

THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

April 17, 1951

Description: In the opening segment, ER and Elliott Roosevelt respond to a listener's question about whether or not the United States should sign the United Nations Genocide Pact. In the interview segment, ER discusses the conditions of several Asian countries with Rev. Franklin Fry and Albert Crews.

Participants: ER, Elliott Roosevelt, Rev. Franklin Clark Fry (President of the Lutheran Church of America), and Albert Crews

[ER:] How do you do? This is Eleanor Roosevelt. Every Monday through Friday, my son Elliott and I have the opportunity to visit with you here in my living room at the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City. Each day it is our desire to bring interesting guests that we are hopeful you will enjoy meeting. Elliott, will you tell our listeners today's plans?

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Thank you, Mother. Our guests today have just completed an around the world flight to study closely conditions of displaced persons and war refugees. Among the areas visited were Korea, India, Transjordan, Israel, Greece, and Germany, and they talked with both refugees and government leaders. They are the Reverend Dr. Franklin Clark Fry [1900-1968], President of the United Lutheran Church in America, and Mr. Albert Crews, Director of Radio and Television for the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States. Their trip was in connection with One Great Time for Sharing, a relief program administered without regard to religion, race, or nationality of the sufferers. Before we hear from Dr. Fry and Mr. Crews, we'll take a look at the mail, and also hear a message from our sponsors, who make this recorded program possible.

(Break 1:23-1:32)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] And now, Mother, to our mail today. The question today is from Mrs. Dorothy Bernstein of Nyack, New York. She says uh, "Would love to have you discuss and elaborate on genocide and whether or not we should have Congress ratify it."

[ER:] Of course we should have Congress ratify it. It's a disgrace that the United States should not as yet have signed the Genocide Pact.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] May I ask you for the benefit of uh many of us to uh tell us just what is genocide?

[ER:] Genocide, [ER laughs] genocide means um the action to exterminate, or attempt to exterminate, a people. It means what Hitler did to the Jews when he forbade the Jews um to really exist as human beings. They could not marry, they could not move from place to place, uh they could not um buy in many places, they could not work. Um in other words, life was made practically impossible. And then -- and he proceeded [Elliott Roosevelt: To systematic extermination.] uh to systematically exterminate the Jews. Now, it was not only the Jews that Hitler uh practically um tried to exterminate. Wherever he went into a country, for instance, let's take Poland. He not only conquered and destroyed the country, but he systematically went to work to destroy the people by taking the children and sending them back to Germany, eh and there he established a most complete system of losing the children. It was very carefully worked out. Fortunately, the Germans have a-a remarkable system of keeping records, and the records they kept to lose children are the records we used afterwards to find them. [Elliott Roosevelt: Yes.]

But uh they-they showed us what his plans had been. There would have been no possibility of a future Polish nation [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] Because these children were first to be taken into centers and carefully indoctrinated into the fact that there was no such thing as any nation except [Elliott Roosevelt: Germany.] the German uh nation and what they stood for. Then they were divided up and put into SS troop-troopers' families, [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] and uh as the children of those people. [Elliott Roosevelt: Yes.] And uh many a child uh old enough to remember her own language or his own language -- I remember particularly the story of one little girl who kept insisting that she had always been in this country, that she didn't know any other language, that she couldn't be anything but a German. The minute they crossed the border into her own country and she heard around her the Polish language, she began to talk Polish. [Elliott Roosevelt: Uh-huh.] And um uh it uh it was a systematic method of exterminating a people.

[ER and Elliott Roosevelt overlap]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Either a national group or a racial group.

[ER:] Racial group and--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] What is the Genocide Pact? (5:14)

[ER:] Or a religious group. Or a religious group.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Or a religious group. What is the Genocide Pact?

[ER:] Now the Genocide Pact is an agreement that no nation signing it will ever engage in an effort to exterminate a whole group.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Uh that uh-uh pact was uh was arrived at where? In the United Nations?

