street from the Treasury Department to the side entrance of the White House. Next press conference, the President's policy on immigration to the United States appeared a good deal less hazy, and in the not too distant future he announced the establishment of Fort Ontario as an "emergency refugee shelter." One thousand refugees were to be admitted to the United States as a talking point before the rest of the world, for the WRB had been severely hampered by having our country's failures thrown in its face.

When it appeared that something might be done for the Hungarian Jews through Admiral Horthy's offer to the International Red Cross to release those with entrance visas to Palestine and elsewhere, the British provided bottlenecks. Morgenthau, on a tour of war theaters to investigate currency matters, hid himself to the top man in England and talked turkey. In short order, the United States and Great Britain issued a statement accepting Horthy's offer. Unfortunately, mass deportations were resumed after a shake-up in the Hungarian cabinet, and so his efforts appear to have been of little avail.

Meanwhile, the progress of the war in Europe has been solving many of the War Refugee Board's problems. Employees are optimistically placing bets that they will be out of jobs within a few months, for the fall of Hitler means finis for the War Refugee Board.

But it looks very much as though Morgenthau may remain in Washington for another four years. Anyway, the odds are with him.

Translation from
Voelkischer Beobachter No. 182 of June 30, 1944

The Twentieth Century Moses

Roosevelt, who recently spent his vacation of several weeks on the estate of the Jew Baruch, and to whom the Jewish senator Celler referred as the Moses of the Twentieth Century, has once again demonstrated through the establishment of the War Refugee Board to what great extent he stands in the service of world Jewry and that he really deserved the homage rendered him by the Jews.

Inasmuch as the War Refugee Board operates directly under Roosevelt and is responsible to him only, but in reality was set up to look after Jewish interests, it is only proper not only to throw light on the aims and purposes of this "Government Agency" but also to call attention to its origin.

At Roosevelt's instigation a conference took place from July 8 to July 15, 1938 in the Swiss town of Evian at which the refugee problem was discussed and in which representatives of European and American governments participated. The result failed to satisfy the Jews who held Lord Winterton, the head of the British Delegation, primarily responsible for this outcome. The outward visible result of the negotiations was the creation of a committee, called the Inter-Government Committee, which was charged with the task of carrying out a definite program.

However, the Jews were by no means satisfied with the work of this committee. Through their excellent contacts with President Roosevelt they succeeded in having him call a second refugee conference which met in Bermuda towards the end of 1942 and which announced that it "formulated recommendations which, however, for military reasons could not be made public." Apparently, the results were so secret that they were withheld even from Roosevelt, for in August of last year he announced that a new refugee conference would meet in London. These negotiations took place at the end of March 1944. The American delegation was headed by Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Stettinius. The principal point of discussion was the immigration of Jews into Palestine and their return to countries which formerly harbored them.

However, on January 22, 1944 Roosevelt issued an order which stated: "It is the policy of the Government to give aid to all victims of religious, racial, or political persecution." With such phrases a new institution was made palatable for the Americans, an institution designed solely to look after Jewish interests. For by this order, which vouchsafes American help for Jewish refugees throughout the world, the establishment of a "War Refugee Board" was proclaimed simultaneously. This Board is headed by the American Secretaries Hull, Stimson, and Morgenthau, and its office is in the White House.

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The purpose of this agency is not only to render all kinds of assistance to Jewish refugees and to Jews who still live as guests of their countries, but also to facilitate and carry out their further transportation to Palestine or any other destination desired by them.

In order to expedite and facilitate these measures the American embassies were placed in the service of this new Agency. The American diplomats were instructed to make thorough studies in the various countries concerning the situation of the Jewish refugees, as well as the living conditions of the still remaining Jews there, and to contact the local authorities with a view to ascertaining to what extent the countries in question were willing to support the American, that is, the Jewish plans, and whether they would accept refugees or permit their transit. The instructions were formulated in such a way that the Ambassadors are in a position to exert at any time suitable pressure upon the neutral countries.

Meanwhile, the War Refugee Board has appointed special representatives for the various countries. These representatives enjoy diplomatic immunity and receive any desired assistance from the American embassies. A Jew named Hirschmann was appointed representative in Turkey, and he has already departed for Washington in order to make a personal report on the situation with regard to the Jewish refugees in the Balkans. For Switzerland McClelland, the American Minister in Bern, and for Portugal Dr. Robert Dexter were appointed.

World Jewry is well aware as to what it owes to its puppet Roosevelt for his renewed help. The Jewish aid society "Hias" (Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society) placed immediately \$100,000 at the disposal of the War Refugee Board. The "American Jewish Conference" and the "Emergency Committee to Save the Jews in Europe" expressed satisfaction with Roosevelt's action. The "American Jewish Committee" expressed thanks in a letter to the President. The "Jewish Labor Committee," gave its joy expression in a message to the effect that the President's action was the greatest historical event in the field of endeavor for the protection of the Jews, just as the planned measures for "rehabilitation."

The establishment of the "War Refugee Board" is only one of many measures which Roosevelt, who is surrounded by Jews, has taken. It is therefore comprehensible that the Hebrews are doing everything in their power to re-elect "their President," who up to now has done more in the interest of the Jews than of his own nation.

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Thousands of Jews Saved By U. S. War Refugee Board

By a Staff Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

WASHINGTON, April 12—The War Refugee Board, set up by President Roosevelt in February, today took credit for a possible saving of 40,000 Jewish refugees by direct pressure on the Rumanian Government and announced it will try to do more in the Balkans before the Allies invade.

According to John W. Pehle, Executive Director of the Board, made up of the Secretaries of State, Treasury, and War, the Board was instrumental in getting 40,000 of 160,000 Jews banished to Transnistria moved out of the path of the retreating German army.

Rescue of Balkan Jews, Mr. Pehle indicated, is largely in the hands of Ira Hirschmann, the Board's representative in Ankara, Turkey. Mr. Hirschmann is Vice-President of Bloomingdale's Department Store in New York City.

Olsen In Sweden

Appointment of Iver C. Olsen, as the Board's special representative in Stockholm, Sweden, has just been announced. A resident of Gilford, N. H., Mr. Olsen is a native of Norway, who has been financial attaché of the Treasury Division of Monetary Research.

Mr. Pehle's description of the Board's accomplishments in the last two months coincided with the arrival here from London yesterday of Sir Herbert Emerson, head of the Intergovernment Committee on Refugees, set up by governments in Evian, France, in 1938. The Committee recently agreed with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Admin-

istration on a division of powers and Sir Herbert has now come to work out a similar understanding with the President's War Refugee Board.

The Board which President Roosevelt set up after Breckinridge Long of the State Department had advised the House Foreign Affairs Committee against it, has been on the defensive from the start.

In a talk before the Women's National Press Club here last night, Mr. Pehle stated, however, that the State Department has fully co-operated with the Board and asked the Board be judged only "in terms of how much has been done that can be done."

Use Roosevelt Warning

In its effort to obtain mercy for the Jews of Europe, the Board has leaned heavily on psychological ammunition, especially President Roosevelt's warning of March 24 to Germany and her satellites that "this Government will use all means at its command to aid the escape of all victims of the Nazi and Jap executioner — regardless of race or religion or color." This message has been beamed to occupied countries by radio and printed in over 100 Swiss newspapers through the Board's efforts.

British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden's March 30 statement to Parliament that persons among Germany's satellites who showed mercy to the Jews will be remembered when Germany is defeated has also been widely publicized.

