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HEARINGS SCHEDULED ON ALASKA REFUGEE BILL; ICKES BACKS MEASURE

WASHINGTON, May 8. (JTA) -- The bill to open Alaska to development by refugees and others, endorsed by Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes as "a matter of vital national interest," was advanced today to the point where hearings were scheduled on it.

Senator William H. King (Dem., Utah), chairman of a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs, announced he would begin hearings next Monday afternoon. Among those expected to appear in behalf of the bill are Secretary Ickes and Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the explorer.

Lex Green (Dem., Fla.), chairman of a similar House committee, said he would give favorable attention to the measure when he returns to the capital next week.

Endorsement of the Alaskan Development Corporation bill was made by Secretary Ickes in a report requested by Congress. Ickes said: "The proposed legislation would create ... opportunities for regular employment and for the marketing of agricultural produce, by harnessing to the development of Alaskan industry funds which now go to the relief of victims of war and suffering abroad. Contemporary conditions, domestic and international, make the development of the unused resources of Alaska and the settlement of this vast, almost unpopulated, empire a matter of peculiar urgency today."

Investment of private funds by limited-dividend corporations would create employment not only for European citizens who might be admitted to Alaska, but primarily for American citizens. At least 50 per cent of the latter would be required in the total colonization, it was pointed out in the report.

Vinson Bill Would Halt U.S. Entry

WASHINGTON, May 8. (JTA) -- Rep. Carl Vinson (Dem., Ga.) introduced a bill flatly barring all quota immigrants from entering the United States. It was the most drastic of a large number of immigration bills introduced at this session, not even putting a time limit on the proposed restrictions.

"So long as conditions remain as they are, I see no justification for allowing quota immigrants to enter this country," Vinson said. "We can change the law when conditions become different."

JEWS BARRED FROM CENTRAL SECTION OF CRACOW; LAWYERS OUSTED

PARIS, May 8. (JTA) -- The Nazi authorities have forbidden Jews to appear in certain sections of Cracow, seat of the Government General of Poland, it was disclosed today by the official Nazi organ, Warschauer Zeitung. The ban went into effect May 1.

Sections barred to Jews include the city's "Inner Ring," including all squares with the exception of those lying between the Hotel Royal and the General Post Office, and the "Old Market."

The Warschauer Zeitung also reports that Jewish lawyers, notaries and law "interpreters" have been eliminated. The report is headlined: "Polish Jurisprudence Is Being Purged." Apparently Poles are also involved in the purge. For instance, in Warsaw, 18 of the 31 notaries were discharged and only 11 of them were Jews, according to the paper.

Former Jewish lawyers and notaries who tried to earn a living as "interpreters of the law" have also been eliminated, the paper reports. Henceforth the position of interpreter can only be held after the issuance of a license, which "of course will only be granted after stringent investigation," the Nazi organ states.

ANTI-JEWISH MEASURES INTENSIFIED IN SLOVAKIA

AMSTERDAM, May 8. (JTA) -- Bratislava dispatches reported today continued anti-Semitic pressure in Slovakia, with the Hlinka Guards enforcing unofficial measures.

The Guards have caused all but three coffee houses in Bratislava to bar Jews. Other measures include ordering of Jewish shops to display "Jewish enterprise" signs. At the same time, the Government has created a labor service for Jews and Slovaks found unable to perform military service.

The Bratislava correspondent of the newspaper De Standaard quoted Prime Minister Albert Tuka as telling him in an interview that the Government did not intend to "oppose itself to anti-Semitic tendencies." "The Jewish problem in Slovakia," Tuka said, "will be solved along such lines as to reduce the predominating position of the Jews in State affairs and in business to normal proportions."

Slovak Minister of Economics Gezar Medricky has announced that the licenses of 1,200 Jewish tradesmen have so far been cancelled and the process of "Aryanization" is not yet completed, according to a report in the Kattowice Oberschlesische Kurier, Nazi paper in Poland. Medricky is quoted as adding that elimination of Jews from ownership of land will be one of the Slovak Government's next measures.