[ER:] It was arrived at in the United Nations, and it has been signed by a sufficient number of nations so that it has come into being as a-an act of the United Nations. We have not signed it, but I've forgotten what the number was, fifteen or twenty nations have signed it, so that it is now actually a working pact agreed on and registered in the United Nations. And the trouble is that --

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, uh have any of the Soviet nations uh ratified this pact?

[ER:] Oh no. No Soviet nation and no satellite has-has ra-ratified that pact.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] What about uh-uh of the nations that have uh, what are those nations?

[ER:] I can't remember now uh oh uh--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] European nations?

[ER:] European nations.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] South Americans?

[ER:] And some South Americans.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] How about uh the Arab states?

[ER:] Well, that again I can't remember. I haven't followed--I haven't looked into--[Elliott Roosevelt: But a sufficient majority.] Whatever the number is that has to put it into being as a pact under the United Nations, has ratified--a good many smaller nations.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, why is there--why is there a hesitancy on the part of the American Congress to ratify this pact?

[ER:] Oh, because the American Bar Association has said that under the Genocide Pact, if there should be a lynching anywhere in the South, we could be held responsible by an international body.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Uh what would the international body be entitled to do uh in the event of a lynching by a mob?

[ER:] I-I don't think they'd be entitled to do anything. Only they could uh make us uh-uh--they could pass a resolution saying that uh we had um not lived up to the Genocide Pact, and that would bring public opinion in the world to focus on something that had happened in our nation. (7:41)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, uh isn't it uh perfectly true that this-- that a lynching, whether it was in the North or the South or anywhere, uh would be an act of mob violence against a uh an individual [ER: An individual.] or a small group of people, and it couldn't be called genocide.

[ER:] But of course what the Bar Association says that this give the right of an international body to interfere in a uh domestic [Elliott Roosevelt: Carrying out of our internal laws.] internal laws. And that it would place us in a um difficult situation. Many of us think that um it would perhaps be better to place us in that situation um, and I don't agree that it would give them the right, because I don't think that a lynching is an attempt to wipe out a whole group of people.[Elliott Roosevelt: No.] Even if you were lynching four or five people, you wouldn't be trying to wipe out a whole race, you see. [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] But that has been our trouble. It's the- it's the action of American Bar Association that has kept us from ratifying.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, is there now a concerted effort by any large group of people to try to get Congress to ratify this?

[ER:] I don't think there is a non-governmental agency-- uh um uh association in this country that hasn't um come out for ratification, um except possibly--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] What about church bodies?

[ER:] Well, the church bodies have all come out for it. It may be -- I haven't heard that the American Daughters of the Revolution have come out for it, but um I-I have heard that um church--many church groups and many um of the um civic and fraternal groups have come out for it. (9:43)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well then, in the event that uh all these groups have come out in favor of the Genocide Pact uh wouldn't it be uh something which would be uh which would find tremendous popular support on the part of the United States Senate to ratify?

[ER:] Well, I don't -- the--I--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Aren't the groups the ones that bring pressure to bear in Congress?

[ER:] They do. But you see most of these groups are not organized to do a political job. And um they are not really organized to get out the vote, for instance, or to um see to it that there's any change in the vote uh because of a particular action of this or that person, so I don't know that they carry as much weight as they would, for instance, if uh they actually went out and uh systematically to organize politically [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] in any area where um there-they uh knew that someone had opposed it.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, to sum up, and to answer Mrs. Bernstein of Nyack, New York, you would state uh that you are whole-heartedly and completely in favor of the ratification by the Senate of the Genocide Pact, and you believe that it will have tremendous impli--give tremendous impetus to our leadership in the--with the other UN nations.

[ER:] Oh yes, I think we should do it without question.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] All right, well I think then that uh that uh is a sufficient answer to Mrs. Bernstein, and uh we will now move on to another part of the program and turn it over to our announcer.

(Break 11:32-11:42)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] The trend of public thinking in the present time of unrest is toward the future: peace or war. As a result, we sometimes lose sight of the fact that we have, in fact the whole world has, a responsibility leftover from World War II, namely the rehabilitation of human beings still suffering and homeless. And so Mrs. Roosevelt invited two gentlemen today who have just returned from an extended trip abroad, to tell us of conditions there. Mother, will you take over now and introduce your guests for the day?