**REPORTS FEDERAL AID
IN RESCUING OF JEWS**

**Pehle Says Refugee Board Will
Spend \$17,000,000 This Year**

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CHICAGO, April 2—Progress in efforts to save Jewish and other victims of Nazi persecution in Europe was outlined today at closing sessions of a two-day Midwest conference of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

John W. Pehle of New York, director of the committee's war refugee board, described plans for the expenditure this year of \$17,000,000 for overseas relief and said that the board had the direct aid of this country's diplomatic, fiscal and military agencies, as well as facilities of the Office of War Information and the War Shipping Administration.

Joseph C. Hyman of New York, executive vice chairman of the committee, praised the aid given by Christian churches. He mentioned the helpful acts of Pope Pius XII for the relief and protection not only of Jewish but of other victims of persecution.

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Looking to a Day of Reckoning

The machinery set in motion by President Roosevelt's January executive order establishing a War Refugee Board to rescue victims of Nazi terror has now received the strongest moral support that the United States and Great Britain can give. On March 24 the President appealed to Germans and "every man everywhere under German domination" to block the Hitlerian massacres and mass deportations; he also pledged that all Nazis and their satellites who share the guilt of war crimes "shall share the punishment." On Thursday Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary, in a similar statement from the House of Commons, warned the German satellites that if they participate even indirectly in the persecution of the Jews and other minorities they will be liable to the same punishment as German war criminals. Referring to President Roosevelt's statement, he said: "The British government at once wholeheartedly associated itself with the United States in this matter." Mr. Eden went even farther than the President by promising reward for merciful acts. "There are individuals and even official authorities among the German satellites," he said, "who have resisted the evil German example and shown toleration and mercy. In the hope of encouraging such good deeds and increasing their number, the British government has made it plain that those who have followed the right path will also not be forgotten on the day of reckoning."

The two statements will no doubt have influence in the Balkans; the President's statement in particular emphasized the new danger to Jews who have taken refuge in border states from the German occupation of Rumania and Hungary. There is hope that citizens and even officials in these lands will heed the warnings, with the result that more refugees can escape.

Text of the Statement by Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, March 24 (AP)—Following is the text of President Roosevelt's statement today promising help to rescue the "victims of brutality" of the Nazis and Japanese:

The United Nations are fighting to make a world in which tyranny and aggression cannot exist; a world based upon freedom, equality and justice; a world in which all persons regardless of race, color or creed may live in peace, honor and dignity.

In the meantime, in most of Europe and in parts of Asia, the systematic torture and murder of civilians—men, women and children—by the Nazis and the Japanese continue unabated. In areas subjugated by the aggressors innocent Poles, Czechs, Norwegians, Dutch, Danes, French, Greeks, Russians, Chinese, Filipinos—and many others—are being starved or frozen to death or murdered in cold blood in a campaign of savagery.

Cites Slaughter of Captives

The slaughters of Warsaw, Lidice, Kharkov and Nanking—the brutal torture and murder by the Japanese, not only of civilians but of our own gallant American soldiers and fliers—these are startling examples of what goes on day by day, year in and year out, wherever the Nazis and Japs are in military control—free to follow their barbaric purpose.

In one of the blackest crimes of all history—begun by the Nazis in the day of peace and multiplied by them a hundred times in time of war—the wholesale systematic murder of the Jews of Europe goes on unabated every hour. As a result of the events of the last few days hundreds of thousands of Jews who, while living under persecution, have at least found a haven from death in Hungary and the Balkans, are now threatened with annihilation as Hitler's forces descend more

HEADS REFUGEE BOARD



John W. Pehle
Associated Press, 1941

heavily upon these lands. That these innocent people, who have already survived a decade of Hitler's fury, should perish on the very eve of triumph over the barbarism which their persecution symbolizes, would be a major tragedy.

It is therefore fitting that we should again proclaim our determination that none who participate in these acts of savagery shall go unpunished. The United

Nations have made it clear that they will pursue the guilty and deliver them up in order that justice be done. That warning applies not only to the leaders but also to their functionaries and subordinates in Germany and in the satellite countries. All who knowingly take part in the deportation of Jews to their death in Poland or Norwegians and French to their death in Germany are equally guilty with the executioner. All who share the guilt shall share the punishment.

Hitler is committing these crimes against humanity in the name of the German people. I ask every German and every man everywhere under Nazi domination to show the world by his action that in his heart he does not share these insane criminal desires. Let him hide these pursued victims, help them to get over their borders, and do what he can to save them from the Nazi hangman. I ask him also to keep watch, and to record the evidence that will one day be used to convict the guilty.

In the meantime, and until the victory that is now assured is won, the United States will persevere in its efforts to rescue the victims of brutality of the Nazis and the Japs. In so far as the necessity of military operations permit this Government will use all means at its command to aid the escape of all intended victims of the Nazi and Jap executioner—regardless of race or religion or color. We call upon the free peoples of Europe and Asia temporarily to open their frontiers to all victims of oppression. We shall find havens of refuge for them, and we shall find the means for their maintenance and support until the tyrant is driven from their homelands and they may return.

In the name of justice and humanity let all freedom loving people rally to this righteous undertaking.

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Refugee Board Meets



The War Refugee Board, created by President Roosevelt to make plans for the rescue and relief of victims of enemy oppression, holds its first business meeting. Left to right: Secretary of State Hull, Secretary of Treasury Morgenthau, and Secretary of War Stimson.

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The Washington Post
MAR 23 1944

The Federal Diary

By Jerry Klurtz

The War Refugee Board had an important meeting the other day and photographers were allowed to come in to get the first picture of the members who include Secretaries Hull, Stimson and Morgenthau. As the photographers prepared to shoot, Secretary Hull had a weary, dead-pan look on his face. A photographer suggested that he smile, but Hull didn't move a muscle. Finally, one of the photographers asked: "Mr. Secretary could you give us an animate look?"

"I never look animated," came back Hull in his Tennessee drawl, "unless someone throws a rock at me."

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New York Post
MAR 22 1944

Washington Memo

By Charles Van Devander and William O. Payer Jr.

Social Note: Chauncey G. Parker Jr. Is No Longer With Selective Service

Washington, Mar. 22.

After a meeting of the War Refugee Board yesterday, its members—Secretaries Hull, Stimson and Morgenthau posed for a group of photographers.

Bothered by Hull's characteristically deadpan expression, one of the cameramen asked him, "couldn't you look a little more animated?"

"I never look animated," Hull drawled— "unless somebody throws a rock at me!"

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Die Westküste

A Fortnightly Section of "Aufbau" for California, Oregon and Washington

Aufbau—Vol. X—No. 11

March 17, 1944—West Coast No. IV, 6

Ours Is a Life-Saving Expedition

John W. Pehle on His Task

Mr. John W. Pehle has made the following statement for the forthcoming issue of "The Answer":

"As Acting Director of the War Refugee Board, I am aware that we face perhaps the greatest humanitarian task of all time. I am aware of the urgency of that task. We must thwart the Nazi program swiftly and decisively.

"The problems before us are complex and difficult. Facilities must be arranged for evacuation. Means of transportation must be found. Havens of refuge must be opened up. Help must somehow be given to those who cannot escape.

"We have no blueprints to guide us. We have no precedents to show us the way. There are no panaceas, no pat formulas to meet these problems. But we ARE meeting them and I am confident that the results will be inspiring, when they can be told.

"We are encouraging the movement of Jews from German-occupied and satellite countries. We are negotiating with neutral countries to absorb refugees on either a temporary or permanent basis. We are working to establish havens of refuge in territories under United Nations control. We are waging psychological warfare to influence the government of satellite countries to stop the persecution of Jews and to stop their deportation to Poland. And we are bringing home to the henchmen of the Axis our country's firm determination to punish the guilty when the day of reckoning comes. To implement the Board's program of action special attaches with diplomatic status are now being stationed in places where aid can be given to those who have thus far escaped with their lives. We are cooperating and we will cooperate with any private agency which can help us in carrying out our gargantuan task.

