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Adjustment of displaced persons …

Vojislav Dosenovich

University of Nebraska at Omaha

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ADJUSTMENT OF DISPLACED
PERSONS

Vojislav Dosenovich

A Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty of the
College of Arts and Sciences of
The University of Omaha in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of
Master of Arts

Omaha, 1953
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Grateful acknowledgment is extended to Dr. Carl H. Lemon, Head of the Church World Service in Lincoln, for his cooperation in obtaining material for this project; to Edith Isaacson, Superintendent of the Omaha Board of Adult Education and Americanization, for the use of Displaced Persons files; and to Dr. George L. Wilber, Professor of Sociology, University of Omaha, for his assistance in an advisory capacity.

V.D.
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION TO THE ADJUSTMENT OF DISPLACED PERSONS

This study concerns Displaced Persons. At the end of World War II thousands of Europeans had been displaced from their homes and countries, either as prisoners of war, slave laborers, or refugees. Many preferred to remain in exile rather than return to their native lands where political conditions had undergone radical changes. The allied forces in Germany and Italy provided shelter, food, and clothing for these people, with the United States pioneering in this activity. The United Nations Rehabilitation Act was directed to care for displaced persons before the International Refugee Organization was created in 1947.

In general, the purpose of this project is to provide a better understanding of the displaced person's problem. It should become clear as this study progresses that extending understanding and trust to these people who were deprived of the "basic human rights" makes it easier for them to adjust to a new culture, thereby restoring their trust toward their fellow man. From this viewpoint, then, it is possible to better comprehend the age in which we are living.

The cultural backgrounds and values of individuals and families who were forced to abandon their homes and seek refuge in a new land are discussed in this study as well as the adjustment these people have to make to the customs and emotional and physical environment of their adopted culture.
Statement of the Problem

The adjustment of displaced persons in the United States, with special emphasis on Omaha, is the main subject of this study. There are, however, several secondary interests: (1) factors responsible for the displacement of large numbers of Europeans from their homes; (2) resettlement of displaced persons from refugee camps in Europe; (3) the activity of the United Nations and the United States with regard to the displaced persons problem; (4) factors related to the adjustment of displaced persons.

It is not assumed that this project is a thorough analysis of the problem of adjustment of displaced persons in general, nor the final authority in suggested rehabilitation of these persons.

Methodological Approach

In this study, the investigator followed various procedures in the gathering and presentation of data. Documents were obtained from the Displaced Persons Commission in Washington, D.C., from the United Nations, and from the Displaced Persons Press Release, containing information on the background of displaced persons in Europe and the historical development of the resettlement of refugees. Through the cooperation of the Church World Service office in Lincoln, Nebraska, the files of 146 displaced persons who had settled in Nebraska rural areas were made available for study and analysis. The Board of Adult Education and Americanization in Omaha contributed the files of 1466 cases in the Omaha area. The investigator also interviewed certain persons who are concerned with the resettlement of displaced persons in this area. Personal opinions of these people are considered in this study as an indication of reaction to displaced persons as are the opinions of employers and businessmen
regarding the working potentialities of the immigrants.

Furthermore, an attempt is made to show that the problem of adjustment that exists for the displaced person is similar to that of the earlier immigrants in the United States, that there is a significant age difference in progress made in learning the English language, that there is a significant difference in adjustment among various nationality groups of displaced persons, that there is a significant difference in the process of adjustment of displaced persons who resettled in rural areas in Nebraska and those who settled in Omaha, and that displaced persons are economically self-supporting after being resettled.

Criteria of Adjustment

The criteria used in this study to evaluate adjustment of individual displaced persons were:

(1) Participation in Americanization classes;
(2) Ability to speak the English language;
(3) Steady employment and residence;
(4) Citizenship, first and second papers;
(5) Experiences and satisfaction expressed during the interview.

These criteria, however, do not wholly present the personality and behavior of the newcomers, but rather give a partial view of the total picture.

The displaced persons who were interviewed expressed satisfaction with the freedom and opportunities offered in this country and the kindness of the American people with whom they were associated. The feelings of the displaced persons might be expressed thus: "God bless America and Americans and preserve American democracy."
CHAPTER II

BACKGROUND OF THE DISPLACED PERSONS PROBLEM

In regard to the background of the displaced person's problem, which is one of adjustment, this chapter considers various contributing factors such as political and religious conditions, overpopulation, and race and national persecutions; all of which resulted in thousands of people leaving their homes to seek refuge in the western world. This is presented in order to provide a better understanding and insight into the basic pattern of resettlement and adjustment.

Displaced Persons as a Problem of International Importance

The background of the problem of displaced persons is a part of the ideological, political, social and economic turmoils of Europe and Asia. Certain nations have developed conditions that seem to produce refugees constantly. Persecution and fear of persecution caused thousands of people to leave their homes and cross, perhaps for the last time, the borders of their native lands to make their way into an unknown and uncertain future.

Conditions of political, religious, racial and national persecutions which took place during the last two decades and especially during World War II, have increased in dramatic intensity for all of mankind. These persecutions have led to "the most tremendous population dislocation in history." ¹

Contributing Factors of the Problem

Recent history has shown how Nazi and Fascist leaders used the overpopulation in Italy and Germany to their advantage. With misleading propaganda, such leaders brought their people to settle

this problem mainly by persecution. Such action resulted in many untold tragedies and the extermination of vast masses in these nations, including their own. International communism under the leadership of the USSR, prolongs and makes the situation of the refugee worse in both Europe and Asia.

Our civilization has suffered greatly from two world wars in each of which self-appointed leaders deluded their followers with loud and grandiose promises of a larger share in the world's resources.

Today the free nations are facing the problem of displaced persons on an international basis. They are attempting to find shelter and comfort for the millions of unfortunate people driven from their native lands; yet the picture remains grim. While free nations work to solve this problem, every day there are new displaced individuals in both Europe and Asia.

Social and Economic Council of United Nations in Action

One of the stumbling blocks encountered in the postwar period by the committees organized by the United Nations was the problem of displaced persons. During the February, 1946, session, the Committee for the Human Rights of the Social and Economic Council discussed this situation while the communist faction attempted to deny any human rights to the displaced persons, insisting instead on a resolution for compulsive repatriation of displaced persons to their native lands. A similar situation exists at present regarding Korean prisoners of war.

On the suggestion of Eleanor Roosevelt, a United States delegate to the United Nations, the basic human rights and liberties were granted to displaced persons. This was considered to be the first
victory over the communist faction on a question of much international importance. Following this action, the United Nations stated its attitude toward this problem in its constitution.

"Considering that the Charter of the United Nations and the universal declaration of human rights... have affirmed the principle that human beings shall enjoy fundamental rights and freedoms without discrimination."2

The United Nations, having guaranteed the basic rights of all human beings, moved a step further by stating that the problem of refugees had to be dealt with on an international basis:

"The General Assembly of 1946 laid down the principle that the refugee problem must be dealt with on an international level and in 1947 the International Refugee Organization (IRO) was created."3

In order that this plan might work more accurately, the United Nations established the United Nations Commission for Refugees. Soon after, the project of resettlement of displaced persons was put into operation. Australia and New Zealand, through the Social and Economic Council, extended an invitation to a number of displaced persons. This action was followed by Great Britain, France, Belgium, the Union of South Africa, and several South American countries.

