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REPUBLICAN CONVENTION APPROVES PLANK ON ISRAEL; OMITTS DEFENSIVE ARMS

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 22. (JTA) -- The Republican National Convention unanimously adopted late last night a platform plank which includes a pledge "to support the independence of Israel against armed aggression;" but avoids any mention of supplying American defensive arms to Israel needed to balance the arms obtained by Egypt from Communist countries.

The adopted plank put the Republican Party under obligation to "support a policy of impartial friendship for the peoples of the Arab states and Israel to promote a peaceful settlement of the causes of tension in that area, including the human problem of the Palestine-Arab refugees." At the same time, the plank emphasizes that the Republican Party "regards the preservation of Israel as an important tenet of American foreign policy" and is "determined that the integrity of an independent Jewish state shall be maintained."

Strong objection to the phrase "Jewish state" used in the Republican platform plank was voiced by the American Council for Judaism in a telegram sent to the platform committee. However, the objection was ignored. The Council maintained that the term "Jewish state" implies the national attachment of all Jews to the State of Israel.

California Republican Urges Giving Arms to Israel

Senator Thomas H. Kuchel, California Republican, said today that the United States and her allies should sell defensive arms to Israel as a matter of self-interest. "I believe that helping prepare Israel for her defense will discourage the aggressive use by Egypt of the armament supplied it by Communist supporters," he declares.

Sen. Kuchel said he was one of the signers of a resolution, passed unanimously by the Senate, aimed at discrimination by some Arab nations against both American civilians and military personnel because of religious affiliations. He pointed out that Secretary of State Dulles subsequently announced the State Department will seek to end such discrimination by diplomatic action.

"I am convinced that the interest of the United States lies in the preservation of the State of Israel," Sen. Kuchel continues. "Nasser of Egypt aspires to be leader of the Arab world. He has definitely taken his place with Soviet Russia and its Communist satellites. He has accepted vast quantities of arms... the paraphernalia of active and aggressive warfare, from Communist sources."

Under Nasser's declaration of principles, "which villify the United States," threaten this country's interests and defy appeasement we are bound to, and will, protect this small nation from attack," Sen. Kuchel said. "I feel further that making Israel strong defensively will prevent such an attack upon her and will lessen the hazards of another global war. For that reason, and in our own interest, I urge that we sell defensive arms to Israel and encourage our allies to do likewise."

Nixon Rebukes Christian Nationalist Crusade Leader

An attempt by Gerald L. K. Smith, head of the extremist Christian Nationalist Crusade, to attach himself to the candidacy of Vice President Richard Nixon, was rebuffed by Mr. Nixon in a statement issued here. "There is no place in the Republican Party for the race baiting merchandisers of hate like Gerald L. K. Smith," the Vice President declared.

"Generally, what Mr. Gerald L. K. Smith says should never be dignified by comment in this instance, however; I think it is clearly necessary to depart from the rule," Mr. Nixon said. "As I stated unequivocally when I ran for the Senate in 1950. There is no place in the Republican Party for the race baiting merchandisers of hate like Gerald L. K. Smith." "I have been complimented by the fact that this publication, the Christian Nationalist Crusade, has on several occasions attacked me because of my work in behalf of President Eisenhower's program for guaranteeing equality of opportunity for all Americans."

"I am proud of the fact that our Republican platform speaks out so clearly and unequivocally on this great issue that Mr. Smith and those who share his views will take no comfort whatever from it," Vice President Nixon concluded.

BUS TRANSPORTATION IN ISRAEL HALTED; OWNERS SEEK RAISE IN FARES

JERUSALEM, Aug. 22. (JTA) -- Regular bus transportation throughout Israel was paralyzed today when the transport cooperative companies halted their vehicles in protest against a government refusal of their demand to increase fares by approximately 20 per cent. A compromise formula proposed by the Israel Federation of Labor was turned down by the cooperatives, and all scheduled bus transport ground to a halt.

The Ministry of Communication tried its best to arrange emergency transportation. Passenger train loadings were doubled, trucks and taxicabs were pressed into service, and all private owners of motor transport of any kind were asked to pick up workers. Meanwhile, however, interurban transportation seemed to have broken down entirely, while no buses at all were to be seen on city streets.

