

May 2020

Folder 7 – Fisher, Howard – 1937

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

INCORPORATED

1819 BROADWAY
 NEW YORK

TELEPHONE · CIRCLE 6-3175

CABLE ADDRESS · COUNJEW · N. Y.

November 30, 1937.

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky,
 1016 Olive Street,
 El Paso, Texas.

Re: Howard Fisher

Dear Mrs. Zlabovsky:

A rather important case has just come to our attention, in which I very decidedly need your help. To facilitate matters I am enclosing a copy of the letter we received from Mexico City, written November 9, regarding Howard Fisher.

I wrote back to them that we tried to check up on Howard Fisher's record at Ellis Island, but could find none. You will note that we are now told that he signed there as Hans Fisher. It is useless to go into detail as to the advice I gave, as you will note from the second letter from Mexico City that matters have changed and Mr. Fisher will get his visa if the officials at the border crossing approve of his remaining in the United States.

You, no doubt, have some influence with the officials and can talk the matter over with them, so that matters may be adjusted satisfactorily.

Sincerely yours,

Merle Henoeh
 Merle Henoeh

Bureau of International Case Work

MH:SB

Encl. 2 letters

FIFTEENTH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION, PITTSBURGH, PA., JANUARY 23-28, 1938

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Received: Nov. 12, 1937

C
O
P
Y

Lista de Correos,
Mexico, D. F.

November 9, 1937.

National Council
of Jewish Women,
221 West 57th St.
New York City.

Friends:

Some years ago I had occasion to direct myself to you in behalf of a Turkish Jewish woman, who wanted to return to the United States, but who was persistently refused a visa for the purpose by the American Consulate in Mexico. I remember with much satisfaction that with certain manoeuvres we managed finally to get her through and I understand that she has been for the past half dozen years happily married and living in the United States.

I have now to turn to you for your kind interest and assistance in another Jewish case, namely, that of a German-Jewish gentleman, who on account of the Hitler persecutions had to leave his country some four years ago and came to the United States as a tourist, with the right to remain six months. These six months were subsequently extended several times, but after he had already been in the U. S. over two years the authorities refused to permit him to remain any longer and he therefore came to Mexico. Before entering this country he had to declare to the Mexican authorities what he would do here for a living, and as someone had told him that the exportation of shoes was a good business in Mexico, he declared he would export shoes. But after residing in this country for a short time he discovered that the exportation of shoes was not a good business, at least not for him, so he turned to something else, and has been selling electrical supplies from wholesaler to consumer and making a fair living at it, and even sending some money back to Germany to help parents and other members of the family who unfortunately cannot get away from that benighted land.

Now the Mexican authorities have recently again begun a sort of underhand drive against Jews. Under the pretence of cleaning out foreigners who have no legal residence here, or who have come into the country under false pretences, they are really not molesting any foreigners except Jews, and the gentleman in question has been ordered to leave the country before the end of this month of November, on no other ground than that he is not engaged in the kind of business he stated he would engage in when he was admitted to the country. I have been told that not a few Jews have recently been molested on the same grounds, although this is the only case that has come to my personal attention.

Mr. Howard Fisher, the German Jew I am treating of here, tells me that he has made overtures to the Cuban Consul, to be permitted to go to that country, but thus far the most hopeful information he has gotten from that source is to the effect that he might be permitted to go to Cuba on condition that he buy a

(round)

round trip ticket good for only one year, which means that at the end of a year he would either have to return to Veracruz (and it is doubtful whether he would be admitted), or remain in Cuba illegally, in constant danger of being discovered and put in jail.

His one overwhelming desire now is to return to the United States, if there is any possible legal way of doing so. He has relatives in the United States, both in New York and in Chicago, in good financial condition, who would guarantee that he would never become a public charge. In fact, an uncle of his in Chicago, Mr. James F. Goodwin, of 5925 N. Broadway, that City, swore out an affidavit to that effect when Mr. Fisher was living with him in Chicago. But even this did not serve the purpose with the American authorities.

