

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 415

Approved October 30, 1972

WHEREAS, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics assesses exit fees on those minority persons who desire to emigrate to other countries, and

WHEREAS, this program of restrictions on the rights of those certain minority persons who desire to settle in other countries constituting an outrage causing tremendous hardships,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council go on record as condemning the outrageous restrictions on the rights of people to settle in countries of their choice and that the City Clerk is hereby directed to transmit duly engrossed copies of this Resolution, upon its adoption, to the President of the United States; the Ambassador of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United States of America; the President of the United Nations, and to the members of Congress from the State of Rhode Island.

IN CITY COUNCIL

OCT 19 1972

READ and PASSED

.....  
President  
*Thomas A. Cusack*  
Clerk

APPROVED

OCT 30 1972

*Joseph A. Hawley*  
.....  
MAYOR

FERNAND J. ST GERMAIN  
1ST DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND

2367 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

200 JOHN E. FOGARTY BUILDING  
PROVIDENCE, R.I. 02903  
TEL.: 528-4323

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

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CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON BANK  
SUPERVISION AND INSURANCE  
**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**  
**SELECT COMMITTEE ON**  
**SMALL BUSINESS**

November 6, 1972

Mr. Vincent Vespia  
City Clerk  
City of Providence  
City Hall  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903


Dear Mr. Vespia:

I wish to thank you and the City Council for sending me a copy of the resolution condemning the outrageous emigration fees the Soviet Union has imposed on Jews who wish to leave that country.

You may be certain that I will continue to fight for the freedom of Jews and other minority groups in the Soviet Union when Congress reconvenes in January.

I am enclosing a copy of my remarks from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD protesting these callous and abusive emigration fees.

Sincerely,

  
Fernand J. St Germain  
Member of Congress

Enclosure.  
FJSTG:rSa

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ORVAL HANSEN, IDAHO

# Congress of the United States

## JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 3, 1972

Mr. Vincent Vespia  
City Clerk  
City Hall  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

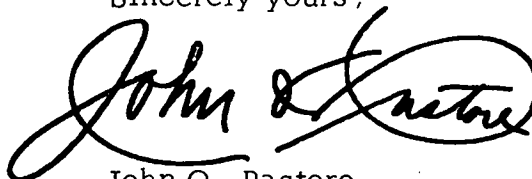
Dear Mr. Vespia:

Thank you very much for the copy of the Resolution adopted by the Providence City Council on October 30, 1972.

As you know, I am always pleased to receive the views of the City Council and I agree with the views expressed in this Resolution completely and have so stated on numerous occasions.

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John O. Pastore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being more prominent.

John O. Pastore  
United States Senator

JOP:ls



# Congressional Record

United States  
of America

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 92<sup>d</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 118

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1972

No. 148

## House of Representatives

### PROTEST AGAINST NEW FEES FOR SOVIET JEWS

#### HON. FERNAND J. ST GERMAIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 1972*

Mr. ST GERMAIN. Mr. Speaker, the Soviet Union's recent decision to increase emigration fees for Jews planning to go to Israel is nothing less than an attempt to blackmail the United States and the world Jewish community and at the same time, block any mass exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel.

There is no way that Soviet Jews could save enough for the required fees from their own meager incomes. Soviet officials have advised American Jews that they can pay the costs imposed on their Russian brethren. Thus, it seems that the Soviet Union is attempting to persuade the world Jewish community to pay ransom for Jews who wish to leave Russia. At the same time, since it is doubtful that even American Jews could raise the large sums required for the new fees, the move is designed to stop any substantial emigration to Israel.

It was no coincidence—considering the protest it would have raised—that the Soviets waited until after the Washington-Moscow wheat deal to demand that Russian Jews pay exorbitant new emigration fees.

I speak out today to indicate the utter seriousness of my concern about this Soviet action and to say that this development has deep implications for future Soviet American trade relations.

This year about 20,000 Soviet Jews have received permission to emigrate to Israel. It is believed that about 400,000 persons have applied. In a desperate attempt to halt this emigration, the Soviet Government imposed new exit fees based on the applicant's level of education. Previously these fees had been about \$1,080 per person. The new fees ranged from \$5,000 for those who had not completed high school to \$37,000 for those who hold a doctor of science degree. There is no doubt that this law was directed against Soviet Jews, particularly scientists, intellectuals and professional men.

Recent reports make it clear that the situation is even more serious than anyone had thought. Following the announcement of new fees August 3, have

come mass arrests, and show trials of those brave enough to protest.

The obvious implications of this kind of harassment have aroused my opposition to any further trade concessions with the Soviet Union.

Today, I voted for an amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act to prohibit loans, credits or other financial assistance on trade agreements with the Soviet Union until these outrageous exit fees are rescinded.

In addition, I will oppose any effort to grant Russia most-favored-nation status or Export-Import Bank credits, and oppose any extension of Commodity Credit Corp. loans for future trade agreements.

As long as the ransom for Soviet Jews is being demanded, there should be no more "wheat deals." The Soviet's need for foreign currency is well known. There is no doubt that a good portion of the new exit fees will probably be used to pay for the grain which the Soviets will be buying from the United States.

As an American and a Congressman, I say the United States cannot ignore this callous and abusive practice. We cannot permit Russia to trade Jews for wheat.

The Soviets claim these exit fees are justified because the State's investment in the education of each of the emigrants would be forfeited if they left the country. This is nonsense. The Soviet fees are twice as much as the cost of the emigrants' education.

The Soviets also claim their action is intended to end the "brain drain" caused by this emigration. This too is transparently false. Soviet Jews, regardless of their education, often have little opportunity to use their skills as a result of Soviet harassment. They have been fired, demoted, and shipped off to work camps simply for trying to emigrate.

In view of these facts, the true motives of the Soviet Union become clear. These exit fees are simply another example of the Soviet Union's official policy of harassment of its Jewish citizens.

In my opinion the continuation of these policies will depend to a large degree on whether the United States takes a firm stand to demonstrate its outrage.

The Congress cannot agree to enter into trade agreements with a country whose oppressive tactics denigrate the spirit of open trade policies. The United States cannot allow the Soviet Union to make economic gain from human suffering.