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U. S. SUPREME COURT RULES RECITAL OF PRAYERS IN SCHOOLS UNCONSTITUTIONAL

WASHINGTON, June 25. (JTA) -- The United States Supreme Court, in a decision of historic importance, today ruled that daily recital of prayers in public schools, even though non-compulsory, was unconstitutional.

The court held that the recital of such prayers in schools financed through public taxation violated the religious freedom guarantees in the Constitution. The decision was handed down in a New York case. It will affect all public schools throughout America.

The Supreme Court's vote was six to one. The court's decision was written by Justice Hugo Black. The dissenter was Justice Potter Stewart. Justices Felix Frankfurter and Byron Black did not participate.

The dispute that the court decided today arose in New Hyde Park, N. Y. in 1958 when the Board of Education voted to have a so-called "Regents Prayer" follow the salute to the flag each morning. After objecting parents filed suit, 16 other parents were allowed to intervene in support of the School Board. The School Board contended the prayer was appropriately "non-sectarian."

The decision ruled that New York school authorities had, in effect, established an official state religion "wholly inconsistent" with the First Amendment. An atmosphere of rapt attention existed in the chamber when the dramatic and momentous decision was handed down.

Parents of children in four schools challenged the prayer. The case was pursued through the courts, leading to today's momentous decision by the Supreme Court. Involved among parents bringing the action were Jews, Unitarians, members of the Ethical Culture Society, and non-believers.

Says State Institutions Must 'Stay Out' of Sanctioning Prayers

In writing the court's decision, Justice Black stressed that "it is neither sacrilege or anti-religious to say that each separate government in this country should stay out of the business of writing or sanctioning official prayers and leave that purely religious action to the people themselves and to those the people choose to look to for religious guidance."

He said it had been argued that to apply the Federal constitution to state or local laws respecting religion in schools would indicate "a hostility toward religion or toward prayer," he declared, "nothing could be more wrong."

Justice Black emphasized that "by using its public school system to encourage recitation of the Regents' Prayers, the State of New York had adopted a practice wholly inconsistent with the establishment clause (of the First Amendment)." He said the court agreed with the contention of the objecting parents that the clause was violated because the prayer "was composed by Governmental officials as part of a governmental program to further religious beliefs." He referred to traditions of American democracy in connection with separation of church and state.

He rebuffed an argument that constitutionality was retained because the children were legally obliged to repeat the prayer orally. He said "the establishment clause, unlike free exercise clause, does not depend upon any showing of direct governmental compulsion and is violated by the enactment of laws which establish an official religion whether the laws operate directly to coerce non-observing individuals or not."

Furthermore, "a direct, coercive pressure" exists when the "power, prestige and official support of Government is placed behind a particular religious belief," said Justice Black. "The establishment clause thus stands as an expression of principle on the part of the founders of our Constitution that religion is too personal, too sacred, too precious to permit its 'unhallowed perversion' by a civil magistrate."

Who does not see that the same authority which can establish Christianity, in exclusion of all other religions, may establish with the same ease any particular sect of Christianity in exclusion of all other sects?" he asked.

ARGENTINE NAZIS KIDNAP JEWISH GIRL; CARVE SWASTIKA ON HER BODY

BUENOS AIRES, June 25. (JTA) -- The DAIA, the representative organization of Argentine Jewry, today sent an appeal to President Jose Maria Guido asking him to take "immediate and effective repressive and preventative action" against "Nazi-Fascist bands" responsible for recent anti-Jewish violence which culminated this weekend in a brutal attack on a Jewish girl by neo-Nazi hoodlums who carved a swastika on her breast with a razor.

The DAIA cited the incident as an example of police laxity in a mounting number of cases of violence against Jews in Argentina. The girl, who was identified as Graciela Narcisca Sirota, 19, a student at the science faculty of Buenos Aires University, was accosted last Thursday by three hoodlums who stepped from an automobile and knocked her unconscious.

