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BRECKINRIDGE LONG  
THE STATE DEPARTMENT YEARS  
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As the Nazi killing machine murdered millions of innocent victims in Europe, Breckinridge Long held steadfast to the traditional isolationist immigration policy of the United States. Long's story reflects the history of the United States in regard to the ongoing Holocaust in Europe.

When war broke out in Europe, Long became the Assistant Secretary of State for Special Problems with responsibility for the refugee problem. The possible threat of espionage from Nazi agents disguised as refugees enabled the federal government to restrict immigration further. Long used his position in the State Department to reduce the number of refugees arriving in America from Europe to a mere trickle.

As reports of Nazi atrocities increased, Long took measures to suppress the information. Publicly, Long stressed his sympathy for the refugees; yet privately, he constantly blamed the Jews for criticizing him. He piously viewed himself as America's gatekeeper.

In 1943, the Nazi plan to exterminate the Jews of Europe had been confirmed and pressure began to mount on the government to take some action regarding the refugees. This pressure found its way into the heart of the Roosevelt administration when Henry Morgenthau, Jr., the Secretary of the Treasury, openly accused Long of being anti-Semitic and deliberately keeping Jews from reaching America.

Long's attitude and actions reflected the mood of the nation and the position of the Roosevelt administration regarding the plight of European Jewry. Clearly, Breckinridge Long shed no tears over the fate of the refugees he might have saved.