

Seattle City Clerk's Office

Comptroller File

89188

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FILE NO. 89188

Communication OF

Frank Pease

Relating to Russian Refugees.

FILED APR 30 1923

BY _____
ADDRESS H. W. CARROLL
CITY COMPTROLLER AND EX-OFFICIO CITY CLERK
BY _____ DEPUTY

ACTION OF THE COUNCIL

TO	TO
REFERRER	REPORT ADOPTED
APR 30 1923	REPORT ADOPTED
REFERRED	REF. FOR ORD.
REPORTED	ORD.
REPORTED	DISPOSITION
ON FILE	

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Mr. President:

Your Public Safety Committee

to which was referred the within

would respectfully report that we have considered the same and respectfully recommend that it be placed on file.

CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Henry Lauder CHAIRMAN

Theodore

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Seattle, Washington,
2722 - 37th Ave., S.W.,
April 27th, 1923.

To the President and Members City Council,
County-City Building,
Seattle, Washington.

Mr. President and Member of the Council:

Press accounts tell us of the President's decision to admit to our country the Russian refugees who have been drifting about the Far East for months past, and about whom probably as much is known to yourselves as to the writer. Should these refugees enter this port, may I suggest the propriety of your body appointing a committee to cooperate with other community groups - business and social - to formulate some plans of reception and placement, something which will be in accord with your own position as to the necessity of extending help to the distressed, especially to those afflicted under these circumstances. These refugees are, I believe, all conservative persons with numerous women and children amongst them, persons of business, technical and cultural accomplishments, and thus not likely to be (or but temporarily) a burden upon either the city or national community, and thus also especially worthy of your consideration. Remnants of those forces which stuck to their guns to the last possible moment against the destructive forces that have wrecked Russia, for a long time their plight has been one of great distress, and it is highly commendable that the President has taken steps to relieve a condition little short of shameful.

It strikes the writer that just at this time, should the official and conservative interests of this city take it upon themselves to arouse local and even national interest in these refugees, such a movement would possess particular significance and merit if and when originating in Seattle, and go far to offset the erroneous opinions existing elsewhere that Seattle is notoriously a "red center." It would be, indeed, one of the most striking opportunities in this direction since Seattle became so unfavorably reputed. In fact, even should the President or any group at Washington possess plans for their placement, it would still be highly desirable to have these refugees routed through this port, as their reception could be and doubtless would be thoroughly covered by national press representatives, motion picture concerns, etc., and their official consideration and welfare afford a concrete example of Seattle's stability of sentiment in such an instance.

Should you decide to take up this matter, I would be pleased to appear before your committee with further suggestions. Surely the official and conservative interests of this city have here an exceptional opportunity to notify the nation that Seattle is not one step behind any other city or section in its adherence to the principles of law, order and conservatism upon which our best interests are based. And I beg further to suggest that there be applied in their instance, not so much charity as methods of constructive industrial and social placement - their qualifications being such as to facilitate this - so that, without further distress, these undoubtedly worthy people can be absorbed into our national life with a minimum of suffering and confusion. In short, here is an excellent opportunity to show the mettle Seattle is made of when it comes to opposing bolshevism in any and all of its malignant manifestations. Thanking you for your every consideration, and trusting you will give this matter your customary prompt consideration, I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,
Frank Pease.

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