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LOUIS E. KIRSTEIN DIES IN BOSTON AT 75

BOSTON, Dec. 10. (JTA)-- Louis E. Kirstein, one of the outstanding leaders of American Jewry, died here today from pneumonia at the age of 75. He was one of the nation's most prominent department store executives.

Born in Rochester, N. Y., Kirstein was identified with humanitarian and civic projects and was the founder of the Associated Jewish Philanthropies of Boston. He was chairman of the General Committee of the American Jewish Committee whose purpose it is to defend the rights of Jews everywhere and in which Mr. Kirstein was active for many years. He also was honorary national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, the leading fund-raising agency for Jewish needs overseas and Palestine, and for the rehabilitation of refugees in this country. He was also a national director of the Jewish Welfare Board and formerly President of the Graduate School for Jewish Social Work. Because of his leadership in multifarious areas he acquired a role similar to that of Jacob H. Schiff and Felix M. Warburg.

His interest in Jewish affairs was expressed not only by his substantial contributions to Jewish causes, but by a constant absorption with the basic problems of Jewish life and the needs of Jewish social institutions. Although he had definite opinions on Jewish policies and actions, all groups saw in him a leader of vision and a devoted Jew with an objective mind and a warm heart. His pride in Jewish achievements, no matter in which field, was one of his outstanding characteristics.

He followed, with the greatest sympathy, the reconstruction work accomplished by the Jews in Palestine and recently, as head of the committee which was authorized by the American Jewish Committee to conduct negotiations with the Zionists and which became known as the "Kirstein Committee," he was striving toward a settlement which would bring about the cooperation of all sections within the Jewish community for one common purpose. His hope to the last day of his life was that such cooperation would be achieved.

His capacities and vision were also recognized by the Federal Government which asked his advice very frequently on matters of importance, and by which he was appointed to numerous commissions. He was a member of the original National Labor Board; chairman of the Industrial Advisory Board and the NRA; member of the Business Advisory Council for the Department of Commerce, and member of the Government's special coal-strike settlement committee. He was instrumental in carrying out the collective agreement with the cloak industry which was proposed by Justice Brandeis, and he contributed much to many other enterprises for the improvement of relationships between employer and employee.

Private Funeral Services Will be Held Today

Private funeral services will be held for Mr. Kirstein on Friday afternoon. There will be no flowers. Memorial services will be held on Sunday at Temple Israel here with Rabbi Joshua Loth Liebman officiating. Mr. Kirstein died at

Beth Israel Hospital of which he was president. He was taken to the hospital on Monday with a cold, later diagnosed as virus pneumonia. His last public appearance was at the Victory Dinner of the 1942 Combined Jewish Appeal here to which he came after convalescence from a recent operation.

The Boston press carries editorials mourning the death of Mr. Kirstein as a "public loss." The Boston Globe in an editorial says "Boston has lost one of its leading businessmen who was also one of its leading public men." The Boston Traveler writes in an editorial; "The passing of Louis E. Kirstein leaves a community mourning. His name is engraved in the hearts of the many whose lives were made more comfortable because of his benefactions." Tribute was paid Mr. Kirstein in messages from Gov. Leverett Saltenstall of Mass. and Mayor Maurice J. Tobin of Boston.

American Jewish Committee Mourns Death of Kirstein

NEW YORK, Dec. 10. (JTA)-- The American Jewish Committee today issued the following statement under the signatures of Mr. Maurice Wertheim, its president and of Morris D. Waldman, general secretary:

"The Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee record their profound sorrow at the passing of their beloved colleague, Louis E. Kirstein. Mr. Kirstein was a distinguished and beloved leader in the Jewish community. He was ever mindful of his Jewish heritage and brought his diversified talents to the solution of perplexing Jewish problems, locally, regionally and nationally.

"He was for almost two decades an active and generous supporter of the American Jewish Committee and a leader in its councils. He was a member of its Executive Committee since 1930. He was elected Vice-President in 1933, and chairman of the General Committee in 1941. In these positions he gave generously of his time and energy and demonstrated great qualities of leadership, a deep wisdom and a sympathetic understanding of the Committee's problems. During recent years, as the beloved "first citizen" of Boston, he was very closely associated with the Committee's New England Regional Office, which benefited immeasurably from his guidance. In recent months, he accepted the chairmanship of an important sub-committee of the American Jewish Committee, in which capacity he was making a vital contribution to the solution of issues of broad communal implications.

"Mr. Kirstein was a distinguished leader in the general as well as in the Jewish community. His national preeminence in the field of commerce and finance was due not merely to his material success and his great ability in the business world, but to his broad social outlook and deep human sympathy. Having achieved his distinguished position the hard way, in typically American pioneering fashion, he was always deeply conscious of his responsibilities to his fellow-men, regardless of race or creed, and his philanthropic and humanitarian activities have contributed greatly to the general welfare.