Thus, in the early part of 1947, Australia and Great Britain became hosts to the displaced persons who were eager and considered capable of starting a new life in freedom. Correspondence received from these first settlers were in most cases very encouraging, and other young men and women were permitted to emigrate to the above mentioned countries.

2. United Nations Department of Public Information, Magna Carta for Refugees, August, 1951, p. 5.

3. Ibid.
Conclusion

This chapter has shown some political and ideological factors which contributed to the displacement of thousands of people during World War II. Through the agency of the United Nations, a solution to the problem of displaced persons was attempted on an international basis. The fundamental right of individuals who were displaced was protected by the Committee on Human Rights when it declared that human beings shall enjoy fundamental rights and freedoms without discrimination. In 1947 individuals who were desirous to work and live in freedom, took the opportunity to emigrate to the countries which first offered asylum to them, under the sponsorship of the United Nations.
CHAPTER III

THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE DISPLACED PERSONS PROGRAM

In the preceding chapter the contribution of the United Nations toward solving the displaced persons problem was discussed. In this chapter a summary will be given of the activity of the United States in this regard.

Opinions of the President of the United States

On January 6, 1947, President Truman asked Congress to approve the admission of displaced persons to the United States:

"...I urge Congress to turn its attention to this world problem in an effort to find ways whereby we can fulfill our responsibilities to the thousands of homeless and suffering refugees of all faiths..."

On June 25, 1948, President Truman signed the bill by which entrance into the United States was allowed to two hundred thousand displaced persons within the following two years. To this bill of 1948, eighteen amendments were added.

Material Assistance

As has been shown, it was the United States that spoke first in behalf of human rights in the Social and Economic Council of the United Nations.

The military in various theaters of operation was directed to do all in its power to feed, clothe, and shelter displaced persons. This move was made long before the Displaced Persons Bill had even been conceived. The leadership of the United States in the International Refugee Organization included financial contributions as

well as operational direction. American aid to these unfortunate people was enormous in other ways, such as organizing schools, places of worship and recreation in refugee camps, and by simple encouragement.

The press in the United States did much to make its citizens aware of the plight of displaced persons.

The Christian Science Monitor in its edition of March 29, 1947, had this to say: "...let Americans prove their concern for free peoples by giving a few of those helpless refugees a chance to be free."

Life magazine in its editorial of September 23, 1946, said:
"...the most shocking fact about the plight of these displaced persons is not that they are interned. It is the fact that the United States Government has the means to open the door for many of them but has not done so."

The Displaced Persons Act of 1948.

The bill for admission of displaced persons, passed in June, 1948, permitted the entrance of 206,000 displaced persons into the United States. This bill was amended in 1950 raising the number to 302,000. This showed growing congressional realization of the inseparability of the problems of refugees from the problem of overpopulation.

The displaced persons program was carried out by the people and the government of the United States with, for the most part, sincere attempts to meet the needs of refugees who could not return to their native countries because of fear of religious persecution in those lands which were dominated by the communist flag of USSR.

9.
Conclusions

This chapter has been a brief summary of the manner in which the displaced persons bill came about through the efforts of the United States people and government. This program marked the first time in the history of the United States that a planned program of immigration was put into effect.
CHAPTER IV

GENERAL PROBLEMS OF ADJUSTMENT CONFRONTING DISPLACED PERSONS

The previous chapters have indicated who displaced persons were, from where they came and what was done for them by the United States and the United Nations. In this chapter general problems of adjustment will be discussed from the standpoint of employment, distribution, ability to speak the English language, citizenship, church membership, and family life. For a clearer picture there is also included personal opinions and reflections of displaced persons, obtained from the Omaha Board of Adult Education and Americanization.

The general problems of adjustment of the first displaced persons who came to the United States as permanent residents were those of basic adjustment to the human and physical environment of a new culture. This kind of problem is a real one to any immigrant regardless of the conditions under which he immigrated or the future plans he might have as an immigrant.

One newcomer expressed his opinion as follows:

My mind is dry. I do not know what to write except how the average DP feels in America. First he tries to have a house of his own. This is easy to understand, as he is alone, does not have any relatives which would help him in need.

...DPs come from different countries with different customs. So each of them would like to see America like it was in his country. It takes long time before DP will understand America and American people...

A local caseworker, in answer to several inquiries, wrote the following:

You asked me first how the DPs are adjusting. As you know, I have not worked with very many of them. The ones I do know have adjusted very easily. I am amazed at the way many of them adjust after the deprivations they had in Europe. Then,
too, they had such wrong ideas about America before they came here. I think most of them are told that this was a land of "milk and honey" and much money, and they are very surprised when they found that they must work here as they did in Europe.

The question of adjustment in general to the conditions of a "new physical and human environment" depends largely upon the readiness of the individual immigrant, occupationally and generally to accept new things, to what extent he wants to progress occupationally and to what degree he is able to blend his cultural background with the new culture. In many cases, the problem of adjustment in its initial stage depends on the length of time the immigrant had to improve his knowledge of the language and government. As Maurice R. Davie states in his study of this problem "the average immigrant in most cases cannot speak the language, he is ignorant of working conditions at first hand, ignorant of customs, the laws, and most of life."

Among other things of the nature of social interaction, knowledge of language, working conditions and some customs and laws are the things to which the newcomer has to be adjusted.

Jobs and Distribution

In this report, displaced persons were in a better position than earlier immigrants because the former were assured of employment by their sponsors before they were allowed to enter the United States. Yet many changed their places of residence and employment, and in most cases this change was made in order to better living conditions.

A salesman who was born in Berlin came to a Nebraska farm to work and live. Here is his story as to his arrival and job

adjustment in his own words: 2

The family Page gave the necessary assurance to care for us—my wife, two children and I for two years. I was to work for Mr. Page or he is to find some job for me. In December, 1949, all the formalities were performed and the IRO brought us together with 1300 other immigrants under the DP quota into the U.S.

Pages live on a farm that is not big enough to support two families... I did all kinds of farm work, but being unaccustomed to it and undernourished during and after the war, I was not able to be a useful farmworker for the time being.

And again it was member of the Page family that helped us find a job and living quarters here in Omaha. I am working now in a furniture frame company. It is a new kind of work for me but one I am able to do and earn my living with. Because my wife is working too. We are able to afford some luxuries once in a while. My girls are going to school are wonderfully cared for at the City Mission.

After being here in the wonderful USA for little more than one year, we know that our wish for a new and better country and a brighter future for our children has been granted.

In the early period, the immigrant displaced person was likely to work only temporarily in his sponsored employment (the job he was brought over to perform.) Then he moved to seek a job more compatible with his skill and status. In this respect, the unskilled manual laborer was better off than the professional man because with the former, a knowledge of the English language was not essential. Teachers, merchants, and writers in whose occupations social conditions were of great importance and a knowledge of English mandatory were not able to make rapid progress until they learned the language at least moderately well.

The majority of displaced persons were employed in semi-skilled and manual labor occupations and were naturally affected by the demands of the labor market.

2. Omaha Board of Adult Education.
Displaced persons in many cases, like native Americans, moved from farm areas to urban centers. Reasons given by DPs for this were:

1. Shorter working hours in factories, with better wages.
2. Better insurance and unemployment benefits in factories.
3. Welfare services and retirement pensions offered by factories.
4. Farms too far removed from centers of education, entertainment and arts.