"Ours is a life-saving expedition. There is no time to spare. We MUST succeed."



Der Mann, von dem Millionen Schicksale abhängen
John W. Pehle, Leiter des War Refugee Board.

Clipping

The New York Times

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1944.

QUICK REFUGEE AID URGED

Creation of New Board Hailed at Jewish Council Meeting

Prompt and resolute action by the War Refugee Board in the rescue of oppressed minorities will bring substantial results, Senator James E. Murray of Montana told the third annual conference of the Jewish Council for Russian War Relief yesterday in Manhattan Center, Thirty-fourth Street and Eighth Avenue.

A quota of \$2,000,000 of gifts-in-kind for 1944 was adopted by the 1,500 delegates representing 850 Jewish organizations from all sections of the country. A message from Herbert H. Lehman, director-general of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, praised the Russian War Relief and expressed the belief that its program would promote Soviet-American amity.

Senator Murray, speaking as a Christian and a Catholic, said the Christian world could not afford to permit the barbarous persecution of the Jews to continue.

Eugene D. Kisselov, Soviet Consul General here, disclosed that the Soviet authorities had approved a plan permitting the council to send relief supplies to specially designated regions within the liberated areas that have traditionally been centers of large Jewish populations.

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Jewish Daily Forward
February 28, 1944

HAD NEWS: WAR REFUGEE BOARD HAS INDIFFERENCE TOWARD THE LARGE-SCALE
RESCUE WORK

by a reporter of the Forward

Mr. John Fohle, director of the War Refugee Board, created to rescue Jews and other victims of the Hitler Genocide, declared before a Jewish delegation that the Board so far has insufficient funds to conduct rescue work on a large scale. This was reported at a meeting of a large Jewish organization which had sent the delegation to the rescue-director in Washington.

The Jewish delegation went to Washington under the following circumstances:

The director of the War Refugee Board has turned to many Jewish organizations asking them for information about their relief activity on behalf of the needy Jews in Europe and the measures taken to alleviate their plight. Since this particular organization has many other organizations affiliated with it and it occupies itself a great deal with rescuing Jews of Europe, it responded immediately to the director's request and worked out detailed plans for conducting rescue work. A delegation from this organization was then sent to Washington to submit the plans to director Fohle and to discuss certain instances where relief is of immediate necessity.

The delegation had an audience with the director but when the members pointed out certain instances where immediate aid is necessary, the director stated that aid immediately cannot be given because so far there is no money. The government has made no appropriation as yet for this purpose and opinion has it that Jews will be turned to to finance the rescue work.

Immediately the delegation visited a number of Congressmen and Senators informing them about it. These gentlemen were perplexed but promised to look into the matter and prevail upon the three members of the Board that the government should finance the activity.

The delegates made it clear to the Congressmen and Senators that it is virtually impossible to impose the burden of such relief work upon the Jews. Several hundred million dollars is required for such work. It is a task which only the government can undertake. Besides, the U.S.A. has just decided on a program for a \$2 billion dollar relief fund which cannot incorporate even part of the rescue work. No larger fund can now be created by Jews. A few Senators immediately went to see Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, about the new situation.

At the meeting, where this problem was taken up, various plans were discussed how to effect the government's financing the rescue work. There was a divergence of opinion in connection with publicizing the news. The opinion prevailed that the news should not be published as yet but a few representatives declared that they will publicize it. The question aroused a heated discussion particularly because of the Palestine Resolution now under consideration. Some pointed out that since one cannot approach the State Department with many problems at the same time, the question of financing the rescue work should be postponed. On the other hand, there were others who argued that the Jewish people is of greater importance than the Jewish homeland and that if postponement should lead, God forbid, to the annihilation of a certain number of Jews, then it is more important to consider first the problem of financing the rescue work rather than talk about the Palestine Resolution.

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Jewish Morning Journal
Thursday, February 24, 1944

DIRECTOR OF WAR REFUGEE BOARD DESCRIBES TO REPRESENTATIVE
OF JEWISH MORNING JOURNAL HOW RESCUE WORK IS BEING ORGANIZED

by M. Frank, Washington Correspondent
of Jewish Morning Journal

Mr. Frank relates the friendly manner in which Mr. Pehle received him and his detailed answers to questions posed. He writes:

With reference to the work and aim of the War Refugee Board, Mr. Pehle declared that it will keep within the framework of the executive order as outlined by President Roosevelt when he established the Board on the 22nd of January of this year. He then produced a copy of the order and underlined the following:

"It is the policy of this government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war."

When asked to elaborate on this paragraph, Mr. Pehle remarked:

The War Refugee Board will not be a directly operative organization that is, it will not rescue directly the victims of Nazi-occupied Europe. It will, however, help facilitate relief and rescue work of various private as well as international organizations and bodies. By private agencies, Mr. Pehle said, he means those that are not governmental agencies. The J.D.C. is a private organization although it is wholly subsidized by funds collected from the public. The Board will help such organizations in various ways for instance: to aid transmit funds for direct aid to the victims, to obtain for them the necessary government permits to continue with and extend their activities, so that there should be no obstacles on the part of the government itself, to facilitate the movement of persons in occupied countries so that they should have no difficulty in getting out of those countries and in general do everything possible so that the work of the organizations will be conducted smoothly and swiftly.

In order to carry this out in the best and quickest possible manner, the Board will not limit itself to the small staff in Washington, but will also have special representatives in the most important neutral countries, especially in Spain, Turkey, countries through which a large number of victims is expected to be rescued.

However, this is not all. The War Refugee Board is very much interested in the underground movements of the European countries through which it hopes to achieve certain results. At this point Mr. Pehle spoke guardedly asking me to mention it only in a general way. I therefore wish to emphasize the following: Efforts will be made undoubtedly to get in touch with the underground movements, in one way or another, drawing them into the work. How, who, and what cannot be disclosed at this time for obvious reasons. The Board will make use of every possible contact American organizations have with the underground movements. Here Mr. Pehle mentioned as an example the Jewish Labor Committee which does have such contact. The Jewish

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Labor Committee has already offered its full cooperation in this field and the Board will utilize it when the opportunity presents itself. In general, the work with the underground movements will be conducted quietly and secretively.

Mr. Pehle wants it to be emphasized that the Board will not merely utilize the activities and facilities of this or that organization but those of Jewish and non-Jewish as well. The fact is that the Board has already sent out invitations to 90 organizations Jewish and non-Jewish doing relief work of such a nature, inquiring whether they are willing and ready to cooperate with the War Refugee Board. This work will not be limited, therefore, to particular bodies. It is understood, however, that those organizations possessing greater experience and financial means as well as better contact with the victims themselves and the underground movements will receive a greater degree of cooperation from the Refugee Board and their facilities and contacts will be utilized more often.

In reply to my question about the relationship and the division of work between the Refugee Board and other government agencies such as the UNRRA, the Intergovernmental Committee and others, Mr. Pehle answered that he sees no difficulties or specific obstacles. UNRRA, he emphasized, was created to do direct relief and reconstruction work in areas freed from the enemy while the Refugee Board was created with the sole purpose of helping to rescue people from occupied territory. Should the Board see any specific way in which UNRRA can be helpful, it will definitely turn to it for help and should the Board be able to aid UNRRA with certain information, it certainly will not refuse to do so. In general, it has not been clearly worked out where these two agencies part ways in their work but according to Mr. Pehle, he expects the fullest cooperation. He did not wish to dwell on the Intergovernmental Committee but from the few words he dropped and from what he intimated I got the impression that our government is disappointed with the results of this international committee up till now. The truth of the matter is that we would not have had a War Refugee Board had this committee functioned properly bringing about proper results.