[ER:] With pleasure, Elliott. As Elliott said, the human suffering of the individual in devastated countries is still the concern of all those among us who've been more fortunate, so I am sure you will be interested to hear from my guests today. They are the Reverend Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, President of the United Lutheran Church in America, and Mr. Albert Crews, Director of Radio and Television for the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. I'm very pleased, gentlemen, to have you as my guests.

[Franklin Fry]: Well, it's our privilege surely, Mrs. Roosevelt

[Albert Crews:] We're very happy to be here.

[ER:] Well first, Mr. Crews, what countries did you and Dr. Fry visit?

[Albert Crews]: Well, we made a very hurried trip, as you can imagine, being gone only thirty-four days. [Franklin Fry coughs] But into that period of time, we visited Japan, Korea, we were in Hong Kong, from there to Burma, India, Pakistan, into the Arab states of Lebanon, Syria, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and over on the other side in Israel, from there to Greece, then very briefly through Geneva, to Germany and France.

[ER:] You certainly covered a lot of countries! [ER laughs]

[Albert Crews]: We certainly did.

[ER:] In thirty-four days! Dr. Fry, what was the exact purpose of this trip?

[Franklin Fry:] It does sound a bit fantastic, doesn't it, going quite so fast? But really uh I think it was well designed, because the purpose of the trip was to give us samplings of refugee situations in all of these countries. We did it in two ways. The one by talking to people in responsible positions, heads of governments and the like, and the other by seeing the refugees themselves and taking motion pictures of them. (14:21)

[ER:] Well, that was, of course, uh a good uh way to sample this and see it. Well now, what, Dr. Fry, in your estimation, are the areas that have been hit the hardest, where the refugees are um having the hardest time?

[Franklin Fry:] Tha-that's a frightfully difficult question to answer because my conscience accuses me no matter what I say. By singling one out, I'm omitting others. But I presume that in all fairness, we'd have to admit that the terrible things even we were able to see in a few hours in Korea, were the most uh heartrending of all.

[ER:] That's sad, isn't it? That's um--

[Franklin Fry:] It's really beyond imagination; it defies anything that you can think of unless your eyes have actually seen it. Down in Busan [South Korea] where we were, there were some streets that were so filled with refugees that you could scarcely see the ground under their feet. They were squatting, as Orientals do, I can never quite understand why they find that restful, but they were along the side of the road or perhaps lying down or just standing; seeming to be almost numb after all the tragedies that had overtaken them, all the accidents of the past and the uncertainty of the future. (15:36)

[ER:] I can understand that because I saw some refugees in Europe, and I-I-I think that numbness is something that happens to people.

[Franklin Fry:] That's right.

[ER:] Have you, Mr. Crews, have anything that you particularly want to add to what has been said on the subject of how you gathered information and what you estimate as the most hard hit area?

[Albert Crews]: Well, we uh in the matter of gathering information, we uh did take tape recordings, and we took a tape recording machine along with us an-and got tapes from some of the people whom we felt had the most significant things to say about it. And as Dr. Fry said, we did also take a considerable number of movies so that we could actually show people in this country, visually, what some of the conditions were. (16:22)

[ER:] Well, that's very interesting because I think if you have the voice of some of the people you interviewed, of course I imagine in that case it would be largely government people, or would it be--your recordings -- be sometimes uh among the refugees?

[Albert Crews]: Well, we took many recordings among the refugees, those who could speak English. And one-one of the ones that I particularly am fond of is of a Japanese Sunday school class singing in their little piping high song, singing Sunday school songs, in Japanese of course. That's one of my prize recordings. (16:55)

[ER:] I think that's really very, very interesting. Well now, uh um in your description of Korea, did you take any pictures in Korea?

