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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON PALESTINE OPENED; CONGRESSMEN FAVOR PROPOSED RESOLUTION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Congressmen from both political parties and Jewish leaders representing various groups today testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on behalf of the resolution introduced at the end of last month asking the United States to take appropriate measures to the end that Palestine shall be opened for free entry of Jews and that "there shall be full opportunity for colonization, so that Jewish people may ultimately reconstitute Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth."

First Jewish leader to testify today was Dr. Abba Hillel Silver. He spoke for more than an hour. He traced the history of Palestine and strongly supported the resolution. "Politically," he said, "the Jewish people as a people must become like every other people, possessed of an independent life in a national home. Not that Jews should return to Palestine any more than all Englishmen living in all parts of the world should return to England. But there must be a land of Israel in order that the status of the Jewish people may be normalized throughout the world."

"There are no other opportunities for mass emigration of Jews anywhere else in the world," Dr. Silver declared. "There will be none. We wish it were otherwise, but wishes are not horses. Feeble trickles of immigration will be permitted in this or that country, but waves will be fiercely resisted."

Dr. Silver spoke shortly after bi-partisan support for the resolution had been voiced by Representative McCormack, Democratic leader in the House, and Representative Martin, the Republican leader. "We cannot close our eyes to the spectacle of 2,000,000 Jews wandering about Europe," Mr. McCormack said. "The least Congress can do is to go on record, showing that we think along humane lines."

Mr. Martin said adoption of the resolution would be a "re-assertion of the historic attitude of the United States," toward the question of creation of a Jewish home in Palestine, adding, "It is nothing but elementary justice."

Two Republicans Ask for Opinion From State Department

A sign of possible dissension appeared when two Republican members of the Committee, Mrs. Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts, and Robert B. Chipfield of Illinois, indicated that they will insist on a State Department report on the resolution. Although Secretary of State Cordell Hull is on record as favoring the Balfour Declaration, a resolution in favor of a Jewish Commonwealth might be considered undiplomatic at this time. If the two members of the Committee are disposed to make an issue of it, it would have to be settled by a vote in executive session, where opposition from Rep. Sol Bloom, chairman of the Committee, would carry considerable weight.

Eleven congressmen who appeared in the morning and afternoon hearings testified in favor of the Palestine resolution. Congressman Hamilton Fish, New York Rep., was one of them. "I was a Zionist in 1922," he said, "and I am a Zionist today more than ever because there is more need." He stressed that he was one of the sponsors

of the legislation favoring the Balfour Declaration. "Some of the Zionists," he added "have overlooked the fact that a former non-interventionist sponsored such legislation, but I still maintain my belief in the need of a national homeland for the Jews."

Rep. Fish said that in 1939 a delegation of 24 Representatives and 4 Senators went to Europe to attempt to find havens other than Palestine for both Christian and Jewish refugees. Negotiations fell through, he went on, only because the war broke out before discussions were completed. He testified that the British and French Governments had been cooperative in plans to establish colonies in North Africa.

Lessing Rosenwald Testifies Against Jewish Commonwealth

J. Lessing Rosenwald, testifying in behalf of the American Council for Judaism which is opposed to political Zionism, told the Committee he approved the sentiments that impelled the resolution, but suggested that it be changed to give all elements in the Palestine population a share in the commonwealth to be created. He expressed his approval of the first half of the resolution, which asks removal of the White Paper.

"There is, however," he said, "a second section of the resolution in which I feel obliged to say to you frankly and fully, our questions and our doubts as to its wisdom. It now reads: '....so that the Jewish people may ultimately reconstitute Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth.' I urge you gentlemen to read and reflect on this part of the resolution with the utmost care. This is no longer designed to serve a solely humanitarian purpose. This brings you -- and through you, the American people -- at once into a field of international controversy and into a subject that has deeply divided the Jewish community in this country.

"The proposal, you will note, speaks of the establishment of a free and democratic 'Jewish' Commonwealth. I stress the word 'Jewish'. It does not say the establishment of a free and democratic 'Commonwealth.' It specifically uses the word 'Jewish,' a word which has essentially a religious connotation only, though it has been used in a racial sense by the Nazi enemies of the Jews and of democracy."

Mr. Rosenwald concluded by pointing out that "the Jewish people are not organized politically, are not and do not want to be a political unit." He will resume his testimony tomorrow morning.

U.S. Evidence of Post-War Intentions Seen in Palestine Resolution

Congressman James A. Wright, Pennsylvania Democrat, a co-sponsor of the resolution, told the hearing that he thinks "the United States should give evidence of its post-war intentions by support of this resolution and from a long term point of view it is to our political advantage, since we should be on friendly terms with the eventual Jewish Commonwealth."