As to financing the work of the Board Mr. Pehle explained that this question has not been clearly defined as yet. Considerable sums of money have been offered by private organizations which will be utilized wherever possible and advisable. However, some are of the opinion that the Board should turn to Congress with a request for a special appropriation for its work. It is not definite whether the Board will want to do it, for several reasons: First of all there is the danger that by bringing this problem to Congress a political question might be involved and the entire matter may become a political issue; secondly, obstacles might be made which might impede the rescue work and thirdly, many organizations, such as the J.D.C. and others, are against it because they do not want to drag in political issues and because they feel that without government funds they will have a freer hand. At any rate, the problem has not been solved as yet and as Mr. Pehle expressed himself, it is a "hot question."

We further asked him what is the Board planning to do with the rescued Jews. Will it help them, for instance, reach Eretz Israel so that they can establish themselves there? Mr. Pehle's reply was that the Board is only interested in finding a temporary haven of refuge for the rescued Jews, what will happen to them later is beyond the framework of its activity. If there should be a possibility, for instance, to

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get Jews to Eretz Israel through Turkey, it will be done, but to consider Eretz Israel as the sole haven of refuge is out of the question. In most cases the rescued people will be taken to special camps built in places adjacent to Europe. One camp, he mentioned, is already in existence in North Africa, not far from Casablanca. Other places in South Africa such as Angola, for instance, or in Latin American countries, Mr. Pehle declared, were not even considered because they are too far from Europe.

In answer to the question whether other countries will participate in the work of the War Refugee Board, Mr. Pehle replied that so far the work was undertaken by America only. If other countries should want to join in this work, he sees no reason why it should be impossible; at present, however, the attitude of other countries is not clear. When I took leave of Mr. Pehle he asked me to convey through the Jewish Morning Journal the following message to American Jewry:

"The American government knows and understands the sentiments of American Jews in the great misfortune that befell European Jewry. We therefore wish to make it clear that the War Refugee Board is very earnest and sincere about carrying out the task entrusted to it. The Board will overlook no opportunities to carry out the policy as stated and implied in the President's order. The Board needs everyone's aid and cooperation in this difficult task."

The rest of the article is devoted to a biographical sketch of Mr. Pehle.

Officials Attend Dinner Honoring John W. Pehle

A representative gathering from diplomatic and official circles attended the dinner last evening given by Peter H. Bergson in honor of the Acting Director of the War Refugee Board and Mrs. John W. Pehle.

The dinner took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Lindley on Massachusetts ave. Among the guests were the Netherlands Ambassador, Dr. Alexander Loudon; the Greek Ambassador and Mme. Diamantopoulos, the Czechoslovakian Ambassador and Mme. Hurban, the Swedish Minister and Mme. Bostrom, the Swiss Minister and Mme. Bruggmann, the Polish Minister-Counselor and Mme. Kwapiszewska, the Counselor of the Yugoslav Embassy and Mme. Rybar, the Counselor of the Norwegian Embassy and Mme. Irgens, the Counselor of the Greek Embassy and Mme. Philon.

In addition were Senator and Mrs. Guy M. Gillette, Senator Elbert D. Thomas, Representative Andrew L. Somers, Representative Will Rogers, Jr., Representative and Mrs. Emanuel Celler, the Assistant Secretary of the Interior and Mrs. Oscar Chapman, the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Herbert Gaston, the Assistant General Counsel of the Treasury and Mr. Josiah H. DeBois, the Interior Department Solicitor and Mrs. Fowler. Also present were Mrs. Leon Henderson, David Barist and Allan Corelli.

February 14, 1944

A Good Man in a Big Job

President Roosevelt a short time ago appointed a new War Refugee Board consisting of the Secretaries of State, War and the Treasury. Its primary function is to try to help the refugees from Europe, and especially the Jews, whom Hitler apparently intends to murder as rapidly as he can. It is perhaps only natural that a good deal of skepticism has been expressed regarding this new board. For several years, Great Britain and the United States have been engaged in little more than polite buck-passing in regard to this matter. The Intergovernmental Committee, and the two conferences that have been held, have produced many words of pious sympathy but practically no concrete action. However, it begins to look, finally, as though the United States Government really means business. John W. Pehle has just been appointed executive director of the War Refugee Board. Pehle is an able, aggressive administrator; for four years he has been head of the Foreign Funds Control in the Treasury, which has tied up Axis money in this country and thus prevented enemy espionage and infiltra-

tion in American business. Mr. Pehle's first job will be to get the refugees out of the neutral countries of Europe, in order to make room for more of them to get away from Hitler territory. We wish him all success in a job which can become, quite literally, one of the most important on earth.

W. Y. Lewis
2-9-44

Refugee Board Headed by Pehle

John W. Pehle, a member of the Treasury Dept. since 1934, has been made acting executive director of the War Refugee Board, set up recently by President Roosevelt to handle refugee problems.

Pehle since 1940 has been assistant to Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., and director of foreign funds control in the Treasury Dept. Besides Morgenthau, members of the new board include Secretary of State Cordell Hull and Secretary of War Henry Stimson.

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War Refugees

Why John W. Peble has been appointed only acting director of the new War Refugee Board—recently set up by Congress to attempt the rescue of the victims of enemy oppression—is a question that will arouse some speculation. No doubt there has been some competition by several groups to nominate the holder of this key position. If this is the case, perhaps the board, which is composed of the heads of State, War and Treasury Departments, thought of this kind of appointment as a method of easing Mr. Peble into the substantive position. It is to be hoped so. For Mr. Peble meets the specifications we ourselves advanced in showing the singular importance of the executive position in the new body created by Congress. He has the enthusiasm and energy of youth, organizational experience, proved ability in creating an administrative agency *de novo*, and an intimate contact with foreign governments.

Mr. Peble goes to the War Refugee Board from the Treasury, where he was assistant general counsel. Specifically his job was the direction of the control of foreign funds. This control he established from the ground up, and to him alone is due the formulation of rules and procedures for one of the most novel and complicated tasks ever undertaken by a Government agency. It is the general testimony that he has done a remarkably competent job. That he will be as useful in his new sphere is the conclusion of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. It will be a hard task. Already, as is obvious from Turkey's decision to tighten the rules against admission of refugees, an urgent job of no mean proportions awaits him, even while he is building up his organization. If we cannot stop the massacres now going on, at least we can set up centers where the rescued can go, and enlist the cooperation of other countries. We have been laggard in this humanitarian duty. On Mr. Peble the Congress will depend for making up for lost time.

PEHLE NAMED CHIEF OF REFUGEE BOARD

Director, on Leave From Treasury, Says Groups in European Havens Must Be Moved

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—One of the first and most important tasks of the new War Refugee Board will be to see that refugees are moved out of European neutral countries to make room for others who might escape from Nazidom: to take their places, according to John W. Pehle, whose appointment as acting executive director of the board was announced today.

In his new capacity Mr. Pehle has received leave of absence from his old one as assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury and Director of Foreign Funds Control. He has had wide experience in negotiating with representatives of foreign governments and private agencies interested in relief and refugee operations.