A number of displaced persons also moved to other states, for the purpose of improving their social status, to take advantage of better employment opportunities, or to be nearer friends and relatives. Other reasons given were mistreatment by the sponsor, illness, inability to operate modern farm machinery, and general job misplacement.

*Ability to Speak the English Language*

A great number of displaced persons entered the United States with no knowledge of the English language. When put to work, it was necessary to have an interpreter at hand to give instructions or to place them in simple routine jobs where conversation was not required. The language was a real handicap to the displaced person who was placed on a farm. Favorable adjustment came about in most cases when the language hardship was overcome. In urban areas, the problem was not so acute because the immigrants had opportunities to attend language and government classes.

*Citizenship*

Displaced persons entering the United States as permanent residents could immediately make their declarations of intention to become American citizens. This comprised the "first papers,"
and anyone eighteen years or older could apply, whether or not they were able to speak the language. The majority of displaced persons responded favorably in this direction.

One displaced person expressed his views as follows:

... I am glad to live here, to have a job, a nice room in a free democratic state. I hope to become citizen after my stay here has been long enough. The times in which I was a refugee in different countries are now forgotten and a new regular life will begin.

A European immigrant said after receiving his final citizenship papers:

Today we are celebrating Thanksgiving Day and I have a lot to be thankful for, that I have become a citizen and a part of this great nation. I have been given opportunity to build my future and to help in the building of the nation in the peace and freedom — no man can ask for more.

Church Membership and Participation in Church Activities

Church membership and participation in social activities sponsored by the church contributed a positive influence both spiritually and socially in the process of "whole" adjustment. Religious influence was facilitated because displaced persons do worship in the church, usually in a national group church, which best meets their needs. This church in many ways follows along American lines as church membership and the ways of organization and support. In such a church the immigrant makes a gradual and more natural adjustment. Here he is able to exercise his social skills which are derived from an alien culture, more freely than in other institutions which are purely American. Thus, he can imitate and identify himself with the new human environment of his church. The investigator observed a positive reaction in most cases and a favorable adjustment resulting therefrom.
Family

The displaced person has strong family ties. Providing a good living for the family is paramount in his planning for the future. Even in those cases where there is some discord, the ties of unity remain.

School children are the original carriers of new customs and ways of life. In this way parents and older members of the family are exposed to aspects of the new culture into which they must assimilate in order to make good adjustment.

Conclusions

In general, the adjustment of displaced persons has shown good progress in their becoming a part of the American Community. This is evidenced by their ability to make a living for themselves, by their one hundred per cent employment, and by their attempts to learn the English language.
CHAPTER V
SURVEY OF FAMILY GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS RESETTLED IN NEBRASKA BY
THE CHURCH WORLD SERVICE: 146 CASES

This chapter is a study of 146 cases of displaced persons whose partial files were obtained from the office of the Church World Service in Lincoln, Nebraska. An attempt was made to detect the adjustment of these persons from the standpoint of migration of displaced persons from the places of initial resettlement. Some nineteen cases were interviewed as to get some idea of the reasons for such a movement.

This group was further studied with respect to composition of the group, shifting the displaced persons within the state of Nebraska, migration from the state and favorable adjustment as determined by the center in Lincoln. Those resettled mainly in rural areas will be compared with the group resettled in Omaha in the following chapter. Analysis of the hypotheses previously presented is necessarily limited by the material obtainable and the different situations of the groups studied.

Composition of the Group

One hundred forty-six cases were studied and nineteen of these cases were interviewed with regard to reasons for moving to other locations. Ninety-four of these cases consisted of families ranging in size from two to eight members. Of the fifty-two individual cases, a number were married men and women who came to the United States alone.
Composition of Families

There were ninety-four families in this group. The composition of these families is presented in the following table:

TABLE I

NUMBER OF PERSONS PER FAMILY FOR 94
DISPLACED PERSONS FAMILIES IN NEBRASKA, 1952

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Families</th>
<th>Number of persons in each family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average size family in the Church World Service group was 3.61 members. These people were immigrants from Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Ukraine, Rumania, USSR, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia. The religions ascribed to were predominantly Protestant, with a few members Orthodox.

In this group were found two ministers, a few students and technicians, several teachers and office workers, and many farmers and laborers. The employment offered them after arrival consisted mainly of farm and servant work. The wages paid were low and as will be seen later, this was one major reason why displaced persons changed from their first employers to other employers who paid higher wages.
Residential Change of Displaced Persons Within the State of Nebraska

As of July, 1952, this research revealed that forty-seven of the cases in question had moved from their original places of residence and employment to other areas within the state. Most of them moved to towns and cities to seek jobs offering higher pay. Of the forty-seven, ten were single individuals and the remainder were members of families; the latter group included three families of two members each and thirty-four families of three or more members.

Reasons for moving are illustrated by the following examples:

One family of seven members was placed originally on a farm in Minatare, Nebraska, which situation proved to be unsatisfactory because of the low wages received and the very unsympathetic and "lordly" attitude of the sponsor-employer. This family packed up and went to a nearby town to work and live.

Another family group of seven likewise was dissatisfied with the meager financial reimbursement, which happened to be considerably less than prevailing wages elsewhere. They moved to another farm where they seemed to be happier.

The head of a family of five had as his first place of employment a dairy, where he was doing well, but the hours spent at his job were long and on a seven-day schedule. This man took another less time-consuming job in the same community.

A resettlement worker reported that three other families moved from the farm to the city because they felt they were underpaid and unsympathetically treated by their employers.

Another family investigated had a rather pitiful experience. The father broke his leg while working on a ranch in the Western part of Nebraska. The mother then took over his duties, but she
suffered severe burns of her right leg in a household accident. The sponsor then refused to have them around on his hands and arranged to have them cared for by a relief agency in Lincoln.

One woman who worked for the Church World Service in Europe was placed in a situation in this country where hard manual labor, low wages and long hours "much beneath her ability" were required of her. A resettlement worker on this case wrote: "I helped her get refresher training as a laboratory technician and she has been put in charge of a hospital laboratory now."

A family of four was placed by the Baptist Church and Church World Service without consulting the father; low wages and unfriendly treatment resulted in a move from the farm to the city.

One sponsor, upon being urged by a Presbyterian committee, accepted more workers than he needed and had to discharge some of the men. He was, however, helpful in relocating them.

The story of a three-member family was related to us by a resettlement worker:

Maria and her mother arrived late in 1949. Elly was delayed in Europe for medical reasons. The plan had been for Maria to do housework and care for an invalid in the home of the sponsors and thus earn room and board for all. The sponsor was also going to assist Maria and Elly in setting up a sewing business. But because of Elly's delay the plan did not work. Maria became very bitter and had difficulty in the matter of job and housing. When Elly finally arrived, all three went to Chicago where the girls worked in a factory. Elly is married now, and everyone concerned is happy.

A man and his wife were destined for a ranch upon their arrival in the U.S. However, they separated in New York and each went his way seeking other employment.

Another man worked as a laborer for his original sponsor more than a year. However, he had ideas of being an administrator, and
this was the first intention of the sponsor who soon saw that this was not possible to achieve, so the man went elsewhere.

Another frequent cause of relocation appeared to be the desire to be near relatives. In one case a man and his wife worked a year in Lexington, Nebraska, and apparently established a fine reputation. However, they moved to Milwaukee to be with friends and relatives. Another family left the farm to go to Chicago because their relatives lived there.