Also heard in support of the bill was Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Zionist Organization of America. He said: "As a matter of history, the interest of American Jews in Palestine dates back to the earliest Jewish settlements in America 300 years ago, for ever since the destruction of the Jewish state and the dispersion of the Jewish people 19 centuries ago, the yearning for Zion has accompanied Jews in all their wanderings. The resolution on which you are now conducting this hearing would, if passed, rejoice the hearts of the Jews of America because it would lift the hopes of the surviving remnant of European Jewry. It would be in the best American tradition coupling bible prophecy with realistic statesmanship."

Among the members of Congress who testified today were Herman P. Eberharter (Pennsylvania Dem.), Emanuel Celler (N.Y. Dem.), Thomas Rolph (Calif. Dem.), Joseph Talbot (Conn. Rep.), Arthur Klein (N.Y. Dem.), Christian Herter (Mass. Rep.) and William B. Barry (N.Y. Dem.).

JEWISH AGENCY ESTABLISHES BODY TO AID REFUGEES ADJUST THEMSELVES TO PALESTINE LIFE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency announced today that it has established a special committee, under the chairmanship of David Ben-Gurion, to cope with the physical and psychological problems faced by recent immigrants. The committee will concentrate on seeking employment and adequate housing for the new arrivals.

Observers here point out that most of the new immigrants differ from those who have come in past years in that they have come to Palestine because it is one of the few havens available, rather than from any strong Zionist belief. Confronted with difficulty in securing employment and homes, some of the newcomers tend to become demoralized. The new committee will attempt to smooth the transition period for these refugees.

Meanwhile, Eliahu Dobkin, chief of the Immigration Department of the Agency, appealed to all Jewish residents of Palestine to take into their homes, temporarily, some of the refugees who arrived last week from Europe on the Nyassa. He stressed the acute housing shortage throughout the country. Mr. Dobkin also suggested that the newcomers be given priority in obtaining jobs and emphasized the necessity for understanding their problems, and for assisting them to make psychological adjustments. If these suggestions are followed, the immigration head said, it will speed the absorption of the refugees into the permanent community.

NEW ORGANIZATION FORMED IN CHICAGO "TO HALT JEWISH POWER" IN AMERICA

CHICAGO, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- The formation of an organization here "to halt the growing Jewish power" in America is reported by the Chicago Sun which named Eugene R. Flitcraft as the head of the new group. The organization, to be known as "The Gentile Cooperative Association," will ask "up to \$100 each from as many as five million Americans" for expenses, the Sun reported.

Flitcraft's petition for a charter was approved Jan. 20 after an earlier petition was denied by the secretary of state at Springfield. The Sun said the approval was based on a definition of the organization as "promoting various Gentile objectives." Family lines of an applicant will be traced to the birthplace of his mother and he will be asked to solicit 10 new members. Flitcraft was quoted as saying that the association planned to help ex-soldiers and, when it had sufficient funds, would start a lending pool "to help businessmen who might otherwise have to sell out to Jewish interests."

At Madison, Wis., Atty. Gen. John Martin opened an investigation into the Gentile League of Watertown, Wis., whose president said its purpose was to defeat Jewish persons seeking public office. The investigation was ordered by Gov. Walter S. Goodland because of protests against the granting of a state charter to the league. Arthur Friede, president of the league, said it did not oppose Jews except in public office. He admitted the league had only 10 members.

SWEDISH ROYALTY ISSUE APPEAL FOR FUNDS FOR HEBREW UNIVERSITY

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Prominent Swedish statesmen, churchmen and members of the Royal Family have issued a joint appeal here for contributions to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

The appeal asks financial support of "homeless Jewish science," pointing out that the Hebrew University is able to receive exiled Jewish scientists from countries occupied by the Germans. It is signed by Prince Eugen, King Gustav's brother; Archbishop Eldem; Prof. Oesten Unden, former foreign minister; and by rectors of all Swedish universities.

JEWISH FUND-RAISING CAN REACH HIGHER GOALS THIS YEAR, WELFARE LEADERS REPORT

PITTSBURGH, Pa. Feb. 8. (JTA) -- New and higher goals in Jewish fund-raising in America can be set and be realized this year, it was reported at the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds which concluded last night.

The spirit of unity prevailing in the Jewish federations and welfare funds throughout the country was lauded by Sidney Hollander, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, in addressing the Assembly. "The continuing evidences of community achievement and community solidarity seems to me the most heartening thing we find in Jewish life in America today," he said. He praised the local community leaders for finding "the formula wherein Zionists and non-Zionists, orthodox and reform, Jews of the East and Jews of the West, can work together in common purpose."

