

Tuesday, February 13, 1945

JTA

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

COUNCIL OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS AND WELFARE FUNDS MEETS TO PREVENT BREAK-UP OF U.J.A.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 12. (JTA) — Efforts to prevent a break-up of the United Jewish Appeal, threatened by disagreement between the United Palestine Appeal and the Joint Distribution Committee with regard to the proportion of funds each of these agencies is to get from the joint fund-raising campaign in 1945 were made here by the board of directors of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds at a meeting held during the week-end, it was announced today.

These efforts climaxed discussions carried on during the past few weeks between officers of the Council and officers of the U.P.A. and of the J.D.C. Numerous alternative proposals and a formula of agreement were discussed by a special committee of the Council's board headed by William J. Schroder, board chairman, and including Sidney Hollander, president, Daniel Shiman of Newark and Irvin Bettmann of St. Louis, meeting with Dr. James G. Heller and Henry Montor for the United Palestine Appeal and Paul Baerwald, Isaac Levy and Joseph C. Hyman for the Joint Distribution Committee.

No final decision was reached. A special meeting of the executive committee of the United Palestine Appeal will take place in New York at which the proposals of the directors of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds will be discussed. (It is understood that the Joint Distribution Committee was willing to accept the proposals of the Council.)

Welfare Fund Leaders Demand Continuation of United Jewish Appeal

Welfare fund leaders present at the meeting here were unanimous in stressing the importance of continuing the joint fund-raising campaign to achieve maximum funds for overseas needs and to avoid any impediment of community solidarity which might follow as a result of competitive appeals. Several expressed the view that in this year of the greatest need for bringing aid to suffering Jewry abroad and providing greater opportunities in Palestine a split would be most unfortunate. This was also reflected in telegrams and letters received by the board from member communities. If in the face of these necessities, the joint campaign is not continued, they pledge the efforts of the welfare funds to preserve the united front in their own communities.

The threatened break among the major overseas agencies was the one dark cloud in the prospects for even more generous giving by the Jews of America, according to the report on fund raising prospects for 1945 submitted by Abe Sroer of Detroit, chairman of the Council's Committee on Financing of Welfare Programs. The report indicated that if the U.J.A. situation were not disturbed the peak fund raising achieved in 1944 would be surpassed in the current year.

Both in the report and in the discussion that followed, it was the unanimous view that the increased needs abroad which have been forecast would bring a substantially increased response. Under present economic conditions, it was indicated, over- due obligations for capital improvements in the social service structure at home can be

provided for. War time prosperity makes possible radical advances in giving, but the meeting was cautioned that this must be accompanied by prudent spending.

Blaustein Advocates Evaluative Service for Better Budgeting

Extension of budget research service to include evaluation of programs and total funds requested by national and overseas agencies was proposed in a report submitted by Jacob Blaustein of Baltimore, chairman of the Council's Committee on National Budget Research. The committee as such made no recommendations, but Mr. Blaustein urged that after three years experience with the limited fact finding service provided by the Council, this was the time to extend the service. With the concurrence of a number of welfare fund representatives, Mr. Blaustein expressed the view that the present service is inadequate to enable welfare fund budget committees to allocate funds equitably and in accordance with established needs, and urged that an evaluative service was essential to accomplish sounder and more efficient budgeting by the welfare funds.

Some objection was raised to an extension of the budgeting service to include advice on quotas and evaluation of programs by some of the welfare fund and national agency representatives. Nevertheless, a substantial number of the board members present supported the proposal to extend the advisory budgeting service, in principle, and it was determined to submit the question to the entire board for an expression of opinion. It was agreed also that a subsequent meeting of the board would review the proposal and would act on the question of submitting the matter to member agencies.

Post-War Welfare Planning and Civic Protective Work Discussed

Other sessions of the board meeting were devoted to discussions of civic protective work, post-war welfare planning and community interpretation and participation. The board was especially interested in the report submitted by David Sher, as president of the National Community Relations Advisory Council, on its first year of operations. The NCRAC was organized as a result of action taken at the last General Assembly of the Council held in Pittsburgh in February 1944. Mr. Sher reported that after the preliminary stages of establishing the new organization and determining plans and policies, a degree of progress had been made in coordinating some of the activities of the four major national agencies engaged in the defense field and in establishing a closer relationship between such national agencies and local community relations bodies.

An analysis of problems involved in readjustment of returning veterans and war workers was presented by Jerome N. Curtis, co-chairman of the Council's Committee on Post-War Planning. The changing role of Jewish social service agencies, with greater emphasis being placed on personal problems rather than economic need, was discussed. Avery Carp of Granite City, Ill. and Joseph Goldstein of Rochester reviewed developments in local Jewish communities throughout the country.

Sidney Hollander was reelected president. The vice presidents elected were Stanley C. Myers, Miami; William Rosenwald, Greenwich; Samuel Schneierman, New York; David M. Watchmaker, Boston. Ira M. Younger of New York was reelected treasurer and Elias Meyer of Chicago secretary. This action was taken at a specially constituted Assembly session of the Board at which favorable action was also taken on an amendment enlarging the board membership from 40 to 60. Mr. Schroder was reelected chairman of the board.

Awards for excellence of educational and publicity materials were made to the St. Louis Jewish Federation, New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, the Combined Jewish Appeal of Boston, Rochester United Jewish Appeal, Dallas Jewish Federation, Jacksonville Jewish Community Council and Chattanooga Jewish Federation.