[Albert Crews]: Yes, we took a few, although our time there was--was very limited, and uh some of the pictures we have though, I think, give us a fairly accurate idea of what the situation was in that immediate vicinity, of course even that can't give you any idea of the- of the total problem all over Korea. (17:26)

[Franklin Fry:] Mhm.

[ER:] Well, Dr. Fry, what did you find the status of the refugee problem in Burma now? First of all, what causes the problem in Burma?

[Franklin Fry:] Well, as I suppose most of our listening audience knows, [Albert Crews clears his throat] uh Burma has very much been chewed up with revolts of many kinds during the past few years. There have been at least four groups that have been dissident and have been in armed rebellion against the government. I'm not attempting to say whether rightly or wrongly, and that's for someone else more wise than myself. One of those groups consisted largely of Karens. What made that rebellion particularly serious for the Christians was that most of the Christians of Burma are Karens. And so in the eyes of the Burmese government, the Christian movement was somehow identified with the civil war. Many Karen villages were destroyed, with the result that many Christians were homeless and thrown on the charity of their fellow Christians, first of all in Burma, and then to a lesser extent, but a saving extent, on the charity of Christians in America too, and in other parts of the world. (18:37)

[ER:] I see. Well how--what would you -- I don't suppose you can tell exactly but in numbers can you give us any idea of the problem in Burma?

[Franklin Fry:] Well, there are a million and a half Karens, Mrs. Roosevelt, uh by no means all of them are involved in the distress, but I'm quite confident that one-third of them have been. [ER: My that--] And consequently -- and you see the burden is on the whole community; all the more so because those who aren't in distress are supporting those who are.

[ER:] My goodness. Well, what--is that the status today in Burma?

[Franklin Fry:] The status today is that around the cities, the refugee problem is lessening. But as the country is becoming pacified, more and more of the outlying villages are accessible. And consequently what can be done for refugees today is much greater than what could be done a year ago, although the number of persons has been somewhat reduced.

[ER:] Oh well, that's very interesting because that makes it worthwhile.

[Franklin Fry:] Oh definitely.

[ER:] Oh yes. Well now, Mr. Crews, you mentioned that you'd visited the Arab states, and I'd happened to have heard a great deal about the plight of the Arab refugees, because they've been a concern in the United Nations and they've been very much drawn to our attention, and uh I would like to know if you had any way of comparing whether it was improving or whether it was uh as bad as it had ever been. (20:12)

[Albert Crews]: Well, unfortunately since this was my first visit to the Arab states I can't give you anything like a comparison. [ER: Mhm.] But we did have a chance to see the condition as it exists now, and one of the really disturbing things about that picture is the static quality of it. We saw many Arabs still living under canvas, under tents provided by the UN that have been living in those same tents in those same spots for two years. And one of the things that really disturbed us was the fact that these people see no hope. Unfortunately, they haven't yet decided in their own minds that they can't go back to

their homes. And they still feel as though they're just camping out, as though they're waiting for something to happen, with the result that-that they're not really taking steps or taking the steps that are offered to them to-to integrate themselves into the economy of the countries in which they find themselves. (21:09)

[ER:] Well now, I have heard something which I would like to know uh from you, whether you saw any signs that it was true. I have heard that even when some of the Arabs would be uh moved out and resettled somewhere, that it did not lower the number of people in the camps, because uh with the extremely low uh diet that is available, it still was better than what some of the Bedouins had had, and they would drift in and take the places of those that had gone out. Now have you heard, or did you hear or see anything like that?

[Albert Crews]: Yes, we did. We saw for instance up on the hills of Bethlehem within, oh within a mile or two of where Christ was born, we saw people living in caves there, on-on subsistence that you wouldn't believe people could stay alive on. And I assume that as places open up in these camps, these people who are still without housing would move into those areas. So I imagine that situation still exists. (22:16)

[ER:] Well, that I had heard and I didn't know whether that still existed. Elliott, did you want to say anything?

[Elliott Roosevelt:] No, except that I think that at this point we usually take a few seconds off for our announcer to come in, and then we will return to the interview immediately following.

[ER:] All right.

