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AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES POLICY ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

NEW YORK, April 24. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee today concluded its three-day annual meeting here with a resolution urging that candidates in the forthcoming Presidential elections should not be considered on the basis of their religion, but "on the basis of their individual qualifications and their individual positions on all public issues of concern to the American people." Herbert B. Ehrmann, of Boston, was re-elected president of the organization for a second term.

In a major address last night, Mr. Ehrmann said that United States policy is "unintentionally postponing the possibility of real peace" in the Middle East. He described the Middle East as an area where "armed conflict could start a world war."

At the same time, Mr. Ehrmann praised the United States Government for its "genuine friendship and aid" for the whole Middle East region, particularly its generous help to Israel. He added that the relationship between the U.S. and Israel is "firmly established upon the basis of friendship and understanding." However, he stressed that the U.S. Congress and the United Nations Secretary General have "in one way or another indicated a belief that our government has not fully used its prestige and power in the pursuit of peace in the Middle East."

Noting that the "hostile acts" by Arab states against Israel had been publicly disapproved by the United States, Mr. Ehrmann said, nevertheless, in various Government departments and affiliated agencies, "there appears to be an acceptance of these illegal acts." The acts, he held, have "encouraged more and bolder steps toward an ultimate and perhaps violent conclusion."

He cited the refusal of Arab nations to permit the loading or unloading of American cargo at an Arab port if the ship had stopped at an Israeli port. He called attention to the World Bank's grant of \$50,000,000 to the United Arab Republic to improve the Suez Canal despite the refusal to open the "canal to vessels of non-Israeli registry, which have loaded at an Israeli port."

The AJC president, in a dramatic appeal to the Arab world, urged Arab leaders to "break out of the prison of your own propaganda and lead your people toward a life in which their energies and their spirits will be released for creative effort." Pointing out that "Arabs and Jews have lived together for centuries in peace," Mr. Ehrmann said that Israel and the Arab countries "have more in common with one another" than the emotion which now separates them.

Ehrmann Reports on Mistreatment of Jews in the Soviet Union

Mr. Ehrmann also dwelt on the mistreatment of Jews in the Soviet Union and on the dangers of the resurgence of neo-Nazism in Germany. He stressed that the problem in Germany is "not merely a matter of anti-Semitism" but of educating the Germans of all ages "by all available means" to become emotionally attached to the principles of democracy.

Jacob Blaustein, honorary AJC president, who recently returned from the Middle East, said that "the danger of Communist penetration is still one of the essential factors in the Middle East." He pointed out that "The Aswan Dam is being built by the Soviet Union, and large quantities of arms of highest quality, including submarines and jet planes, are being supplied at very low prices with very long deferred payment terms. Hundreds of Egyptian army men are being trained in Soviet military academies and in Egypt."

Mr. Blaustein warned that in the face of Soviet aid to the Arab countries, "Israel's military position may be declining." He asserted that "it is in the interests not only of Israel, but the West and the peace of the world" that the military status quo in the Middle East be maintained as a pre-requisite to peace in the region.

Dr. Slawson Sees 1960's Fraught with Tensions in Intergroup Relations

Dr. John Slawson, executive vice-president of the American Jewish Committee, predicted that the 1960's would be fraught with "tensions in intergroup relations, particularly in our urban life." He said this would be caused by "profound changes in population-size and composition, in mobility of people both geographically and economically."

Dr. Slawson, an authority on intergroup relations, particularly warned about a new form of social tension which could emerge in the so-called "golden" or "affluent"

sixties. He described these tensions as "status panic." He said this situation arises when "upward economic mobility brings forth a competition within middle-class groups for social status."

Status striving and "status panic," he said, is marked by a tendency to exclude the "other fellow" in order to enhance one's own status. He foresaw an intense and bitter struggle with respect to "residential areas and discrimination in private housing."

Irving M. Engel, honorary AJC president, stated that "Seven hundred episodes of anti-religious vandalism" were reported in the United States since the first of this year. "They point up a dangerous and severe problem of juvenile alienation in this country," he said. He asserted that the vast majority of those apprehended were young people--between the ages of 15 and 18 years.

