

# J T A DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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## TRUMAN COMMISSION URGES BASIC REVISION OF NEW IMMIGRATION LAW

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30, (JTA) -- The Commission on Immigration and Naturalization, which President Truman appointed some time ago to study the McCarran Immigration Law, today completed its report, which will recommend to the President that the new immigration law which went into effect last week should be reconsidered and revised "from beginning to end."

The Commission's report is especially critical of the racial restrictions in the new immigration law. It emphasizes that the discriminatory racial and national restrictions lower the prestige of the United States in the eyes of the world. Jewish organizations and other voluntary agencies are commended by the Commission for their role in helping to make America a haven for the oppressed. At the same time, the Commission points out that the new immigration law prevents the United States from giving asylum to people who escape from the Iron Curtain countries.

Under the Commission's recommendations, Americans would be allowed to serve in the armed forces of such friendly nations as Israel. The McCarran Immigration Law prevents such service, but the Commission came to the conclusion that "service in foreign armies by American citizens can be motivated by many purposes entirely consistent with allegiance to the United States." The Commission recommends that the law in this respect should be restored to what it was prior to the Act of 1952.

### Opposes Racial Aspects of the Law; Seeks Ban on Nazis

The McCarran provisions favoring admission to the United States of Nazis are opposed by the Commission, which recommends that Nazis and Fascists be excluded from the United States as being equally undesirable as the Communists banned by the McCarran Act. The Commission points out that "the millions of graves of those who died that democracy might survive, or who perished as victims of mass murder; the hundreds of thousands who were maimed; the millions who were stripped of their possessions and forced to undergo indescribable suffering, privation, and misery; the destruction of economic resources of once prosperous and happy peoples--these results of the evil ambitions, the cruelties of Nazism and Fascism should keep the United States alert forevermore to the danger from that source."

The provisions of the new immigration law which make it possible that Jewish immigrants from Germany be deported, in some instances, on the basis of findings of Nazi courts against them--which was one of the major objections lodged by Jewish organizations against the McCarran Act--are similarly scored by the President's Commission. The Commission points out that U.S. immigration laws should not be used to enforce totalitarian "justice."

It recommends that where the conviction for a crime or crimes involving moral turpitude was rendered by a court in a totalitarian country, the administrative officers



should be authorized to inquire into the circumstances of the crime in order to determine whether the conviction actually was for a crime or crimes involving moral turpitude under American standards.

The conclusions of the exhaustive study by the Commission are that the McCarran-Walter Act embodies policies and principles that are unwise and injurious to the nation. It rests upon an attitude of hostility and distrust against all aliens. It applies discriminations against human beings on account of national origin, race, creed and color. It ignores the needs of the United States in domestic affairs and foreign policies. It contains unnecessary and unreasonable restrictions and penalties against individuals. It is badly drafted, confusing and unworkable in many respects.

The summarized recommendations of the Commission are:

1. The national origins quota system should be abolished; there should be a unified quota system, which would allocate visas without regard to national origin, race, creed, or color.
2. The maximum annual quota immigration should be one-sixth of one percent of the population of the United States, as determined by the most recent census. Under the 1950 census, quota immigration would be open to 251,162 immigrants annually, instead of the 154,657 now authorized.
3. All immigration and naturalization functions now in the Department of State and the Department of Justice should be consolidated into a new agency, to be headed by a Commission on Immigration and Naturalization whose members should be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.
4. The maximum annual quota of visas should be distributed, as determined by the proposed Commission on Immigration and Naturalization, on the basis of the following five categories: the right of asylum, reunion of families, needs in the United States, special needs in the free world, and general immigration.
5. For the next three years, within the maximum annual quota, there should be a statutory priority, implementing the right of asylum, for the admission annually of 100,000 refugees, expellees, escapees, and the remaining displaced persons.
6. The allocation of visas within the maximum annual quota should be determined, once every three years, by the proposed Commission, subject to review by the President and the Congress.
7. Enforcement functions should be exercised, under the Commission's supervision and control, by an administrator. Quasi-judicial functions should be exercised, under the Commission's supervision, by a statutory Board of Immigration and Visa Appeals.
8. The same officials should not be permitted to exercise both enforcement and judicial functions. Aliens should be accorded a fair hearing and procedure in exclusion and deportation cases. Hearings in deportation cases should conform with the requirements of the administrative procedure act.
9. Hearing officers should be responsible only to the proposed Board of Immigration and Visa Appeals, which should have authority to exercise final administrative review of their decisions, subject to further review in limited cases by the Commission. Aliens should have a right of administrative review, before the Board of



Immigration and Visa Appeals, from denials of visas; and have a clearly defined method of seeking court review of orders of deportation.

### Opposes Distinction Between Native and Naturalized Citizens

10. The law should not discriminate against naturalized citizens but should place them in the same status as native-born citizens, except when citizenship was procured by fraud or illegality. The law should minimize or remove restrictions which create statelessness, disrupt family unity, or impose unreasonable conditions or procedures upon the acquisition or retention of citizenship.

