

JAMES A. FARLEY  
NEW YORK

June 13, 1949

Mr. Amon G. Carter  
Star Telegram Bldg.  
Ft. Worth, Texas

Dear Mr. Carter:

We are writing to ask whether you would join us in sponsoring the enclosed statement which we should like to make public in order to lay the plight of the displaced persons before the heart and conscience of the American people.

Representatives of the three faiths, President Truman, Governor Dewey, leaders of every group and each party, all have united in calling on Congress to pass amendments necessary to make the Displaced Persons Act of 1948 fair, just and workable. These amendments were introduced into the House by Representative Celler; into the Senate by Senators McGrath and Neely last January.

The House of Representatives has fully exercised its responsibility by passing the modified Celler DP bill with an overwhelming voice vote on June 2nd. But the Senate of the U. S. still serves as the core of the delay. The appropriate Senate Subcommittee has not yet given any consideration to the McGrath-Neely bill or other similar measures which would amend the Displaced Persons Act of 1948 into a fair and useful instrument. Surely this country cannot let parliamentary mechanics or inertia, let alone obstructionism, thwart what is clearly the wish of the majority of the American people.

Will you not, therefore, join with us in a ringing call upon the Senate of the United States to act now in order that displaced persons may be permitted to come here under a sound and equitable law of which Americans may be proud.

If we may add your signature to that of ours on the statement enclosed, will you be good enough to sign the enclosed card and return it.

We all are grateful to you for your consideration and help on this matter which lies so close to the conscience of all of us.

Sincerely yours,

*James A. Farley*  
James A. Farley

*Harper Sibley*  
Harper Sibley

*Herbert H. Lehman*  
Herbert H. Lehman

Encl.

JUN 15 1949

Today silent people wait on both sides of the Atlantic. Today is the time for them to speak and yet no voice is heard.

In Europe the silent people are the displaced persons -- hundreds of thousands of dispossessed people. They are the ones who were uprooted and carried off as slave labor by the Nazis. They are the ones who fled before bloody pogroms. They are the ones who escaped the fury of Communism.

Four years after the end of the war their hands still remain lacerated against the barbed wire of their existence, their hearts still torn by an eternity of waiting. They have no voice; their silence is poignant and accusing.

In America the voice of the people has called out to help the displaced persons.

But the Senate of the United States -- an officially chosen voice of the American people -- has remained silent. Unless the Senate will speak, the net result is a silence which becomes the shame of all Americans.

Last January a measure was introduced into the Senate -- the McGrath-Neely Bill, S.311. This bill amends the Displaced Persons Act of 1948 -- an Act which thinking men and women of all faiths and parties and walks of life have condemned as unworkable, ungenerous and unjust.

Though many months have passed, the McGrath-Neely Bill still stands in the Senate, waiting behind a barrier of red tape and cold indifference, as do the very people it was designed to rescue. This bill needs only action to become alive.

In the spirit of our honored past, in the name of those who have made our country great, in the name of human conscience, we respectfully ask the Senate of the United States to pass the McGrath-Neely Bill now.

We appeal to the Senate to speak with justice and dispatch, so that our nation may continue to walk with dignity and honor in the eyes of God and man.

To: Messrs. Farley, Sibley and Lehman

*I am most happy to authorize you to add my signature to  
that of yours as a signer of the Statement on Displaced Persons.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

(for identification only)