One family of four remained on the farm only a few months. They had been offered a good percentage-of-the-profit deal, but became impatient waiting for the returns and were not very cordial about reaching an agreement. They moved to Lincoln.

In three additional cases it was found that the reason for leaving the farm for the city was that the sponsors found the displaced person uncooperative and shiftless.

In the case of one individual, the sponsor and the newcomer arrived at a mutual decision that the latter was quite unsuited for farm work. The sponsor then helped the displaced person relocate in a neighboring town.

This data suggest a variety of causes for resettlement and relocation.

Movement Out of the State of Nebraska

Of the one hundred forty-six cases considered, forty-four moved out of the state; representing thirty-four families and ten single persons. They relocated on their own initiative and primarily in the East in large cities such as Chicago, Detroit, New York, and Pittsburgh.

21.
As shown on the map included in Appendix I, these displaced persons moved to the following areas:

**TABLE II**

**AREAS TO WHICH DISPLACED PERSONS MOVED FROM NEBRASKA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut*</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire*</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts*</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York City, New York</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago, Illinois</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit, Michigan</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cincinnati, Ohio</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milwaukee, Wisconsin</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland, Ohio</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota*</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina*</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenosha, Wisconsin</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 44

* It was not possible to determine to what city, town, or village these individuals moved. The state only was indicated.

Reasons for the relocation given by the displaced persons were better employment, higher wages, and to be near relatives and friends.

Of the one hundred forty-six cases, thirty-one remained in the area to which they first came upon arrival in the United States. Many of these changed employment but remained in the same area. The twenty-four remaining cases were not traceable. Thus, the original one hundred forty-six, as of July, 1952, were divided into four groups as shown in Table III on the following page.
TABLE III
RESIDENTIAL STABILITY OF 146 CASES OF THE DISPLACED PERSONS
RESSETTED IN NEBRASKA AS OF JULY, 1952

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residential status</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Per cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moved within state</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>32.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moved out of the state</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>30.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remained in Original area</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>21.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>146</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From this table, some insight can be obtained as to the adjustment of the various groups, judging from the number requiring relocation to meet their occupational and social needs and the number that were satisfied to remain in the original resettlement area.

Displaced Persons Following the General Movement Trend

In recent years there has been a noticeable trend of the native American rural population to migrate to urban centers, especially during 1950 with the beginning of the Korean War, when more than one million Americans left rural areas to live in big cities. This trend was noticed and followed by many displaced persons. Here was a "push and pull" situation — the push being low farm wages and the pull being bigger and better opportunities in the city. This, as well as could be analyzed, was a decisive factor in the relocation of a large segment of the displaced persons population.

Conclusions

In conclusion it could be said that displaced persons in many cases moved out of Nebraska with the aim of bettering their
occupational and social adjustment.

Speaking in terms of a favorable adjustment of this group as a whole, it could be concluded that adjustment was rather poor. Unfavorable employment and social conditions, as found by the cases interviewed, could contribute to some extent to the whole picture of poor adjustment of some individuals. Some individual persons, as was seen, were unresponsive in an attempt to make their adjustment favorable. It could be suggested that better understanding on the part of the employer, and patience, cooperation and industriousness on the part of displaced persons would make adjustment of this group more satisfactory to all concerned.
CHAPTER VI

THE STUDY OF 1466 DISPLACED PERSONS IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA

In the foregoing chapter, displaced persons who settled in the rural areas were studied in an attempt to gain information regarding their adjustment. Adjustment was considered from the standpoint of residential movements within the state, movements out of the state, and the reasons for such migration. In this chapter displaced persons in the urban area of Omaha are presented for study from the standpoint of determining 1) whether those displaced persons who attend citizenship classes are more likely to become citizens, 2) whether they remain in the urban area in which they were initially resettled, 3) whether there is a significant difference in the adjustment of the various national groups of displaced persons in Omaha and 4) whether the adjustment in general is satisfactory.

The files of 1466 immigrants resettled in Omaha were obtained from the Board of Adult Education and Americanization, for the purpose of analyzing from the standpoint of enrollment in citizenship classes during the year from June, 1951, to June, 1952. This data included the number of applications for "first papers," the number of applications for final citizenship papers, the number that were naturalized that year and the total number of displaced persons in the files as of June 1, 1952. This study includes only those aliens who entered the United States under the Displaced Persons Act; Countries of origin are indicated.

Tables IV and V show the number of displaced persons enrolled in citizenship classes between the period of June 1, 1951 and
### TABLE IV

**NUMBER OF DISPLACED PERSONS ENROLLED IN CLASSES DURING JUNE 1, 1951 TO JUNE 1, 1952**

**NUMBER APPLIED FOR FIRST PAPERS, FOR SECOND PAPERS, NATURALIZED DURING 1952**

**SHOWN BY NATIONALITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Enrolled in Classes During Year</th>
<th>Applied for First Papers</th>
<th>Applied for Second Papers</th>
<th>Naturalized During Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Cases</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USSR</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rumania</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(From the files of the Board of Adult Education and Americanization, Omaha, Nebraska, 1952.)*
### TABLE V

**TOTAL NUMBER OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN OMAHA BY NATIONALITY,**

**INCLUDING THE NUMBER ADDED DURING 1951-1952;**

**THE NUMBER IN THE FILES AS OF JUNE 1, 1952**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Total Number In Omaha July 1, 1951</th>
<th>Number Added During Year July 1, 1952</th>
<th>Number in Files June 1, 1952</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Total Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total All Cases</td>
<td>1466</td>
<td>755</td>
<td>711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USSR</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rumania</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(From the files of the Board of Adult Education and Americanization, Omaha, Nebraska, 1952.)
June 1, 1952, the number of displaced persons who applied for citizenship and the number of displaced persons who had been resettled in Omaha during this period.

Of the 1,466 displaced persons living in Omaha during this period, 550 applied for their first citizenship papers, 44 applied for their second papers, and 31 were naturalized. During this same period, 440 displaced persons had enrolled in citizenship classes.

An attempt was made to detect the adjustment of Omaha displaced persons with regard to interests, participation and enrollment in Americanization classes in various parts of the city. The files obtained did not give information as to age, occupation, church affiliation, composition of families, or movement within the city.

As of June 1952, the total number of displaced persons who had arrived in Omaha was 1,466, 503 of whom had resettled during the year from June 1951 to June 1952. In this group were 264 males and 239 females. Of the total 1,466, there were 755 males and 711 females.

**TABLE VI**

**DISPLACED PERSONS IN OMAHA ACCORDING TO THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND THE PERCENTAGE OF EACH NATIONAL GROUP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of Origin</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Per Cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,466</td>
<td>755</td>
<td>711</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>18.29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>8.53</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USSR</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>30.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>5.18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>4.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>17.05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rumania</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>7.96</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As can be seen from Table VI, there were many more males than females from such countries as Poland, the Ukraine and Yugoslavia, the reason probably being that there were many more male prisoners of war from these nations who chose to emigrate rather than return to their native land. It can also be noted that the number of females exceeds the number of males from Austria, Germany and Latvia, and it can be presumed that the reason is that many of these women married American soldiers and emigrated as war brides.

Displaced Persons Enrolled in Classes

It was found that 440 displaced persons, or 31.04 per cent of the total number of displaced persons in Omaha, were enrolled in citizenship classes. There were classes in previous years for displaced persons, and it can be assumed that many individuals from this group participated in them and therefore are not included in this number of 440.

