

What Price Refugees?

by Dorothy Sara

On December 27th Vice-President Richard M. Nixon and former President Herbert Hoover met in New York for a discussion on the subject of the Hungarian refugees who were being air-lifted, on the wings of freedom, to this country.

After the talk the newspapers glowingly reported Mr. Hoover as saying, "these people have proved their courage and sacrifice, and are the traditional sort of people who make Americans. Most of them are from the professions, skilled mechanics or students. They earn their own living . . . we do not need to be afraid of these people. They will add to our national progress."

Why, if these people are such assets to our nation weren't our immigration barriers lowered so that the Hungarians could come to our country if and when they desired, paying their own way and preserving their sense

of dignity, instead of being brought in at the expense of the American taxpayer?

As humanitarians, why do we open our hearts and our doors only to the Hungarians? What about the almost 700,000 Chinese refugees from communism who are in British Hong Kong; the homeless and jobless 750,000 refugees from India and a similar number from Pakistan who were uprooted by the division of India in 1946; the 900,000 Palestinian Arab refugees now in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan; the Egyptian residents who hold British or French passports and the "stateless" people who are now being banished from that country; the 14,000 European refugees who can't get out of Red China, and the 10,000,000 from East Germany or Eastern Europe who are now refugees in West Germany?