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SENATE ACTION PLANNED TO CURB 'SCURRILOUS' CAMPAIGN PROPAGANDA

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- On the heels of Justice Department recommendations that legislative steps be taken to curb the flow of scurrilous campaign literature, Chairman Guy Gillette of the Senate Campaign Funds Investigating Committee announced today he was preparing two bills for introduction "within the next few days" which would meet these recommendations.

"The evidence we have uncovered in the 1940 campaign shows a well-established technique for the use of racial and religious prejudice in elections and there is every reason to believe that this shameful condition prevails to even a greater degree in State and local elections," Senator Gillette declared.

An admittedly sketchy investigation of scurrilous literature and its sponsors by the Senate committee disclosed that most of it was on the anti-Semitic theme. Mustroom and generally anonymous "committees" and individuals flooded pivotal states with literature on such subjects as "Jewish Communism" and the allegation that the Roosevelt administration was controlled by "international Jewry." The writings of such anti-Semitic pamphleteers as the Rev. Gerald Winrod of Kansas, Charles Hudson of Omaha and William Dudley Pelley were circulated by many of these committees, according to evidence submitted by the Senate proters.

Reporting to the Attorney General on the Grand Jury inquiry into election law violations, Maurice M. Milligan, Department of Justice aide, recommended the following amendments to the Hatch Act which would have the effect of materially curtailing anonymous and scurrilous propaganda:

(1) A ban on expenditure of funds in behalf of any party nominee for President and Vice-President by any independent group without the specific permission of the national party committee. This would have the effect of making the national committee responsible for all activity by all groups working for a candidate and reduce the national committee's permissible expenditures by the total these groups spend.

(2) A clear and all embracing definition of what constitutes a political committee within the province of the Federal elections law. Milligan's recommendation calls for covering not only those seeking to influence the election of Federal officers, but also groups soliciting or spending money to influence Federal legislation. Legal action in line with the recommendation, Justice Department aides pointed out today, would require a

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complete report of receipts and expenditures, with the sources of income of practically all anti-Semitic and home-grown Fascist groups in this country, since agitation for or against legislation is usually one of the primary excuses for their existence.

(3) Prohibition of circulation through the mail of all literature designed to influence a Federal election or national legislation which does not bear the names and addresses of the persons responsible for its publication and circulation. This, too, is seen as striking a demagogic blow at circulation of scurrilous literature in national elections and bringing full publicity to bear on organizations attempting to inject racial and religious prejudice into national affairs.

Senator Gillette said he would also attempt to contact interested individuals in all states with a view to launching campaigns for similar restrictions in state elections.

REFUGEES IN LITHUANIA ORDERED TO BECOME SOVIET CITIZENS

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- Uneasiness prevails among the 10,000 Polish Jewish refugees in Soviet-occupied Lithuania as result of an order issued this week by the Soviet authorities requiring refugees to opt for Soviet citizenship, it was reported here today.

The report says the Soviet order indicates that non-acceptance of Soviet citizenship by the refugees will be considered as an act hostile to the regime.

Moses Beckelman, American delegate of the Joint Distribution Committee, who has been conducting relief work for the refugees in Lithuania ever since the outbreak of the war, was compelled to leave Lithuania this week and is now on his way to the United States. His relief activities in Lithuania were greatly restricted after the territory became a part of Soviet Russia and were limited chiefly to helping stranded Polish Jews to emigrate while still permitted to leave Soviet soil.

Beckelman will make a short stop-over in Japan, where many Jewish refugees from Poland are now congregated in Kobe and Yokohama awaiting emigration to the United States and Palestine.

The Soviet citizenship order came as a shock especially to more than 2,000 of the Jewish refugees who have made preparations to emigrate to overseas lands. About 1,000 of them are holders of immigration certificates to Palestine. It is expected that the Soviet authorities may still permit them to leave for Palestine via Odessa, provided that they secure the necessary Turkish and other transit visas to bring them to Palestine before March 31, when their immigration certificates expire.

J.D.C. AIDS 50,000 IN UNOCCUPIED FRANCE

VICHY, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- Approximately 50,000 Jews in unoccupied France are receiving assistance from the Joint Distribution Committee, a survey today disclosed. This constitutes about 35 per cent of the entire Jewish population presently in unoccupied France.

It is estimated that there are in unoccupied France about 175,000 Jews, including some 30,000 internees, 40,000 foreign Jews evacuated from the occupied zone and 30,000 Foreign Jewish residents of the free zone, the remainder being French and Alsatian Jews evacuated from occupied France. Thus nearly every fourth Jew in unoccupied France is dependent upon relief from the J.D.C. through subsidized local relief bodies.

With the constant influx of Jewish refugees from the occupied zone and the gradual pauperization of the hitherto well-to-do refugees, pressure on J.D.C. funds is bound to increase, while local contributions are far from adequate to meet the increasing distress because of the almost total ruin of the Jewish wealth in France.

BRITISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES CONDEMNS RUMANIAN POGROMS

LONDON, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- After standing in silence as a sign of mourning, the Board of Deputies of British Jews has adopted a resolution proposed by President Selig Brodetsky condemning the January pogroms in Rumania.

"The board expresses its feeling of deep abhorrence at the bestial atrocities committed against the Rumanian Jews by the Iron Guards, closely associated with and instigated by the Nazis, and its grief at the loss of life of hundreds of innocent victims who have been foully murdered by depraved and inhuman tools of the Nazis without the intervention of the Rumanian authorities," the resolution said.

"Against these crimes, which are condemned by the civilized world, including those Rumanians whose human feelings are not perverted by the forces of evil holding sway in that country, the board records its solemn and indignant protest."

JEWS BARRED FROM RUMANIAN PLEBISCITE

BUDAPEST, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- Jews are barred from voting in the plebiscite on the policy of the Antonescu Government which will be held in Rumania beginning March 12. All other persons over 21 years of age are required to vote.

BRITISH CONSULATES IN JAPAN HALT ISSUANCE OF PALESTINE VISAS

TOKYO, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- British consulates throughout Japan this week discontinued issuance of Palestine visas, even to holders of Palestine immigration certificates, on the ground that no visas are for the time being, available for transit countries between here and Palestine.

The action affects many of the more than 1,000 Jewish refugees from Poland who have reached Japan from Soviet Lithuania with a view to proceeding to overseas lands. A large number of them intended to proceed to Palestine, possessing Palestine immigration certificates which expire on March 31.

With the war scare in Japan growing daily and with many American families leaving the Far East in fear of possible complications between the United States and Japan, the Polish Jewish refugees temporarily admitted here in transit to other countries fear being stranded in this country or expulsion by the Japanese authorities to Shanghai, where some 30,000 refugees from the Reich are living in miserable conditions, supported chiefly by local charitable organizations with funds of the Joint Distribution Committee.

At present the majority of the Polish Jewish refugees are congregated in Kobe, where they are receiving J.D.C. aid. The Japanese authorities have, however, made it clear that the refugees will not be permitted to remain in Japan for any length of time and, unless they proceed to overseas lands, will be transported to Shanghai, where no special entrance visas are required.

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ARMY CALLS 11 JEWISH CHAPLAINS TO ACTIVE DUTY

NEW YORK, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- The United States Army has called eleven Jewish chaplains to active service since October to minister to Jewish men who have been mustered into the defense forces as a result of the federalizing of the National Guard and the adoption of the Selective Service Act. Chairman David de Sola Pool of the Committee on Chaplains and Religious Activities of the Jewish Welfare Board announced today.

Declaring this number would be considerably increased before the end of the year, Rabbi Pool urged qualified rabbis to apply for commissions. According to War and Navy Department regulations, Jewish chaplains are commissioned upon the recommendation of the Jewish Welfare Board.

The highest ranking Jewish chaplain called to active duty, Dr. Pool said, was Lt. Col. Benjamin A. Tintner of New York, who has been stationed at Fort Monmouth, N.J. Others are Captain Harry Richmond, assigned to Fort Ord, Calif.; Chaplains Aryeh Lev, in the Chief of Chaplain's Office, Washington; Bernard Segal, Fort Dix, N.J.; and Edward Ellenbogen, Chanute Field, Ill.

Chaplains who have been commissioned but not yet assigned to definite posts include two brothers, Chaplains Jacob Honig of Huntington, L.I., and Emanuel Honig of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Norman Siegel, of Monticello, N.Y.; Norbert L. Rosenthal of Chicago, Elias Karp of Scranton, Pa.; and Aaron Gorbaty of Cumberland, Md.

The first Jewish chaplain called to active duty by the United States Navy since the beginning of the emergency is Lt. Herbert C. Straus, who has been ordered to report to the U.S. Naval and Signal School at Los Angeles.

ALBANY RESOLUTION SEEKS OUSTER OF JUSTICE O'BRIEN

ALBANY, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- State Senator William J. Murray of Manhattan has introduced a resolution calling on the Appellate Division to investigate alleged un-American activities and conduct of Domestic Relations Justice Herbert A. O'Brien of Queens and to study the possibilities of instituting removal proceedings against him. The measure was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The resolution charges Justice O'Brien with being "a consistent and conspicuous promoter of faction along racial and religious lines" and with having "engaged in activities tending to riot." It refers to speeches made at various un-American organizations' meetings in Queens and Justice O'Brien's testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington that "civil war is already going on in New York, different races and nationalities are already boycotting each other and hatreds have been excited among them and among Americans."

REFUGEES IN CHILE WARNED ON LEAVING ASSIGNED TRADES

SANTIAGO, Chile, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- Jewish immigrants who violate the regulations under which they were admitted to Chile are threatened with expulsion. The Interior Ministry has instructed provincial governors to report any refugees who had left the zones or professions to which they had been assigned as a condition of entry.