

DISPLACED PERSONS

The fact finding Sub-committee of the Committee on Displaced Persons of the New Jersey Welfare Council felt that the following facts and information would be helpful in giving you a realistic picture of the DPs' problem:

Problem Of the approximate 8,000,000 DPs found in Germany at the end of World War I about 7,000,000 had returned to their homelands by the end of 1946. At this date there are around 650,000 to 700,000 still living in DP camps and awaiting resettlement which is the only answer to the problem of their homeless state, since they cannot return to their own country for fear of religious or political persecution. There are over 150,000 children in 600 camps.

Wiley Bill - Screening

Approximately 315,000 DPs were resettled throughout the world between VE Day, 5/8/45, and the end of 1948. Of these over 40,000 have entered the United States under the President's Directive of 12/22/45. This Directive terminated the end of June 1948 and the Wiley Bill was passed to replace the Directive. This Bill allows the immigration of 205,000 DPs into this country after careful selection and screening as to political affiliation, past history, health, etc. by such government agencies as the DP Commission Consuls, U.S. Public Health Service, Immigration and Naturalization Officials, F.B.I., and the I.R.O., as well as private voluntary agencies. The DPs live in camps and barracks of the crudest structure and the food allowance is just above the subsistence level. They are fed by I.R.O. who is responsible for them, including transportation to this country. Job-housing assurances must be provided for the head of each family before they can leave Europe and no American can be displaced to make room for a DP.

National and Religious Percentages

Approximately 43% of the DPs in camps are Catholic: 20% are Jewish and 16% Greek Orthodox and 17% Protestant, the majority of whom are Lutheran. Most of the DPs are Poles, Balts, Ukrainians and Yugo-Slavs.

Sponsorship

The voluntary agencies such as National Catholic Welfare Conference, H.I.A.S., United Service for New Americans, Church World Service and National Lutheran Council assume over-all responsibility for the DP with the private agencies assuming responsibility for individual planning.

Labor Situation

The 205,000 DPs to be admitted to this country within the next two years are less than 2/10 of 1% of the total population of the United States, since as of 1/1/49 there were 148,000,000 persons in this country. Probably not more than 100,000 DPs will be added to the labor force of this country. The DPs will be consumers as well as workers. Both the CIO and AFL have gone on record as approving and recommending the admission of the 205,000 DPs. A large number of the DPs will be agriculturists and many domestics, types of employment which are unpopular with our Americans, both of which usually include housing. Artisan industries, such as metal workers, bricklayers, garment workers in this country, face serious shortage of skilled workers on a nationwide or area basis. DPs will be selected to fill such shortages and will be sent to the area where the supply is short.

Understanding the DP

We expect the DPs will be self-reliant, strong people who will make good American citizens for they represent the survival of the fittest. Most of them will not be meek, docile, subservient people. We need to remember they are actually no different than we are, except for the tragic experiences they have lived through. They will make mistakes, some will not adjust and some will not abide by our laws. We, as a committee, need to remember this, for we can expect the general public to have the same attitude toward the DP who gets into trouble as it has toward any minority group - the colored child or adult who steals is typical of the race and is condemned on the basis of color instead of understood as an individual who got into trouble, not because of his color, but because of his own personal conflict.

The boats bringing in the DPs come into New York or Boston harbors. Some will be scheduled for New Orleans. The boats are met at the pier by representatives of Catholic, Jewish and Protestant agencies. Transportation to their new home has been arranged for in advance and tickets purchased. The employer or the individual sponsor is notified so that a welcome is assured, so that as they step off the boat, strangers in a strange land with hearts filled with anxiety and yet with hope, they are not alone.

JM:E.

(Mrs.) Julie Metzinger.

INFORMATION ON ARRIVALS

Through April 1949, 18,802 persons were admitted under the Act; 871 were destined to New Jersey. It is anticipated that arrivals in May will be approximately 15,000 to 16,000. There are nine ships scheduled to arrive in New York and in addition, three ships in Boston and one in New Orleans. A few displaced persons arrived by air in New York. These are mainly orphaned children and pregnant women.

The Displaced Persons Commission reports that 159,000 persons have been sponsored to date and that additional sponsorship is coming in at an average of 9,650 persons weekly. The distribution by states is uneven. There is a larger proportion of persons destined to urban communities rather than rural.

ACCEPTANCE OF DPs BY OTHER COUNTRIES

Canada has accepted 50,000 displaced persons. Other countries between July 1st, 1947 and January 31st, 1949 have received DPs as follows:

24,094	-	United Kingdom
21,294	-	Belgium
14,820	-	Australia
10,812	-	Brazil
7,700	-	Argentina
8,563	-	Venezuela.

It should be noted that the above information was not obtained directly from Government authorities or from the national agencies working directly with the Government authorities since the agencies do not have the information. This material has been taken from a New York Times article dated May 2nd, 1949.

AMD/DAB