82D CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
1st Session } { No. 593

JAN JOSEF WIECKOWSKI AND HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER

JUNE 19, 1951.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. WALTER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1229]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1229) for the relief of Jan Josef Wieckowski and his wife and daughter, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

On line 11, after the words "to deduct" strike out the remainder of the bill and insert in lieu thereof the following:

three numbers from the number of displaced persons who shall be granted the status of permanent residence pursuant to section 4 of the Displaced Persons Act, as amended (62 Stat. 1011; 64 Stat. 219; 50 U. S. C. App. 1953).

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The bill grants the status of permanent residence in the United States to a husband, wife, and daughter who were temporarily admitted into the United States on September 13, 1948, upon payment of the required visa fees and head taxes. The bill also provides for the appropriate quota deductions.

GENERAL INFORMATION

A letter dated May 25, 1950, to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from the Assistant to the Attorney General with reference to S. 2488, which was a bill introduced in the Eighty-first Congress with reference to the same aliens, reads as follows:

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
Washington, May 25, 1950.

Hon. PAT MCCARRAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (S. 2488) for the relief of Jan Josef Wieckowski and his wife and daughter.

The bill would provide that Jan Jozef Wieckowski, his wife, Irena, and daughter, Maria, shall be considered to have been lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence as of September 13, 1948, upon payment of the required head taxes and visa fees. It would also direct the Secretary of State to instruct the quota-control officer to deduct three numbers from the nonpreference category of the appropriate immigration quota or quotas.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department disclose that Jan Josef (spelled Jozef in the bill) Wieckowski and Irena Wieckowski, husband and wife, who claim that they are stateless at the present time, are natives of Poland, having been born, respectively, in Warsaw on July 25, 1923, and Poznan, Poland, on November 13, 1923. Their daughter, Maria Alice, is a native of England, having been born in London on April 3, 1947. Coming from London, England, they entered the United States at the port of New York on September 13, 1948, when Mr. and Mrs. Wieckowski were admitted as students until June 15, 1949, under section 4 (e) of the Immigration Act of 1924, and their child was admitted as a temporary visitor until March 12, 1949, under section 3 (2) of the Immigration Act of 1924. An extension of their stay in the United States was granted until August 1, 1950, as a result of evidence submitted by them that they will be issued visas by the British Government permitting them to return to England in 1950, upon the completion of their studies.

The files further reflect that Mr. Wieckowski stated that while he was serving in the Polish underground army as a second lieutenant during World War II, the Germans captured and held him a prisoner of war until he was liberated by the British troops in May of 1945. He then went to Paris, France, where he reported to the Polish military authorities. While there he and Irena Milko, who was a Polish refugee, were married in 1946. Subsequently he was transferred to England and assigned to the Polish General Staff in London, remaining there until he came to the United States. According to him, his father, who was an engineer and architect, died in Warsaw, Poland, in 1948, and his mother, who had been employed for a number of years in the Polish National Library at Warsaw, maintains her home in that city, but spends the greater part of her time at Lodz, Poland, where she is presently head librarian of the Lodz University Library. Mrs. Wieckowski stated that she was formerly a citizen of Poland and was an officer in the Polish Home Army but that she left that country in 1945 for Paris, France. Her father, who was in business in Warsaw, died in 1948, and her mother is presently residing there, where she has been employed for the past 2 years as a proofreader in the office of the Polish teachers organization. Both aliens claim that they have not been members of any political organizations.

According to their statements, they had made application through the Polish Combatants Association, London, England, for scholarships in the United States, and were granted two tuition scholarships by the John B. Stetson University, De Land, Fla. Mr. Wieckowski stated that their passage was paid by the British Government as part of his war compensation, and that, when they came to this country, it was their intention to return to England after completion of their studies. They have obtained employment in the university library where they are presently earning a combined salary of about $150 per month.

