

WILEY, ALEXANDER (SENATOR)

100285

In reply please
refer to: 3371

AUG 31 1944

My dear Senator:

The Secretary of State has referred to me your letter of August 9, 1944, enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. A. C. Dixon, concerning the admission of refugees into the United States.

In replying to Mr. Dixon's inquiry, it is necessary to distinguish between persons entering this country under the regular immigration procedure with temporary visas and those brought temporarily to the United States outside of the regular immigration procedure. The figure mentioned in his letter as representing the number of refugees admitted to this country apparently refers to persons admitted pursuant to our immigration laws. Information concerning the number of persons so admitted would fall within the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The only refugees admitted temporarily to the United States outside of the regular immigration procedure are the 984 recently brought to the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. As indicated in the enclosed documents, these persons, who had fled from their homelands to Southern Italy, where they constituted a burden to our military forces, were brought to the United States outside of the regular immigration procedure, under arrangements similar to those by which civilian internees from Latin America and prisoners of war have been brought here. These refugees will be cared for in the Shelter under appropriate security restrictions until they can be returned to their own countries at the end of the war.

We are advised that the Attorney General, in replying to an inquiry concerning the admission of refugees in this manner, stated:

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

000000

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

Other facilities to receive refugees include Camp Marechal Lyautey near Casablanca, a shelter being established in Tripolitania under the joint financial responsibility of the United States and Great Britain, and existing refugee camps in the Mediterranean area which are being expanded. These operations make use of structures originally erected for military or other purposes which are suitable for housing large groups of persons.

The extent to which additional shelters or camps may be established in other areas as they are liberated by the Allied armies will, of course, depend in great measure on military expediency. However, it will be the Board's policy, insofar as circumstances permit, to seek facilities to care for refugees in places as near to their homelands as possible.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable Alexander Wiley,
United States Senate.

Enclosures.

*Original signed by
Mr. Pehle*

*Copy to: Wiley with
original*

ENT *MB* *ms.*
RBHutchison:agr 8-28-44 *JA*

000007

3271



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

W. R. D. _____
Filing Authority _____
To: Files _____
Ans. _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

In reply refer to
VD 811,111 Refugees/2211

August 18, 1944

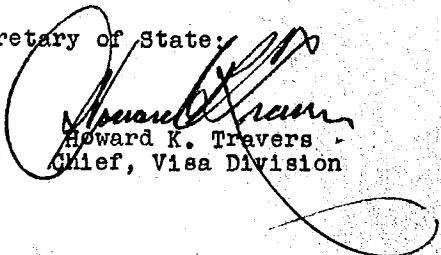
My dear Mr. Pehle:

There is enclosed for appropriate reply a copy of a communication received by the Department of State from the Honorable Alexander Wiley, United States Senate, with enclosure, relating to the admission of refugees into the United States.

Senator Wiley has been informed of this reference.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:


Howard K. Travers
Chief, Visa Division

Enclosure:

From Senator Wiley,
August 9, 1944,
with enclosure.

Mr. John W. Pehle,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Executive Office of the President,
Treasury Department.

100222

UNITED STATES SENATE
Committee on the Judiciary

August 9, 1944

Hon. Cordell Hull,
Secretary of State,
State Department,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am enclosing a letter from A. G. Dixon, 442 Wolff Street, Racine, Wisconsin, regarding the admittance of refugees in the United States. His letter is self-explanatory.

With the return of the enclosed letter, will you kindly let me have a report in duplicate which I may transmit to Mr. Dixon and oblige,

Yours sincerely,

Alexander Wiley

ml
incl.

(COPIED: mgs)
(COMPARED: *W*)

100289

August 7, 1944

Senator Alexander Wiley
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator Wiley:

I am one of the millions of Americans who seldom write letters to their senators and congressmen, who almost sin in being inarticulate in this respect.

My personal background - merely for its bearing on the opinions expressed in this letter - happens to be this: Age 47, born American as were parents, partially of grand-forbears however who were born in England and Germany. Saw active service with U. S. Marines during the last war; secured B.S. degree in engineering subsequently. Married, two children. Business connection: Secretary of the Modine Manufacturing Company of Racine, Wisconsin. Political leaning, Republican.

