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50 LEADING JEWS HELD AS 'HOSTAGES' IN CROATIA

ZURICH, May 26. (JTA) -- Fifty leading Jews in Zagreb have been arrested as hostages, the Croat radio reports, declaring the Jews will be severely punished if their people continue to listen to foreign broadcasts.

J.D.C. Plans Yugoslav Relief

LISBON, May 26. (JTA) -- The Joint Distribution Committee has made its first contact with Yugoslav Jews since the invasion, receiving urgent appeals for assistance which stress the serious plight of the Jews under the Nazi occupation.

The Jewish relief committee in Genoa has been given a 50 per cent increase in its allocation to cover relief for Slovenian and Dalmatian Jews. Messages from officials of the Belgrade Jewish community stress the acute needs of Jews in other districts.

FRENCH CATHOLIC PAPER SUSPENDED AFTER HITTING ANTI-JEWISH FILM

VICHY, May 26. (JTA) -- The important Catholic weekly, Les Temps Nouveaux (The New Times), was suspended for a month by the authorities today after publishing a strong protest against the exhibition in France of the Nazi anti-Semitic film, "Jew Suss."

The paper termed the picture, "stupid, un-Christian and un-French." Demanding suppression of the film, it concluded: "Lord! What stupidity! But stupidity may be contagious."

PALESTINE INCOME TAX DATE ANNOUNCED

JERUSALEM, May 26. (JTA) -- First payment of income tax will be due Sept. 1, it was announced today. The rate will begin at 50 mils per pound for the first 400. Married women earning independent incomes will be required to pay separate taxes.

DR. GOLDMAN LEAVES SOUTH AMERICA

BUENOS AIRES, May 26. (JTA) -- Dr. Solomon Goldman, former president of the Zionist Organization of America, left for New York by airplane today after a month's tour of South America. He intends to visit Mexico City on the way to the U.S.

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WEIL REELECTED HEAD OF WELFARE BOARD; FULL AID TO DEFENSE PLEDGED

CHICAGO, May 26. (JTA) -- Frank L. Weil, New York, was reelected president of the Jewish Welfare Board at the 24th annual meeting of the Jewish Welfare Board at the Standard Club. Others reelected are Judge Irving Lehman, New York, honorary president; Mrs. Felix M. Warburg, New York, vice-chairman; Lloyd W. Dinkelspiel, San Francisco, vice-president; Frederick L. Ehrman, New York, treasurer, and Joseph Rosenzweig, New York, secretary. Mrs. Walter E. Heller, Chicago, was elected a vice-president. The conference closed tonight.

Charles P. Taft, assistant coordinator of health, welfare and related defense activities, addressing a session on "Morale in the Emergency," declared that "we cannot be one nation indivisible if we allow to pass unchallenged the current hates and lies and prejudice, whether it is the dirty snickers of anti-Semitism or the stupid and unintelligent broadsides about subversive activities..."

Weil, in his presidential address, declared that "our primary duty is to the Jewish groups, but over and above that we consider ourselves an American institution and we will cooperate and offer our services wherever and whenever they are needed."

"In our relationship with the Army and Navy," he said, "we want to have it understood that we have done our part and cooperated in every way possible. I know that this is true today and am certain that it will continue to be true. In this particular case it is important that all of us unite in our desire to help our Government in its plans for national defense and I know that you will expend every effort to see that our job is properly done."

WEIZMANN SEES 'MORE GLORIOUS' HEBREW UNIVERSITY AFTER WAR

NEW YORK, May 26. (JTA) -- "A more glorious university" in Palestine will emerge from the present war, Dr. Chaim Weizmann declared last night at the 20th anniversary dinner of the American Jewish Physicians' Committee, held in conjunction with the American Friends of the Hebrew University at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria.

Dr. Weizmann recalled that in 1918, when he asked General Allenby for permission to lay the foundation stone of the Hebrew University on Mt. Scopus, ten miles from the firing line, the British commander told him he was crazy, but seven years later declared that the act "gave confidence to my army because they thought that here is one man who has faith."

"Just as England, battered, broken, will rebuild the ruins of Westminster Abbey, so we shall accomplish and rebuild a more glorious university, a more glorious Tel Aviv and a more glorious Haifa, as long as we keep faith," he said.

Prof. Albert Einstein, in a brief address, stressed that unity among Jews was needed now more than ever before. Other speakers were Dr. Nathan E. Van Etten, president of the American Medical Association; Edward M.M. Warburg, Dr. Israel Strauss, Mrs. David de Sola Pool, Dr. Emanuel Libman, Dr. Israel Wechsler and Dr. Nathan Ratnoff, president of the Physicians' Committee, who was presented with a bust of himself in honor of his 20 years as president.