The prompt transfer of refugees from such neutral countries as Spain, explained Mr. Pehle, could be expected to make their governments more willing to afford sanctuary to other refugees who might reach their territory by the underground route or through deals with Germany and her satellites. To facilitate this transfer it might be necessary to establish camps in non-European neutral countries. There is such a camp in North Africa and another, populated by escaped Poles, in Mexico.

The war refugee board will have only a small professional staff, said the new executive, but it will be able to use the personnel of other Government agencies and expects to work also through private international agencies. Its chief helpers will probably be in the underground organizations which exist in all countries dominated by the Nazis, Mr. Pehle added. As a result its operations will be carried on largely in the dark and the true nature of its methods and accomplishments will probably not be recorded until after the war.

The board will be able to make use of Government funds, but to a large extent its activities may be financed privately. It will assume no operating responsibilities, but will act as an agency seeking to enable refugees whose lives are in danger to find temporary shelter, and to this end to provide them with money, help and food. The board will appoint representatives in European neutral countries, the most important of which is Spain.

The board will cooperate closely with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and the Foreign Economic Administration.

Representative Will Rogers Jr. and Peter H. Bergson, co-chairman of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, hailed the appointment of Mr. Pehle as clearing the road for immediate and effective action, and added:

"Every day that passes sees the doom of thousands of Jewish men, women and children, many of whom can be saved."

100043

1944

War Refugee Board

By Ernest Lindley

An Active Operating Organization

WITH THE APPOINTMENT of an executive director, the recently formed War Refugee Board will swing into full action.



Without a waiting this appointment, however, the board already has taken several positive steps—enough to demonstrate that it will be an active operating organization, not just another board or commission. For the first time, the United States Government has an operating agency under specific order to do everything within the power of this Government to rescue victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death.

The qualification, "who are in imminent danger of death," is important. Undoubtedly many millions of the people of Europe would like to escape. But a great majority of them do not live under a sentence of immediate death. Some are suffering from malnutrition. Some may lose their lives accidentally from bombs or, as in Italy, if they happen to be close to the battle lines. From time to time, some may be seized as hostages and later executed for actions for which they had no individual responsibility.

The peoples of Europe as a whole can be liberated only by the defeat of the Nazis. But among them are some the Nazis have undertaken to exterminate. Among these the largest group are the Jews. But there are others. The responsibility of the War Refugee Board, consisting of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War, is to do everything possible to rescue or otherwise to assist individuals in Europe who are in imminent danger of death.

IN GENERAL, THERE are two ways in which these doomed peoples might be rescued. One is by large-scale evacuations conducted with the consent of the Germans or satellite governments. From time to time, rumors have been circulated that the Germans would consent to the evacuation of Jews from certain areas of Europe. Although they have sometimes been taken at face value by leaders of private organizations, these rumors have seldom, if ever, been substantiated. Probably most of them were deliberate Nazi propaganda designed to create trouble for Britain and the United States. Judging from past experience, if the Germans were to turn loose any of these people it would be only in return for fat ransoms. Any proposal for large-scale evacuations to be

conducted with the consent of the Germans would have to be examined with extreme circumspection.

Those who have investigated the practical problems involved believe, however, that rescues by underground can be greatly increased in volume. The underground organizations in many countries are becoming stronger and more active as the day of liberation comes nearer. It is proposed to encourage their rescue work by the judicious use of money—not to pay ransoms, but to cover operating expenses, including such elementary things as food and clothing in transit and after arrival in neutral way stations.

Funds for the use of the committee have been pledged by private organizations—one large gift already has been deposited—and the Treasury is unblocking exchange, even in enemy territory, to finance rescue work.

THE SUCCESS OF the underground method depends very largely upon the attitude of the neutral nations contiguous to Nazi-controlled Europe, especially Switzerland, Spain and Turkey. The State Department is sending special attaches to our missions in these contiguous neutral nations to devote themselves to these war refugee problems. The American Government is making plain to the governments of these nations its determination to do everything possible to facilitate this rescue work.

It is possible, also, that aid can be extended to some people who cannot be rescued. Persons who are allowed insufficient food to keep alive—who are on rations even below the general level of the country in which they presently reside—might be provided with supplemental rations through the International Red Cross. That, at least, is a possibility which will be explored.

Also, as the satellite nations become impressed with the earnestness of the purpose of the American Government they may resist more firmly the dictates of Berlin. This is all the more likely from now on because Germany is obviously doomed to defeat. There may be some satellite governments which are not yet entirely convinced that Germany will be forced to surrender unconditionally, but probably there are none who still think that Germany will be able to retain its present hold on Europe.

The creation of the War Refugee Board should not be allowed to fan hopes that any large number of Nazi victims can be taken out of Europe. But the capacity of the underground railroads probably can be increased, especially as the contiguous neutrals are made aware of the importance which the United States attaches to this enterprise and as arrangements are expanded to move refugees out of these nations to other destinations, so that congestion is avoided. And it is altogether possible that the pressure of the American Government, as it is ultimately felt among the wavering satellite nations, will win reprieves for many who otherwise would not survive.

official file

*N. Y. Times
2-4-44*

CONFER ON REFUGEE BOARD

President and Morgenthau Discuss Possible Personnel

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3—President Roosevelt conferred this afternoon with Secretary Morgenthau about the appointment of a full-time executive director and possible other staff for the new War Refugee Board.

Speculation centers upon John W. Pehle, head of the Treasury's Foreign Fund Control organization, as the probable selection for executive director. Announcement of the appointment is expected tomorrow.

The board, made up of the Secretaries of State, War and Treasury, is charged with responsibility for action "for the immediate rescue from the Nazis of as many as possible of the persecuted minorities of Europe, racial, religious or political, all civilian victims of enemy savagery."

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Pehle Reported Slated to Head Refugee Board

Staff to Aid Rescue of
Jews Is Likely To Be
Established Immediately

By Ann Cottrell

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—Strong indications appeared today that a candidate favored by Henry M. Morgenthau jr., Secretary of the Treasury, for the post of executive director of the War Refugee Board will be appointed, possibly tomorrow, thus lessening the anxiety of the emergency committee to save the Jewish people of Europe over the lack of a functioning staff and a concrete program to rescue thousands of Jews from the occupied countries.

Although the State Department, which in the past opposed the creation of such a board, is known to have its own choice, the name of John W. Pehle, director of Foreign Funds Control of the Treasury, appeared most prominent today. Also mentioned as possible directors were Leon Henderson, former price administrator, and Oscar L. Chapman, Assistant Secretary of Interior.

The board was established on Jan. 22 by President Roosevelt and is composed of Mr. Morgenthau, Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, and Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War. When he announced the formation of the board, long sought by the emergency committee to save the Jewish people, the President said it would be headed by a full-time executive director. In view of the time that has elapsed since the formation of the board and the lack of news of an executive director, it has been reported that board members could not reach an agreement.

So far the only step taken by the board toward effecting the rescue of the Jews of Europe has been to call on American diplomatic officers to aid in the program and report on information as to the permission granted war refugees to enter each country.

on. 4.

Herald Tribune

2-3-44

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*n. y. Times
2-1-44*

A BEGINNING OF RESCUE

The War Refugee Board created by President Roosevelt has a difficult task before it, as the executive order points out. The task is to do what can be done, consistent with fighting and winning the war, to rescue as many as possible of the persecuted minorities of Europe from Nazi savagery.

In this effort Secretaries Hull, Morgenthau and Stimson will have strong American support. In time the cooperation of other United Nations and neutral Governments is expected. Meanwhile, working with such national, international and private relief agencies as have already been set up, we have begun the job.