Jacob Blaustein, chairman of the Budget Research Committee of the Council, reported that his committee is receiving complete cooperation from the organizations whose work it is studying, but it has found that there are a number of problems which need to be resolved. He cited as an example the American fund-raising offices for overseas activities and said that they are sometimes inadequately informed about operations and developments in their European agencies to which funds are transmitted. Emergency conditions since 1939 have intensified this difficulty, he said. He emphasized that the informational aspects of the Budget Research Service is being increasingly used by the Council's member agencies.

"While this national advisory budget service subject is not up for action at the present Assembly, it is one which will require and warrant much consideration in the days to come," Mr. Blaustein declared. "The need for objectivity is likely to grow as we approach the post-war period and all the changes that it heralds. Among other things, once an organization is in a field, there is a tendency for it to be halting and only partial in adapting its program to the changing conditions. Moreover, there is another tendency, i. e. for a host of organizations to be created to cope with this or that aspect of the new problems. Sometimes these new organizations are necessary and worthwhile, often they are not. The communities must have some recognized source to which they can turn for objective advice and counsel."

90 Percent of Jewish Charity Funds Come From Small Number of Givers

H. L. Lurie, executive director of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, told the Assembly that for effective results the local Jewish community must be organized on the widest possible basis of individual and group representation.

"Democratic procedure is the essence of all forms of voluntary organization," he said. "When we talk about democratizing Jewish organizations, we usually mean increasing membership through spreading the base of the organization. Organized philanthropic associations are technically democratic in form. If they fall short in spirit and procedure, it is because they are in many instances the product of the initiative and enterprise of a select group concerned with the purposes, or the administration of an agency for a longer period, or on a more intensive basis than the general population."

"It is generally known that 90 percent of agency funds comes from a relatively small percentage of the population," Mr. Lurie continued. "It would be a mistake to assume that we broaden the membership base primarily to secure an additional 5 percent or 10 percent in funds. Such an objective is hardly worth the effort or the problems which intensified fund raising brings with it. Similarly, the administration of social agencies, local, national or overseas for the most part does not depend on popular participation but on the technical and administrative skills of its lay and

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professional leadership. No, the main reason for broadening the base is a recognition of the fact that we are no longer dealing exclusively with individuals, but rapidly becoming organizations concerned with Jewish problems, that means with problems affecting every individual Jew, problems which he himself would be unable to solve no matter what course of action he would seek for himself. For the first time in our experience in this country we have the basic conditions which make it essential for Jewish communal agencies to be organized on a popular basis."

Mr. Lurie pointed out that some of the differences in the Jewish community "are more apparent than real." "Custom and tradition," he said, "have great potency, but the new generation coming into its majority in all of our local communities is likely to differ considerably in outlook, interests and in the capacity for community organization from the older generation. The new Jewish population is native American and its views, attitudes and adjustments have been fashioned by the conditions of life in this country. It is likely also to have a distinctly American outlook on problems overseas since it lacks the European experience which has had so large an influence on the programs and organization of the immigrant generation. Social-economic and cultural differences between American Jews and other Americans are also diminishing. The natural barriers which hamper the intercourse of different national or religious groups due to language, educational and cultural factors are being greatly diminished."

Value of Jewish Agencies to General Community is Emphasized

The value of Jewish welfare services to the general community was emphasized by Joseph Willen, executive vice-president of New York's Federation. "We sometimes need to remind ourselves," he said, "to what a great, even preponderant, extent the voluntary social welfare work of our country is organized on a religious basis, according to the three-fold sectarian pattern -- Catholic, Jewish, Protestant (though the last is often hidden under the name of non-sectarian). Thus as we support a Jewish institution we not only take care of special Jewish needs. We do more. Whether in a Jewish hospital -- which trains Jewish doctors, but ministers to the sick of all faiths -- or in the Jewish family service, which ministers only to Jews -- in both instances we are not merely taking care of our own, we are assuming our share of the total volume of the needs of the general community that must be taken care of in each locality."

At a luncheon session of the American Association for Jewish Education, held as part of the General Assembly, a plan was adopted for the federation of bureaus of Jewish education in 25 cities as a "functioning arm" of the Association. Representatives of 10 of the 25 bureaus which would be involved were present at the session and endorsed the plan, which will be submitted to all of the communities for their approval.

A review of the Jewish Welfare Board's third year of war activity was given to the delegates by Frank L. Weil, Lt. Jacob M. Rothschild and Moritz M. Gottlieb. It was announced that the JWB budget for 1944 will be \$1,171,590.

Dr. David Lvovitch, reporting for the ORT, said that the present ORT activities among refugees are a basis for post-war reconstruction. In addition to training refugees to enable them to earn their living, the ORT also is training future instructors for the post-war period, he stated. ORT training will be most helpful in facilitating selective immigration, he added.