11. The conditions for admission of aliens into the United States should bear a reasonable relationship to the national welfare and security; be definite in their meaning and application; include discretionary authority to waive specified grounds of inadmissibility, in meritorious cases; provide for exclusions without hearing, for reasons of security, only upon direction of the board of immigration and visa appeals; and not be based on the so-called criminal judgments of totalitarian states.

12. The grounds for deportation of aliens already in the United States should bear a reasonable relationship to the national welfare and security; not be technical or excessive; not be retroactive so as to penalize aliens for acts which were not prohibited when committed; and not require the deportation of aliens who entered the country at an early age, or those who have been residents for such a long period as to become the responsibility of the United States.

13. In connection with the deportation of aliens, there should be discretionary authority to allow them to depart voluntarily instead of deportation; adjust their status within the United States if they are currently qualified to re-enter; suspend deportation under reasonable conditions; and adjust the status of bona fide official defectors from totalitarianism.

14. A resident alien who is not otherwise deportable should not, by reason of a brief absence from the United States, be subject to exclusion or deportation. Unless proceedings for deportation and denaturalization are brought within ten years, they should be barred.

### U. S. MUM ON ISRAEL'S COMPLAINT OVER SUPPLY OF ARMS TO ARABS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The State Department has decided that there is no useful purpose in making any statement about Israel Foreign Minister Sharett's complaint concerning the shipment of arms by the Western Powers to the Arab states. This was learned today from informed sources who indicated the Department decisions not to make any statement now.

The U. S. Government view is that the Israel complaint is confined to jet aircraft sold by Britain and has nothing to do with other arms. Informed sources said they did not know of any shipment from the U. S. of important quantities of arms to Egypt or any of the other Arab states.

At the same time, Israel sources here today expressed the fear that Egypt may succeed in obtaining a considerable quantity of arms from the United States, in addition to the jet aircraft which it has already secured from Britain. These sources here pointed out that no reassurances on the supply of arms have been received from either the State Department or the British Foreign Office over the Israeli complaint that considerable quantities of arms are flowing to the Arab states. The Israeli sources pointed out that after 10 months Israel has received no reply from the U. S. to its request for arms grants under the Mutual Security Aid program.



## ISRAEL CONFERRING WITH BIG POWERS ON EGYPTIAN BLOCKADE

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Israel is initiating conferences with the United States, British and French Governments over the recent seizure by Egyptian authorities of a shipment of Israel-bound meat aboard a vessel in the Suez Canal, it was reported here today.

This action was seen as a possible preliminary to Israel's raising the issue before the United Nations Security Council or at the forthcoming General Assembly session in February. When Israeli delegate Abba Eban withdrew the Israeli complaint against the Arab states from the Assembly agenda earlier this month, he indicated that the matter would be dealt with through "other channels."

(In Washington it was learned that the Israel Embassy had delivered to the State Department the details of the Israeli complaint, just before the holidays. The State Department has not commented thus far.)

The specific Israeli complaint is based on the halting of the Norwegian freighter Rimfrost in the Canal last October. Although the vessel was later released, the Egyptian authorities unloaded the cargo. This action not only violated a U. N. Security Council resolution calling on Egypt to end the seizure of vessels and cargoes bound for Israel, but also contradicts Egyptian statements that only cargoes of war materiel are seized.

## U. N. OFFICIAL FIRED ON BY SYRIAN FORCES ON ISRAEL'S BORDER

TEL AVIV, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Syrian forces on Israel's northeast frontier last night fired on Col. S. Taxis, chairman of the United Nations Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission, when he entered the border zone to investigate Israeli complaints that the Syrians were firing into Israel territory. A meeting of the armistice commission scheduled for today has been postponed.

The Israeli authorities filed their protest with the U. N. body after the Syrians, for the second time in a week, fired on Kibbutz Tel Katzir, which is located in the Lake Tiberias region.

## ROKACH, NEW MEMBER OF CABINET, RESIGNS POST AS TEL AVIV MAYOR

TEL AVIV, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Tel Aviv's Mayor Israel Rokach, who last week became Minister of Interior in the new Cabinet, today resigned his post as head of the Tel Aviv municipality and turned over his office to Deputy Mayor Haim Levanon, at a ceremony at City Hall. Representatives of all parties in the council praised Mr. Rokach's devotion to the city's interests since he became Mayor in 1936.

President Ben Zvi today became an honorary citizen of Tel Aviv at a special meeting of the city council. Thousands of men, women and children crowded the streets to see the President on his first official visit here. The President also visited a trade school, a new park and other municipal institutions.

## SLIGHT EARTH TREMOR FELT IN NORTHERN REGION OF ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- A slight earthquake was felt in Upper Galilee and in the Safad region yesterday. No reports of damage have been received here.



## INTERNATIONAL BOARD ELECTED BY JEWISH CLAIMS CONFERENCE

**NEW YORK, Dec. 30. (JTA) --** Election of an international board of directors to head the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany was announced today. The board of directors, on which are represented the major Jewish organizations in the free world, named the following officers:

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president; Jacob Blaustein, senior vice-president; Samuel Brofman, Jules Brunschwig, Dr. Rudolph Callman, Frank Goldman, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Adolph Held and Barnett Janner, vice-presidents; Moses A. Leavitt, treasurer. These officers are members of the executive committee. Other members of the executive committee are: Dr. Noah Baron, Sir Henry d'Avigdor Goldsmith, both of London, and Dr. Isaac Lewin and Shad Polier both of New York. Saul Kagan of New York has been elected secretary.

