

## PAN-AMERICAN COFFEE BUREAU SERIES

November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1941

Description: ER opposes cuts to New Deal programs like the National Youth Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps. ER interviews Agnes about her research on refugees from Europe.

Participants: ER, Agnes King Inglis

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[Unknown speaker 1:] Get more out of your work!

[Unknown speaker 2:] Get more out of your sports!

[Unknown speaker 1:] Get more out of life with coffee!

[Dan Seymour:] *The Pan-American Coffee Bureau*, representing seven good-neighbor coffee growing nations, presents Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt's views on current events over our coffee cups. But now let's hear how one of the most interesting personalities in America, big-game collector Frank Buck gets more out of life with coffee. The author of *Bring 'Em Back Alive* tells us, and we quote:

[Frank Buck:] People are always asking me what's the most important equipment to carry on a bring 'em back alive expedition into the jungle. Now that's a pretty hard question to answer because you can be sure it takes lots of very special equipment to collect a jungle beast without having him collect you. But frankly, one of the musts on any such expedition for me is plenty of coffee. If you don't think a good cheery cup of coffee on the morning of an important trek in the game country is a real necessity, you've never tried bringing 'em back alive, where I've always found in a tough situation, that a cup of coffee is the best means of steadying a fellow's nerves, keeping him mentally and physically in condition.

[Dan Seymour:] Big game hunters, sportsmen, athletes from champion golfers to ordinary duffers are all making Frank Buck's great discovery about coffee, they're finding the Americas' favorite drink helps them get more out of their sport, get more out of their work, get more out of life. Try a cup of coffee when you need to be at your best. See how much more you get out of life with coffee. And now the *Pan-American Coffee Bureau's* news analyst is ready to give you, over our coffee cups, her weekly digest of world events, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. (1:53)

[ER:] Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. In my opening talk with you I promised that whenever I could bring a guest to this program who could give you a fresh and interesting approach to any subject we were discussing, I would do so. Tonight I am happy to have here, as your guest, Miss Agnes King Inglis, the executive secretary of the committee for Selected Social Studies in New York. Her recent study on refugees at work in America, I believe, is one of the most important contributions to social knowledge made in a long time. But before introducing Miss Inglis to you there is something I would like to discuss. I am very much troubled by the evident demands being made in Congress for curtailment in such government services as seem to me essential for the welfare of the people. The Bureau of the Budget is preparing suggestions for the cut in expenditures. It is right that all unnecessary non-defense industries should be curtailed, but at the present time when we do not know what we will have to face after our defense effort comes to an end, it is important to be extremely careful where we curtail social services to the people as a whole. Any cuts should be made after very careful research, and we should be careful not to destroy the channels and the personnel which may make it possible to meet the problems of peace, which we cannot at present completely foresee. For this reason, cuts in NYA and the CCC must be made when the issue lies between winning the war and giving a social service, but they must not be made thoughtlessly. Amalgamating the two organizations seems wise and will probably save some money in

overhead. Many young people have gone to work, many others are finding no work in certain areas and, therefore, as long as possible, they need the training that NYA provides and the health and useful work of the CCC in order to find work where skilled labor and healthy bodies are needed. A bulletin issued by the Bureau of Census of the United States' Department of commerce, released October 19, states as follows,

“We find the present the most critical period in terms of the number of youth, many of them growing up in rural areas, but forced to migrate city-ward in order to find job opportunities. We find that youth is bearing the brunt of unemployment. Youth just out of school, unless they obtain training on a job, are apt not to acquire work habits and to drift into criminal associations, which accounts for the average of young people that one finds today in the courts and in the prisons.”

These are the reasons why I hope that we will take our cuts on public improvements which can wait until we need to return to a peace time economy but not on essential services. (4:55)

I told you last week about the story circulated that many of the Jewish-owned department stores were dismissing their old employees to take on refugees. So many other curious stories are circulated too that sometimes I get letters from very simple people who seem to be under the impression that the government and other private agencies are more interested in helping refugees or aliens than in helping what they call Americans. A number of people seem to forget that you are an American the day you become a citizen of the United States, whatever you may have been before. The day you receive your papers of full citizenship you become an American, so that much of this curious complex of people who claim that their ancestors came in the Mayflower is entirely out of place. As far as recent refugees are concerned however I think there may be some reason for trying to get a clearer picture before public; and that is why I am so glad to have Miss Agnes King Inglis with us tonight to tell us about her recent study of refugees at work in America. Miss Inglis, I wonder if you would tell us how you came to make this study?(6:12)

[Agnes Inglis:] The study was undertaken, Mrs. Roosevelt, under the auspices of the social science department of Columbia University at the request of the American Friends Service Committee. The idea was first to find out from the individual refugee what types of jobs he obtained, through what channels they were secured, and what relations they had to his age, his stay in America and his family situation, his training or occupation abroad. And second, with regard to enterprises organized by refugees to discover the fields in which they operated, the number of employees, both Europeans and Americans, and the extent to which they introduced new skills and new products. The study of individual vocational adjustment as well as enter-enterprise study were mainly carried on in New York City, the home of more than 60 percent of all immigrants in the last decade, though supplementary studies -- supplementary studies were made in other cities.

[ER:] Did your study give you any idea of how many refugees had actually entered the country and the approximate number in New York City? In how many parts of the country did you find they had settled?

[Agnes Inglis:] Defining the refugee as anyone who since 1933 has come to America with the intention of settling here from Hitler-dominated countries, there are, according to the best information, a hundred and fifty thousand in the United States. And approximately half that number are in New York City, less than one eighth went to California, one in twenty to New Jersey, Illinois, Michigan, and Pennsylvania, one in twenty five to Massachusetts, two and a half percent of the total went to Ohio, two percent to Texas, and all other states received less than fourteen percent of the total immigrant group.