(Break 22:37-22:42)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Now we return again with Mother's interview with Dr. Fry and Mr. Crews, who have had this amazing opportunity to observe the rehabilitation of human beings uh all the way around the world. But I'd like, Mother, if you don't mind, to have you just return a little bit, you skipped around from Korea and Burma and you went all the way to the Arab states, now I understood that they had been in India.

[ER:] Yes, I know they have, and I should've uh remembered to ask about India, because I know they have a very great refugee problem. Dr. Fry, would you tell us something about that?

[Franklin Fry:] Well, I hadn't realized, Mrs. Roosevelt, until I came into Calcutta that there'd been a second wave of refugees just last year. All of us, of course, had been acquainted with that first terrible refugee situation at the time when India and Pakistan were separated. [ER:] Yes. But last year, two million additional persons came down from East Pakistan to Bengal, particularly to the Calcutta region, and we saw really desperate situations among them. The food is quite insufficient, the mortality rate is staggeringly high, and the one thing that relieved it for us was that most of the Christian supplies that have gone to India, the voluntary giving, has been concentrated in some of the camps there. We saw camps that really were quite orderly, and where there was some happiness, even in the midst of terrible poverty, and where the terrible loss of life had been stayed because there were Christian gifts of food and of clothing and of medicines that help to make life a little more bearable. I surely hope that will continue.

[ER:] Well, I'm very glad to hear that and I'm--I always have a feeling that uh India has so many people that it must uh be very difficult to meet their needs.

[Franklin Fry:] Well, Calcutta is really indescribable, because with two million additional people in it, there-just isn't enough breathing space for everyone there, to say nothing of living space. There'll have to be resettlement of these refugees somewhere else, that's certain.

[ER:] That's certain. They can't stay in Calcutta.

[Franklin Fry:] No, and I'm confident the government will see to it that they go elsewhere.

[ER:] Well now, um having heard about India, I'm going to skip again because I want very much to ask you a little bit about Greece. I understand that you saw, Dr. Fry, Queen Frederica [of Hanover] of Greece [1917-1981], and um talked about the abducted Greek children, um and I'd be interested to hear how this came about. (25:24)

[Franklin Fry:] Well I'm confident that you would, Mrs. Roosevelt, because as you symbolize to all of us uh a great humanitarian interest and also the American participation in the United Nations. And as you know so well, the United Nations has spoken very clearly on the subject of the Greek abducted children. Sixteen thousand five hundred children were taken from their parents during the Greek war that ended only in forty nine. They were taken up into the communist countries where they're being systematically indoctrinated in communist ideas, they're being trained to-to be guerrillas in many cases I believe, at least that's what the Greek government believes.

[ER:] The older children.

[Franklin Fry:] The older children, sixteen up. And of course the younger ones presumably, they are being trained uh until they get to that point. Only ninety of the children have come back yet, according to Mr. [Konstatinos] Georgakopoulos [1890-1973], the president of the Greek Red Cross.

[ER:] Those have come from Yugoslavia.

[Franklin Fry:] All of them.

[ER:] And I hear that there are more going from Yugoslavia.

[Franklin Fry:] We heard that too and we're greatly gratified.

[ER:] I-I heard that, and I hope that that is so but that doesn't help with those who--from the other countries.

[Franklin Fry:] No.

[Albert Crews]: Of course the numbers are still insignificant, really.

[ER:] Really?

[Elliott Roosevelt and Albert Crews overlap]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Ninety out of sixteen thousand five hundred is not very many.

[Albert Crews:] Ninety out of sixteen thousand-five hundred is-- No.

[Franklin Fry]: As Mrs. Roosevelt said that another hundred and sixty were expected to be returned last month, and if that's the case that, that's some pledge of good faith in Yugoslavia's part, [Albert Crews: That's a start in the right direction.] and we hope that they'll continue.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Do they have any idea of how many of these children are located in the different countries? How many more, for instance, do they believe are in Yugoslavia?

[Franklin Fry:] Ninety-eight hundred in all were there.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] In Yugoslavia?