What can be done is problematic, total war being the heartless thing that it is. Large-scale aid for Hitler's 16,000,000 homeless victims must clearly wait until the conflagration can be controlled. To appeal to the Nazis in the name of humanity is futile. While the flames of their hatred still rage in all corners of Europe the rescuers can do little more than carry out the comparatively few sufferers that can be reached.

We may be sure that all measures within the power of this Government will be taken. For a beginning, the stranded people who huddle in terror in the ports now available to our ships can be removed to temporary havens outside Europe, where they can be fed and clothed. To that extent, at least, the Nazi lust for extermination can be balked while we get on with the prime and titanic business of crushing the forces that have brought this horror upon the world.

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Roosevelt Board Is Negotiating To Save Refugees From Nazis

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29—The new War Refugees Board, meeting four days after its establishment by President Roosevelt, said today that negotiations were under way with foreign Governments to determine the extent to which they were willing to cooperate in rescuing Jews and other victims of Nazi aggression.

The board made its announcement through the Treasury, pending the setting up of its own organization, following its first meeting held on Wednesday. Secretaries Hull, Morgenthau and Stimson, who comprise the board, were all present.

Beyond their statement that foreign Governments were being approached to ascertain the extent to which they were prepared to cooperate, the board said that all United States diplomats and consular officers throughout the world had been instructed "to do everything possible to effectuate this Government's war-refugee policy as announced by the President, bearing in mind the urgency of the problem."

In its announcement of actions taken, the board said that diplomatic and consular officers had been directed to cooperate "with all public agencies and established private organizations in the rescue areas."

The board said the diplomatic and consular officers had been requested to make "immediate reports" concerning conditions existing in each country with regard to whether refugees would be permitted to enter, and, where refugees were refused entry at frontiers, explanations why they were refused.

The board's announcement covered the following points:

"All missions were advised that instructions had been issued by the President to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of War to endeavor to effect immediately the rescue and relief of Jews in Europe and of other victims of Nazi terror.

"For the purpose of carrying out this policy, the President's Order sets up a War Refugee Board composed of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of War. This board is responsible to the President, and to it is assigned the responsibility for carrying out the policy above announced. While the board is responsible directly for giving effect to the policy, it is directed to work with UNRRA, the Inter-

Governmental Committee, and other appropriate international organizations.

"The President made it clear that in dealing with this important and difficult problem, he expected to have full cooperation from the governments of the United Nations and other foreign governments. The President emphasized the urgent necessity of frustrating the Nazi design to exterminate Jewish and other minority groups in Europe.

Wide Cooperation Sought.

"Cooperation was directed with all public agencies and established private organizations in the rescue areas from those officers who are dealing with this problem to the end that effective programs and measures for relief, rescue, maintenance, and transportation of persecuted victims may be developed and carried out. Immediate reports relating to the situation existing in the countries of the respective officers have been requested, which should include information as to the permission granted to war refugees to enter each country, the encouragement and cooperation given to such entry, and the extent to which each country does not cooperate in permitting entry.

"Recommendations as to possible lines of action have been asked, with notation of special obstacles which may handicap rescue operations and methods of overcoming such obstacles.

"Foreign governments are being approached to ascertain the extent to which they are prepared to cooperate."

an. y. Jones

1-30-44

1000048

Naming of Refugee Board Complicates Allied Relief Picture

By HELEN KIRKPATRICK,
Foreign Correspondent of The Star
and Chicago Daily News

LONDON, Jan. 26.—American, British and Allied relief officials here appear to have been surprised and confused by President Roosevelt's recent announcement of his appointment of a war refugee board.

(The new board set up by executive order last Saturday to "take action for the immediate rescue from the Nazis of as many as possible of the persecuted minorities of Europe, racial, religious or political, all civilian victims of enemy savagery," was announced as comprising Secretaries Hull, Morgenthau and Stimson, directly responsible to the President.)

Relief officials here see the President's board as cutting directly across both the Inter-Governmental Committee for Refugees and the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

Board Established Last Spring.

The Bermuda refugee conference, on United States' initiative, established last spring a board to deal with the refugee question. All Allied governments are represented on it and its function is to try to obtain the release from Nazi custody of persecuted persons and to arrange for their safe transport to some country where they may find work and homes.

The UNRRA, which grew out of the Lehman committee, was designed—again largely on the initiative of the United States—to organize, systematize and equalize the work of rehabilitation and relief in Europe, to prevent overlapping and to eliminate competition.

Instead of each Allied government running its own relief and private agencies with all competing for limited amount of foodstuffs, clothing and medical supplies, a single organization was decided upon.

To date the Inter-Governmental Committee for Refugees has not been able to accomplish a great deal, for the simple reason that a large number of non-European countries do not want to take any more refugees.

No new committee is likely to be able to persuade the South American, Canadian or United States governments to change on this, it is felt among relief officials here.

Feeding Is Major Problem.

The UNRRA's duties have been outlined as principally those of organizing and feeding the peoples of European territories as and when they are released from German domination; providing clothing and drugs and supervising and assisting the return of displaced populations to their homes or to areas where they can be accommodated.

UNRRA may be shorn of its power and be unable to obtain supplies because of congressional refusal to vote its budget and because of Army plans for administering relief, as well as Army priorities on materials. Setting up of another organization to overlap the intergovernmental committee.

UNRRA and the Army will be a positive guarantee that money will be wasted in Europe, in the view of experts.

The United States could pare its relief budget to the core and still command the respect and understanding of all Europeans, it is argued. But if, in addition to cutting relief appropriations, more and larger bureaucracies are established, Europeans are likely to be still further disillusioned about American efficiency.

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100049

Jewish Morning Journal
January 26, 1944

STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZES VAAD HAHATZALA TO DO RESCUE WORK
(Special report by A. Reishman)

a communication received by the Agudath Harabanim from the State and Treasury Departments discloses that the government has given its authorization and approval for the Vaad Hahatzala, famous relief organization of orthodox Jewry, to conduct general rescue work as well, and that it is ready to enable the Vaad to do large-scale rescue work.

The Vaad Hahatzala, which was organized four-and-a-half years ago to rescue the remnant of Polish and Lithuanian orthodox Jewry, and began over a year ago to extend its relief activities to include general Jewish rescue work, that is, rescuing not only orthodox Jewish refugees, but also all other Jews who could be snatched from the clutches of death, now has the opportunity to extend its rescue activities with the blessings of our government in Washington.

Vaad Hahatzala has already remitted \$154,000 for immediate rescue

The Vaad Hahatzala has already given its answer to the historic and humanitarian gesture of the American Government, which has just created a special government agency -- the War Refugee Board -- with the aim to undertake immediate and practical steps for the rescue of unfortunate European Jewry.

After President Roosevelt announced the decision of the government to create the War Refugee Board, placing at the head of this government commission the greatest and most important diplomatic, military and economic experts in the country, and on the basis of the above-mentioned communication from Washington to the Vaad Hahatzala -- the leaders of the Vaad called an urgent meeting of the administrative board in order to map out a plan for rapid action in the field of relief for those who have the opportunity now to be rescued.

At this meeting, held Monday evening at the office of the Vaad Hahatzala, 132 Nassau Street, with Rabbi Israel Rosenberg presiding, and attended by a number of prominent personalities, heads of yeshivahs, rabbis, social workers and lay-leaders, tens of thousands of dollars were collected on the spot (through loans), thus enabling the Vaad Hahatzala to remit \$154,000 at once for the rescue of thousands of Jewish people numbering many Torah scholars.