TABLE VII
CITIZENSHIP CLASS ENROLLMENT ACCORDING TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND SEX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of Origin</th>
<th>All DP's</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1466</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USSR</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rumania</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Five centers were opened in Omaha for the purpose of teaching basic English and government to the immigrants. The first session began "... September 9, 1951, with the initial enrollment of 226 and nine teachers."¹ The second session opened "... December 1951, with the enrollment of 394 in 22 classes in the five centers. By the close of the winter term, 429 persons had enrolled in the 27 classes in the five centers."²

Application for First Papers

As stated in Chapter IV, an immigrant can fill out his declaration of intention to become a citizen without any knowledge of the language. Five hundred eleven persons out of this group applied for their first papers. Distribution as to country of origin was as follows:

TABLE VIII

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of Origin</th>
<th>All DP's</th>
<th>Applied for First Papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1466</td>
<td>511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USSR</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rumania</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ The Annual Report of the Board of Adult Education and Americanization, Omaha, Nebraska, 1952, p. 3. (Unpublished.)
² Ibid.
Application for Second Papers

Forty-four persons out of the total 1466 were eligible to apply for final citizenship papers. To be eligible, five years of permanent and uninterrupted residence in the United States is required by law. In 1948 the War Bride Law was passed, by which an alien married to an American citizen was eligible to apply for second papers after two years of residence. Presumably, almost all of the 44 cases mentioned above came under the second category. Thirty-one of these received citizenship papers in June, 1952. Twenty four of the thirty one were females.

Movement out of Omaha

Thirty nine of the 1466 individuals moved from Omaha before June 1, 1952, or 2.6 per cent, indicating that Omaha apparently is a suitable place for newcomers to work and to live permanently. This contrasts with the 47 cases who had moved from rural areas in Nebraska.

Conclusion

In conclusion it can be said that displaced persons attending citizenship classes are more likely to become American citizens.

It could be concluded also that displaced persons resettled in Omaha tend to remain there.

No significant differences were found as to the adjustment of different nationality groups of displaced persons resettled in the Omaha area.

Furthermore, it appears that this group makes a favorable adjustment occupationally and socially toward becoming a part of the Omaha community.
Comparing this group initially settled in Omaha with the group studied in Chapter V of this project, resettled initially mostly in rural areas of Nebraska, it may be concluded that the Omaha group made a more favorable adjustment to the new environment and culture and made progress toward becoming American citizens.
CHAPTER VII

ADJUSTMENT OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN OMAHA

Attention now may be turned to twenty individual displaced persons, whose case histories are presented in appendix II, who are analyzed from the standpoint of background, reasons for emigration, training, age, marital status, country of origin, citizenship, church membership, and ability to speak English.

These twenty cases were interviewed in Omaha with the idea of comparing the attitudinal behavior toward a situation with the overt adjustment behavior.¹ Here, attitudinal behavior is presented only partially as a brief view of the background, occupation stages of immigration and resettlement, adjustment from the standpoint of fitness to earn a living, interest in the language and interest in becoming a citizen. Opinion were expressed freely by most respondents. School attendance and church membership "which significantly affect their interaction and their adjustment to their environment"² are presented in most of the interviews.

Country of Origin

The individuals in this group were from nine different nations as shown in Table IX.

Listing these various countries of origin is not meant to imply any particular significance, rather it is random. These data merely came about as a result of the availability of contact between the investigator and the interviewed persons. They were simply recognized as immigrant displaced persons who were able to enter the United States under the Displaced Persons Act of 1948.

---

TABLE IX
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF 20 DISPLACED PERSONS INTERVIEWED IN OMAHA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Per Cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USSR</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Age**

Age ranges in this group of twenty were as follows:

TABLE X
AGE OF 20 DP RESPONDENTS IN OMAHA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age in Years</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Per Cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 to 25</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 to 35</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 to 45</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 to 55</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average age of the group is 36.95 years, indicating that the entire group can be included in the economic potential of the nation.

**Ability to Speak English**

It was found that the younger members of the group made more rapid progress in learning English than did the older members.
They were classified into four categories of ability to speak English according to age. All of these individuals had been in the United States less than four years.

**TABLE XI**

ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH AS RELATED TO AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Ability to Speak English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 25</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 to 35</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 to 45</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 to 55</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Criteria for evaluating the ability of these persons to speak English were those formulated by the investigator's judgment of their ability to express themselves during the interviews and their use of English in helping themselves in employment and social activities.

**Occupation.**

The group was classified as to their former occupations as shown in Table XII.

**TABLE XII**

OCCUPATION IN OLD COUNTRY OF 20 DP INTERVIEWEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artist</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Farmers</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Watchman</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Students</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Soldiers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Veterinarian</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trained mechanic</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No special occupation</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Most of these individuals were employed as semiskilled workers in local packing houses after their arrival. At present, five are following their previous vocations and three are employed at jobs similar to their original occupations, while the remainder are laborers in local industries satisfied with their jobs.

**Marital Status**

The following table presents the marital status of the group:

**TABLE XIII**

MARITAL STATUS OF 20 DP INTERVIEWEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married and emigrated with family</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married and emigrated alone</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmarried</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was found that the process of adjustment as it has been discussed in this project was more satisfactory in those cases where the family remained as a unit. Economic security was greater in the cases also where there was more than one adult able to work and earn the money. Family ties are strong among displaced persons in general. There were in this group no divorce cases.

Of the five unmarried cases, adjustment was fairly satisfactory in four and retarded in one. Two of these five expressed a desire to return to the old country should political conditions permit.

Of the six married cases separated from their families, all wished to return to their native lands to be with their families, and two desired to return to the United States with their families.
Three of the cases who emigrated with their families expressed a desire to return to their country of origin if the political situation changes, because their social status would be higher there with their original occupation than it is here in their laboring jobs. It seems that they are temporarily maladjusted. However, these expressions are by no means final, and it is possible that the desire to return will pass as these individuals become integrated into the economic and social life of their adopted land, just as it did with the immigrants of ten, twenty, and fifty years ago.

**Citizenship**

Out of this group of twenty, one has become a naturalized citizen by the War Bride Act, eleven have received first papers, five have expressed intention to become citizens and four have not expressed any intention.

**Church Membership**

All of the twenty persons under consideration belong to, and participate in, a church of their national group. This contributes to their gradual adjustment as discussed in Chapter IV. Two of the individuals are choir leaders organized under the church.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion it could be said that the problem of adjustment varies rather in degree as to the regard to the age and marital status of displaced persons studied. Younger members of the group are more successful in the process of adjustment by the learning of language and acquiring of new customs. Professional men are occupationally retarded because of the language difficulty.
Those who are married and were accompanied by the members of their families make more favorable adjustment than those who were separated from their families.

In some cases it was seen that there is a situation of rather a temporary maladjustment.
CHAPTER VIII
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Background of Displacement and Resettlement

For the first time in modern history, the problem of resettlement was worked out on an international cooperative basis. The problem of mass immigration after World War II was a problem of international importance, as major causes of population displacement have international consequences in tragedy and misery.

The United States pioneered in solving this problem with great material and moral assistance toward resettlement of the displaced persons.

Adjustment of Displaced Persons

As presented in this study, adjustment was in general favorable. The reaction of American communities toward the immigrants was good.

