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RELEASE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT

Samuel Dickstein, chairman of the House Immigration sub-committee, made, before he left Ft. Ontario on Tuesday, June 26th at 2 p. m., the following exclusive statement for the ONTARIO CHRONICLE:

"I am glad to have met the refugees at Ft. Ontario and I am very favorably impressed by the hearings. I think that the refugees should be released at the earliest possible moment. According to my personal opinion, even if \$1,000,000 should be necessary for the release of the residents of Ft. Ontario, I think that such a sum would be worthwhile. We return now to Washington and will start immediately with our report based on a complete picture of the situation at Ft. Ontario."

THREE POSSIBILITIES

In another statement made to the press reporters, Mr. Dickstein said that the following three possibilities exist for a solution of the refugee problem at Ft. Ontario: 1) the refugees should be released as individuals on their own recognizance, 2) they should be released on bonds which might approximate more than \$1,000,000, and which might possibly be arranged, 3) The course which the committee chairman prefers and which he hopes the committee will recommend is to have them declared illegally in this country. In that case they will come directly under control of the Immigration authorities. They can be given pre-examination and taken over to Canada,

which country he understands is willing to accept them under this status. That those of them entitled to entrance under quota of their countries of origin will be in position to apply for visas to enter the United States legally.

In relation with the refugees who were before their departure from Italy in possession of a visa, granted by the United States authorities, Mr. Dickstein said: "The government should recognize these visas, Canada is ready to let them come in for such country to the United States."

THANKS OF THE COMMITTEE

Before adjourning the session, Mr. Dickstein expressed the thanks of the committee to the teachers principals and superintendents of the Oswego schools for their salutary work for the young people of Ft. Ontario. He thanked further the citizens of Oswego who had done all possible to improve the conditions of the Shelter life. Finally Mr. Dickstein thanked the administration of the Shelter for their care and fine administrative work.

Mr. Dickstein arrived Sunday, June 24th in the evening. He was accompanied by the following members of the Congress: H. Clark Fisher (R-Tex.), Lowell Stockton (R-Gru.), John Lucinski (D-Mich.), George F. Miller (D-Calif.), and James I. Sullivan (R-Iowa).

Reporters and newspapermen from outside Oswego represented at the hearing included: Charles J. Walker, Associated Press correspondent and

James Miller, Associated Press staff photographer; Harold Jellins, New York Post; Robert W. White, New York Herald Tribune; Joseph Godwin, Jewish Daily Forward, Madison Square, The Day, New York; Charles Gotthardt, Chicago Tribune; David Wallace, Syracuse Herald-Journal.

Monday and Tuesday were completely covered by the hearings of the committee which had his headquarters in the Service Club.

HON. GEN. O'DWYER

The principal witness on Monday was Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer, Democratic candidate for Mayor of New York City and former executive director of the War Refugee Board.

"In return those people to Italy" Gen. O'Dwyer said, "on the formal consideration that this was the country from which they were shipped to Oswego, in my opinion, would not be in accordance with the commitment of late President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Such action would undoubtedly prejudice the action of other countries with large numbers of refugees, particularly the neutrals whom we urged to accept as many as possible while we were at war with Germany."

In addition to the hearings of many young and adult residents of the Shelter, the committee received on Tuesday the witnesses of many citizens from Oswego, among them Attorney Harry S. Wagon, chairman of the Citizens Port Ontario Advisory Committee; Edwin M. Hatorbury, publisher of the Oswego Palladium-Times; Chief Thomas Barrett [continued on page 2]