The purpose of this letter is that of conveying to you, as I feel that I should as a citizen convey to you as my senator, my intense opposition to the practice of admitting aliens, known as refugees, into this country in large numbers. More correctly I should refer to this, I believe, as "practices", inasmuch as the procedure has seemed to take on various forms. The latest maneuver - I don't think the word is misapplied - I am told, is to put several thousand of these refugees into camps where presumably they will be distinctly sealed off from our body politic and whence presumably they will be returned to their native lands, post-war.

The net of the whole business is that hundreds of thousands - over one-half million if my information is correct - of refugees have been admitted to this country by extra-legal procedure during these war years. The net of my conclusion is that I mistrust the whole thing. I am persuaded that the same powers that brought these people into our country and have scattered them - but with seemingly excellent direction - to the four corners of the country, will see to it that they stay here. I am willing, as I believe the majority of Americans are likewise willing, to care for these people during their years of misfortune and until the fires of war have been quenched in Europe. If it were possible for the U. S. Treasury Department to sub-divide income tax charges against individual U. S. tax payers, along the lines of division given our city real estate taxes, I believe that there would be no appreciable protest if literally huge sums of money were frankly being expended to feed and clothe and shelter these unfortunates - but outside the United States. Does it reveal my great immaturity in this kind of thing when I suggest that Spain or Portugal might welcome these people, as boarders at U.S. expense?

100290

August 7, 1944

-2-

I would like to give solid reason why I think we should fight this thing, hard.

After the last war it happened that the military outfit to which I belonged was a part of the American Forces that occupied Germany; hence we were discharged in late 1919. (This time the period of total de-mobilization, from first to last, will probably be much more extended.) When I was discharged from the service I could have "bumped off" the man who had taken my job; he, however, was married and there was a new baby, whereas I was single. My experience with getting adjusted back to civilian life was not too severe but it was enough so that I remember it. Presently my thinking runs this way: My house needs painting, has not been painted for four years; a house painting contract is not too easy to let today but it can be done; I figure, however, that if I can "save" this job until 1945, or even 1946 if need be to serve the purpose, that it may add just an infinitesimal trifle to the total that is needed if we are to have jobs in this country for the millions of fellows who are presently in the Army and Navy. In total I have accumulated about a thousand dollars of such work to be done in and on my house, It may very well be that the resulting three or four months of employment will not find a single World War II veteran touching a hand to any of my small jobs but, as I see it, the mechanics who will take care of my needs would automatically be releasing some equivalent job or jobs to some actual veterans of World War II.

All of which leads me to wonder - are those who do this kind of thing in these United States actually providing a direct or indirect job for a refugee alien, instead of an American ex-service man who, for my money, deserves it a thousand times more than that refugee?

That, Mr. Wiley, is the way I feel. I wish I might have been able to give better expression to the subject, and in fewer words. Despite the imposition that I have already made upon your time and that of your secretary, I would like to add that I intend no racial issue; neither, however, do I want anyone to thrust a racial issue upon me. The issue that stands out here is that of jobs for our young men and middling-young men as they come out of this war. I am selfish about that man. I do not believe that we can give him a job merely by waving the flag, in public or in private or in letters like this. I do not believe that we can give him a job by giving him a dole - an unemployment dole, or an educational fund dole; I believe in giving him these things if he needs them. I believe that what he wants most of all, however, is a job where he can work with his two hands, or the two sides of his brain, or the combination. And I believe in doing these things right now that we can do to lead to that result. And certainly the turning loose

000291

in this country in a manner beyond practical recall, of a half million refugees, or more than a half million refugees, or a major share of a half million refugees, is in direct opposition to the principle of providing every possible American job for the American ex-service man.

Yours truly,

A. G. Dixon
442 Wolff Street
Racine, Wisconsin

(COPIED: mgs)
(COMPARED:)

000292

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U. S. A.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, 1944



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

000293