LEHMAN URGED TO RECONSIDER HIS DECISION NOT TO SEEK SENATE SEAT

NEW YORK, Aug. 22. (JTA) -- Efforts were being made today by top leaders of the Democratic and Liberal Parties, as well as by labor leaders, to induce Senator Herbert H. Lehman to reconsider his decision not to seek re-election to the U. S. Senate. They indicated that they will confer with Mr. Lehman with a view to urging him to change his mind.

In announcing yesterday that he intends to return to private life, Sen. Lehman emphasized that he reached this decision "with a very heavy heart." His announcement came as a surprise, although he has repeatedly hinted during recent months that he would not seek the Senate seat again.

Leading American newspapers today devoted editorials evaluating the 30-year record of Sen. Lehman's public service, especially as Governor of New York State and as a member of the U. S. Senate. They also emphasized his activities as Director General of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration after World War II, and pointed out that, as chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, he was responsible for raising \$75,000,000 for Jewish relief purposes.

The New York Times said in its editorial: "Senator Lehman brought to public office the experience of a business man and the heart of a humanitarian. He was international in his horizons, has always resisted the narrowness of sectionalism. His philosophy has been consistently liberal. He has been a tireless worker, a penetrating student of legislation. His leadership in humanizing the immigration laws; in reducing the barriers of discrimination, in championing civil liberties, in promoting public housing and slum clearance has been unremitting and effective. It is not without reason that in these and other matters he has been called the conscience of the Senate."

The New York Post wrote: "Herbert Lehman's retirement from the U. S. Senate would leave a lonely place against the sky. Millions of New Yorkers have repeatedly demonstrated, by their votes, their respect and affection for him. To them, as to countless other Americans, he is a symbol of courage and conscience in public affairs. No one can doubt the sincerity of the statement he issued yesterday and the agony of private debate which preceded it. On reading his words one's first impulse is to say we have no right to ask him to reconsider. No man ever had a deeper sense of duty and if he now feels impelled to withdraw, we surely have no moral claim on him; we are all his debtors. It would be equally intolerable, however, to accept his decision without striving to communicate to him our hope that he may yet be persuaded to make this final fight. Herbert Lehman's virtues are many, and one of them is humility; he may underestimate the intensity and depth of popular feeling about his place in our political life."

In his announcement yesterday, Sen. Lehman said: "Public service has been my life for nearly thirty years. Despite the frustrations and disappointments attendant in every field of activity, I have found it a deeply rewarding experience. I have enjoyed my work and I hope that I have been able to make some contribution to my state and to the nation. I am grateful for the friendships I have made and for the opportunity of participating in measure in making important decisions affecting not only the welfare of my own state but of the entire free world. I have given to my work everything I have."

Sen. Lehman pledged in his statement to continue to fight for "equal justice and dignity for all, and for a world at peace." He also emphasized that he expects to help bring about the election of Adlai Stevenson, Democratic candidate, as President of the United States.

PRESIDENT OF POLAND CALLS FOR COMBAT AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

VIENNA, Aug. 22. (JTA) -- A call to combat anti-Semitism was issued by President Alexander Zawadzki of Poland addressing a plenary session of the National Front, newspapers from Warsaw reaching here today reported.

"Any sign of anti-Semitism and discrimination against national minorities in Poland should be strongly opposed," the President is quoted as having stated. He strongly criticized "certain elements" which spread propaganda against Jews and other national minorities in Poland.

SURVEY OF JEWISH JOB-SEEKERS ESTABLISHES EFFECT OF F. E. P. LAWS

NEW YORK, Aug. 22. (JTA) -- For the second successive year, a survey of Jewish job-seekers has shown that fair employment practice laws apparently have reduced discriminatory questioning of applicants about their religion by both employers and commercial employment agencies. Such questioning is still widespread, however.

The survey, a report of which was released today, covered the experience of 2,319 applicants registering at Jewish vocational service agencies in 15 cities in the United States and Canada during March, 1956.

