

J T A DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY, INC. 231 West 58th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

Contents Copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement

VOL. XIX No. 248 - 34th year

Wednesday, December 24, 1952

MCCARRAN ACT BECOMES LAW TODAY; AFFECTS JEWISH IMMIGRATION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- As of tomorrow, American citizens will be divided into two distinct categories for the first time in the history of the United States as a result of the entering into effect of the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act which introduces legal distinctions between native-born and naturalized Americans.

The new immigration act will practically put an end to the glorious chapter of Jewish immigration to the United States. While opening the doors wide to former Nazis, the new law would make admission to this country practically impossible for Jews and others born in countries which have a small immigration quota. The immigration quotas of some of these countries have been "mortgaged" for as many as 50 and 60 years to make up for the 300,000 DP's admitted into the United States during the last three years.

The new immigration law, which has been described as "America's first Nuremberg law" and has been condemned by President Truman as "racial," is considered by Jewish organizations to be potentially dangerous to Jews because its complex provisions include such innovations as accepting the findings of Nazi courts. President Truman, in his overridden veto of the law, described it as fraught with dangers to minorities and warned that its enactment would substitute "totalitarian vengeance for democratic justice." The law provides for exclusion, denaturalization, and deportation on vague and flimsy ground.

Naturalized Americans Become "Second Class Citizens"

Sen. Herbert H. Lehman, who led the Senate fight against the McCarran-Walter Act, said it would make "second-class citizens" out of America's 8,000,000 naturalized residents and would jeopardize the 3,500,000 aliens in this country. Sweeping arbitrary powers are given to immigration authorities who can take action unilaterally in many cases where there is no democratic provision guaranteeing any right to appeal or even to a hearing. The measure was described as a "security" safeguard, but critics have likened it to the type of "security" practiced by the Soviet Union.

During Congressional debate notorious anti-Semites took a vigorous part in fighting for the passage of the Act. Special consideration for the admission of Nazis to America was included in the Act. Congress accepted McCarran's view that extreme right-wing groups do not constitute any threat to this nation. By a new definition of "totalitarian party," rank and file members who voluntarily joined Nazi and other Fascist movements are considered acceptable immigrants. Communists

are rigidly barred, but vital differences between liberals and "fellow-travellers" are not clearly defined.

The new law will give an opportunity to emigrate to the United States to 4,000 Germans whose records as Nazis were so bad they were previously refused admission. U.S. consular officials at Frankfurt have already estimated that at least two-thirds of these applications may be approved. It is also considered likely that many Nazis who did not apply for visas before because they knew they would not be admitted may now apply. These include such elements as former Gestapo men and S.S. troops. Germany is also favored in the Act's "quota" system which gives Germany a vastly larger quota than the French, Italians, or other nationalities which suffered at the hands of the Germans.

President Truman, when he vetoed the bill, gave many reasons for his actions. He described the arbitrary powers authorized in the name of security. "Our resident aliens," said Truman, "would be more easily separated from their homes and families under grounds of deportation, both new and old, which would specifically be made retroactive. Admission to our citizenship would be made more difficult; expulsion from our citizenship would be made easier. Certain rights of native-born, first generation Americans would be limited."

No Basic Changes by Eisenhower Is Expected

It has been predicted that one of President-Elect Dwight Eisenhower's first legislative moves may be a gesture in the direction of revision of some technicalities in the Act. It is not expected, however, that the restrictive and reactionary theme of the law will be effectively changed. Gen. Eisenhower pledged during the campaign that he would revise the Act "to get the bigotry out of it." A commission created by President Truman to investigate public opinion with regard to the Act discovered it was considered a national disgrace. All major Jewish groups, the National Council of Churches of Christ and many Catholic bishops spoke out against the Act.

Meanwhile, the Immigration Service made last minute preparations today to implement the new law as of tomorrow. Attorney General McGranery has admitted it was full of "ambiguities and defects" and predicted serious problems would arise in administration and enforcement. Sen. Lehman pointed out that "deportation is treated in the McCarran Bill as if it were a minor penalty, to be invoked almost indiscriminately, for scores of reasons, for minor offenses as well as for major crimes and in some instances as an expression of mere disapproval of attitudes as well as of actions."