Displaced persons in urban areas adjusted more rapidly than those resettled in rural areas. There was a general trend of the latter group to move to urban centers.

Displaced persons resettled in Omaha adjusted in a successful manner, having shown interest in attending Americanization classes and improving themselves educationally.

The movement from the farms can be interpreted as a drive among the newcomers to become self-sufficient, to separate themselves from the tutorship of others and exercise their own freedom. This they accomplished by changing their dwelling place or by getting a different job which would make them feel more stable and secure.

Class enrollment during the year 1951-52 demonstrated a real interest by the displaced persons in the community of Omaha. As
proof of the fact that residential adjustment in this particular area has been satisfactory, only 2.5 per cent of the original settlers moved elsewhere.

One of the newcomers expressed his opinion and feelings as to the American people and democracy this way:

"...we are in a fortunate position of never having freedom before and finding it here...I would say too that in general people here are better than in the old country; they are friendlier, more cheerful, and more willing to help...All I can say is I am glad and proud to live in this great country together with such nice and big-hearted people."¹

Feelings and sentiments of displaced persons toward native Americans and the democratic principles of the United States have been and are, very positive, and it can be said that these two factors are basic in contributing to the successful adjustment and further assimilation of new settlers into the American way of life.

¹ Omaha Board of Adult Education and Americanization, Omaha, Nebraska, 1952.
CONCLUSIONS

The conclusions of this study are limited to the material presented in previous chapters of the thesis. They are results of the analysis of cases interviewed. The conclusions in this study are not intended to be final.

Specifically, the conclusions can be stated thus:

1. The younger the displaced person, the more likely he is to make a satisfactory adjustment.

2. Married displaced persons accompanied by their families adjust more easily than those separated from their families or those who are unmarried.

3. Displaced persons who attend citizenship classes are more likely to become citizens.

4. Displaced persons move from rural to urban areas for purposes of better adjustment.

5. The older immigrants usually experience difficulties in adjusting to American culture.

6. There is no significant difference in the adjustment process of the various national groups.

7. Expressed opinions of displaced persons indicate that the immigrants in general look with favor on the American people and the government of the United States.

8. Economically they adjust satisfactorily, working and earning enough to support their families and themselves.

9. Adjustment of displaced persons in general is favorable.

Weaknesses of this Study

An attempt was made in this study to cover the problem of adjustment of displaced persons from several angles. The background
of displacement and resettlement of displaced persons in short was presented also. Such a study was done with a single purpose to give the reader a more complete picture of displaced persons.

Comparative studies were presented of rural and urban groups of displaced persons. Complete material for the study of the individuals of rural groups was not available. Therefore a study of this group was not as complete as the study which was done of the urban group.

A larger number of interviews would give more sufficient material for more adequate analysis, findings, and conclusions.

In some cases the technique of interviewing was extended by adding some questions in questionnaire form. This was done for the purpose of obtaining a more complete picture of individuals who are not alike in background displacement, resettlement and reactions to the similar factors and environment, their likes, and their dislikes.

Suggestions for Further Research

Besides the literature which gives us the knowledge on this problem, for further research it appears that personal contact with displaced persons by an investigator can give more opportunity for a closer study as to the adjustment of displaced persons. Therefore, personal interviews can render desirable material for such a study.
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Appendix I
Relocation of Displaced Persons
Leaving Nebraska.

The number in the circle shows the number of persons who migrated to the areas indicated on this map.

NORTH DAKOTA M1NNES0
WISCONSIN
SOUTH DAKOTA M I C H I G A N
NEBRASKA COLORADO KANSAS
K E H T U C K T
NE™ MEXICO OKLAHOMA ARKANSAS
C A R O U N AG E O R G I A
m
Alabama
MISSISSIPPI
LOUISIANA
FLORIDA
E X I C O

STATE OUTLINE MAP
UNITED STATES
APPENDIX II

CASE 1

B.A. is a 45 year old man born and raised in Europe. He states that his childhood and family situation were pleasant, and finances were apparently sufficient to send him to school to become an artist. To this end he studied in Vienna and became a successful artist. He was married and had one child, a daughter; during the war years he and his family remained in Vienna for security reasons.

After the war, he refused to return to his native country because of the existing Communist regime, the philosophy of which was directly antagonistic to his spiritual and moral values and political concepts as well. Whereupon, he decided to emigrate.

Several of his relatives were living in Detroit, and thus it was possible for him to enter the U.S. under the DP quota. These relatives had been in the U.S. for 40 years, yet clung to the customs and traditions with slight modifications, of the Old World. He found he could not adapt to this type of life, and therefore left his native group to associate with individuals born in the U.S. and with the American way of life, which he states "is more understandable and clear to me."

He continues to work in his profession, is getting along satisfactorily and makes a nice living for his family. His daughter recently completed high school and intends to enter college. This man speaks English fairly well, in addition to several other languages. He socializes easily, likes the
American people, whom he finds to be friendly and democratic. He
would like to return to his native country in the future if
circumstances permit. Meanwhile, he has secured his first
papers and intends to become a citizen.
CASE 2

G.N. is a 40 year old widower with one child. Of his childhood in Serbia he remembers little other than the hunger and deprivation suffered during the German and Austrian occupation of his native land in World War I. He was able to finish grammar school and then worked on the family farm until World War II; during this time he had married — his wife died a few years later.

He was a soldier during World War II, was captured by the German army and spent four years in a German prison camp. After liberation by the American army, he declined to return to his native land because of the Communist occupation of the country. He then spent approximately three years in DP camps in Germany with his countrymen.

At the first opportunity, he emigrated to Great Britain where he was employed as a domestic servant in the household of an army officer. G.N.'s brother, being a resident of the US, obtained an affidavit of support for him, and in due course of time he came to Omaha in 1952.

Since his arrival he has worked as a janitor in the State Federal Bank; he knows little English and has no particular training, but his attitude and industry have been so commendable that this organization has seen fit to employ many more DPs.

Mr. N. is satisfied with his work, likes the US much more than Britain, and intends to become a citizen, having no desire to return to Yugoslavia and the Tito regime. He is a friendly man and
associates easily. The problem of adjustment to this new way of life has been minimal with him because existing conditions are more favorable than any he has ever known.
CASE 3

G. W. is a man of 42 years of age. He was born near the Yugoslav border of Hungary. His family were people of means, and as a child and young adult he received a musical education and a teacher's degree. During World War II he was a reserve officer in the Yugoslav army. He was captured by the Germans and spent four years in prison camps. After the war, he returned to his homeland, hoping to be allowed to work in peace and be reunited with his family of a wife and two children. However, circumstances did not permit this, and he emigrated in 1948 to Germany and thence to the U.S. in 1950. He came to Chicago where he was employed as a musician.

This man is a very pleasing individual, interested in the welfare of others, and desires greatly to be accepted by Americans. He complains that he cannot be fully assimilated; however, he has made good progress in the study of English and has even joined several clubs in order that the slow process of assimilation will be speeded up. G.W. intends to send for his family; he considers the US a bountiful land of opportunity and most Americans as kind and generous. He has taken steps to become a citizen of this country.
A. S. is a 26 year old man who was born in the Ukraine, USSR, the third child in a large family. Outstanding among his memories of his childhood is an episode of "mass hunger" when he was five years of age, as a result of which many of the villagers died and he himself was miserably hungry and terrified. He finished grammar school and then was trained as a watch repairman, which is his vocation today.