[Franklin Fry:] In Yugoslavia, yes.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] So that the majority of these children could be returned from--if they're successful in their negotiations with Yugoslavia?

[Franklin Fry:] We believe so. Czechoslovakia has also called for lists of children but uh the government there has never responded to the receipt of the lists when it finally came.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] I see.

[ER:] Well, uh that's uh that's one of the things that I think is terrible, because it's an exact copy of Mr. Hitler's methods. And one hopes that uh it will be remedied if possible. Uh Mr. Crews did you see any of the refugee camps in Greece? (27:41)

[Albert Crews]: Yes, I certainly did. That was the one place that the Crews-Fry team split up. While Dr. Fry went north to Salonika to see the Queen Frederica, I went south to the Attica Peninsula where most of the camps are located. The uh -- there is an interesting collection of people there because they come from many of the south European countries: Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia even, a few from there, and they're all drifting down to these camps.

[ER:] Well now, what chance have the possibly got of absorption into the Greek community?

[Albert Crews]: Not too good, unfortunately. The chances there--or the problem there is very difficult because Greece [ER: Oh the economy of Greece.] is-is prostrated in its own economy, and the problem of ah absorbing all those additional people is really a major one. (28:31)

[ER:] Well now, Dr. Fry, I want to move on again to another country. You went to Germany, and uh in '46 I saw Berlin. What does Berlin look like now?

[Franklin Fry:] Well, I saw it in '45, not to attempt to tell a better story, and it was simply indescribable in those days, because as you remember the rubble piles just crossed each other in the middle of streets. Uh I really thought when I came home that the most sensible thing that could be done would be to move ten miles out of the country and start on a new site altogether.

[ER:] That's exactly the way I felt.

[Franklin Fry:] But really it's amazing the grit there is in human nature. There is a certain amount of reconstruction in the western side of Berlin. I suppose we saw twenty-five or thirty buildings actually under construction while we were there. Oh there's still desert waste, I mean acres of-of devastation. [ER: Of rubble.] Well yes, the rubble now neatly hedged in with the fences made of the bricks that could be

salvaged. The streets are all clear and the sidewalks, but still rubble, and you know the jagged pieces of wall that stick up out of the rubble. On the Russian side, however, things uh were stagnant--[ER: Oh, you went into East Berlin?] Oh yes, we were inconspicuous enough, that was one privilege we had that more conspicuous people might not have had; we just drove in.

[ER:] Without any question?

[Franklin Fry:] Without any questions. Without asking either, but without any questions.

[ER:] And you got out again?

[Franklin Fry:] We're here, as you can see!

[Albert Crews:] We did drive in in a German car [Albert Crews laughs].

[ER:] Did you have any difficulty?

[Franklin Fry:] None whatever that day. It happens we went to the headquarters of the Evangelical Church in East Berlin, and uh looked through that property with some care and in some detail. And then we just cruised through the streets, saw all the signs. Certainly if a war can be won with slogans the Russians will win any war that'll ever happen. Most amazing to see the slogans and the banners in every place.

[ER:] Isn't that interesting?

[Elliott Roosevelt:] But you say that the rubble and destruction had not been cleared up at all in East Berlin?

[Franklin Fry:] Oh well, the streets were clear but I saw no signs of rebuilding with the exception of two structures that were meant for government purposes. [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] Now um, to be perfectly fair, we were only there a matter of hours, but we did drive miles through the streets. I suppose what we saw was an honest sampling, it was meant to be surely.

[ER:] Well, that-that is uh um -- it's my recollection of course and a terrible thing to think of really. Mr. Crews, you were in Bavaria. What's the refugee problem down there?