The report reveals that in U. S. cities not covered by state or local fair employment laws, 45 per cent of those who had also registered with private employment agencies had been asked about their religion. In cities protected by Fair Employment Practices laws, only 4.4 per cent had been asked such questions at private employment agencies.

Similar, but less striking differences were found in the case of those who had applied direct to employers. In cities without FEP, 17 per cent reported they had been asked about their religion, as compared with about 8 1/2 per cent in FEP cities. The percentages are almost identical with those found in a similar survey in March, 1955.

Contrary to the common assumption that minorities tend to be overly sensitive and to suspect discrimination where it does not exist, the survey suggests that many applicants neither recognize nor complain of discrimination even when they encounter it. Less than one out of five of those who were asked about their religion by commercial employment agencies felt that they were discriminated against in any way.

Discrimination Believed to be More Widespread than Data Shows

The authors of the report believe that discrimination actually is more widespread than the figures they present would seem to indicate. They point out that much effort has been expended in recent years to induce employers to eliminate questions about religion from application forms and oral interviews and that such questions are expressly prohibited by FEP laws. They believe that the 6.6 per cent of applicants surveyed who reported that they had been asked such questions reflect only a part of the problem. The report notes in this connection:

"Since discrimination on the basis of religion is frequently practiced subtly and without resort to such overt manifestations as discriminatory questions, the extent of such discrimination may safely be assumed to be more widespread than is revealed by these statistics."

The survey was part of a long-range cooperative program undertaken jointly by Jewish vocational agencies and Jewish community relations agencies. The program is under the direction of a joint committee on employment discrimination of the Jewish Occupational Council and the National Community Relations Advisory Council.

Questionnaires were filled out by applicants at Jewish vocational agencies in Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, Los Angeles, Louisville, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and Montreal.

The replies from Montreal showed that the percentage of applicants questioned about their religion by employers (15.8 per cent), while down from 20.5 per cent in 1955, was substantially higher than the average for all reporting cities in the U. S. (6.6 per cent) and somewhat higher than in the non-FEP cities in the U. S. (15.2 per cent). Canada has a federal fair employment statute, but there is no provincial or municipal statute covering Montreal.

The joint JOC-NCRAC Committee announced that the survey would continue to be repeated at periodic intervals. In this way, the Committee believes, it will be able to study trends in discriminatory practices by employers and employment agencies, to discover whether discrimination in the case of national firms is country-wide or confined to particular plants or offices, and to develop various findings that depend on cumulative statistics.

400 U. S. JEWISH SERVICEMEN STUDY JUDAISM AT GOERING'S ESTATE

BERCHTESGADEN, Germany, Aug. 22. (JTA) -- About 400 American Jewish soldiers and officers are now spending a five-day religious retreat in the hunting lodge which formerly belonged to Hermann Goering, top Nazi leader. The lodge is at the disposal of military chaplains of all denominations as a "religious retreat house" for servicemen of the U. S. armed forces.

Study sessions, devoted to fundamentals of Judaism, are being conducted at the retreat by Lt. Col. Meir Engel of Heidelberg. The American Jewish servicemen attending these sessions have come from U. S. Army, Air Force and Navy installations throughout Europe. Strict kashruth is adhered to in the kitchens.

LONDON AGUDAH TO SEND DELEGATION TO MOSCOW; ASKS NEW YORK TO JOIN

LONDON, Aug. 22. (JTA) -- The executive of Agudath Israel here voted today to accept an invitation from Moscow's Chief Rabbi Solomon Schieffler to visit the Soviet Union. It expressed the hope that a delegation of prominent rabbinical personalities may participate in the visit and said that New York Agudah will be asked to join.

STUDENT TEACHERS AND U. S. JEWISH YOUTHS SAIL FOR ISRAEL STUDIES

NEW YORK, Aug. 22. (JTA) -- A group of 24 undergraduates from Hebrew teachers colleges in New York, Boston and Chicago sailed today aboard the S.S. Israel for a six-month training seminar in Israel sponsored by the Jewish Agency.