Mr. Engel said that the fact that these young Americans could associate themselves with "manifestations of a philosophy as repugnant as Nazism is a frightening commentary on the maladjustment of some segments of American youth."

'CLEOPATRA' MAY LEAVE N.Y. HARBOR WITH CARGO UNTOUCHED; PICKETING CONTINUES

NEW YORK, April 24. (JTA) -- The possibility that the Egyptian ship, Cleopatra, would have to leave the New York harbor with its cargo not unloaded was seen here today as the result of the federal court's refusal yesterday for the second time, to issue an injunction barring the picketing of the United Arab Republic vessel.

Picketing of the ship by members of the Seafarers' International Union continued today after a temporary injunction was denied yesterday by U.S. District Court Judge Thomas F. Murphy. He ruled that the SIU, which has been picketing the ship since its arrival here from Alexandria on April 13, was engaged in a bona fide "labor dispute" rather than political action. Last week, in the same court, Judge Edward Weinfeld denied a motion for a restraining order against the picketing.

The SIU is picketing the ship in protest against UAR blacklisting of American ships which trade with Israel. The union maintains that the UAR's blacklisting operations rob American sailors of jobs. The International Longshoremen's Association refused to allow its members to unload the Cleopatra's cargo while a sister union is picketing.

Judge Murphy's ruling, said Paul Hall, president of the SIU, "is a vindication of our position." "The court recognizes," he stated, "that we are properly protesting the loss of jobs and mistreatment. We have every intention of continuing this action until the situation is corrected."

State Dept. 'Pressure' on Ending of 'Cleopatra' Picketing Deplored

WASHINGTON, April 24. (JTA) -- Members of Congress this weekend deplored "pressure" by the State Department toward ending the picketing of the Egyptian ship Cleopatra in the New York harbor. Congressmen indicated they would raise the issue when Congress acts on forthcoming Mutual Security legislation.

A statement by a State Department spokesman has said the picketing is "embarrassing." He asserted that "from the viewpoint of foreign policy, it should be made clear that the picketing is regarded abroad as a political demonstration related to the United Arab Republic restrictions against Israel."

According to the State Department, "an effort by a private group to apply pressure publicly with a view to bringing about shifts in the policies of foreign governments is, of course, embarrassing to the conduct of our Government's foreign relations, and may have unfortunate consequences."

Rep. Seymour Halpern, New York Republican, in a message to Secretary of State Herter yesterday, reminded the Secretary that denial of commercial access to American citizens "because of foreign religious bias was repugnant to American principles." He added that he was "deeply disturbed" by the State Department's reproach to the Seafarers' International Union. "These men are protesting in the only way open to them against a policy which is imperiling their right to exercise their trade," he stressed.

The State Department's "appeasement" of the United Arab Republic, Congressman Halpern declared, give the impression "that America condones the continuation of the immoral and irresponsible economic warfare by the Arab nations in the Middle East."

(In New York, Paul Hall, president of the Seafarers' International Union, which has been conducting the picketing of the Cleopatra, replied to the State Department that the picketing had been begun "only after other efforts to obtain relief for American-flag vessels and crews had been unsuccessful."

(American seamen on ships trading with Israel," he said, "were abused, mistreated and held virtual prisoners" in Egyptian ports, and the "United States Government, beyond expressing disapproval of the boycott, has taken no effective action to protect the American flag in international trade.")

ANTI-JEWISH BIAS SHOWING 'SUBSTANTIAL DECLINE' IN FLORIDA HOTELS

NEW YORK, April 24. (JTA) -- The resort hotels of Florida, once among the nation's most biased, have shown a "healthy and substantial decline" in the practice of religious discrimination, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith reported today. A survey of some 500 hotels conducted by the ADL in Florida in 1953 showed that about 55 percent excluded or did not welcome Jewish patronage. A new study in 1960 established that of 853 hotels and motels found, 100--about 12 percent--discriminated against Jews.

