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WAGNER-ROGERS REFUGEE BILL BACKED AT HEARING; 1,400 ADOPTION OFFERS REPORTED

WASHINGTON, April 20. (JTA) -- Helen Hayes, testifying as "an American mother" before a Senate-House immigration subcommittee, declared today that adoption of the Wagner-Rogers Bill for admission of 20,000 refugee children to the United States in two years would serve as an example to the children of this country in repudiation of oppression and racial brutality.

The noted screen and stage actress joined Senators Robert F. Wagner and Arthur Capper and representatives of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations in supporting the bill at the opening of three-day hearings at which the only opposition offered was from the representative of 42 patriotic societies.

Miss Hayes, who has two children, one of them adopted, said she wanted her children to grow up without racial prejudice. It is brutalizing, she said, for a child to read in the papers of refugees being shunted back and forth. If Belgium and Holland take refugees, why not the United States? she asked.

Quoting the motto of her grandmother, who had nine children, "There is always room for one more," Miss Hayes said: "There is room in my family for one more. I beg you to let them in." Asked by Representative Charles Kramer (Dem., Cal.) if she would accept a child sight unseen, the actress replied: "Gladly!"

Senator Wagner (Dem., N.Y.), co-sponsor of the bill, said the measure was "America's response to the call of humanity and represents a form of human insurance, for the protection of a group or race which may be the victim of a repetition of the present events." He added: "The admission of a handful of unfortunate people means little in the economic life of 120 million people, but it means a great deal for us and the world as a symbol of the strength of democratic convictions and our common faith."

The Democratic Senator was supported by Senator Arthur Capper (Rep., Kans.) who said: "Everybody but the Hitler-Mussolini crowd is favorable to this idea of admitting the children." John Brophy, representing the CIO, and Joseph A. Padway, for the AFL, announced that their organizations were wholeheartedly in favor of the bill.

Wilbur Large, Washington lawyer, who is in charge of witnesses, submitted 1,400 unsolicited letters from all states expressing readiness to accept a refugee child. He

pointed out that the bill would mean a proportion of only one child in each American town of 6,000 population or more. Representative Kramer said he wanted some stipulation in the bill to admit a certain ratio of Jews to Catholics. Senator Wagner replied that he would withdraw his sponsorship if religion was made a test of admission. Clarence E. Pickett, acting executive director of the Non-Sectarian Committee for German Refugee Children, opposed writing in a provision for a ratio, but said the proportion would be three Jews to two non-Jews.

Mr. Pickett testified that two Americans, a Jew and a non-Jew, had already put up \$250,000 as a backlog for contingent expenses and said that other money was available.

Robert Balderston, representative of the American Friends' Service Committee, who returned from Europe yesterday, reported that persecution in Germany was not relaxed, that "non-Aryans" who were not Jewish were also being harmed and that all Catholic schools had been closed. He said that in Vienna 30,000 persons were being fed in soup kitchens as compared with 20,000 a few months ago.

Mrs. Edward B. Huling, of Larchmont, N.Y., representing the Allied Patriotic Societies, 42 in number, said these societies were absolutely opposed to the bill. She said she did not want "this country to play Santa Claus when our own people are starving."

Writer Stresses U.S. Tradition of Asylum

NEW YORK, April 20. (JTA) -- "The gesture of the United States in admitting 10,000 refugee children in each of two years is a small part of the general solution of the refugee problem which confronts the world," David Lawrence, Washington commentator, said in his column in the New York Sun today, "but it would be worth doing if only to continue uninterruptedly the tradition of the Republic to afford political asylum to those whose lives are threatened because of race or religion or political beliefs."

Refugee Aid Pushed in College "Peace Day" Fetes

NEW YORK, April 20. (JTA) -- Refugee aid was a feature today of "Peace Day" demonstrations, held, according to the United States, coinciding with the 50th birthday of Chancellor Adolf Hitler. It was estimated that approximately 100,000 students participated in the meetings.

In metropolitan and other colleges collections were taken up in behalf of the fund for student refugees. The Metropolitan Committee for Intercollegiate Cooperation had issued a call to students declaring that it would be fitting to mark Hitler's birthday by collecting funds for his victims. In many colleges the demonstrations were utilized to bring to a close the campaigns to provide scholarships for refugee students.

A special ceremony was arranged at Hunter College. A collection for refugee students was taken in 50 collection boxes and as each box was filled, the money was poured over one of the 50 lighted candles on a Hitler "birthday cake," which was in the form of a swastika. Miss Jean Goodman, president of the Student Council, said: "The extinguishing of each candle signifies the snuffing out of Hitlerism."