The paper declares that Slovak public opinion is dissatisfied with the "slow progress" of the Government in solving the Jewish problem and the population is therefore taking anti-Jewish measures locally. There have been many instances in smaller towns of Jews being compelled to do forced labor, it is reported. In Sarosch, eastern Slovakia, all Jews and gypsies were ordered to clean the streets and parks.

HUNDREDS OF REFUGEES STRANDED ON DANUBE

BUCHAREST, May 8. (JTA) -- Two transports of refugees arrived here today after having been shuttled for months between Yugoslavia and Slovakia.

A third refugee transport, it was learned, has been stuck in Bratislava, Slovakian capital, for six months without a chance of leaving. The refugees were said to be in a pitiable condition since the Jewish community there was unable to render sufficient aid.

Another 1,000 refugees were reported stranded in Kladova for the past five months.

REFUGEES NEED RETRAINING TO REBUILD LIVES, MRS. HERRICK TELLS ORT WOMEN

NEW YORK, May 8. (JTA) -- The three-day first national convention of the Women's American ORT closed today with a donor luncheon at the Hotel Astor at which Mrs. Elinore M. Herrick, director of the National Labor Relations Board, and Mrs. George Backer stressed the necessity of retraining refugees for new jobs.

"Unless the masses of war-victimized persecuted Jews in Europe can become economically useful wherever they go, unless they can justify their existence by some contribution to the whole culture and economy of their countries, whether native or adopted, there will be no place for them anywhere," Mrs. Herrick said.

"Individuals who have no home to return to, no occupation to resume, individuals who for many different reasons must seek to rebuild their life under new environments must be helped in practical ways. I can imagine no greater satisfaction for Americans than to help in some constructive work as ORT and a host of other organizations are undertaking for the demoralized people of Europe. This work requires skilled execution and long range planning wisdom."

Mrs. Backer, looking ahead to the end of the war, declared: "Whichever side gains the victory, the aftermath of war may turn out to be more dreadful than the war itself. It is estimated that some 350,000 Jewish workers in Poland are being systematically deprived of their livelihoods. And when the war ends--what then? These unfortunates will not be restored. Neither their jobs nor their property will be returned. The Jewish communities in Hungary, and elsewhere in Eastern Europe are being dealt heavy blows. They cannot all migrate. The solution for their problem must be found in the lands in which they dwell."

Mrs. Isabelle Tropp-Gresser was elected president of the Women's ORT at yesterday's session. Other officers elected are Mrs. Florence R. Dolowitz, Mrs. Emily M. Rosenstein, Mrs. Fannie B. Shluger, Mrs. M.D.K. Bremner and Mrs. Rose Rashmir, vice-presidents; Mrs. Arthur Rosenberg, treasurer; Mrs. Fannie Schofield, financial secretary; Mrs. Anne Morris, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Ruth Freund, recording secretary, and Mrs. Leon Harris, chairman of the executive board.

HADASSAH NAMES MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD ON PALESTINE ACTIVITIES

NEW YORK, May 8. (JTA) -- Hadassah today announced the appointment of a medical reference board of ten health experts who will advise the organization on professional problems arising from its hospital, child welfare and public health activities in Palestine. The announcement was made by Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Palestine chairman, in a report covering the first year of service by Hadassah's new medical center on Mt. Scopus.

Dr. E.M. Bluestone of this city, director of Montefiore Hospital, is chairman of the board which includes Dr. Louis I. Dublin, statistician of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; Dr. J.J. Golub, director of the Hospital for Joint Diseases; Dr. Jonas Friedenwald, professor of ophthalmology at Johns Hopkins University; Dr. S.S. Goldwater, New York City Commissioner of Hospitals; Dr. Maurice B. Hexter, of the Federation of Jewish Charities; Dr. Emanuel Libman, noted diagnostician; Dr. Israel Wechsler, neurologist at Mt. Sinai Hospital; Dr. Abel Wolman, professor of sanitary engineering at Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. Nathan Ratnoff, director of Beth Israel Hospital and president of the American Jewish Physicians' Committee.