Many ten thousands of dollars were spent by the Vaad Hahatzala in the course of the past year to rescue Jews from the European valley of tears; hundreds and perhaps thousands of Jewish men, women and children were recently rescued from a horrible death, thanks to the vigilance and tireless work of the Vaad Hahatzala. Now, however, with the remittance of \$154,000 -- is the first time the Vaad Hahatzala has managed to collect so swiftly and remit such a large sum for general Jewish rescue.

At the present moment the Vaad Hahatzala is preparing to arouse American Jewry to seize the opportunity to rescue tens of thousands of Jews from the European Gehena. The rescue activity, which is already going on, must not be interrupted but strengthened and accelerated.

The same news item is repeated in the Jewish Daily Forward.

Transl.
hr/hw
1/26/44

CC - Messrs. Pehle, Luxford, DuBois, E.M. Bernstein, Lesser, Friedman, Miss Hodel

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PUBLISHED BY THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PUBLISHING SOCIETY

Refugee Board's Aid Mainly Moral

An Intimate Message From Washington

By Mary Hornaday

Just what can President Roosevelt's new War Refugee Board be expected to accomplish?

This is the board of Cabinet officers, you recall, that has just been set up at the request of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish people of Europe, which has among its members as many Gentiles as Jews, if not more of the former.

President Roosevelt snatched the initiative away from Congress after the Senate Foreign Relations Committee had unanimously approved such a board and the House had tabled it on advice from Breckenridge Long, Assistant Secretary of State, who said that the Department of State is already doing everything legal to promote the rescue of these people.

The committee, which the President has now obliged by an executive order, does not agree with Mr. Long. They have a program. They hope the new board can get moving before the Jews in occupied countries are either murdered by the Nazis or at long last liberated by in-marching United Nations forces.

It should be pointed out right from the start that the committee does not contemplate bringing the rescued Jews to the United States, or even to the Western Hemisphere. It merely wants to have arrangements made in neutral and Allied countries, such as Turkey, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, and Algeria, for special reservation camps into which escaping Jews can be brought and temporarily sheltered and then eventually transferred into Palestine, where it is estimated some 600,000 could be accommodated.

This is the meat of the program, though the committee is hopeful that the board will make some strong statements regarding the Jews who have been committed against their will to the Gulag of the Moscow Government since November, 1943. Even though rescued by the Russians of low Nazi ring-leaders at that time brought hundreds of reports of American and British pilots—prisoners of war in Germany. Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, one of the members of the new refugee board, recently gave his approval to the Soviet action.

However, Gen. Marcel de Baer, Belgian jurist and chairman of the United Nations Commission for the Investigation of War Crimes, has raised a question whether the Soviet trials had a sound legal basis, inasmuch as the Nazi High Command records were not available to the court.

"Do you really think this new board can accomplish anything that the State Department, UNRRA, and the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees aren't already doing?" I asked representatives of the Emergency Committee yesterday.

They all professed great hope that the board can do something concrete, but at the same time, made it clear that the mere news of the board's creation will sound well to the ears of the European Underground. Then there's the moral side of the question, they argued. The United States, they said, should do the humane thing, even if the action never bears fruit.

Recent reports from the Underground indicate that in some cases, special treatment has been given Dutch Jews with Palestinian immigration certificates or with visas for South American countries. They were not sent to Poland, but to concentration camps in central Germany, and have been told that eventually they will be permitted to leave the country. Those in touch with the Underground do not interpret this as any letting up in Germany's determination to exterminate the Jews, but a desire to embarrass the United Nations if they bar Jews from Palestine or the Western Hemisphere.

Most immediate propaganda effect of the news of the Board's creation may, it is hoped, be in the satellite countries, such as Hungary, where Jewish persecution is already said to be lessening due to the imminence of invasion.

The board, of course, cannot promise any visas to Palestine since that is British business, but it can, if there is time, talk things over with the British.

Many of us, as observers, would probably take little stock in a board whose way to effective action seems this nebulous, but then most of us have never been in the desperate mental state of some of the Jews of Europe.

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RESCUE THE REFUGEES!

RARELY has the President made a more desirable and popular move than his appointment of the Secretaries of War, State and Treasury as a War Refugee Board to rescue as many as possible of Hitler's victims.

The fact that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved unanimously the Gillette-Taft-Baldwin-Rogers proposal for a similar board indicates how far this issue transcends partisan political or racial considerations. The object is purely humanitarian: to save the persecuted minorities who have escaped death but are in peril.

The all minorities properly are covered by the President's order—political, as well as racial and religious—the largest number are the Jews. They have been singled out by the Nazis for mass extermination. An estimated two million European Jews already have been wiped out. Perhaps four million remain. They are homeless. Those who are not murdered outright, and who escape destruction by torture, face death by starvation and neglect.

The rescue job is difficult but by no means impossible, because many are still in the satellite countries. Thus when Sweden offered a temporary haven, 6000 Danish Jews promptly got out. This week about 850 are being taken by ship from Portugal and Spain to Palestine, thus making room for others to come into those transit countries.

But only an active official agency, backed by money and power, can arrange the intricate international facilities to rescue several hundred thousands instead of the few hundreds now escaping. Many can be taken out of France, Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria to temporary havens, which the board can set up in Portugal, Spain, North Africa, Turkey, Switzerland and Sweden. Palestine probably could care for half a million for the duration of the war if the British government would permit it.

This new board must not be allowed to limp along without effective action, like so many earlier efforts, including those of the Bermuda conference and the Inter-Governmental Refugee Committee. Time is short. The need is desperate.

Call Of Humanity

The President has forestalled certain action in Congress in behalf of the threatened Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe. He has set up a War Refugee Board to attempt the rescue of "the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death." This decision follows the initiative of Senator Gillette, whose resolution to the same effect had already been reported out by the Foreign Relations Committee, and was on the calendar for Senate debate this week. A similar resolution introduced by Representatives Will Rogers and Joseph C. Baldwin was on its way through the House. Passage by an overwhelming majority had been indicated. The industrious spadework done by the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People in Europe had contributed to this prospect, and the committee is likewise entitled to credit for the President's forehanded move. The proponents of the legislative resolutions, who are drawn impartially from both parties in Congress, will no doubt welcome presidential action without reservation. Perhaps they would have rephrased the title to exclude the word refugees, for, after all, the congressional aim was that steps should be taken before the Jews become refugees. But the purpose in establishing the new boards embraces the object of the resolutions, and that is the main thing.

The new board will be composed of Secretaries Hull, Morgenthau and Stimson. An executive director will be appointed, and this, of course, will be the key post, to be filled, presumably, by a person of both distinction and energy. He is assured in advance of maximum cooperation by the State Department. The department already has been directed on recommendation of the board to appoint special attaches with diplomatic status, to be stationed in places where aid could be given to war refugees pending the development of permanent plans. Little can be done, of course, to stop the mass killing, which, according to the Archbishop of Canterbury is going on at the rate of 10,000 Jews a day. But, as Senator Gillette has said, the murderer's hand might be stayed if the Big Three were to indicate that their recent statement on atrocities applied equally to the Jew extermination program. It should have been done immediately after Hitler's New Year declaration that "our whole life, our efforts, and our existence must be directed to only one end: the com-

plete extermination of the Jew all over Europe." The new measure is the other step the Iowan had in mind in that it contemplates rescue and hospitality in special reservation camps in neutral and other territory. When the new agency sets up the centers to which the Jews can escape, there will be that much more encouragement to the Jews to escape Hitler's toils.