When she regained consciousness, she said, she was forced to lie on a table in an unfamiliar room where the hoodlums removed her clothes and carved the swastika on her right breast with a razor. The ruffians also inflicted severe burns on her body with the ends of lighted cigarettes, and told her: "For your guilt, Eichmann was killed."

Miss Sirota, who fainted from the pain of the ordeal, said she later awoke in the street in a suburb of the city. The girl's parents immediately notified the police, but their complaint was not accepted until two days later when a police physician corroborated her story.

In its protest telegram to President Guido, the DAIA declared: "We beg to denounce to Your Excellency this fact of unheard of brutality which follows a series of earlier attacks which were not punished. On the same day," the telegram stated, "a Jewish restaurant was machinegunned for the second time. Earlier acts of vandalism are evidence of the total and intolerable lack of protection" suffered by the Jewish community.

"We request immediate and effective repressive and preventive action against the Nazi-Fascist bands which offend freely human dignity and attempt to destroy democracy and injure irremediably Argentine prestige," the telegram concluded.

RIBICOFF, WARBURG, STONE HONORED AT DINNER; \$750,000 RAISED FOR U. J. A.

NEW YORK, June 25. (JTA) -- Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Abraham A. Ribicoff was honored tonight for his efforts in connection with the resettlement of refugees seeking haven in the United States and other lands of freedom at a testimonial dinner at the Hotel Pierre for the benefit of the current campaign of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York.

In addition to honoring Secretary Ribicoff, the dinner was also the occasion for a tribute to two outstanding leaders in philanthropy--Edward M. M. Warburg, now honorary chairman, and formerly general chairman, of the nationwide United Jewish Appeal, and Dewey D. Stone, a UJA national chairman.

The more than 300 guests at the dinner announced contributions amounting to more than \$750,000 toward this year's general UJA campaign, and to the Opportunity Fund which UJA established to meet an increase in the needs of its beneficiary agencies arising from an upsurge in migration of Jews to Israel, the United States and other democratic countries.

Presiding at the dinner was Murray I. Gurfein, leading New York attorney. The evening's speakers included Monroe Goldwater, president of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York; Edwin Rosenberg, chairman of New York UJA's executive committee, and Jack D. Weiler, a chairman of New York UJA's trustees.

Mr. Goldwater discussed the strains on UJA which result from the drastic increase in current Jewish migration. He cited the situation in France, where at least 30,000 Jews have come from North Africa in the past five months, bringing the total of Jewish refugees for 1961 and 1962 to 50,000. Despite liberal assistance by the French Government and the French Jewish community, the number receiving help from the Joint Distribution Committee has soared to 38,000, twice the figure of a few years ago.

Secretary Ribicoff was presented by Mr. Rosenberg with a Bible printed in Israel and bound in silver by Israeli craftsmen. Its flyleaf bears this inscription: "Presented in appreciation to the Honorable Abraham A. Ribicoff for outstanding devotion to the vital work of assisting refugees to find freedom and security." Messrs. Stone and Warburg were presented by Mr. Gurfein with large silver salvers.

The sum of \$1,000,000 was pledged for the United Jewish Appeal yesterday at the 23rd annual luncheon of the Council of Organizations of the UJA of Greater New York composed of 7,000 landsmanshaften and other groups. A total of \$100,000 was raised in cash at the luncheon which was addressed by Aryeh Pincus, treasurer of the Jewish Agency.

GERMAN JUDGES WHO SERVED IN NAZI COURTS MUST RESIGN THIS WEEK

BONN, June 25. (JTA) -- German judges who served in the Nazi courts must resign before next Saturday or else face dismissal without pension rights. The order to resign follows a law passed in the West German Bundestag a year ago. No precise figures of how many judges are involved have been officially released and estimates vary from 70 to 150. Few of them have shown willingness to resign so far.