[Albert Crews:] Well, it's an interesting problem in there. I wanted to go down in that part of Germany because we had heard that quite aside from the expellees and the other groups that we would expect to find in, in the Western zone, that there were a fairly large number of people coming across illegally still. So I went down to a town called Hof, right near the Czech border in Bavaria. And I found many camps there jammed with people, mostly in that spot Czechoslovakians, who had crossed the line illegally. They came without papers, without identity cards, without money; coming to something they knew not what. But whatever they expected, [ER: It was better than what they were leaving.] they expected to find it was better than what they were leaving

[ER and Albert Crews overlap]

[ER:] The first--

[Albert Crews:] One of the camp directors told me they were coming there at the rate of from a hundred and fifty to three hundred a day in that area.

[ER:] Of course I think that's a very good sign.

[Albert Crews]: It can be--

[ER:] I think it's very encouraging.

[Albert Crews]: It can be so uh interpreted. Although it does create a problem for Germans in the West sector

[ER:] Oh, I realize it's a terrible problem for the Germans in the West, it's uh, it comes on their economy to feed them, and that's a terrible problem.[Albert Crews: And the housing is very inadequate.] And I think all of us, the world as a whole, it's a -- we should help in that problem because that is one of the encouraging things I think, and those people should be used to tell why they were willing to leave. (32:31)

[Albert Crews]: It was interesting that the Germans were willing to take them in.

[ER:] It was interesting, I think. Well now, we talked very briefly about all these problems, but I think we ought to move on, and I'd like to ask Dr. Fry if he saw any evidence of self-help among the refugees.

[Franklin Fry:] Oh my yes, everywhere. Nothing makes me quite so impatient as to hear people say, as they do sometimes in America, that we're expected to do everything. The fact is that in most places I'm sure what we've provided hasn't been more than 5 or 10 percent of the total that has been consumed.

[ER:] You mean they're really uh helping themselves [Franklin Fry: Oh tremendously.] in every way they possibly can.

[Franklin Fry:] Consider Burma for instance, there--I've told you something about the Karen villages -- they simply devour everything that the neighboring villages can possess before the appeal to the outside. The most fantastically large collections made among their own congregations for their own self help before they received anything from America.

[ER:] Well, I'll tell you time is running out and I want to ask you one more question. What are the Protestant churches doing, and what do they advocate that we do?

[Franklin Fry:] Protestant churches in America have already contributed something over fifty million dollars for this and related things. We want the American people to continue to show their good will and their good faith toward all mankind in this way. So there are offerings going on right now, Mrs. Roosevelt, in all of our churches, everyone is asked to give directly in their own terms in this one great time of sharing.

[ER:] One great time for sharing, that's a good slogan.

[Franklin Fry:] It's an excellent one.

[ER:] So let's remember that.

[Franklin Fry:] Thank you.

[ER:] Thank you both so much, Dr. Fry and Mr. Crews, for being with us today.

(Break 34:17-34:28)

[ER:] In the time remaining today, I would like to read to you what one great American said about the principles of democracy. In his first inaugural address on March 4, 1801, Thomas Jefferson said: "About to enter, fellow citizens, on the exercise of duties which comprehend everything dear and valuable to you, it is proper you should understand what I deem the essential principles of our Government. Equal and exact justice to all men of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political; the preservation of the General Government in its whole constitutional vigor as the sheet anchor of our peace at home and safety abroad; a jealous-care of the right of election by the people--a mild and safe corrective of abuses; absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority, the vital principle and immediate parent of despotism; a well-disciplined militia, our best reliance in peace, and for the first moments of war till regulars may relieve them; the supremacy of the civil over the military authority; freedom of religion, freedom of the press, and freedom of person under the protection of the habeas corpus, and trial by juries impartially selected . These principles form the bright constellation which has gone before us and guided our steps through an age of revolution and reformation. The wisdom of our sages and blood of our heroes have been devoted to their attainment. They should be the creed of our political faith, the text of civic instruction, the touchstone by which to try the services of those we trust, and should we wander from them in moments of error and alarm, let us hasten to retrace our steps and regain the road which alone leads to peace, liberty, and safety."

[Elliott Roosevelt:] And now it's time to close the program and to remind you that you've been listening to the Eleanor Roosevelt Program, which comes to you each Monday through Friday at this same time, and this is Elliott Roosevelt speaking and wishing you all good day.

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