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U.S. JEWISH GROUPS LAUD SUPREME COURT BAN ON PRAYERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, June 26. (JTA) -- The historic decision of the United States Supreme Court, barring prayers in the public schools, was greeted today with unanimous acclaim by Jewish organizations, criticism from Catholic spokesmen and a mixed reaction from the Protestant community.

The Synagogue Council of America, coordinating body of Reform, Conservative and Orthodox rabbinical and congregational organizations, in a statement issued by its president, Dr. Julius Mark, senior rabbi of Temple Emanu-El, New York, emphasized that it has consistently opposed prayers in the public schools.

"It has been our belief that prayer of any sort should be fostered in the home, church and synagogue and that public institutions such as the public school should be free of such sectarian practices," the statement said. "We have further held to the belief that prayer of 'common core' can only lead to a watering down of all that is spiritually meaningful in every religious faith. We therefore are encouraged by the language and decision of the Supreme Court in making it eminently clear that one can be committed to a specific religion and at the same time be careful not to impose his religious beliefs on those who may not believe as we do.

"Deeply mindful of what the separation of church and state has meant and means for the unfettered development of religion and the enrichment of democracy and as religionists dedicated with heart and hand to the service of God and our fellow man, we welcome the decision of the United States. This decision is a challenge to all religiously minded people, clergy and laymen alike, to redouble their efforts in spiritualizing the homes of America. Religion becomes meaningful not only when it is taught in churches and synagogues but when it is practiced daily in the homes," the Synagogue Council statement concluded.

The New York Board of Rabbis, representing the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbinate of Greater New York, lauded the ruling and said "the recitation of prayers in the public schools, which is tantamount to the teaching of prayer, is not in conformity with the spirit of the American concept of the separation of church and state. All the religious groups in this country will best advance their respective faiths by adherence to this principle."

American Jewish Committee, Jewish Congress, A. D. L. Hail Decision

The American Jewish Committee, in a statement from its president, A. M. Sonnabend, declared: "In ruling unconstitutional the prayer sponsored by the Board of Regents in New York public schools, the Supreme Court has affirmed that prayer in our democratic society is a matter for the home, synagogue and church, and not for the state institutions.

"We particularly welcome the court's decision because in the case of the Regents' Prayer, a state agency undertook to evaluate the religious needs of the student population of the public schools and to establish the means of satisfying such needs. This action, in our opinion, disregarded a basic precept of the American Constitution and the American way of life--that there shall be separation of the institutions and functions of the state and church," the statement declared.

The American Jewish Congress termed the decision one "consistent with the prior decisions of the Supreme Court declaring that the Constitution requires the absolute separation of church and state and a secular school system." The statement added that all persons committed to full religious freedom should hail this decision as a great milestone in the struggle for religious freedom. "Leo Pfeffer, general counsel of the organization, said that the decision might lead to the discontinuance of Christmas, Easter, Purim and Chanukah observances in public schools.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith called the ruling "a splendid reaffirmation of a basic American principle. The ruling adds another safeguard for freedom of religion in the United States. It will preserve public schools from involvement in religious conflicts and competition, and will encourage religious education and commitment in the home, church or synagogue."

The National Community Relations Advisory Council, coordinating body of six national Jewish organizations and 62 local community relations councils, noted that the decision of

the Supreme Court followed closely the arguments presented in a brief submitted for the NCRAC and the Synagogue Council of America. The brief had argued that "the privilege of non-participation by pupils in prayer is, by reason of the nature of the public school system and of children, illusory rather than real" and that, in any case, the practice infringes on the First Amendment's ban on laws respecting an establishment of religion."

Nearly half of all United States public schools practice Bible reading and about 20 percent of the 35,000 school districts in the United States require some teaching "about religion." A flood of court tests was expected as friends and foes of such practices in public schools set about testing the general impact of the decision, dealing with a New York case, on the country's schools generally.

The text of the banned prayer is: "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence on Thee and we beg Thy blessing upon us, our parents, our teachers and our country."

MASS FLIGHT OF JEWS FROM ALGERIA ASSUMES UNPRECEDENTED PROPORTIONS

PARIS, June 26. (JTA) -- Three planes carrying the entire Jewish population of the Algerian town of Gordaia--about 300 men, women and children--arrived in Marseilles today as part of the growing influx of Jewish refugees from Algeria. Some of the 300 speak only Arabic and arrived in native dress.

