

# NEWS

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### DIES SIDESTEPS COUGHLIN ISSUE; HOLDS PROBE IS UP TO OTHER MEMBERS OF HOUSE BODY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Chairman Martin Dies this afternoon threw the entire question of whether there would be an investigation of associates and supporters of William Dudley Pelley, Charles E. Coughlin and other anti-Semites into the laps of other members of the House Committee Investigating Un-American activities.

Repeatedly stressing the fact that he was speaking for himself alone, Dies said in reply to a question on an investigation of Coughlin: "It all depends on what you call an un-American activity, whether the committee is limited to activities inspired or supported from foreign sources."

The Texan said it was his opinion that any person advocating racial, religious or class hatred was engaged in an un-American activity but added that he did not know if the majority of his committee agreed with that interpretation. He would not state specifically that he would ask for an investigation of Coughlin when the committee met next week. It was his understanding that the committee was definitely finished with Pelley, he added.

"Father Coughlin has asked for permission to appear before the committee and has publicly challenged us to investigate him," Dies told reporters crowding his office, "but the question must be considered of whether it is desirable to afford any of these persons mentioned a nation-wide forum for the expression of their views by calling them before the committee."

Dies vigorously defended himself against charges that he had any indirect connection with the Christian Front. "I think anyone who knows of my personal declarations in opposition to all anti-Semitic activities and the strong indictment of them contained in the committee report which I signed will take such charges seriously," he said.

Asked if he would request an investigation of the Ku Klux Klan, Dies said he didn't know whether the present-day Klan was within the scope of the committee. "But I'd like to point out," he added, "that I was one of the few men in Texas to actively oppose the Klan and support Al Smith for President when both of those activities were very unpopular in that section of the country. That's a matter of record in my district."

Dies also said he planned to investigate British and French lecturers in this country, who, he contended, were spreading pro-Allied propaganda. Never before, Dies

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said, has the country been so solidly behind the work of his committee. He said he has received 1,000 letters a day asking him to continue his investigations.

On his return to Washington this morning, Dies had announced that the next target of his committee would be the Hollywood motion picture producers. He said hearings would begin as soon as possible. In a recent article in Liberty Magazine, Dies pointed out that a great many of the producers were Jews.

Dies said the producers in some manner had obtained confidential copies of the reports of his investigators on the west coast. "The producers," he said, "have one of the best organizations in existence to work against the Dies committee. They have hired the most expensive detectives in the world." He asserted that the producers were preparing a picture which would ridicule the committee.

This afternoon Dies said headlines to the effect that he had accused movie producers of being Communist sympathizers were misleading. He added, however, that he "had been informed" that mimeographed copies of investigators' reports were in the hands of "leading Hollywood producers." He declared he did not know how these reports got into their hands but pointed out that the only copies authorized were for other committee members.

#### Coughlin, "Front" Hit at Rally Here

NEW YORK, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The activities of Charles E. Coughlin, the Christian Front and other anti-Semitic groups represent the modern phase of the efforts to destroy the Union which have been going on since the founding of the United States, the Rev. William C. Kernan of the Newark Episcopal Diocese declared tonight at a meeting of the Free Speech Forum in the Hotel Edison attended by about 1,000 persons.

Reviewing the history of attempts to split the Union, Father Kernan said that present-day anti-Semitism was a smokescreen for an attack on American democracy. He said events in Germany and Russia had shown that it was impossible to withdraw the rights of any one group without threatening the rights of all. He urged a tolerance based not on toleration of other groups but respect for their equal rights.

The meeting was called to protest against the activities of Coughlin and the Christian Front. Others on the speakers' list were Dr. Henry Smith Leiper, secretary of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ; Prof. Horace M. Kallen and Elizabeth M. Riley, secretary of the Free Speech Forum. The meeting also marked publication by the forum of Father Kernan's book, "The Ghost of Royal Oak--a Christian Answer to Coughlinism."

#### Only 27 Police 'Frontists,' LaGuardia Reveals

NEW YORK, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- A total of 407 policemen applied for Christian Front membership and only 27 still retained it, out of 16,903 who filled out questionnaires on the subject distributed by Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine, it was announced last night by Mayor LaGuardia. The preliminary report also revealed that six had refused to answer the questionnaire and another 1,405 were on vacation or sick leave.

The Mayor asserted the city's right to question police on this issue, declaring that the Police Department "must be kept from any entangling alliance with any

kind of organization that might at any time create a disturbance." He was supported in this view by the New York Post, which declared editorially today that no policeman's constitutional right was threatened by the investigation.