Sen. Lehman cited a hypothetical case: "Take an alien who has lived here twenty years, through all his mature life. He has a wife, children, perhaps even parents here in this country. He writes a letter to the editor of the local newspaper, criticizing the mayor, the chief of police, or gets some influential politician aroused against him. The Immigration and Naturalization Service is asked to look into the alien's record. It is found that twenty years ago he was convicted of drunken driving or violating O.P.A. regulations, or local sanitary ordinances. That man can be taken from his family, his home and his friends and deported on the grounds of this long-forgotten conviction. The authority for such a deportation is found in Section 241-A-4 of the McCarran Bill." Deportation is required on many other grounds.

Rep. Celler Will Introduce Amendments to the Immigration Law

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Rep. Emanuel Celler, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, today visited the White House and reported to President Truman on his six-weeks trip to Europe to study immigration problems. After leaving the White House, he said that he would introduce amendments to revise some of the features of the new immigration law which becomes effective tomorrow. He especially condemned the provisions of the law which lifts bars against admission of Nazis to the United States.

EISENHOWER URGED TO REPEAL NEW IMMIGRATION LAW

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the American Jewish Congress, today appealed to the American people to make certain that the McCarran Immigration Act "will not live to celebrate its first birthday." He urged President-elect Eisenhower and the new Congress to make repeal or drastic revision of the law a topmost priority.

Dr. Goldstein said that revision of our immigration laws must include at least four major principles: elimination of the national origins quota system which is "a barely disguised restatement of a repugnant and thoroughly exploded racist theory;" reform of the deportation system to permit expulsion only of persons whose entry was fraudulent or illegal; abolishing all distinctions in law between native-born and naturalized citizens and insuring fast hearing and review to all persons subject to our immigration laws.

MONITOR, VENEZKY ARRIVE IN ISRAEL TO DISCUSS BOND PROBLEMS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Henry Monitor, Julian Venezky and other leaders of the organization which conducts the sale of Israel bonds in the United States arrived here today to discuss their resignations with Premier David Ben Gurion.

In a statement, the delegation said that the resignations were tendered in view of differences of opinion which developed between them and the Government of Israel regarding working methods. The statement added that the delegation came here at the request of Premier Ben Gurion to discuss ways and means of eliminating the differences. Mr. Monitor said that American Jewry has proved its readiness to help Israel, and that the sale of Israel bonds has already reached \$150,000,000 in cash and obligations.

FRENCH EMBASSY THANKS ISRAEL FOR AID TO SHIP IN DISTRESS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The French Embassy here today thanked the Israel Government for dispatching a power naval seagoing tug to the assistance of the French liner "Champollion" grounded four miles south of Beirut. The Embassy's letter stressed that the Israel Government's attitude was an outstanding example of international cooperation.

Bad weather and poor visibility hampered attempts to rescue the "Champollion's" passengers, more than score of whom were drowned in attempts to swim through the boiling sea to the Lebanese shore several hundred yards away. But most were rescued late today. The vessel broken in two, with most of passengers concentrated on the larger section.

The Israeli vessel was given permission late yesterday to enter Lebanese waters to assist in the attempted rescue operations only after repeated refusals by the Arab state. When the Lebanese themselves failed to effect the rescue and the Israelis continued to insist that it was their humanitarian duty to stand by, the Arabs granted permission for the tug to enter Lebanese waters.

FRANCE OPENS ITS ATOM LABORATORIES TO ISRAELI SCIENTISTS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The Scientific Council of Israel, which is entrusted with the exploitation of secret national resources in the Jewish State, has reached an agreement with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization under which Israeli scientists studying and doing research in the atomic field will be permitted to use French atomic energy laboratories.

MOSCOW SAYS ZIONISM MEANS ESPIONAGE FOR UNITED STATES

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- In a report from Moscow today, passed by the Soviet censor, the New York Times reveals the Communist Party has issued instructions to its political workers and propagandists to define Zionism as "a reactionary nationalist trend of the Jewish bourgeoisie" that acts as "a faithful agency of American imperialism" and engages in "carrying out espionage and subversive activities for the benefit of United States imperialists."

