

Worley, Eugene (Hon.)

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SEP 21 1944

My dear Mr. Worley:

I have your letter of September 16, 1944, in which you quoted from a letter addressed to you by Mrs. J. E. Scott, of Wheeler, Texas, concerning the temporary admission of approximately a thousand refugees to the United States.

Until they can be returned to their native lands at the end of the war, the persons in question are being cared for under appropriate security restrictions at the Emergency Refugee Shelter recently established at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Contrary to Mrs. Scott's impression, they are not immigrants, and with the exception of one woman, the wife of a Yugoslav refugee, there are no Italians in the group.

Financial arrangements and other details of the plan are set forth in the enclosed copies of the President's message to Congress on June 12, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum to the agency heads concerned with the execution of the project. The refugees involved include persons of nineteen nationalities who, as victims of enemy persecution, had fled from their homelands to Southern Italy, where they constituted a burden to our military forces in an active theater of war operations, and military necessity required some temporary disposition of them. They were brought to the United States outside of the regular immigration procedure under arrangements similar to those by which prisoners of war have been brought here for custody and by which civilian nationals of Germany, Italy, and Japan departed from Latin America were brought to this country for internment and ultimate repatriation to their own countries.

Since these refugees were not permitted to enter this country under the immigration laws, they obtained none of the rights of immigrants to be at liberty within the country or to remain here.

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I am enclosing a copy of this letter for your convenience  
in replying to Mrs. Scott's letter.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Honorable Eugene Worley,  
House of Representatives.

Enclosures.

*Originals signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

LL. EST **EST** Tower: agr 9-19-44 *got*

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NE WORLEY  
DISTRICT TEXAS

RE. ALTAVENE CLARK  
SECRETARY

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

COMMITTEES:  
CHAIRMAN, ELECTION OF PRESIDENT,  
VICE PRESIDENT, AND REPRESENT-  
ATIVES IN CONGRESS  
IRRIGATION AND RECLAMATION  
COINAGE, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES  
LABOR  
WAR CLAIMS  
INSULAR AFFAIRS

September 15, 1944

*1 Italian woman,  
Pa. Young. ref.*

Mr. John W. Pehle  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Treasury Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am in receipt of a letter from Mrs. J. E. Scott, of  
Wheeler, Texas, from which I quote:

"I see by the news the United States has a camp  
in New York with 982 refugees in it, which we  
as a people are supporting. It is time to put  
a stop to this immigration...a lot of them Italians  
which are supposed to be enemies."

I shall greatly appreciate your advising me in regard  
to this matter so that I may pass your letter on to Mrs. Scott.

Thanking you, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Gene Worley*

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