[ER:] What are the occupations you found them engaged in? (7:57)

[Agnes Inglis:] We found them in all kinds of employment. Immigration since 1933 has differed from that of earlier years, in that we find predominately family groups rather than unskilled single men. We find

that many of them bring skills which they can teach to American workmen. We find many of them engaged in the manufacture of fine leather goods previously obtainable only by import. Many chemists and engineers have brought with them patents and processes which they have contributed to our industrial life. Diamond merchants from Holland and Belgium have in some cases brought only -- not only their stocks but skills and special diamond cutting instruments. Refugee engineers and architects have remodeled old buildings. Art dealers have brought works of art unacceptable to the Hitler regime that contribute to our cultural life. Importers have brought their customers lists with them and are exporting from America goods that formerly went out from European markets to Africa and the Far East.

[ER:] How many of these people are self-supporting? How many actually have started businesses where they have been employers?

[Agnes Inglis:] In New York City, Mrs. Roosevelt, we found two thousand seven hundred who were independent employers, that they were engaged mainly in the fields of retail, trade, and certain types of manufacturing. Just as a few Americans who for reasons of old age or industrial maladjustment are unable to support themselves, we find among the refugee group three percent who depend for a simple livelihood on their sponsors, or relatives, or refugee agencies. Some few are well to do, but just as we do not judge as we do not judge the American standard of living by our wealthiest men, so we can't think of refugees in general living as a few of them do in the large hotels. Most of them are hardworking like other Americans, earning on an average of eighteen dollars a week, with family earnings averaging about a hundred -- about thirty dollars a week.

[ER:] And now, Miss Inglis, one last question: how many Americans do you think are today obtaining jobs because of successful businesses started by refugees?

[Agnes Inglis:] We've found that successful refugee enterprises in New York City were giving employment directly to nine thousand individuals, two-thirds of whom were Americans. Indirectly of course they create employment in terms of housing, goods, services, transportation, and amusement. Each refugee manager has created a job for approximately seven American workers in New York City. (10:26)

[ER:] Thank you, Miss Inglis. I'm sure that you've given to many of our listeners a much clearer conception of what these newcomers to our shores are actually doing, and now just a few thoughts before closing. There certainly was great excitement in the Office of Civilian Defense when the Duchess of Windsor [Wallis Simpson] came in to see what we were doing. She looked with great interest at our organization chart and at the map of the United States which hangs on the wall in front of my desk. On that map my secretary for civilian defense marks every advance in organization that we make on the voluntary participation side and so far the few pins look rather lonely. I am hopeful however, that before long they will become almost a solid covering for the whole United States. As we came out of the office, corridors were lined with our workers and I'm sure they looked with interest at the very perfect hairdo and the smart hat which topped the Duchess of Windsor's costume. Reading the *Chicago Tribune* one day last week, because there was no other paper available, I was amused to see a heading which stated, "US Machines Rust in Russia." I cannot help wondering what that is supposed to prove. It is obvious that Russia has had to give up many peacetime pursuits for which she had bought machinery from the United States, but I doubt very much whether any war materials are rusting unused anywhere in Russia today.

Outside of the auditorium in Chicago the other night, a pathetic little group of women marched up and down bearing placards demanding peace, but unfortunately they had no prescription for reaching the part of the world which is making war. Evidently that move for peace must come from Germany, not from the other countries. And how do the ladies bearing placards in the United States hope to reach Mr. Hitler? I seem to recollect that in World War I some very fine people, whom all of us honor and respect, having a desire to bring peace to the world sailed a peace ship across the ocean, and their gesture had very little effect upon the warring nations. The ladies of today remain quite safe at home, making their appeal

to those who are already on their side, but who realize the desire for peace will not keep us at peace if someone attacks us. How amusing it is to have the Nazis demand proof of the authenticity of the two documents the president cited in his Navy Day speech. They know quite well of course that when they declared that they held certain of our state papers, they had no way of proving their authenticity without giving away the source of information which evidently they did not wish to do; neither do we. (12:56)

[Dan Seymour:] Thank you, Mrs. Roosevelt. Now a word from a gentleman who certainly has the right to claim he knows more about working under nerve strain and high pressure than anyone in the United States. We refer of course to Wilbur Shaw, famous race driver and designer, three time winner of the great Memorial Day classic at Indianapolis who writes us and we quote:

[Wilbur Shaw:] I drink coffee, not only because I like it, its taste and aroma but because there's nothing quite like a delicious cup of coffee as a source of energy first thing in the morning and as a pick-me-up during the day.

[Dan Seymour:] Of course, there's nothing like a good cheery cup of coffee to pep anyone up. Make him feel like a million dollars before he swings into action in any job which takes energy and mental poise. Try an extra cup of coffee with your lunch tomorrow before you swing into your afternoon's activity. Try an extra cup of coffee before you go out on the golf course, see how much more you get out of your game. Try an extra cup of coffee with your evening meal and see how much more you get out of your work and out of your pleasure, how much more you get out of life with coffee. Next week at this same time Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt will be with us again to give us more of her informed opinion on the world we live in, until then, good evening and don't forget that good-night cup of coffee.

[Unknown announcer 1:] Do your part; buy defense bonds and stamps now!

[Unknown announcer 2:] This is the National Broadcasting Company.

[Break 14:39-end]

(14:45)

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Transcribed from holdings at Franklin D. Roosevelt Library (FDRL)  
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