We hope the President will also be forehanded in the matter of feeding the starving people of occupied Europe. A resolution calling upon the administration to facilitate this humanitarian measure is going through Congress. It should be speeded up, if the President will not cut short its career by adopting its purpose. There is not the slightest reason any more to bar mercy ships to Europe. The war will be won by military, not economic, means, and when this was realized, the major reason for opposition to this act of charity completely disappeared. We won't say it was wicked to hold out against action. It was simply stupid, an example of how the mind fails to keep pace with the facts. No cost to this country would be involved in authorizing mercy ships to go to the beleaguered countries. The food, the ships and the personnel will all come from neutral countries. After the experience in Greece, where outside aid has saved thousands of lives, there is no further excuse for a moment's delay in authorizing aid. Now that the President has anticipated congressional action in behalf of the Jews, he should anticipate congressional action in behalf of the children of Europe, for it is the children who would be benefited most. No greater tragedies have been recorded in civilized history than those which are now stirring our Congress.

ROOSEVELT SETS UP WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Hull, Morgenthau and Stimson
Are Directed to Aid Rescue
of Victims of Axis Rule

FOR 'IMMEDIATE' ACTION

President Urges Forestalling
Nazi Plan 'to Exterminate All
Jews and Other Minorities'

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 22—President Roosevelt set up by Executive Order today a War Refugee Board "to take action for the immediate rescue from the Nazis of as many as possible of the persecuted minorities of Europe, racial, religious or political, all civilian victims of enemy savagery."
The board, which is directly responsible to the President, is comprised of Secretary Hull, Secretary Morgenthau and Secretary Stimson. They will have a full-time executive director.
The Foreign Policy Association

estimated last year that about 16,000,000 Europeans had been made refugees by Nazi action.

The policy of our Government toward the refugee problem was stated in the preamble of the President's Executive Order, as follows:

"It is the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war."

Cooperating Agencies

A White House statement said that while the President "would look directly to the board for the successful execution of this policy, the board, of course, would cooperate fully with the Inter-Governmental Committee, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and other interested international organizations."

More than being an isolated American move, the President said that he expected to obtain the cooperation of the United Nations and other foreign governments in carrying out what the White House called "this difficult but important task."

The President stressed, said the White House statement, "that it was urgent that action be taken at once to forestall the plan of the Nazis to exterminate all the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe."

The President's order said that the functions of the new board

"shall include, without limitation, the development of plans and programs and the inauguration of effective measures for (a) the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of the victims of enemy oppression, and (b) the establishment of havens of temporary refuge for such victims."

Diplomatic Status for Aides

It said also that the State Department shall appoint "special attaches with diplomatic status" on the recommendations of the board, and that these shall be "stationed abroad in places where it is likely that assistance can be rendered to war refugees."

"The board and the State, Treasury and War Departments are authorized to accept the services or contributions of any private persons, private organizations, State agencies or agencies of foreign governments in carrying out the purposes of this order," the President directed.

Of the four American representatives to the Anglo-American Conference on Refugee Problems at Bermuda last spring, only one would appear to be available for the position of executive director of the board. He is R. Borden Reams of the State Department, 40 years old. The others were President Harold Willis Dodds of Princeton University, Senator Scott Lucas and Representative Sol Bloom.

Fear of Spies Getting Out

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22 (AP)—One argument against undertaking direct action in behalf of refu-

gees in the past has been that Germany might be able to smuggle out spies and saboteurs along with the bona fide refugees liberated through negotiation. The President's instruction that "havens of temporary refuge" be established for refugees was taken to mean, however, that they would go to areas where Nazi agents would be of little value to the enemy.

Negotiations for the release of refugees in areas yet to be liberated presumably would be conducted through the Swiss or other neutral governments.

It is thought that relief, which can be supplied through private contributions to the board, as well as with public funds, probably will be handled through the International Red Cross.

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1-24-44

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Refugee Board Is Established By Roosevelt

Agency to Take Immediate Action to Save as Many Nazi Victims as Possible

By Carl Levin

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—President Roosevelt set up today a war refugee board, consisting of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War, to take action for the immediate rescue from the Nazis of as many as possible of the persecuted minorities of Europe.

The board, the President announced, will have a full-time executive director to arrange for the prompt execution of the plans and programs developed and the measures initiated to effect the rescues. Mr. Roosevelt added that he expected to obtain the cooperation of all members of the United Nations and other foreign governments "in carrying out this difficult but important task."

In establishing the new board, which will function directly under him, the President declared in an executive order that "it is the policy of this government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death, and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war." He added that the board will be charged with direct responsibility to him in seeing that the announced policy is carried out.

There was no indication either in the announcement of the executive order that the President's action was an outgrowth of the Anglo-American conference on refugee problems held in Bermuda last April. Establishment of the committee, however, was the first concrete action taken by either government on the refugee problem since the conclave, which was criticized in some circles as having accomplished nothing.

Non-sectarian and Jewish organizations, which have been in close contact with underground sources in occupied Europe as well as with the Allied governments-in-exile in London, have pleaded for months for concrete action to save as many as possible of the hundreds of thousands, and possibly

millions of Jews, still remaining in Axis Europe who are threatened with systematic extermination by the Nazis. Semi-official reports

have fixed at as high as 3,000,000 the number of European Jews already slaughtered.

The American Jewish Congress and other groups have pointed out that a considerable number of those still living could escape to the Balkans, from which wavering Axis satellites might facilitate escape if the Allies set up the machinery to make this possible.

In delegating Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War; Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, and Henry Morgenthau Jr., to take concrete action to save what he termed "civilian victims of enemy savagery," the President said that they will co-operate in this work with the Inter-Governmental Refugee Committee, which in recent months has been described in some quarters as being moribund, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and other interested international organizations.

The White House announcement added that the existing facilities of the State, Treasury and War Departments will be employed to aid Axis victims to the fullest extent possible and stressed that it was urgent that action be

taken at once to forestall the plan of the Nazis to exterminate all the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe—racial, religious or political.

In taking "effective measures" for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of the victims of enemy oppression and the establishment of havens of temporary refuge, the board was directed in the executive order to utilize, to the fullest extent possible, "the personnel, supplies, facilities and services of the State, Treasury and War Departments."

In addition, the order stated, "the board, within the limits of funds which may be made available, may employ necessary personnel without regard for the civil service laws and regulations" and may accept the services or contributions of any private persons or organizations or of any domestic or foreign government.

The order further directed the board to report to the President at frequent intervals concerning the steps taken and to recommend any further action it deems appropriate to overcome any difficulties encountered in the rescue and relief of war refugees.

Herald Tribune

1-24-44

100055

Roosevelt Moves On Behalf of Jews

U. S. Departments Told to Extend Refugee Help

By the Associated Press

President Roosevelt created a War Refugee Board last night and directed it to attempt the rescue of "the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death."

The board consists of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War, who are empowered to appoint a full-time executive director to administer the refugee assistance program.

A White House statement said the President's action was designed to bring about immediate rescue from the Nazis of "as many as possible of the persecuted minorities of Europe—racial, religious or political—all civilian victims of enemy savagery."

The White House said that Mr. Roosevelt stressed that it was urgent for action to be taken at once "to forestall the plan of the Nazis to exterminate all the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe."

Decision as to how the goal could be accomplished was left to the board. It could, perhaps, make use of the International Red Cross, neutral diplomatic missions, or even underground movements in occupied lands.

Mr. Roosevelt stated, the White House said, that he expected to get the cooperation of all the United Nations and other foreign governments in the program.

The State Department was directed to appoint special attaches with diplomatic status, on recommendation of the board, to be stationed at spots where help might be rendered to war refugees.

The board will be charged not only with developing plans for the rescue of oppressed peoples, but also with working out measures for their transportation, maintenance and relief and for setting up "havens of temporary refuge."