

56<sup>th</sup> Congress 2nd Session **H.R. RES. 275.**

**THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**February 5, 1901**

Mr. Fitzgerald of Massachusetts, has introduced the following joint resolution which then was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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**JOINT RESOLUTION**

Requesting the President to furnish transportation to the Boers who desire to immigrate to this country.

Whereas the Secretary of State has received the following cable telegram from United States Consul Hollis in Lourenço Marquez,  
Dated

Lourenço Marquez, South Africa  
November 27, 1900

“To the SECRETARY OF STATE, Washington:

“Please advise New York World that a number of Boer families here maximum six hundred men, one hundred and fifty women and children, contemplate emigrating to United States, and ask the New York World if offer of homestead farms mentioned in said newspaper’s telegram to President Kruger, sent my care June first, nineteen hundred, still holds good. Also inquire what further assistance can be given to these people. Passage provided here. Reply, prepaid,

(Signed)

“Hollis, United States Consul;”

and

Whereas the cable telegram referred to in the above message as of June first, nineteen hundred, sent by the New York World to President Kruger, in care of United States Consul Hollis, is as follows: “Homestead farms, one hundred and sixty acres, free to Boers who care to emigrate to America. How many ready to come? Cable reply;” and

Whereas President Kruger cabled the following reply to the New York World, dated June third, nineteen hundred: “Thanks offer of homestead farms. Burghers, however, determined to fight (for) liberty (of) country (to) bitter end;” and

Whereas conditions have now changed and the Boers desire to come to America; and

Whereas it is conceded that they would make a valuable addition to the citizenship of the United States, being a sturdy, self-reliant, intelligent, and industrious people; and

Whereas there are approximately one billion seventy-one million eight hundred and eighty-one thousand six hundred and sixty-two acres of public lands in the United States, of which nine hundred and seventeen million one hundred and thirty-five thousand eight hundred and eighty acres are undisposed of; and

Whereas on March third, eighteen hundred and fifty-one, Congress passed a resolution requesting the President of the United States to authorize the employment of the United States frigate Mississippi to bring Kossuth and his compatriots from Turkey, where they had sought refuge, to the United States, which was done: Therefore, be it

- 1     *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
- 2     *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3     That the President is hereby requested to authorize the use
- 4     of any steamship now in the service of the United States
- 5     Government to be sent to Lourenço Marquez, South Africa, to
- 6     transport to the United States the burghers of the late Transvaal
- 7     Republics, or so many of them as may desire to emigrate

8 and their families, in order that they may take advantage  
9 of the opportunity to take up land in the public domain of  
10 the United States under the homestead Act.

Source: Robert Kennedy Archives at John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, Boston MA