During the War, he was brought to Germany as a slave laborer. After peace was declared he did not return to the Ukraine because he preferred life in Western Europe. From Germany he emigrated to the U.S., his coming being sponsored by a private citizen.

A.S. is married, but unfortunately the union is not harmonious; both he and his wife desire to have children but are unable to do so, and this appears to be the cause of discord in their marriage. Both speak English satisfactorily although they have not attended night school; both intend to become citizens.

This couple has had difficulty in adjusting in Omaha, as their national group is not established here, and other groups have not accepted them readily. For this reason, they have moved to Detroit where both have close friends.
F.D. is a woman of 52 years of age, born in the Ukraine near Kiev, USSR. Her life there is a story of changing social conditions and environment not wholly acceptable to her. Being of a wealthy family, she had considerable higher education in the field of classics, Greek and Latin. However, the Bolshevik Revolution changed this picture, and she was more or less forced to attend a teacher's college and become a high school instructor. She loved the Ukraine, but her philosophy would not permit her to become subservient to the Bolshevik regime, and consequently she opposed the Communists in one way or another whenever she was able.

In 1944 she had an opportunity to escape to the Western countries, only to find herself under Soviet control once more. Eventually she arrived in the US, being sponsored by NCWS.

She has been employed as a seamstress in a hospital and as a teacher of foreign languages in high school. She has been in poor health for several years. She is married and has one son who recently became a medical doctor.

This lady has made a good adjustment to the American way of life; she is a vital individual and takes great interest in the process of assimilation. Her greatest desire is to see the Ukraine once more as she knew it during her early childhood.
CASE 6

V.S. is a 31 year old Ukrainian, born on a farm, where he worked with his father upon completion of grammar school. He has had no special training and does not plan to learn a trade.

During World War II he was captured by the Germans and worked in slave labor camps; his parents died as a result of the war. After liberation, he was afraid to return to his native land because of the possibility of reprisals by the Communists. He then emigrated to the US to find better working conditions; his coming was sponsored by a private citizen.

V.S. is a single man; he desires to help his friends and relatives in the old country but is as yet unable to do so. He attends evening classes to improve his knowledge of the English language and American government and appears to show great progress in this project. He has already secured his first citizenship papers.

His adjustment process seems to be a happy one; he feels that Americans are very kind to him and try to make it easier for him to adjust to the new social and environmental conditions. V.S. has changed his sponsor because the present one offers higher wages. He states that the Democratic government as exemplified in this country is far better than any type of rule under which he has lived, particularly better than that in his native Ukraine. He further states that even if there were a possibility of his returning to Russia, he would prefer to remain in the US, as the word "freedom" is essentially unknown in the land of his birthplace.
where there is a definite segregation of the population into two distinct classes, the "upper class intelligentsia" and the "lower class laborers."
CASE 7

N. D. is a 32 year old unmarried man who was born in the Ukraine, the second child in a family of eight. He completed grammar school, did not go on to learn any special trade but worked on a collective farm for the State. He remembers well the great famine which existed in the Ukraine in 1932; at this time he was very ill and malnourished.

During the war he was a slave laborer in Germany, and after liberation chose not to return to his native land but instead came to America under the sponsorship of a private citizen.

This man has no contacts with the remainder of his family who are in the old country, possibly for security reasons. He attends evening classes and does his best to socialize; he recently received his first papers. N.D. is convinced that the democratic way of life is by far the most desirable, and he has no intentions of returning to Russia, even in the event there should be a change of government in that land. He feels, as does V.S. and many of his countrymen, that there can be no real peace or prosperity in a nation subjected to the whims and tyranny of a dictator and the "intelligentsia."

This man has changed from his original sponsor to the present employer who pays higher wages; he appears to be doing well.
CASE 8

A. D. is a 23 year old married man from Czechoslovakia, where he spent a pleasant and healthy childhood; he had some schooling and was trained in clerical work.

After the war, he and his relatives were on the side of the Republic in the Communist plot of 1948, and he was thus in a position to emigrate to Germany, or rather escape to Germany, where he was placed in a DP camp until a local Czech group sponsored his coming to the US.

Since his arrival he has been employed as a clerk. He was married to an American-born girl, and the marriage is a happy one. He has become a full citizen, according to the Act of Congress regarding war brides.

He appears to be an intelligent and sober individual. Considering the fact that he is only a recent immigrant, his ability to speak English is excellent. He is very proud of his American status and will always be thankful that he established himself in this country. He associates readily and is very helpful toward other DPAs.
E. Y. is a 48 year old lady born in Russia, the only child of a well-to-do family. During the Revolution of 1917, she and her family were forced to migrate to Czechoslovakia, where she received a college education. During World War II she migrated further west and spent about four years in DP camps. In 1949 she and her second husband were able to emigrate to the US.

She has been a factory worker since her arrival, there having been no opportunity for her to use her college training.

As already noted, she has been married twice and just recently divorced a second time; there have been no children. She prefers to live alone and make decisions independently. She has been attending evening classes for the purpose of improving her knowledge of English and American government. She associates easily and has many American friends. She is willing and eager to help others, likes the US very much and has received her first papers.
CASE 10

B.F. is a handsome, intelligent young man of 26 years of age, born into a family of moderate income in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. His childhood was relatively normal without any significant experiences. He attended high school during the Occupation and found that his moral and social values differed widely from those of the Communists; he was not certain that he could learn to accept the precepts of this regime, and therefore migrated with a group of colleagues to the West. He resided a few years in DP camps until the NWF sponsored his coming to the US.

He traveled with a group to Omaha, where, not having had any special training, he took the first job offered him. This proved to be unsatisfactory, and he changed employment three times before he found a suitable factory job, at which he intends to remain.

This man is not married and, further, is very skeptical of marriage. He is quite a bright fellow and is always striving to better himself; his command of the English language is excellent. He likes the US and finds people conventionally nice and polite but without any real warmth or affection; he considers his social values to be above those of the general public and therefore would prefer to return to the old country should such be possible. However, he admits that there is a possibility he may adjust to this new culture and has already secured his first papers. B.F. states that the ethics and morals of the man on the street in this country are conditioned by the "almighty dollar." He feels that
the common immigrant without any schooling does not have half the difficulties in adjustment as does one with his cultural background, for the main goal and source of satisfaction for the former are the good living conditions readily available, whereas he has aims and desires in life other than a mere routine existence.
A.C. is a 45 year old professional soldier with a major's rank. He was born into a peasant family in what was formerly the Austro-Hungarian Empire. During World War II he served as an officer in the Yugoslav Army, was captured by the Germans and spent four miserable years in a prison camp where his health deteriorated considerably, as a result of which his physical condition is still poor. After the war, he had no desire to return to his native land and the Communists so he spent several years in DP camps in Austria, where he met and married an Austrian nurse. Two years ago he and his wife were brought to the US under the sponsorship of a church group in Kansas City.

After his arrival, he was employed as a farm laborer near Omaha, and his wife worked as a nurse aide. After a few months he quit the farm, came to Omaha and has been working in a factory here since. The two have managed to save enough of their earnings to make a down payment on a five room house.