D.A.R. Parley Asks Rigid Enforcement of Entry Laws

WASHINGTON, April 20. (JTA) -- The Continental Congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution today adopted a resolution urging strict enforcement of the immigration laws and compulsory registration and finger-printing of aliens. Copies were sent to President Roosevelt and to Congress.

"In the pressure and necessities of today let not steps be taken to break down the legal requirements for admission," the resolution said, "and such steps as may be advanced for the relief of oppressed peoples should be carried out within the present law."

WEIZMANN DOUBTS BRITAIN WILL RESTRICT HOMELAND; WARNS JEWS WILL FIGHT CURBS

REHOBOTH, Palestine, April 20. (JTA) -- Doubt that the British Government will carry out a restrictive policy against the Jewish national home was expressed here last night by Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, at a reception in his honor. Commenting on reports that the Government is considering further postponement of the declaration of policy to be imposed on Palestine, the Zionist leader declared: "Six months these days are like the end of time."

Dr. Weizmann disclosed that he had sent to the Government a communication he hoped would not be ignored, which served notice that the Jews would not agree to artificial restrictions. If the Jews are compelled to fight, he declared, "it is well that the opponent is enlightened England and not Hitler." They wanted, he said, work to be continued unfettered and harmoniously as before, "otherwise we will fight, not with bullets and bombs but by persisting effort."

2 Jews Killed, 2 Wounded in Blast

JERUSALEM, April 20. (JTA) -- Two Jews were killed and two others seriously wounded today when a truck in which they were riding set off a land mine near Ekron, south of Jaffa. The dead were Yehuda Gutstein, 24, and Zvi Beham, 28, both of Germany. The wounded are Zvi Zuckerbrot and Jacob Rosenfeld. Two other passengers were slightly injured.

Curfew was lifted in Haifa last night after British troops, ending a two-day checkup of terrorist aspects, had examined 16,000 Arabs. A total of 193 were arrested and sent to concentration camps. The round-up netted a number of terrorists and rebel leaders wanted by police.

Move to Extradite Abdul Razek Advances

TEL AVIV, April 20. (JTA) -- The first step in the extradition from Syria of Aaref Abdul Razek, leader of Palestinian terrorist bands who fled across the border on April 12, was taken today when the District Court issued a writ for his arrest as a criminal.

Greek Seaman Jailed For Attempt to Smuggle Refugees

HAIFA, April 20. (JTA) -- Captain Pagolitis of the Greek steamship Assimi was sentenced today to nine months' imprisonment and a fine of L100 by the District Court for attempting to land Jewish refugees without immigration permits on Palestine's coast. The judge declared that the first mate would be able to take charge if the 350-ton vessel, now lying in Haifa harbor under police detention with 400 refugees aboard, was ordered to sea.

Isaac Ben-Zvi, president of the Jewish National Council of Palestine, demanded of Sidney Moody, Assistant Chief Secretary of the Palestine Government, that the refugees, who are held incommunicado on the ship, be permitted to land because of the overcrowding and lack of sanitary facilities on board. The Assimi was captured by a Coast Guard patrol on April 11 with 240 refugees aboard. Last Monday, another Greek steamship arrived with 160 refugees, which was also captured. Yesterday, the 160 were transferred to the Assimi by order of the authorities.

SHECHITA BANNED IN BOHEMIA-MORAVIA; JEWS STILL UNABLE TO GET EXIT VISAS

LONDON, April 20. (JTA) -- Prohibition of kosher slaughter has been ordered in Bohemia-Moravia by the civil administration, which took over the reins of government from the military authorities on Tuesday, it was reported here today. A similar measure is expected in Slovakia shortly.

Advises from Prague said that Jews who stood in line for hours at the Gestapo offices as result of an announcement that granting of exit visas would be resumed after a suspension of several weeks were finally turned away with the statement that the visas would not be granted for the time being. It was reported that transit visas were no longer being issued by the Prague representative of Slovakia.

The official Czech Party of National Unity, headed by President Emil Hacha, announced that applications for membership would be accepted only from citizens not having parents or grandparents of Jewish origin.

All Jewish shops in the Bohemian town of Neupaka have been marked by special signs in the German and Czech languages. "Jews Not Wanted" signs have been removed from non-Jewish shops because of the disastrous decline in the number of Czech customers that resulted.