PLAN FOR JEWISH REPARATIONS BILL TO REICH STUDIED BY EXPERTS IN PARIS

PARIS, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Various committees of experts have been set up in Paris to study the possibilities of presenting a defeated Germany with a bill for reparations to Jews whose property has been pillaged, destroyed or confiscated in Germany, Austria, Czecho-Slovakia and Poland.

These committees are also considering the possibility of presenting to the ultimate peace conference a bill to the Reich for the millions of dollars which Jewish organizations have spent on emigration and maintenance of refugees.

The groups in Paris which have set up committees of experts to study these questions are engaged in preparing separate surveys and estimates on the extent of Jews' losses in each of the territories under German control as a result of specifically anti-Jewish measures. Lawyers and economic experts are engaged in the research.

The present work is of a preliminary nature. It is expected all Jews who have suffered loss through actions of the Nazi regime may later be asked, wherever they now reside, to file formal claims for reparation. With approximately a half million Jews having already emigrated from Nazi territories, it is believed that the total claim may amount to billions of dollars.

Special registration of damages suffered by Jews in Germany who are citizens of foreign countries will be undertaken, particularly for Polish Jews, many of whom had been residing in the Reich for years before the war. At least 40,000 such Jews had been registered with Polish consulates in Germany before the Nazi invasion of Poland. A large number of them were owners of real estate which the Nazis confiscated. Others owned commercial and industrial enterprises which were "Aryanized."

It is intended that the Jewish claims be made part of a general claim for reparations which the Polish Government-in-exile would submit to the peace conference.

These preparations have already aroused comment from the Nazi press. Die Zeit, official Nazi organ for the Bohemia-Moravia Protectorate, states: "World Jewry is already getting busy with peace terms and hopes for a new Versailles Treaty."

Die Zeit also reports the determination of the Nazi authorities to eliminate the Jews from all economic positions and to accomplish the same thing in Slovakia, where, the paper says, there are already 60 anti-Jewish laws in existence.

"Nevertheless," it adds, "the Jews in Slovakia still manage to circumvent these laws. Measures are, however, now in preparation to put an end to Jewish corruption and to see that the Aryanization of Jewish enterprises should be carried out without any camouflage so that the Jews should once and for all be ousted from Slovakia's economic life."

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REFUGEE PROJECT IN HONDURAS SLATED TO START IN MARCH; IS FIRST INDUSTRIAL EFFORT

NEW YORK, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Establishment of the internationally known Weisz-Budapest peasant handiwork industry in British Honduras--termed the first substantial refugee enterprise along industrial lines and expected to absorb 500 emigres in the first year--will get under way next month, the Refugee Economic Corporation announced today.

Head of the firm is Martin Weisz, whose family is now living in Canada. His two sons are going to Europe to select the first settlers for the project, arrangements for which were made with the British Colonial Office through the cooperation of Secretary Malcolm MacDonald, according to Charles J. Liebman, president of the R.E.C. The refugees will be given visas valid until the end of 1940.

The Colonial Office stipulates that 85 per cent of the settlers be refugees from Greater Germany now in Britain, France or neutral countries, and the rest can come from Budapest. The Weisz firm will select families of six, all the members of which have been working for them in the past. Weisz-Budapest has had 8,000 operatives throughout Central Europe.

Upon satisfactory development of the enterprise during the first year, the Colonial Office will take up the granting of further entry permits. The Governor of the British colony welcomes the establishment of the refugee enterprise. The local authorities have given assurances that the Government will bring electric power to the site and build the short road extension necessary.

British Honduras was selected, the R.E.C. said, because (1) the Colonial Office will grant immediate entry, (2) the Weisz firm will enjoy imperial preference under the tariff laws, (3) natives of British Honduras can be employed, owing to their special skills in designing and handicraft.

Site for the colony is in the foothills of the Maya Mountains, enjoying a cooler climate than the country generally, which has a mean temperature of 78°F.

Liebman stated: "The local government's support, the international reputation of the Weisz firm and the proper financing and direction by the Refugee Economic Corporation give promise that this first substantial refugee enterprise along industrial lines will prosper and prove to be the prototype of other similar undertakings in British Honduras and elsewhere."

"The project will develop the internal economy of British Honduras. The unfortunate exiles will prove a boon to the receiving countries. The historic analogy of the expulsion of the Huguenots from France comes to mind. They introduced many industries into England and in large measure contributed to its industrial development. England in the 17th century was principally an agricultural country."

ARRIVAL OF 2,300 SULINA REFUGEES IN PALESTINE REPORTED HERE

NEW YORK, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- The American Friends of a Jewish Palestine reported today the receipt of a cable from Geneva stating that the 2,300 refugees who had been marooned in the Sulina port of the Danube for several weeks had arrived safely in Palestine.