I asked Mr. Fisher if he had ever committed an illegal act while in the States. He assures me that he did not, either in the States or anywhere else. The only thing, he says, that they might use against him, is that at one time when asked by the American authorities how much money he possessed, he replied that he had some 1300 dollars, and another time when asked the same question he said that he had never had more than 800 dollars. But this he explains to me by the fact that when asked for this information the first time he had just borrowed 500 dollars, and having forgotten that he had previously told the authorities that he had 1300 dollars he now told them that he had never possessed more than 800 dollars. At the present moment he says he has about 700 dollars. He tells me that the only reason given him by the US authorities for not granting him his petition to be permitted to remain permanently in the States is that he has not sufficient money.

The gentleman also tells me that during the four years since he left Germany, four of his cousins have been admitted into the United States as immigrants, and he attributes his own inability to gain such admittance to sheer bad luck, and nothing else.

Mr. Fisher is 38 years old, unmarried, speaks English fluently, and is a cultured, refined gentleman in every respect.

I am writing this information to you, in the sincere hope that through your efforts in his behalf, this innocent man, who has been made a man without a home and without a country, may again be admitted into the United States, where he has an overwhelming desire to make his permanent home. I am sure that should he obtain this permission to enter the States he would become a useful and most desirable American citizen.

n Looking forward to hearing from you with encouraging news on this matter, I beg to remain

Very truly yours,

Elizabeth Goldstein

P.S. Mr. Fisher will be willing to bear whatever expense of postage is involved in correspondence on this matter, so I would suggest that you send your letters airmail, just as I am sending this one.

C
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Received: Nov. 29, 1937

Lista de Correos,
Mexico, D. F.

November 24, 1937

Airmail

Miss Merle Henoch,
National Council of Jewish Women,
1819 Broadway,

Dear Miss Henoch:

While awaiting your reply I continued to do at this end the little that might be done to alleviate the case. Mr. Fisher himself also worked on the matter, and the result of our manoeuvres is that the American Consul finally decided to give Mr. Fisher a visa, but, --- the visa states that Mr. Fisher, after crossing the border may remain in the States only if the American authorities on the other side will approve of his remaining.

With this permission however to go to the States Mr. Fisher was able to get a slight extension to the time permitted him to remain here, and he may now remain, if he wishes to, until the fifteenth of December. He plans, however to reach El Paso, Texas, within the first ten days of December, as he would like, he says, to get to work as soon as possible, and thinks that arriving there sufficiently before Christmas may help him, in that purpose.

The thing that now remains for you to do, and he sincerely hopes that you will be able to effect this, is to see to it that the American authorities on the other side should have no objections to his remaining once he has crossed the border. He has written to several relatives in the States advising them also of the circumstances of his entering the country, so that they too may use such influence as necessary to this end.

Now, replying to a few of the questions contained in yours of the 19th, Mr. Fisher tells me that when he entered New York at Ellis Island, on the 21st of November 1933 his name was Hans Fisher, not Howard Fisher. He changed his name Hans to Howard subsequently. I am sorry I did not know this when I wrote you last.

Mr. Fisher is now naturally anxious to get away from here as soon as possible, but will not leave until word has been received from you, and if you think it will expedite matters for the better if you communicate with him direct, his address is Balderas 14, Mexico City, Mexico.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Goldstein

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Come to Quaring notice at once
go to Kapples Hotel and communicate
with me

Mexico, S.F. December - 4 - 1937.
Calle Balderas #14.

Mrs. Frank Zlabowsky
Ciudad Juarez,
Hotel Koper.

Dear Madam:

I thank you very much for your cable, which reached me yesterday morning and I appreciate very much your kind assistance.

As my visa and other documents are all properly furnished I presume that everything will turn out alright.

It may perhaps be not unnecessary to mention that my Immigration Document bears the note that I have never before been formally refused previously at any American Consulate. Thus it does not seem advisable to let my case appear as a long struggle.

But as soon as I arrive at Ciudad Juarez, probably the 10th of this month,

I shall stop at the Kaper Hotel and
communicate with you.

Thanking you again for your kindness
I beg to remain yours

very truly

Howard Fisher.