"The passing of Mr. Kirstein will be widely mourned. His colleagues on the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee, who had come to love and admire him and to lean heavily upon his counsel, feel a deep sense of loss in being deprived of his genial company and his able leadership. To his family we extend our sincerest sympathy in their bereavement."

His Unflinching Interest in Cause of Suffering Jews Emphasized by J.D.C.

The Joint Distribution Committee issued the following statement under the signatures of Paul Baerwald, honorary chairman, and Joseph C. Hyman, executive vice-president: "It is hard to believe that Louis Kirstein is dead, for he was a man

whose great mental and physical vigor belied his years. He was truly one of the older statesmen of both the American and the Jewish communities. In his personality he blended his Americanism and Judaism into an harmonious whole. A generous man, he gave of himself to many causes of outstanding importance to the nation, whether governmental, civic or communal. As a Jew he displayed the breadth of vision and understanding so necessary at all times and particularly at this juncture. To the cause of our suffering co-religionists overseas he gave unflinching interest and devotion, and his wise counsel, as a member of our Board of Directors, was invariably helpful in shaping the policies of the Joint Distribution Committee as an instrument of mercy. We shall miss him keenly."

Dr. Weizmann Says He Was Helpful to Zionism

Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, in a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, said: "I am profoundly shocked to learn of the passing of Mr. Louis E. Kirstein. I have known Louis Kirstein for many years and had the privilege of working with him in various fields of Jewish endeavor. During the first World War his activities and generosity were of great help to the Zionist movement. Of late years, though not officially a Zionist, he was helpful to our cause in many directions as chairman of the United Jewish Front. His passing deprives Jewry of a loyal son and outstanding leader."

FOREIGN MINISTERS OF UNITED NATIONS MEET TO DISCUSS HALTING NAZI MASSACRES OF JEWS

LONDON, Dec. 10. (JTA)— Foreign ministers of the Exiled Governments in London today met to discuss measures to halt the Nazi massacres of Jews in Europe. The meeting took place in the official residence of Gen. Sikorski, the Polish Premier. A "far-reaching practical suggestion" made by the Polish Government formed the basis of the discussion. A joint statement by all the governments is expected to be issued.

The meeting came as a result of intensive diplomatic activity during the last few days by the governments of the United States of America, Great Britain and Russia on one hand, and the governments of the occupied countries on the other, looking towards devising some plan to halt the Nazi extermination of Jews. The Polish Government is said to have taken the initiative in arranging today's meeting which is expected to bring important results.

The Polish Government today made public the text of a note sent to all governments of the United Nations. Giving details concerning the Nazi slaughter of Jews in Poland, the note said: "The Polish Government, as representative and legitimate authority of the territories in which the Germans are carrying out systematic extermination of Polish citizens and citizens of Jewish origin from many other European countries, considers it its duty to address itself to the governments of the United Nations in the confident belief that they will share its opinion regarding the necessity of not only condemning the crimes committed by the Germans and punishing the criminals, but also of finding means which would offer hope that Germany might effectively be restrained from continuing to apply her methods of extermination."

LAVAL GOVERNMENT ARRESTS ALL JEWS BETWEEN 18 AND 55 YEARS OF AGE; SENDS THEM TO CAMPS

LONDON, Dec. 10. (JTA)— All alien Jews between 18 and 55 years of age were arrested yesterday in Clermont-Ferrand, in the formerly unoccupied part of France, where Pierre Laval's home is located and where his newspaper, "Le Moniteur" is published, and transported to a labor camp, it was reported today over the Nazi-controlled Oslo radio station. Similar arrests will be made in other French towns, the broadcast stated in a report from Vichy.

PALESTINE DOCTORS' APPLICATIONS FOR SERVICE IN INDIA REJECTED, COMMONS HEARS

LONDON, Dec. 10.(JTA)-- The alleged refusal of British military headquarters in Palestine to accept the offers of Jewish doctors for medical military service in India was discussed in the House of Commons today by David Adams.

A government spokesman stated that the services of Palestine doctors commissioned in the British Army are required for the Middle East. He added that there is no objection, however, to having such doctors transferred for service to India whenever there is a surplus in the medical staff. Inquiries will be made as to why the applications of some Palestine doctors for service in India were rejected, he declared.