The quota of Poland, to which Mr. and Mrs. Wieckowski and their minor daughter are chargeable, is oversubscribed for a number of years and quota immigration visas are not readily obtainable. The record in their case, however, presents no facts which would warrant the enactment of special legislation granting them a preference over others in their country who also desire to obtain the economic and other benefits of permanent residence in the United States but who, nevertheless, are required to remain abroad and await the issuance of immigration visas. To enact the proposed legislation would encourage others similarly situated to seek exemption from the general immigration laws of this country.

Accordingly, the Department of Justice is unable to recommend enactment of this bill.

Yours sincerely,

PEYTON FORD,
The Assistant to the Attorney General.

The files of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary contain additional information in the form of memoranda and letters, among which are the following:

MEMORANDUM

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH—JAN JOZEF WIECKOWSKI, WIFE IRENA, DAUGHTER MARIA ALICE

(Address: Box 400, Stetson University, De Land, Fla.)

I was born in Warsaw (Poland) on July 25, 1923. My father, Alexander Wieckowski, was an architect and worked also with the Polish Ministry of War. My mother, Helena Wieckowski (Ph. D.) was one of the assistant directors of the Polish National Library in Warsaw.

In 1929 I entered the primary school (Mazowiecka Primary School) in Warsaw, and in 1935, the high school (Mazowiecka High School). I was graduated from the high school in 1941 after 2 years of secret studies. In 1941 I was enrolled at the Principal School of Commerce in Warsaw and, in 1944, completed six semesters of studies.

During the German invasion in 1939 I joined voluntarily the Polish Army and after defeat, finally caused by the Russian aggression, I remained in the Polish Underground Army. From 1941 I was attached to the HQ Polish underground forces in a sabotage and diversion unit and took part in numerous actions against the enemy. I was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1944 and was in charge of an army unit during the Warsaw uprising of August–September 1944. After the collapse of Warsaw I was taken by Germans to the prisoners' camp at Bergen-Belsen (northwestern Germany). Evacuated in January 1945 to the east, I took part in the "death march" (700 miles) and was finally liberated by the British troops on May 2, 1945, in Lübeck. Immediately after liberation, disregarding offers made by Communist repatriation officers, I went to Paris to report to the Polish Military Mission (connected with the Polish Government in London). On July 1, 1945, I was transferred to Edinburgh (Scotland) and attached to the HQ First Polish Army Corps, welfare department.

In September 1945 my wife managed to escape from Poland and reached American Zone in Germany. Born in Poznan on November 13, 1923, my wife was graduated from the high school in 1941. From 1940 she was active in the Polish Underground Army and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1944. Caught by Germans after the collapse of the Warsaw uprising she managed to flee and hid in southern Poland. After the "liberation" of Poland by Red Army my wife went to Warsaw, where she continued her underground activities, this time against the new aggressors: Red Army and Communists. Threatened by the Polish U. B. and Russian N. K. V. D., she fled to Germany. Four months later her immediate associates were sentenced to death and executed in January 1946 (among others, Count Grocholski, Jan Buczek, etc.). We were married in Paris in May 1946.

In fall 1945 the Communist administration of Poland approached all Polish soldiers from abroad in order to convince them to return home. We refused to return, and decided to remain in exile rather than to go to the Russian-occupied and Moscow-administered Poland.

I was transferred in May 1946 to the Polish General Staff in London, and remained there until the time of my departure for the United States. While in London I was working closely with the Polish government in exile, and made anti-Communist speeches at several public meetings. In July 1946 I was elected Secretary General of the Polish ex-Home Army Veterans Association, an extremely anti-Communist organization. As secretary, I protested several times on official occasions against the oppression of the Polish people by Russia. Among others I signed the resolution demanding an immediate release from prison in Moscow of most prominent Polish underground leaders, arrested in March 1945 and sentenced on a mock trial in June 1945. I resigned the post of secretary general of this organization in July 1948, 2 months before leaving England. The Communist

regime in Poland, after my failure to comply with its request to register in so-called Polish consulate in London, withdrew my citizenship. Thus I became stateless.