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OPPOSITION ANNOUNCES IT WILL CONTINUE FIGHT AGAINST ADVISORY BUDGETING SERVICE

NEW YORK, May 26. (JTA) -- Taking issue with the announcement of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds that the Jewish communities of America went on record in favor of the establishment of a national advisory budgeting service in the referendum that was recently conducted among member agencies, the Committee on the Referendum for Budgeting, headed by Simon Shetzer of Detroit, which opposes the establishment of a budgeting service, issued a statement today challenging the interpretation which the Council gave to the results of the voting.

Declaring that the board of directors of the Council of Federations "was advised by the committee of tellers that 54 cities have accepted the proposal to establish a National Advisory Budgeting Service, while 53 rejected it," the opposing group claims in its statement, that:

(1) The Board was also apprised by the opposition that at least six other communities, making a total of 59, had voted to reject the proposal. These six communities have, according to the statement, so advised the Council by telegram, but their votes were not counted or accepted.

(2) Seven major communities, including Cleveland, Boston, Toledo and Houston, had tabled the proposal because of unwillingness to inject a controversial issue into American Jewish community life. More than a score of other communities decided to take no action on the issue, while the remainder of the communities were apparently not concerned at all with the issue; according to the statement.

(3) Included in the 54 communities which voted in favor of the national advisory budgetary service were the New York City Federation for Support of Jewish Philanthropic Societies, which has no relationship to fund-raising in New York City for national and overseas purposes; also the two Canadian towns of Vancouver, B.C., and Hamilton, Ont., which are not concerned with American fund-raising agencies, as well as a number of local agencies which are not concerned with fund-raising for national or overseas purposes, but constitute that branch of the local community organization devoted exclusively to local purposes.

(4) The Committee on the Referendum, as the only organized body of those opposing the establishment of the budgeting service, was not consulted with respect to the formulation of the program adopted by the Council's Board of directors at its meeting on May 17 in New York.

As a result of these claims, the Committee on the Referendum for Budgeting announces it will continue its opposition "to show that the Council of Federations and Welfare Funds has not given the proper consideration to the major sentiment of the American Jewish communities." The statement concludes with the assertion that "the Council is going forward on the basis of a minority opinion" and points out that "65 per cent of the communities either rejected, tabled or ignored the Council proposal."

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Hollander Issues Reply

NEW YORK, May 26. (JTA) -- Sidney Hollander, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, today issued the following statement replying to the Committee on the Referendum for Budgeting:

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"The referendum on the proposal to extend the present budget advisory services of the Council has been completed and the Council has adopted a program which it considers a fair compromise of opposing views.

"I see nothing to be gained from entering into a controversy with Mr. Simon Shetzer, the chairman of the self-constituted group known as the Committee on the Referendum for Budgeting. For one thing, I hold Mr. Shetzer personally in too high esteem. For another, it must be remembered that Mr. Shetzer's committee is only a voluntary association of persons who speak only as individuals; they were not selected by Jewish communities to represent them in this or any other matter. Despite that, however, the board of the Council gave careful consideration to their views, as well as to those of all others who expressed them.

"But while the Council respects all such views, in reaching decisions it can act only in response to the recorded action of its own member agencies. Since it was organized in 1932, voting on all matters has been limited to such member agencies; cities, as such don't vote. The same method and distribution of votes was followed in determining the result of the recent referendum as would apply in all other cases.

"The board of directors made every effort to ascertain in this referendum the views of the widest possible cross-section of organized Jewish community opinion. The committee of tellers considered every vote received, even though a few members acted after the final closing date set for the referendum.

"For several months, Mr. Shetzer and his associates carried on a very aggressive campaign of propaganda against the referendum in an attempt to make it appear that it was directed against certain 'ideologies.' On this unsound assumption they did their best to influence member agencies to vote against it. Despite that I have no criticism of their action, for though I do not agree with their point of view, I am willing to assume that their opinion was sincerely meant.

"But now the matter has been decided. As far as I am concerned, and as far as the board of the Council is concerned, the controversy ended when the tellers counted their ballots and made their report. It would seem good judgment on the part of all concerned to retain an open mind as to the services the Council plans to develop. These services are for 1941 only. Further developments will be taken only as they prove of value to the agencies themselves. So it is really not important what I say, or what Mr. Shetzer says; the services will speak for themselves."

LABOR ZIONIST GROUP ASKS ARMS FOR PALESTINE JEWS

PHILADELPHIA, May 26. (JTA) -- Dr. Herman Seidel, Baltimore, was elected president of the League for Labor Palestine at its national convention here, which closed last night. Other officers elected are Rabbi Samuel Wohl, Cincinnati, chairman of the national council; Herman Lazarus, Philadelphia, secretary, and Ralph Wechsler, Newark, treasurer.

The convention adopted resolutions reaffirming its demand for mass immigration of youth into Palestine, calling on Britain for immediate mobilization of Jewish military units, urging repeal of the White Paper and adoption of "positive measures" to strengthen the Jewish position and foster Arab-Jewish friendship. The convention reaffirmed its support of the program for development of an independent cooperative society in Palestine.