BRITISH HOME MINISTRY ASKED TO EASE VISA REGULATIONS TO AID REFUGEES

LONDON, Dec. 10.(JTA)-- Home Secretary Herbert Morrison was queried today in Commons as to whether the British Government would revise its rigid visa regulations in view of the situation created by the mass deportation and massacres of Jews in Poland and other Nazi-held European countries. Labor M. P. Eleanor Rathbone asked the Home Secretary whether the government would facilitate the rescue of the few Jews who manage to escape from the German-held countries by extending its "small and rigidly defined visa categories."

Replying, Morrison stated that Miss Rathbone was under a misapprehension if she believed that alteration of the policy of issuing visas would achieve the purpose she had in mind. Miss Rathbone interjected at this point, declaring that the reply was unsatisfactory and that she proposed to raise the matter again soon.

ROOSEVELT SIGNS BILL PROLONGING RESIDENCE ABROAD OF U.S. NATURALIZED CITIZENS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.(JTA)-- President Roosevelt today signed a bill giving permission to naturalized wives and children of citizens living abroad for governmental, religious, charitable and similar reasons, to remain outside the country for as long as necessary without losing their citizenship. Ordinarily, naturalized citizens lose their American nationality by staying in foreign countries more than five years. The bill was introduced by Rep. Noah M. Mason, Illinois Republican.

PERMANENT MOURNING OBSERVANCES FOR JEWS OF EUROPE SUGGESTED IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 10.(JTA)-- Permanent mourning for the Jews of Europe was suggested today by leading institutions in the Yishuv.

Among the proposals are: setting aside one day each week during which weddings and entertainments would be prohibited; painting black Mogen Davids on all walls; wearing yellow Mogen David buttons; establishing black-painted corners in all synagogues where mourning prayers could be recited.

1,000-YEAR-OLD TORAH PRESENTED TO ARMY AIR CENTER IN NASHVILLE

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 10.(JTA)-- The Scroll of the Law is the idealization of the things for which we are fighting today, Colonel Jacob W. S. Wuest, commanding officer of the Nashville Army Air Center, said today as he accepted a 1,000-year-old scroll presented to the Center by the local B'nai B'rith. Present at the impressive ceremonies in the post chapel were many aviation cadets.

CONFERENCE OF CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS WILL DISCUSS PALESTINE PROBLEMS

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.(JTA)-- A national committee of Christian leaders numbering about 500 Catholic and Protestant clergymen and laymen will hold an all-day conference at Hotel Pennsylvania next Monday to discuss various phases of the problem of Jewish immigration into Palestine and the re-establishment of a Jewish National Home in the Holy Land, it was announced here today.

Among the subjects that will be presented for discussion will be the temporary Jewish problem and its relation to Palestine; the Arab-Jewish problem; and Palestine and the Post-War World. The principal speakers will be Bishop Francis John McConnell of New York; Prof. S. Ralph Harlow of Smith College, Northampton, Mass., and Prof. Reinhold Niebuhr of Union Theological Seminary, New York; Mrs. Walter C. Lowdermilk of Washington, D. C. and Dr. Stephen S. Wise, chairman of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, will also speak. The Conference will be called upon to elect permanent officers as well as to adopt plans for future activities of the Committee.

PRESIDENT OF CUBA SAYS VISA AND CITIZENSHIP APPLICATIONS WILL REMAIN SUSPENDED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.(JTA)-- Cuba has admitted all the refugees that it has been able to absorb, President Fulgencio Batista told a press conference today. He added that visa and citizenship applications were suspended last summer as a defense measure and remain suspended.

President Batista refused to estimate the number of refugees in Cuba. A small proportion of refugees remain interned at the immigration station of Triscornia, on the Isle of Pines, and elsewhere, Cuban officials here said.

FIRST ORT SCHOOL IN MONTREAL WILL TRAIN STUDENTS FOR CANADA'S WAR INDUSTRY

MONTREAL, Dec. 10.(JTA)-- The first Ort Trade School in Montreal today opened its doors for 88 students who work in two shifts. A third shift of 50 students will begin its training next week.

The school has been supplied with machinery valued at over \$100,000 by the Canadian government and the graduates will later be absorbed in the country's war industry. Louis Fitch, K. C. is president of the Ort organization in Canada.

NEW YORK CONGREGATION CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY TODAY

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.(JTA)-- The congregation Rodeph Sholom, of which Rabbi Louis I. Newman is minister, will celebrate its 100th anniversary this week-end. The celebration will start tomorrow evening with a sermon by Dr. Stephen S. Wise and will conclude with a centennial pageant presented by students of religious schools and youth organizations. On Saturday evening a centennial banquet will be held at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria at which greetings will be extended by local leaders of religious and communal organizations.

Congregation Rodeph Sholom was founded in 1842, and is the third oldest synagogue in New York City. It has the unique distinction of having preserved its identity and solidarity in its own name since its inception, never having merged with any other congregation.