In January 1948 I asked the Polish Combatants' Association in London (20 Queens Gate Terrace, S. W. 7) to help me in order to find a place in the United States where I could complete my studies, interrupted by war. In June 1948 a reply came from John B. Stetson University, De Land, Fla. Both my wife and I were offered tuition scholarships at this university.

After receiving necessary visas (under sec. 4 (e) of the Immigration Act of 1924) from the American consul in London, we left England on September 8, 1948, and arrived on September 13, 1948, at New York, N. Y. We brought with us our daughter, Maria Alice (born April 3, 1947). We arrived at De Land on September 20, 1948, and started school at once.

Being stateless, we received from the British Government so-called refugee travel documents which are regarded as passports. These documents expired in August 1949, in spite of our efforts to obtain from the British Government an extension. In April 1949, however, a group of people here, in De Land, became interested in our case and approached Senator Claude Pepper with the request that he find some way to help us. Senator Pepper introduced on August 25, 1949, a private bill in the United States Senate (bill S. 2488). This bill, which is now pending before the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, if passed, means permanent residence for us in this country.

While at Stetson University we both are working in the school and earn enough to live. Our daughter is enrolled at a nursery school. I was graduated from the school of business on June 5, 1950, and was already admitted to the graduate studies in the year 1950–51.

Having no country of our own, we do not have any place in the world to go. Being stateless, we cannot move freely from one country to another. We sincerely hope that Senator Pepper's bill will be passed by the Congress in the nearest future and that we will be able to start new life on the free soil of the United States.

JAN WIECKOWSKI.

DE LAND, *June 24, 1950.*

LIST OF PEOPLE WITH WHOM I WAS ASSOCIATED IN MY WORK IN LONDON

1. Lt. Gen. Wladyslaw Anders, commanding officer, Polish Army in Middle East and Italy 1941–44; commander in chief Polish armed forces 1944–45; now in exile, in England.
2. Lt. Gen. Tadeusz Bor-Komorowski, commanding officer, Polish underground Army 1943–45; commander in chief Polish armed forces 1945–47; Prime Minister (in exile) 1947–49; member of the Polish Political Council, 1950; now in exile, in England.
3. Mr. Josef Lipski, Polish Ambassador to Germany 1935–39; press officer of the Polish General Staff 1941–48; now in exile, in England.
4. Lt. Gen. Stanislaw Kopanski, commanding officer, Polish troops in North Africa, 1940–43; Chief of the Polish General Staff 1943–1948; now in exile, in England.
5. Maj. Gen. Tadeusz Pelczynski, chief of Polish Army intelligence, 1937–39; chief of staff, Polish underground army, 1940–45; now in exile, in England.
6. Maj. Gen. Tadeusz Malinowski, deputy chief of staff, Polish Army, 1935–40; director, army welfare department, 1940–48; now in exile, in London.
7. Mr. Boleslaw Wierzbianski, chairman of the International Free Journalists Union, chairman of the Polish Journalists Union (in exile), vice president of "Swiatpol" (exiled Polish association); now in exile, in England.
8. Mr. Boleslaw Laszewski, chairman of the Polish Combatants' Association; frequent delegate of that association to the United States; now in exile, in London.
9. Mr. Jerzy Lerski, member of the Polish Political Council and delegate of this council for the United States; member of the executive committee of the "Independence and Democracy" political organization; now in exile, in Washington, D. C.

This list may be supplemented, at request, by other names.

JOHN B. STETSON UNIVERSITY,
De Land, Fla., September 27, 1950.

Hon. PAT MCCARRAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR MCCARRAN: I am writing this in the interest of Jan Joseph Wieckowski who was the subject of S. 2488, introduced sometime ago by Senator Pepper of Florida.