The ADL study of 853 hotels and motels on which it "secured sufficient information for an evaluation of guest acceptance policies covered 30 Florida communities. Of them, 20 had one or more hotels which discriminated against Jews. In ten communities all the hotels surveyed gave equal treatment to the Jewish applicant."

"This improvement was unquestionably the result of vigorous educational work in Florida with community leaders, convention groups and hotel owners themselves, the ADL noted. It said that "the strikingly improved picture" was the result of an improved situation in specific communities. The League emphasized that "the most dramatic change has taken place in Miami Beach. In 1953, 20 percent of the hotels examined in this community barred Jews. In 1957, and now again in 1960, ADL found that about two percent of the surveyed hotels discriminated. More precisely, of 155 hotels examined in Miami Beach in 1960, four were found to discriminate against Jews."

The League's survey presented the following picture in other Florida communities:

Palm Beach: In 1957 one of six hotels examined barred Jews. In 1960, the policies of 38 hotels were tested, showing that five discriminated against Jewish guests. Daytona Beach--In 1957, one of seven hotels surveyed was found to be discriminatory; in 1960, two of 87 appeared to be biased; Hollywood--In 1957, two of 12, or 16 percent, discriminated; 1960, three of 37, or eight percent, prejudiced. Pompano Beach--In 1957, three of six hotels surveyed barred Jews; 1960, eight of 36 practiced anti-Jewish discrimination.

Fort Lauderdale--In 1953 and 1957, the percentage of discriminatory hotels was about 60 percent; in 1960, 30 percent of the hotels examined showed prejudice against Jews. Delray Beach--For some years was touched by local real estate brokers as being "the only city on the East Coast (of Florida) fully restricted to Gentiles." In 1953, the League found that all hotels surveyed in Delray Beach were closed to Jews. In 1957, it found that three out of four hotels examined barred Jews; in 1960, it found that of ten hotels examined, six accepted Jewish guests.

St. Petersburg--Significant changes shown since 1947. In 1953, 25 percent of the hotels surveyed discriminated against Jews; in 1957 and 1960, about 20 percent continued the practice. "But substantial comfort," the League said, "can be derived from the recognition that in 1960, 42 out of 51 hotels in St. Petersburg accept Jewish guests whereas in 1947, only 13 years ago, virtually every hotel in the community barred Jewish guests." Sarasota--In 1953, 50 percent barred Jews; in 1960, one of 44 found to be discriminatory.

MICHIGAN AUTHORITIES START PROBE INTO BIAS OF PROPERTY OWNERS

DETROIT, April 24. (JTA) -- Seventeen persons, including this city's Police Commissioner, Herbert W. Hart, are under subpoena today, and others are expected to be served tomorrow, in a state investigation of charges that racial and religious discrimination is being practiced by property owners in a swank suburban residential area.

The area includes five communities embraced in Grosse Pointe. Those subpoenaed include officers, directors and employees of a real estate brokers' association, a property owners' association, and the overall group known as Grosse Pointe, Inc. According to State Attorney General Paul L. Adams, the Grosse Pointe communities have employed private detectives who use a "point screening" system to rate prospective purchasers of Grosse Pointe Homes.

The detectives rate the prospective buyer on the answers to such questions as: Is his way of living American? What is his occupation? Is it typical of his own race? Are his friends predominantly American or otherwise? Is his complexion swarthy--very, medium, slightly, not at all? Is his name typically American? Typical of his own race? Is his dress neat, slovenly, conservative, flashy? What is his religion? Is his grammar good, fair or poor?

Prospective purchasers, as a whole, need to "pass" only 50 points of the potentially perfect score of 100. However, Jews need to pass on 85 points; southern Europeans need 65 points; Poles must pass with 55 points. Negroes and Orientals cannot "pass" even with 100 points.

The Attorney General's probe of the Grosse Pointe discriminations has been joined by Lawrence E. Gubow, the State's commissioner for corporations and securities. Both officials declared that more subpoenas will be issued in addition to the 17 already served. The brokers' group which is among those charged with bias defended the screening system today by declaring that "it is a plan for keeping the peace, for keeping in check the ill will that can arise over loss of real estate values."