BELGIUM WILL READMIT ALL JEWS WHO LIVED THERE BEFORE OUTBREAK OF WAR, JDC IS ASSURED

PARIS, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- The Belgian Government has given assurances that all Jews who had a right to residence in Belgium prior to 1939 will be readmitted regardless of their nationality, it was revealed here today by Dr. Joseph Schwartz, European director of the Joint Distribution Committee, who has just returned from a tour of the Low Countries where he studied the Jewish situation and conferred with Belgian and Allied military authorities.

At least 110,000 Jews were deported from Holland to Germany and Poland, and 35,000 were deported from Belgium during the four years of German occupation, Dr. Schwartz was told. Only about ten to fifteen thousand Jews survive in Holland out of a pre-war total of 140,000, he said. Most of these are in territory still held by the Nazis.

About 20,000 Jews are in Belgium, which had a pre-war Jewish population of about 90,000. Half of these fled to France at the time of the German invasion in May, 1940. Among the 20,000 survivors are 5,000 refugees from Germany and Austria, about 1,500 from Holland and about 3,000 who have returned to Belgium from France and Switzerland since its liberation. About 17,000 Jews are in Brussels, Dr. Schwartz stated. The Antwerp Jewish community, which once numbered 50,000, has been reduced to about 1,500. There are also small Jewish communities in Liege, Namur and Charleroi.

Of the Jews presently in Belgium about 7,000 are dependent on relief, Dr. Schwartz said. In addition 2,500 children are being maintained in private homes and institutions. Relief requirements for the next three months, he declared, would total 5,500,000 Belgian francs, not including funds for reconstruction purposes.

By arrangement with the Belgian Government and the SHAEF mission, Laura Ergolis, a JDC overseas worker, will be stationed in Brussels as director of JDC activities in Belgium and Holland. She will work in close contact with the Belgian Jewish Relief Organization which has been reorganized under the chairmanship of Alfred Goldschmidt, prominent industrialist and philanthropist.

EARLY 1,000 JEWS KILLED DAILY IN LODZ GHETTO, MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT REPORTS

MOSCOW, Feb. 12. (JTA) -- Eight-hundred to 1,000 Jews were being killed daily in the Lodz ghetto by the Germans at one period, it is reported today in a dispatch from Lodz appearing in Izvestia, official newspaper of the Soviet Government.

The Izvestia correspondent also reports the indignation of a Red Army unit in the province of Poznan which discovered that the streets of a small town it had captured were paved with tombstones taken from Jewish cemeteries. He reports that a special company of German soldiers was assigned to the task of seizing the grave stones and using them for paving blocks.

The Lodz ghetto, the correspondent writes, was different from the others in Poland in that it had large textile works, a railroad station, street car lines, its own newspaper called the "Ghetto Zeitung," and printed its own money and stamps.

The Lublin radio today broadcast an order by the Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Army creating a Jewish chaplains corps. Rabbi David Kahane has been named Chief Chaplain with the rank of major.

WISE ORGANIZATIONS ASK FOR ACTION ON ANTI-JEWISH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DENTAL COLLEGES

NEW YORK, Feb. 12. (JTA) — The American Jewish Congress at a meeting of the administrative committee of the organization held here yesterday adopted a resolution placing at the door of the American Association of Dental Schools responsibility for the proposal by the Council on Dental Education of the American Dental Association that admission to dental colleges be based on racial, religious and geographic grounds.

The resolution called upon the American Association of Dental Schools to repudiate its unanimous acceptance of the report made before its annual session a year ago by Dr. Harlan F. Horner, chairman of the Council on Dental Education of the A.D.A.

The Jewish Labor Committee today requested Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York to start an immediate investigation of Dr. Horner's proposed "quota" system for Jewish students in dental colleges.

Sigmund Livingston, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith, and Richard E. Gutstadt, national director, today reported that they have sent the following telegram to Dr. Walter H. Scherer, president of the American Dental Association. "We are encouraged by newspapers quoting you that Dr. Horner's reports do not represent view of A.D.A. We strongly urge that the American Dental Association reaffirm its traditional attitude of fair play by repudiating the Horner reports to House Committee on Education, various dental colleges and A.D.A. American dentists and others of every race and creed are pledging their very lives in dedication to the principle of human equality which distinguishes our country from its enemies. We are confident that in keeping with their sacrifices the membership of the American Dental Association and Americans generally will support the rejection of these discriminatory reports."

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE ASKS UNITED NATIONS TO SAVE JEWS STILL IN NAZI HANDS

NEW YORK, Feb. 12. (JTA) — The hope that the governments of the United Nations will make every effort to save the Jews who are in danger of destruction in a final Nazi massacre, was expressed tonight at a mass-meeting arranged by the American Jewish Conference at the Hotel Commodore at which Herbert C. Pell, former U.S. member of the United Nations War Crimes Commission, was the principal speaker.

The meeting also urged the United Nations to remove the barriers to Jewish immigration into Palestine, to act decisively in outlawing all vestiges of Nazi discrimination and to punish through international tribunals all those who committed war crimes against Jews in Axis territory, wherever and whenever committed.

Pointing out that the persecution of a minority is an almost necessary foundation of any government based on negation of liberty, Mr. Pell declared, "It is absolutely necessary to punish those who took part in these outrages. It will not do to hang the leaders and then take the vast mass of the smaller men in the Gestapo, put them on the head, give them a hot dog and tell them not to do it again. There will always be men ready to take a chance for the great prizes of leadership and notoriety. Such men in the future must not be allowed to say that 'we take all the risks and you, our recruits, will get the fun and the profits. Remember that although Hitler was hanged, your Uncle Fritz lived to a comfortable old age to tell you of the fun that he had in Poland, in Norway or in France.' This will sound rather good to the boy of 1960 but he will be much less likely to be taken in if he remembers Uncle Fritz hanging on a tree in the neighborhood."