The Conference will receive and allocate funds to be paid by the West German Government over a 12-year period as partial compensation for the material losses suffered by the Jewish people under the Nazi regime. The German Government assumed this financial obligation in an agreement signed in Luxemburg September 10, 1952, by Dr. Konrad Adenauer, Chancellor of the West German Government, and Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Conference.

The board was elected at a membership meeting yesterday afternoon. The following organizations are members of the Conference and are represented on this board: Agudath Israel World Organization; Alliance Israelite Universelle; American Jewish Committee; American Jewish Congress; American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; American Zionist Council; Anglo-Jewish Association; B'nai B'rith; Board of Deputies of British Jews; British Section, World Jewish Congress; Canadian Jewish Congress.

Also, Central British Fund; Conseil Representatif des Juifs de France; Council for the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Jews from Germany; Delegacion de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas (D. A. I. A.); Executive Council of Australian Jewry; Jewish Agency for Palestine; Jewish Labor Committee; South African Jewish Board of Deputies; Synagogue Council of America; World Jewish Congress and Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland.

## MORGENTHAU RECOVERS FROM OPERATION; WILL LEAVE HOSPITAL SOON

**NEW YORK, Dec. 30. (JTA) --** Henry Morgenthau, Jr., chairman of the board of governors of the State of Israel bond drive, who could not go to Israel earlier this month to confer with Premier David Ben Gurion because of ill health, underwent an abdominal operation last week at New York Hospital.

A bulletin issued by his doctor today said that Mr. Morgenthau's condition is good and that he is expected to leave the hospital within a week or 10 days. Mr. Morgenthau entered the hospital on Saturday evening, December 20.

## LAW TO PREVENT BIAS IN BUSINESS SOUGHT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

**VANCOUVER, B.C., Dec. 30. (JTA) --** Legislation to prevent racial, religious and color discrimination in business and industry in British Columbia was urged here upon the Provincial Government by a special delegation of the Civic Unity Council. The delegation, received by Deputy Labor Minister William Sands, was asked by him to prepare a brief which could be submitted to the cabinet.



## **PHILADELPHIA JEWS TO STUDY EFFECT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT LAW**

**PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 30. (JTA) --** A survey to determine whether new job opportunities have been opened to Jews since enactment of Philadelphia's Fair Employment Practices law four years ago will be undertaken by the Philadelphia Jewish Community Relations Council.

Leon I. Mesirov, president of the council, announced that Joseph Schwartz, manager of the Knitgoods Workers Union of the I. L. G. W. U. and vice-president of the Jewish Labor Committee, would head a special business-labor advisory committee to make the survey. The survey comes after two years of preparation and preliminary planning by the council's policy and action committee.

"Job discrimination based on religion is very often more subtle and difficult to ferret out than is discrimination for other reasons," Mr. Mesirov declared. He pointed out that there had been relatively few complaints by Jews filed with the Commission on Human Relations and said that, "knowing the amount of resources and effort that has gone into the task of securing such laws, there is a natural desire to determine which industries and unions have opened their doors to Jews and provided new opportunities to them in employment, and which have remained closed despite enactment of such laws."

## **PROVIDENCE JEWS OPPOSE "RELEASED TIME" SYSTEM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**PROVIDENCE, R.I., Dec. 30. (JTA) --** Opposition to introduction of the released time program in the public schools of Providence was voiced here by leaders of the Jewish community at a public hearing conducted by the Providence School Committee. The proposal to release children from school one hour a week to enable them to receive religious instruction outside the public schools has created considerable controversy here.

Sidney L. Rabinowitz, attorney, who appeared at the hearing for the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, American Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Committee, told the School Committee that the program would have a divisive effect on the children, would tend in many instances to substitute the one hour weekly religious instruction for real religious instruction, would encourage truancy and would impose a heavy administrative burden on the school system.

Rabbi Morris Schnusheim told the committee that the program "is a tacit admission of failure on the part of the school, the home and the church to fulfill adequately their sacred trusts." Rabbi Eli A. Bohnen warned that released time was "a backward step" and contained the seeds of danger to religious liberty.

## **LONDON JEW SEEKS COURT ACTION AGAINST RABBINATE**

**LONDON, Dec. 30. (JTA) --** A suit against Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie and the British rabbinate has been brought by Jack Isow, well-known London restaurateur, who is seeking damages because of a rabbinate ruling involving the Kashruth of his restaurant. It is believed that this is the first time a rabbinate ruling has been the basis for action in a British civil court.

## **FOUNDER OF SWEDISH ZIONIST ORGANIZATION CELEBRATES 70TH BIRTHDAY**

**STOCKHOLM, Dec. 30. (JTA) --** Leon Lapidus, veteran Zionist and one of the founders of the Swedish Zionist Organization, celebrated his 70th birthday here last week. Earlier reports received in London that he had died were erroneous.