The definition was published in Agitators Notebook, a bi-weekly pamphlet of the Communist Party, that is issued primarily for political workers and contains authoritative statements of the party position on questions of the day. The statements serve as a text for some 45,000 Communist party political workers active in the Moscow region, according to figures presented recently at a plenary meeting of the Moscow city party organization, the N. Y. Times emphasizes.

The comment on Zionism was inspired by the treason trial in Prague of Rudolf Slansky and thirteen others, reports of which were carried in considerable detail in the Soviet press. The significance of the comment on Zionism lay not in its criticism of the Zionist movement, since the Communist party has always been strongly opposed to Zionism, but in its firm identification of Zionism with United States "imperialism" and "subversion," the Moscow correspondent points out.

Agitators Notebook declared that "after the formation of the State of Israel in 1948, Zionists who seized power there were transforming the country into an American military base, a stronghold of reaction in the Near East." It added that Soviet policy firmly discourages manifestations of anti-Semitism on the part of the Soviet populace. At the same time, it is equally opposed to any manifestations of "Jewish nationalism." The Soviet's position is that its aim is a multinational state in which Jews, like any other group, have a proper and correct place, the Notebook said.

Communists Seen Emulating Nazis in Anti-Jewish Policy

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The New York Post, in a cable from its Vienna correspondent, reports today that the "sober and considered judgement" of Western observers who are analyzing the effects of the recent Prague purge trial is that "what the Nazis started in Eastern Europe -- mass annihilation of the Jews -- the Communists are completing."

"The Russians, the observers are reported to say, 'won't resort to gas chambers nor mass executions, except where political figures are concerned,' the correspondent states. "They have instead inaugurated a program of cutting the Jewish population off from gainful employment, from local community and cultural life which Jews, like other minorities, possess in Western nations and are ostensibly determined to keep them stagnant and preoccupied with the problem of staying alive."

"A premonition of their fate has led Jews in large numbers to commit suicide, not only in Czechoslovakia, but elsewhere in the satellite lands," the correspondent reports. "This last act of desperation, observers pointed out, also occurred in Germany and Austria when the Nazis established their control."

The correspondent quotes a Western diplomat whose views, he says, bear considerable weight in formulating his government's decisions, as stating: "The Jews of Eastern Europe feel that they are sitting on a rumbling volcano. They have become identified with a system -- Zionism -- which the Soviet Union considers dangerous to the consolidation of its control in the satellite areas."

PANIC AMONG JEWS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA LIKENED TO HITLER DAYS

LONDON, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- "Among the 30,000 Jews in Czechoslovakia there is a panic comparable only to that which I saw the day that Hitler marched into Prague," British foreign correspondent G. E. R. Gedye writes in the weekly Journal-Tribune, in a dispatch from Vienna. The dispatch in the pro-Bevanite publication adds that "now as then there are many unreported suicides."

Mr. Gedye also reports that "already employees of some government organizations have been forced to 'petition' for the dismissal of all their Jewish colleagues. The Machiavellian skill with which the dictatorship has set the stage is paying high dividends. The anti-Semitic line is going over well with the local non-Jewish population."

The Jews of Czechoslovakia have been given "due notice" that any contact with official representatives of Israel will mean a treason charge, the correspondent continues. "This last hope of emigration has been taken from the Zionists."

EXPULSION OF PRO-COMMUNISTS FROM ARGENTINE JEWISH BODY APPROVED

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- A full meeting of the general assembly of the DAIA, central representative body of Argentine Jewry, last night ratified the decision of its executive ordering the expulsion of any organization affiliated with the DAIA which did not within ten days associate itself with a DAIA resolution condemning the Prague trial.

The general assembly session was very heated and various charges and counter-charges were hurled. Dr. Ricardo Dubrowsky, president of the DAIA, rejected the accusation of pro-Communist representatives that the DAIA was acting as a "Yankee imperialist espionage agency" in Argentina. The Jewish daily, Die Yiddishe Zeitung, editorially applauded the DAIA action, demanding that all groups "state under what flag" they were sailing.