This man speaks English satisfactorily and is in general pleased with his situation. He takes an active interest in his national group, directs the group's orchestra and the church choir. He has found that Americans are very nice to him and his wife, but he draws a definite line between rural and urban Americans, finding the latter to be more sociable and approachable. It is his opinion that the dollar is the basis of the philosophy ascribed to by most of the people with whom he has come in contact. He feels that political liberty is the highest achievement of the U.S.
N.P. is an impulsive young man of 29, who was born in Albania of wealthy parents. His childhood was average except that he broke his leg twice. During the war, as a youngster, he took an active part in resisting the occupying armies; with a group of his countrymen he fled to Austria later because of fear of the Communists. Eventually, he emigrated to the US under sponsorship of the SND.

This man does not have any special training and has been employed in a shoe factory since his arrival in the US; his wages are fairly high, and he has no plans to change his occupation.

N.P. takes an active part in the social activities of his national group, but his associations with American groups have not come easily. He states, "First when I come to U.S., life seemed too fast for me and I could not believe that I would be able to fit in; but now I find it is almost normal." He finds many things in our society to be artificial, yet at the same time he finds some Americans who are willing to help in advice and guidance. "American people is very nice, but still I am wandering in this world; I did not find my place yet." When asked if he would prefer to return to the old country, he stated that he would. When questioned whether his "wandering" would find its needs met there, he answered, more or less in protest, "I find the flat stones in my country to be more mine."
CASE 13

F.D., a 48 year old clergyman, was born and raised in Poland, near the Russian border. His childhood was that of a peasant who managed to finish schooling and become a teacher of religion in the local high school. His country was of course overrun by the soviet armies, and of this phase of his life he states:

"All men in all walks of life must serve primarily in the interests of the Communist Party. No one can tell you how long you will stay on your place; your future is very uncertain. There is a policy to eliminate everybody who is not a member of the Party and who does not serve its interests. That makes for a fear which draws a person into a state of terrifying insecurity."

This man was finally able to make his way to Germany, from where he at length emigrated to the U.S. He is a self conscious individual but has found a happy place for himself as pastor of a small church of his own denomination in Kansas City. His parish work is complicated and interesting. He states: "Here nobody tries to make you to be an American, but if you want to perform your duty satisfactorily, you have to adjust yourself to the American way of life." The latter he finds to be a very positive situation. He considers European culture to be superior to that in this country, but he very readily admits that our multicultural society is a wonderful thing and considers this to be the greatest achievement of the New World.

xvii
F. A. is a middle-aged man from Poland. He speaks of his life there as the "good years," until World War II, during which and after he experienced many hardships and privations. He came to the U.S. under the sponsorship of the NCS.

He was first employed as a meat supervisor in a packing house; later he held a veterinary job in a small company. Recently he has moved to Chicago to be in closer contact with his national group and colleagues from the old country.

F.A. is not married but would like to have his own family in the future. He tries with great determination to adjust himself to his new conditions and status; he enrolled in a citizenship class and has made good progress in learning English. He attends many social gatherings and cooperates well in his work.

The American people he finds friendly. He states that "the standard of life in the U.S. is the highest that one nation can achieve." He works hard to make enough money to enjoy the same kind of life he knew in prewar Poland. He has hopes of returning to his native land and working there in his chosen profession.
CASE 15

F.Y. is a Latvian of 53 years of age. He was raised in a middle class family, went to law school and was a successful judge in his native land. His was a good and happy life until World War II loomed on the horizon.

This man was very reticent and distrusting during the first interview, because, as he later explained, he had been put through many screenings and interrogations during the war and after. His first sufferings came when Russia annexed his country in 1940; each step he took was full of the risk of uncertain reprisals from the Reds. The fear of deportation was great -- "that was life of fear and uncertain tomorrows." With the coming of the German armies in 1941, the picture did not change appreciably, but life was a little more bearable. At the end of the war, seeing that the Soviets were coming back, he preferred to migrate Westward rather than repeat previous experiences. With his wife and only child, he made his way to lower Germany, and after five years of hardship, they were able to emigrate to the U.S., being sponsored by the NCS.

After his arrival, he worked for a short period of time in a packing house; he earned enough money to go into business independently and seems to be greatly successful in his present occupation.

His knowledge of English is quite limited, as he does not have time to attend classes; both he and his wife work hard to secure a nice living and a good future for their daughter who is now a high school student. His social life consists of meetings.
with his own church group. America to him is a great country
which gives opportunities to anyone who wants to get ahead —
"this is paradise for worker." Still, he would prefer to return
to Latvia if it becomes possible.
A. Y. is a 30 year old man from Balkan Europe. He had a good childhood, attended high school and started in medical school. During the war, he fought actively against the enemy and after the war again fought against the Communists. When the first opportunity presented itself, he migrated to Western Europe. His coming to the U.S. was sponsored by a private citizen.

This man is married and the father of two children. Upon his arrival he took the first job offered him, but he has desires to improve his occupational status. He feels that at present he does not earn enough money to give his family a satisfactory life.

He speaks English well, although he does not have time to attend many evening classes. He is acquiring his first papers and intends to become a full citizen. His associations with Americans have been friendly and he finds our democratic type of government superior to any under which he has lived before.
CASE 17

B. B. is a 23 year old European. He does not speak of his childhood as being pleasant, and indeed there is an air of withdrawal and suppression about him. He started to school in the old country but was unable to get far after the onset of World War II, during which his family was on the Nationalist side. At the end of the war, he traveled to Germany, and thence to the U.S., being sponsored by his church group.

This young man has no special training; he works as a laborer and has no particular plans for the future. He has no intentions of returning to the old country because of the Communist regime existing there. He works hard in order that he may help his people in Europe. He is making good progress in learning the English language and is very eager to become an American citizen. The process of assimilation has not been overly difficult for him.
S. P. is a Russian of 50 years of age. The days before the Bolshevik Revolution were pleasant ones; after that he moved to the Balkan area where he finished his schooling and became an Engineer. He relocated a second time after World War II when the Communist armies moved in, this time in Germany. Decided to come to the U.S. because of greater security and better working conditions; he was sponsored by the Church World Service.

This man is married and has two children; apparently his marriage is not harmonious, and he is reticent to explain why. He is employed as an engineer, but has changed jobs several times and recently moved to Detroit.

S. P. speaks English well and is constantly trying to improve his command of the language. He intends to become a citizen although he would prefer to return to Europe should this become possible. It is his feeling that Americans are not enough aware of the dangers of Communism.
CASE 19

S. A. is 46 years old; he was born and raised in Balkan Europe where he had a pleasant childhood. He went into military training early and became an officer. During World War II he was wounded, captured by the Germans and spent many months in prison camps. His church group sponsored his coming to the U.S.

After his arrival, he worked in a factory, but this proved to be unsatisfactory, and therefore he changed employment until he found an easier job. Then he went to college and learned accounting.

S. A. is married and without children. His wife is still in the old country, and this is a source of great depression to him. He is a sober, intelligent individual and associates with his American contemporaries easily. He desires to become a citizen and wishes to bring his wife to the U.S. He thinks Americans are very good and friendly but changeable.
CASE 20

A. A. is 40 years of age, of Balkan extraction. He was raised on a farm there and worked as a farmer in his youth. He became a machinist's apprentice and later owned his own shop. During World War II he was a Nationalist. He migrated to Italy and thence to Germany with several of his compatriots. His brother in this country sponsored his coming to the U.S.

This man has a wife and child in the old country; it is his foremost wish to have them join him in America. If he is unable to bring this about, he intends to return to his native land; otherwise he will become an American citizen. He likes the American way of life, speaks English fairly well and associates easily.