"Aryanization" Speeded in Memel

KAUNAS, April 20. (JTA) -- Measures were taken by the Nazi authorities of Memel today to speed "Aryanization" of Jewish-owned firms as the emigration of Jews from the newly occupied territory neared completion.

Special orders were issued by the authorities: (1) establishing an advisory office for "Aryanization" affiliated with the Memel districts courts; (2) opening accounts in banks to which must be paid all debts owed to resident and departed Jews; (3) empowering landlords to dispose of houses, apartments and premises rented by Jews.

Aside from the dozens of Jews held in Memel prisons and concentration camps, there remain only eight Jewish families in the territory who for various reasons have not yet succeeded in emigrating.

DEMAND FOR PROBE OF PRO-NAZI GROUPS IN BRITAIN REJECTED

LONDON, April 19. (Havas) -- While promising "careful attention" to suspicious formations, Home Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare today rejected a Liberal Opposition request for a Government inquiry into alleged "pro-Nazi" organizations operating in England.

The demand was made by Geoffrey Mander, Liberal M.P., who charged in the House of Commons that the following organizations in Britain receive official support from the Reich Government: The Anglo-German Fellowship, the Anglo-German Kameradschaft, the Anglo-German circle; the Anglo-German Academic Bureau, and a periodical, "The Anglo-German Review," which Mander termed a "pro-Nazi" magazine.

100 REFUGEES IN ALBANIA IN DANGER OF BEING TURNED OVER TO GESTAPO

LONDON, April 20. (JTA) -- Although not a single outspoken anti-Semite is included among the members of the new Albanian puppet Government set up by Italy, the position of the small Jewish community in Albania is not enviable, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was told

today by a prominent representative of the former regime. The Italian anti-Jewish laws will doubtlessly be introduced in Albania, he said, affecting a few native Jewish merchant families who are outnumbered by Austrian and German refugees.

About 100 Jewish refugees living in Durazzo were said to face the danger of being handed over by the Italian police to the Gestapo since the former are anxious to comply with a request that all political suspects be returned to Germany. Most of these refugees had been allowed to disembark at Durazzo and to stay pending their re-emigration by special order of King Zog, who showed interest and sympathy in their plight.

Kenya Increases Entry Bond

NAIROBI, Kenya, April 20. (JTA) -- A serious obstacle to the entry of refugees has been imposed by a bill just passed by the Legislature which provides that a bond of up to \$2,500 may be demanded of an immigrant who is unable to return to the country of origin. The maximum bond required hitherto has been \$250.

Refugees File For Army Service in Australia

SYDNEY, April 20. (JTA) -- Interior Minister John L. Ewen revealed today that 96 Jewish refugees have filed applications to be allowed to enlist in the army.

DAVID SCHWEITZER GREETED ON 50TH BIRTHDAY

PARIS, April 20. (JTA) -- Congratulations from Jewish leaders and institutions in various countries poured in on David J. Schweitzer, European vice-chairman and financial adviser of the Joint Distribution Committee, as he celebrated his fiftieth birthday today by working at his desk as usual. The staff presented him with flowers and a testimonial to his approximately 20 years in the service of the American Jewish relief and rehabilitation organization.

PALESTINE TRANSFER PACT APPROVED BY YUGOSLAVIA

BELGRADE, April 20. (JTA) -- The Ministry of Finance today approved a Palestine transfer arrangement under which prospective emigrants may transfer capital from Yugoslavia to the Holy Land. Payments will be through the medium of Yugoslavian-Palestine trade.

MAURICE SCHWARTZ PLANS FIRST SOVIET TRIP SINCE REVOLUTION

PARIS, April 20. (JTA) -- Maurice Schwartz, director and star of the Yiddish Art Theatre in New York, announced today that he plans his first trip to Soviet Russia since the Revolution to study the theatre. Mr. Schwartz, who is playing in "The Water Carrier" here, also said he may produce a Yiddish film in Warsaw this Summer if Europe remains at peace.

BRUSSELS URGES CARE IN GRANTING BUSINESS PERMITS TO ALIENS

BRUSSELS, April 20. (JTA) -- The Brussels Municipal Council today adopted a resolution requesting the Belgian Government, while adhering to the laws of hospitality, to examine with special care all applications by foreign merchants for permission to do business in this country. Twenty Catholic, Liberal and Rexist councillors voted for the resolution, which was moved by Mayor Adolphe Max, while eleven Socialist and Communist members abstained.