JEWISH ISSUE INVOKED IN ITALY ON STATE AID TO CHURCH

ROME, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The fact that the Catholic Church in Italy gave sanctuary to some Jews and other minorities during the Nazi-Fascist persecutions of Jews and political opponents entitles it to receive government financial assistance for the building of Catholic Churches and parish houses, according to proponents of a bill now before the Italian Parliament to spend \$12,000,000 for this purpose.

This is one of the arguments used by members of Premier Alcide de Gasperi's Christian Democratic Party to support their contention that the Catholic Church is entitled to preferential treatment in the use of tax funds. Religious minorities oppose the measure, which provides no funds for buildings for any other religious movement.

REMOVAL FROM CHURCHES OF ANTI-JEWISH TABLETS SOUGHT IN TYROL

VIENNA, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The Austrian League for Human Rights has appealed to Pope Pius and to Catholic officials here to remove from Tyrolean churches tablets and paintings depicting alleged Jewish ritual murders of the fifteenth century.

Although the Pope has not yet replied to the request, Bishop Rusch of Innsbruck has turned down the appeal in a letter in which he said that the "Jews have not yet proved that they never did such things."

CATHOLIC GROUP OPPOSES DEMAND TO END "NEAR CHURCHES" ADS

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Demands that the phrase "near churches" be banned from resort advertising as discriminatory were opposed here yesterday by the New York State Catholic Welfare Committee, which labelled the attempt to remove such phrasing as "based on vain fears and erroneous judgements." Among the organizations which charge that such phrasing is used as a subterfuge for discrimination against Jews are the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress and Anti-Defamation League.

The Catholic Welfare Committee asserted that the phrase is used by resort owners who wish to help prospective Catholic guests make up their minds about accommodations. Because of the importance which Catholics place on participation in Sunday services proximity to a church is a major consideration in choice of resort accommodations, the committee stated. It reaffirmed its approval of the objectives of the state laws barring discrimination in employment, in public places and in educational institutions.

U.S. MIZRACHI LEADER EXPLAINS OPPOSITION TO ISRAEL CABINET

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The refusal of Israel Premier David Ben Gurion to give adequate assurances that the Mizrachi educational system in Israel would be "respected as an untouchable treasure" was responsible for the decision of the Israeli Mizrachi Party not to enter the new coalition government, Rabbi Max Kirshblum, new president of the American Mizrachi, declared here tonight.

Addressing a dinner-reception in his honor at the Commodore Hotel, Rabbi Kirshblum declared that the Mizrachi had consistently pressed for a wider coalition government. He said it was "regrettable" that in the process of creating his coalition government Premier Ben Gurion had demonstrated a "capacity for solving problems by inviting new ones in their place."

Speaking of the role of the Orthodox parties in Israel as an opposition to the new government, Rabbi Kirshblum said that it will be an opposition "which will support all measures designed to help Israel meet its overall problems while, at the same time, giving articulate opposition to all proposals and acts which seem to it as contrary to Israel's Bible-saturated history and his historic way of life."

EXHIBIT OF RARE HEBREW VOLUMES, MANUSCRIPTS OPENS IN PARIS

PARIS, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- An exhibition of Hebrew volumes and manuscripts -- the first such exhibit in 18 years -- opened here today under the sponsorship of the Joint Distribution Committee. The exhibit will be transferred from here to Brussels, Zurich, Milan and Rome. Included among the works are 175 rare Jewish volumes obtained from the Judaica collection of the Royal Danish Library in Copenhagen, a Hebrew Bible in manuscript form dating back to 1290 and a Passover Hagaddah published in Prague in 1515.

ISRAEL, JORDAN DROP BORDER BARRIERS TO PERMIT HOLIDAY CROSSINGS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The National Geographic Society has announced that although "border crossing between Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is ordinarily a difficult matter" barriers are being dropped for Christmas so that Christians can travel to Bethlehem, a few miles inside Jordan.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN WILL APPEAR ON FRIDAY