Mrs. James Roosevelt, mother of the President and Mrs. Herbert H. Lehman, wife of the Governor, were guests of honor yesterday at the annual mother-daughter tea held under auspices of the New York Chapter of Hadassah at the Hotel Commodore. Proceeds of the event, which 1,550 women attended, will be used to buy trees to be planted in a Sarah Delano Roosevelt Grove in Palestine.

PHILADELPHIA JEWISH WORLD SUSPENDS AGAIN

PHILADELPHIA, May 8. (JTA) -- The Jewish World, 26-year-old Philadelphia Yiddish daily, has suspended publication. The last issue to appear, the May 5 edition, published a statement by Albert H. Lieberman, receiver in equity, attributing the suspension to increased printing costs. The paper had suspended on March 26 for two days.

INSTITUTE TO STUDY ANTI-SEMITISM PSYCHOLOGICALLY

BRUSSELS, May 8. (JTA) -- The Cultural Commission of the Council of Jewish Organizations in Brussels has announced establishment of an institute to investigate "the psychological bases of anti-Semitism," under the direction of Dr. Hoffman, a student of the late Prof. Sigmund Freud.

NAZIS BAR MISSIONARY WORK AMONG JEWS IN PRAGUE

LONDON, May 8. (JTA) -- The Nazis have prohibited missionary work among the Jews in Prague, it was revealed at the recent meeting of the Church of Scotland Presbytery in Dundee.

CHIEF RABBI HERTZ RETURNS TO ENGLAND

TEL AVIV, May 8. (JTA) -- Dr. Joseph H. Hertz, Chief Rabbi of Great Britain, has returned by plane to London after an extended stay here.

POTOCKI DENIES POLISH GOVERNMENT REVIVING DEMANDS FOR JEWISH EMIGRATION

NEW YORK, May 8. (JTA) -- Polish Ambassador Count Jerzy Potocki has denied that the Polish Government-in-exile is reviving demands for emigration of Jews from Poland. His denial was contained in a communication to Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress, replying to a protest against the reported revival of the issue.

The Congress, in acknowledging receipt of Count Potocki's letter, repeated its request for a direct repudiation of the reports by the Government in Angers, France.

(A J.T.A. Paris dispatch on May 1 said: "...leaders of the exiled Polish Government were reported to have revived the question of large-scale Jewish emigration from a restored Poland and are seeking negotiations on the subject with Jewish leaders in London and New York. Jewish leaders have refused so far to enter into such negotiations on the ground that Jews are entitled to equality and reject any idea of forced 'evacuation.' The organs of the federations of Polish Jews in France and Belgium publish articles attacking the emigration demand.")

Count Potocki's letter, which was made public today by the Congress, follows:

"I have your telegram of May 3rd and I am submitting the contents to my Government.

"I am not aware of any such negotiations which you mention in your despatch.

"As to the attitude taken by my Government with reference to Polish citizens of Jewish race and creed. I wish to refresh your memory by statements which, emanating from leaders of the Polish Government, have of course the value of an official document.

"A manifesto issued by Polish leaders to the people of Poland on December 18, 1939, stated: 'Poland will be a democratic State; the liberty of the individual and civic rights will be safeguarded. The Polish Government will be responsible to and controlled by a free elected national representation.'

"President Wladyslaw Raczewicz in his broadcast on November 30, 1939, said: 'Measures will be taken to enable all citizens who inhabit Polish lands to live together in harmony regardless of religion and creed.'

"In an interview granted to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Mr. August Zaleski, Minister of Foreign Affairs, declared: 'There is, so far as I am concerned: neither Jew nor Pole.'

"The Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister General Sikorski, in all their activities have proved their fair attitude towards Polish citizens of Jewish race and creed, and there has been at no time any question as to the sincerity of their intentions.

"I trust that the above will fully allay the apprehensions which you may have had recently in view of a dispatch of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency published on May 2nd, which however, to my knowledge, is fully based on lack of understanding of the policy of my Government. I may deem it necessary to ask the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to publish a statement on our behalf or to retract the allegations published on May 2nd."