N.C.R.A.C. OPPOSES FEDERAL AID TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS; EXPLAINS STAND

CINCINNATI, June 25. (JTA) -- Opposition to providing Federal aid to religiously controlled schools was expressed in a resolution adopted at the 19th plenary conference of the National Community Relations Advisory Council which concluded its sessions here yesterday. The NCRAC is the advisory body of six national Jewish organizations and 62 Jewish community relations councils throughout the country.

"We are persuaded," the resolution stated, "that governmental aid to religiously controlled schools--Protestant, Catholic or Jewish--whether in the form of long-term low interest loans or outright subsidies, would do a grave disservice to both religion and public education. Our opposition to tax assistance extends as well to transportation, textbooks and other supplies. However, we do believe that free lunches and medical and dental services should be extended to all children as welfare aid regardless of the schools they attend."

The conference went on record endorsing the immigration bill introduced by Senator Philip A. Hart, Michigan Democrat, with substantial bipartisan sponsorship. It expressed disappointment that President Kennedy had failed to speak out in support of the bill and urged him to use "the prestige and weight of his office" to support this legislation.

The conference accepted the U. S. Supreme Court ruling upholding the constitutionality of compulsory Sunday observance laws but announced continued opposition to such laws "in the conviction that they violate the principle of religious liberty."

The resolution explained that "we regard as salutary laws affording gainfully employed persons one day of rest in each week, the choice of the day to be so observed being a matter of individual preference. At the very least, where Sunday closing laws exist, they should exempt from their provisions those persons whose religious convictions compel them to observe a day other than Sunday as a religious day of rest."

In another resolution, the conference warned that "the ultra-right must be regarded as threatening to our democratic institutions and social gains." It expressed the conviction, however, that "they and their methods are firmly rejected by an overwhelming majority of the American people." It advised that "a constant vigilance and effective counteraction are essential."

The conference complained that progress toward the goal of full equality for all Americans "is still far too slow." It criticized the Kennedy Administration's "piecemeal approach" in the direct use of the executive power to advance civil rights. The resolution protested the "almost complete inaction" of Congress on the civil rights issue.

As in previous years, the conference adopted a resolution expressing regret that certain national Jewish community relations organizations remain outside the NCRAC and inviting them to rejoin it. The conference went on record in opposition to enactment of libel legislation intended to protect racial, ethnic or religious groups against group libel.

YOUNG ISRAEL ORGANIZATION LEAVES RANKS OF AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

GREENFIELD PARK, N. Y., June 25. (JTA) -- Young Israel, an organization fostering orthodox Judaism among youth and adults and claiming a 125,000 membership, today announced at its Jubilee Convention here that it has left the ranks of the American Jewish Congress.

In making the announcement Rabbi David H. Hill, president of the National Council of Young Israel, told the four hundred delegates "the American Jewish Congress has, time and time again, taken stands which are opposed to Orthodox philosophies." He cited the stand recently taken by the American Jewish Congress on the Shechita Bill and on the Adoption Laws and said that the AJC had blocked the participation of Orthodox Jews at its recent convention by holding it in a non-kosher hotel.

Rabbi Hill claimed that "the American Jewish Congress had turned into a Civil Liberties Union." He emphasized that while Young Israel encouraged the fight for civil liberties, it felt that this work was already being done adequately by numerous other bodies. Rabbi Hill added that the National Council of Young Israel had done all in its power to influence the acts of the American Jewish Congress but to no avail. The organization has been affiliated with the American Jewish Congress for over 15 years.

American Jewish Congress Replies to Young Israel Charges

NEW YORK, June 25. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress issued a statement replying to the charges of Young Israel. Taking issue especially with the charge that the AJC "has turned into a Civil Liberties Union," the statement says:

"We regret the decision of Young Israel to terminate their affiliation with the American Jewish Congress, especially since the reason given for their action misrepresents the character of the Congress. It is not true, as they say, that Congress is merely a 'civil liberties' organization.

"The concern of Congress with problems of civil rights and separation of church and state stems from its deep commitment to the defense of the rights of the Jewish community

and the vital interests of Jews in the preservation of religious liberty. While Young Israel may differ with Congress on a question such as Federal aid to parochial schools, it cannot properly claim that its view must prevail over the democratically arrived at decision of the governing council of the Congress in which Young Israel as well as all other affiliated organizations have been fully represented."

CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS ADOPTS IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS; ELECTS GARBER

TORONTO, June 25. (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish Congress concluded its 13th plenary session here last night with the adoption of a resolution urging maximum efforts to "help alleviate the plight of our brethren in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics." Michael Garber of Montreal was elected president of the organization to succeed Samuel Bronfman who served in the post for the past 23 years. Mr. Bronfman was named chairman of the newly formed board of directors.

The Congress also established a national study commission to explore ways and means of meeting the financial requirements of Jewish day schools in Canada through the development of new sources of revenue. It also called upon the CJC national executive to encourage the establishment of chairs in Yiddish and Hebrew language and culture and Jewish history.

In another resolution on communal responsibility for Jewish education, the CJC called upon "all those communities which do not cover Jewish education in their welfare fund campaigns to establish funds or to include the schools in existing communal fund-raising campaigns."

The CJC reaffirmed "its active opposition to religious education in the public schools in those provinces where public schools exist." It also urged the taking of all steps necessary "to bring about amendments in the criminal code to make it a criminal offense to preach hate mongering, race slaughter or genocide toward any ethnic or religious groups" and that this be done "without infringing on the democratic freedoms of Canadians."

Governor General of Canada, Major General Georges P. Vanier, who opened the plenary session of the Canadian Jewish Congress, told the 700 delegates from all parts of Canada, of the contribution of Canadian Jewry during the past 200 years since the first Jews settled in Canada. Speaking of Israel, the Governor General said: "Before our eyes, in barely a generation, we have seen the realization of a hope which wise men once called chimerical. Such is the fruit of courage and perseverance."

Bronfman Calls Canadian Jewry to Alert Against Assimilation

Samuel Bronfman, who was president of the Canadian Jewish Congress for the past 25 years said in his address that Canadian Jewry must believe implicitly in the need for a complete existence and must realize that there can be no virile and meaningful Jewish life in Canada without authenticity. He referred to the responsibility of Canadian Jewry to show concern for the harassed Jews of Communist countries and of other countries where there are forebodings of further disabilities for Jews.

Mr. Bronfman referred to Canadian Jewry's close ties with Israel and to the contributions made by Canadian Jewry to the Jewish State's economic upbuilding. He enjoined Canadian Jewry to be alert to the eroding influence of assimilationism, which, he said, is paradoxically all the more persuasive in a society, such as the Canadian, where anti-Semitism has abated since the war. "It can be said that emancipation and freedom have threatened the survival of the Jewish people as a religious and cultural entity more than persecution has worked to preserve it."

Saul Hayes, executive vice-president, stressed that the Canadian Jewish community, living in a predominantly Anglo-Saxon culture, and no longer rooted in an East European background, must realize that the future of the Jewish community can no longer be directly related to the culture of the past.

He stated that while the Canadian Jewish community manifests several cultures from various streams of Jewish life, it expresses a single political loyalty which is to Canada. However, the Canadian Jewish community had links with every other Jewish community--most closely with those of the neighboring United States. The spiritual and historic role which the community of Israel played in the life of Canadian Jewry was also stressed by Mr. Hayes.

Other officers elected at the close of the plenary session included Irving Oelbaum of Toronto, chairman of the national executive; and the following vice-presidents: Harold Lande of Montreal, Jacob Finkelman of Toronto, Saul Cherniack of Winnipeg and M. Cohen of Vancouver. Samuel Harvey of Montreal was elected treasurer and David Slater of Winnipeg, secretary.

LAWRENCE WIEN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF N. Y. JEWISH FEDERATION

NEW YORK, June 25. (JTA) -- Lawrence A. Wien was elected president and Irving Mitchell Felt president-elect of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York at a meeting of the organization's board of trustees today. Mr. Felt will succeed to the presidency in June 1963.