J.T.A. BUREAU OPENED IN WILNO TO SERVE BALTIC PRESS

WILNO, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- An office of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has been opened here to serve newspapers in the Baltic countries. The director of the office is Mendel Mozes, former head of the J.T.A. bureau in Warsaw.

SCHWEITZER ARRIVES TO CONFER WITH LEADERS HERE ON RELIEF PROBLEM

NEW YORK, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- David J. Schweitzer, co-managing director of the American Jewish Joint Reconstruction Foundation, arrived here today on the Italian liner Rex. He will consult with American Jewish relief leaders on the European situation and discuss the establishment of a credit cooperative system for Jewish immigrants in Latin American countries.

NAZIS DRIVING ALL JEWS OUT OF PLOCK, IN WARSAW DISTRICT, LONDON HEARS

LONDON, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Polish quarters reported today that the German authorities have started expulsion of the entire Jewish population from the Plock district in the Warsaw province. Jews have been driven out of Wloclawek, Drobin, Serpec, Plock and Lipno, it was said.

REPORT OF NEW BRITISH-MUFTI TALKS DENIED IN LONDON

LONDON, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Authoritative quarters described as baseless today a report published by the left-wing newsletter "The Week" that negotiations had been resumed between representatives of the British Government and the exiled ex-Mufti of Jerusalem.

EDEN INSPECTS AUSTRALIAN TROOPS IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Dominions Secretary Anthony Eden arrived here by plane from Cairo today for a brief inspection of the newly arrived Australian troops. He was scheduled to return to Cairo later in the day.

JUSTICE DEPT. NOT ASKED TO PROBE JEWISH PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Despite a front-page statement in the current issue of Charles E. Coughlin's Social Justice that an inquiry into "the Communistic origin and control of the so-called 'Jewish People's Committee' is to be asked of the United States Department of Justice in Washington this week," the Department said today that it had not received any such request for an investigation.

200 REFUGEES LEAVE FRANCE FOR U.S.

PARIS, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- About 200 Jewish refugees, all of them holders of American visas, have been released from French isolation centers and transported to Havre to sail for the United States under the supervision of the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association, it was announced today.

EPSTEIN'S 'ADAM' TO TOUR UNITED STATES

LONDON, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Jacob Epstein gigantic statue, "Adam," is now en route to the United States for a nation-wide exhibition tour.

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FRENCH GROUP SEEKS NEUTRAL INQUIRY OF NAZI PERSECUTION

PARIS, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- A group of French parliamentarians today adopted a resolution calling for an international inquiry by neutral powers into treatment of Polish, Jewish and other groups in Nazi-held territories.

The resolution proposed that neutral governments seek permission of the German authorities to send a mixed commission into the German territories to determine the authenticity of reports of atrocities and mass expulsions of populations.

The beginning of a drive to remove Jews from the Old Reich to Lublin, opening with the expulsion of 900 from Stettin, came as a surprise to Czech and Polish official circles here, which had expressed the belief that President Roosevelt's sending of Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles to Europe would lead to temporary abatement of the transfers of population in the Nazi territories.

The 900 Stettin Jews, believed to constitute the town's entire male Jewish population, were summoned by telephone and telegram to appear at the railway station at a certain hour with warm clothing and food supplies for two days. They were then piled into cattle trains and entrained for Lublin.

A few weeks ago several hundred Jews in Stettin were ordered to leave their homes to make place for repatriated Baltic Germans. They were quartered in stables for two weeks and were permitted to return to their homes after the Germans proceeded to other cities.

PALESTINE CERTIFICATES SOUGHT FOR REFUGEE WRITERS IN WILNO

WILNO, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- An appeal for 30 Palestine immigration certificates was cabled to the Jewish Agency today by the Association of Refugee Writers and Journalists.

ROTHOLZ, CHAMPION BOXER, REPORTED ALIVE IN SOVIET POLAND

WILNO, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Shepsel Rotholz, Jewish featherweight champion of Poland who was originally reported to have been slain in the Polish campaign, was reported today to be alive in Soviet-occupied Poland. Rotholz reportedly was captured by the Germans while serving with the Polish Army but escaped from a concentration camp.

BELGRADE PAPER FINED FOR MISQUOTING TALMUD

BELGRADE, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- A fine of 600 dinar has been imposed by a Yugoslavian court upon the editor of the German-language newspaper Erwache who was convicted of falsely quoting the Talmud. Experts of the Belgrade Theological College testified to the falsity of the quotations. The case was brought before the court by the Federation of Jewish Communities of Yugoslavia.