Another group of 37 members of Zionist and other Jewish youth organizations in the United States and Canada sailed for a year-long program of leadership training, sponsored by the Jewish Agency. The leadership program, conducted by the Jewish Agency's Youth Department, is designed to train young Americans for group leadership at home.

B'nai B'rith Youth Organization; Betar; Hanar Hazioni; Hashomer Hatzair; Hechalutz Hazioni; Mizrahi Hatzair; Student Zionist Organization; Young Judea and Canadian Young Judea; the Jewish Institute of Religion, representing Reform temple youth; the Leadership Training Fellowship, United Synagogue Youth and Young Peoples League, representing Conservative synagogue youth; B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations of Canada; and the Zionist Organization of America are represented in this year's contingent.

The student-teacher group represents the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the Hebrew Teachers Institutes for men and women of Yeshiva University and the Herzliyah Teachers Institute, all of New York; the Hebrew Teachers College of Boston and the College of Jewish Studies, Chicago. The seminar, now in its sixth year, is an annual project of the Jewish Agency's Department of Education and Culture.

The students, selected for the seminar on the basis of their academic records, will take courses which correspond to the curricula that would normally be followed in the first semester of their graduating year at home. This includes Bible, Talmud, Hebrew language and literature, education, Jewish history and the history of modern Israel. The courses are conducted entirely in the Hebrew language.

150 ISRAELI FIRMS REPRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL FAIR IN TURKEY

IZMIR, Aug. 22. (JTA) -- More than 150 Israeli firms are represented with exhibits at the annual Izmir International Fair which opened today. This is the fifth year of Israel's participation in this major commercial event. In one of the most attractive pavilions on the Fair Grounds, Israel this year is displaying cement, tires, chemical products, construction materials, drugs, irrigation and agricultural machinery, and electrical appliances.

A special greeting to the Israeli exhibitors was issued today by Djihat Iren, secretary-general of the Union of Turkish Chambers of Commerce, who pointed out that the present volume of exchange between Turkey and Israel amounts to \$12,000,000 a year, whereas Turkish imports from Israel in 1950 were valued at only \$67,500.

Another official, Shevket Filibeli, director of the Izmir Chamber of Commerce, congratulated Israel on its exhibits. Moshe Alon, Israeli Charge d'Affaires here, announced that, since the 1950 Israel-Turkey commercial agreement was signed, the total trade between the two countries has "exceeded hopes," amounting to \$22,000,000.

ISRAEL REJECTS U. S. PLAN FOR ESTABLISHING COMMERCIAL RADIO NETWORK

JERUSALEM, Aug. 22. (JTA) -- Plans for licensing of a commercial radio network in this country, to parallel the government-owned Voice of Israel, were rejected by the Cabinet today despite earlier approval by Joseph Burg, Minister of Posts and Telegraph, and several other members of the Cabinet.

The proposal for establishment of a commercial radio set-up, made by American companies which had held out to the government promises of sizable revenue from such licensing, was opposed by the Cabinet as a whole on the grounds that commercial radio would operate outside government control. Voice of Israel is under control of a special Advisory Council comprised of representatives of all sectors and groups in the Israel population.

28-MAN DELEGATION OF U. S. TEAMSTERS' UNION HONORED IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 22. (JTA) -- Gratitude for American labor's "unswerving support and constant sympathy for Jewish endeavors in Israel" was expressed here today by members of the Israel Cabinet who greeted a 28-man delegation of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Ghauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America.

The delegation, headed by one of the teamsters' union's top leaders, Vice-President James Hoffa, of Detroit, is here on a seven-day visit. The highlight of the visit will be the cornerstone laying for a new children's home at Beith Hakerem toward which \$270,000 was collected in Hoffa's honor in Detroit last April.

Greeting the American labor representatives at a reception here were Foreign Minister Golda Meir, Labor Minister Mordecai Namir, and the mayor of this city, Gershon Agron. Last night, Mayor Agron was host at a dinner to the labor guests who were greeted, among others, by Minister of Justice Pinhas Rosen and E. C. Martinson, labor attache of the United States embassy here.