It appears that from your letter dated June 20, addressed to the Honorable George Smathers of the House of Representatives that the policy of your committee is not to recommend private bills prior to the exhaustion of administrative remedies. I understand, however, that the Immigration and Naturalization Service has denied Mr. Wieckowski's application for adjustment of status under the Displaced Persons Act, as amended. This action I believe, was taken on September 8. I sincerely believe that this applicant is the making of a good American citizen if permitted to remain in this country. Therefore I am taking the liberty of writing to ask you to assist him and, if practicable, to secure favorable action on it (S. 2488) prior to the deportation proceedings against him. I, of course, have no information when such action may be taken by the Department. His is a worthy case and any action taken will be appreciated by his friends.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

L. A. HASLUP, *Dean.*

JOHN B. STETSON UNIVERSITY,
De Land, Fla., October 27, 1950.

The Honorable PAT MCCARRAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
The United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SIR: At a special meeting of the faculty of John B. Stetson University on October 5, 1950, it was voted unanimously to solicit earnestly your attention to the situation of Mr. and Mrs. Jan Wieckowski, Polish students at Stetson, who are seeking permanent residence in the United States, but whose stay in this country is in danger because of a recent ruling of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The Wieckowskis fought on our side against Hitler in the Polish Army and in the Polish underground, and later tried to keep Poland from falling under the control of Stalin. Mr. Wieckowski continued his struggle against the enemies of democracy as a member of the Polish Government in Exile in London. He was five times decorated for valor by his Government. When offered an opportunity to return to Poland under Communist-controlled government, both Mr. and Mrs. Wieckowski refused, and became stateless.

The Wieckowskis came to the United States in 1948 and enrolled as students at Stetson University, where both of them received scholarships. Their fine character and perseverance soon attracted our favorable attention. Mrs. Wieckowski is a good student, and Mr. Wieckowski is a sheer genius. Here at Stetson, Mr. Wieckowski was employed in the library. When his rare abilities were recognized, the library assigned him the task of indexing and arranging our Government documents collection, comprising about 70,000 items. Mrs. Wieckowski assisted him in this work; and though neither of them had had previous formal training in library work, they completed this tremendous task in a short time and won the admiration of the students and the faculty of this university.

The faculty of John B. Stetson University feels sure that, if you knew these young people as we know them, you would heartily agree that they are, indeed, the sort of people the United States needs as citizens. In any country they would rank high in qualities of character, intelligence, worthy political and social ideals, and in their habits of diligence, integrity, and thrift. It has been an inspiration to this faculty to see these two young people labor to support themselves and their 3-year-old daughter with such courage and such faith in the American way of life.

Please be assured that the faculty of this university will deeply appreciate anything you may be able to do to assist Mr. and Mrs. Wieckowski in obtaining permanent residence so that they may become citizens of the United States.

Yours truly,

WM. HUGH MCENIRY, Jr.,
Chairman, Graduate Council.

GILBERT L. LYCAN,
Chairman, Division of the Social Sciences,
Special Committee for the Faculty.

Mr. Herlong, the author of a companion bill (H. R. 1576), wrote to the chairman of a subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary as follows:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C., May 21, 1951.

H. R. 1576—for the relief of Jan Joseph Wieckowski.

Hon. FRANCIS E. WALTER,
Chairman, Subcommittee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

DEAR FRANCIS: The Senate has passed the companion bill of the above measure with a committee amendment which changed the wording of the bill but not its meaning. In view of this I will appreciate it if your committee will consider S. 1229, as amended, in lieu of my bill, H. R. 1576.

This is a very deserving case and I will appreciate it if the committee will give it consideration at the earliest possible moment.

Thank you so much.

Most sincerely,

A. S. HERLONG, Jr

Upon consideration of all the facts in this case, the committee is of the opinion that S. 1229, as amended, should be enacted and it accordingly recommends that the bill do pass.

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