YALE STUDY SHOWS SOME PROTESTANT TEXTBOOKS DISTORT VIEWS ON JEWS

NEW YORK, April 24. (JTA) -- A seven-year self-study of Protestant teaching materials--the first scientific analysis of its kind--has been completed at Yale Divinity School to determine the possible existence of negative and biased references to other religious and ethnic groups.

The Yale study found that some Protestant denominations present positive portrayals of other religions, but that a number of Protestant church school textbooks contained negative and distorted references to other faiths. The Yale study, considered the most thorough survey of its kind ever undertaken, covered more than 120,000 lessons in Protestant religious school texts.

Self-studies of Catholic and Jewish texts, similar to those made by Yale, are currently in progress at St. Louis University, Southern Methodist University and Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning. Major findings of the Yale study recently, were announced here this weekend by the American Jewish Committee which has been a cooperative participant with the institutions of higher learning in developing the religious text studies.

The Yale study was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Bernhard E. Olson whose research was supervised by a faculty committee headed by Dr. Paul Vieth, Herace Bushnell Professor of Christian Nurture. Dr. Olson found a high degree of preoccupation with Judaism in Protestant materials. References to Jews or Judaism ranged from 44 percent of the lessons of one denomination to 66 percent of lessons in another.

Some church texts, the study revealed, refer to Jews and Judaism without distinguishing between Biblical times and the present day. Thus, statements made about some Jews in the first century tend to be carried into the present and applied to all Jews.

The Yale study showed that Protestant materials display a wide range of treatment of those subjects which are most telling in their effect on Jews. In relating the crucifixion, for example, one denomination studied cautioned its students: "Feelings of hate and acts of violence (against the Jew) have a long history. Their roots are deep and widespread."

The text added: "There is one branch among these roots which it is especially important for Christians to discover; and strange as it seems, this branch grew from the Old Story of Salvation. In that great story the Jewish people were accused of having killed the Son of God. Such an accusing attitude toward the Jewish people is surely not a fitting part of the Christian gospel."

Contrasting Statements on Jews and the Crucifixion Revealed

Nevertheless, 43 percent of the lessons of one denomination and 36 percent of the lessons of another contain variations of the generalization that the Jews crucified Jesus. At the same time, refutation of the charge is also found in all the curricula but one. The contrasting orientation to Jews and Judaism in the four groups studied show that discussions of the crucifixion are not necessarily derogatory of Jews but can be and are positive.

These contrasting treatments were revealed by the Yale study. One lesson directs: "In treating the trial before the governor, present Pilate as an irresolute judge who let himself be led by a bloody mob to condemn the innocent. The Jews' sin was the greater." But the lesson of another denomination cautions the teacher to instruct students "that Pilate was generally a cruel and contemptuous procurator, and one who did not abide by the Roman policy of ruling subject people with some fairness and consideration."

This manual warns: "Help the class to see the turning point--when Pilate's own position was threatened. Be sure it is understood that Pilate had to be persuaded to condemn Jesus. But do not be dogmatic about the reasons for this. For our Gospels do not make it clear exactly why he was reluctant. Doubtless it was in part because of the impact Jesus made upon him. But remember that Pilate was very contemptuous of the Jews, and he may also have held back because he wanted to enjoy his feeling and power over them."

Two interpretations of the same passage in Christian scripture illustrate the radically different treatment accorded by two different denominations. To one group, the cross is a particular judgment upon Israel, and the Jews are labeled "obstinate and faithless" in the lesson comment. However, another denomination interprets the same passage as a revelation of God's grace and judgment upon all mankind, firmly rejecting a narrow, anti-Jewish interpretation.

Even though editors and writers may entertain Christian moral judgments against anti-Semitism, Dr. Olson found, these judgments are not always concretely spelled out, and so lose their effectiveness. Moreover, the texts sometimes discern a "relationship" between the Jews' rejection of Christ and their sufferings. "This may encourage the reader to attempt to justify disabilities visited upon Jews," Dr. Olson stressed.