At the same time some 4,500 Jews of the Algerian city of Tlemcen left for France today according to a report by General Lennuyeux, French army commander of the area. Jewish circles here estimate that about 15 percent of the thousands of refugees who left Algeria during the last few days were Jews. Sixty-five planes carrying several thousand refugees left Oran with another 2,000 embarking for Marseilles by ship.

An official of the central Jewish welfare agency in France reported today that an estimated 40,000 to 45,000 Jews have been among the Algerians pouring into France in the last few weeks. Julien Samuel, executive director of the Fonds Social Juif Unifie, made the report at the close of a two-day meeting of the Standing Conference on European Jewish Community Services.

(The New York Times reported today from Algiers that some 60,000 of the 280,000 persons leaving Algeria during April, May and June, were Jews, constituting about half of the Jewish population of 125,000 at the end of 1960.)

Dr. Astorre Mayer, of Milan, president of the Standing Conference, reported that Jewish communities of seven European countries had contributed \$150,000 to a joint fund sponsored by the Conference to help Algerian and other North African Jewish refugees. Conference delegates also were told that the Swiss Jewish Federation and the Copenhagen Jewish Community had offered to take care of Algerian Jewish children in summer camps and private homes.

J. D. C. Sends Representative to Algeria; Needs of Refugees Outlined

Charles H. Jordan, director-general of the Joint Distribution Committee, reported on JDC efforts for the refugees, pouring into France. He also reported that a JDC representative had been sent to Algeria to help the remaining Jews there carry on essential communal services which have been badly disrupted. He said the representative's first act was to evacuate 175 children whose families wanted them moved to conditions of safety and to provide on-the-spot care for Jews left without means.

M. Samuel told the Conference meeting that while the Algerian Jewish newcomers would benefit from new French legislation for repatriates, some groups of the Jewish refugees had special and urgent needs which the French Jewish community would have to meet. He discussed the severe material difficulties which the FSJU was facing, including the need to provide temporary lodging for the refugees, care for the children and the aged and special treatment for many social cases.

Other special needs, he reported, were provision of collective housing for aged refugees who had no relatives and for children whose families currently are unable to care for them. He disclosed that, in response to emergency calls, contributions to the welfare agency had increased substantially this year as compared with last year but the funds were far from adequate to cope with the growing dimensions of the refugee influx.

M. Samuel also pointed out that the social problems created by resettlement were particularly acute among the Algerian Jewish refugees "because they have always led a traditional and religious life." For that reason, he said, French Jewry considered the main problems of aid to be in the religious and cultural areas. He said it was considered imperative to provide such facilities as synagogues, religious classes and schools to avert disorganization among the refugees and to speed their integration into French Jewish life.

The French Chief Rabbinate announced that it would launch a special religious fund to enable it to provide for the religious needs of the refugees. The fund plan was announced last night at a conference of French and Algerian consistories and representatives of traditional Jewish organizations. Funds will be used to open new synagogues, afternoon Hebrew schools, courses of Jewish religious instruction and religious institutions in areas of refugee settlement where such facilities and institutions do not exist.

FIRM FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN U.S., ISRAEL STRESSED BY GOLDA MEIR IN KNESSET

JERUSALEM, June 26. (JTA) -- Describing as "baseless," speculation about Israel's relations with the Kennedy Administration, Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, declared in Parliament last night that she had no doubt that the basic relations between Israel and the United States would continue to rest as in previous years on "firm foundations of friendship" and friendly discussion on all matters of common interest.

She said it was only natural that the new Administration should intensify its study of the international problems it faced. Conceding there were differences on some matters, she pointed out that in any appraisal of the Middle East situation it would be "altogether difficult" to assume there could be a complete identity of views between two countries, particularly between countries as different in size and world standing as the United States and Israel.

Mrs. Meir, who made these comments in introducing her Ministry's budget, expressed "regret, astonishment and concern" at the indifference of the great nations to anti-Israel hostility of the Arab countries. She expressed concern that the "flouting" of the United Nations charter by the Arab states and their anti-Israel boycott had not led to "the sharp reaction" they deserved. She referred specifically to the election of Egypt to the UN Security Council and to the UN committee on disarmament.

Foreign Ministry budget estimates have been raised to 36,000,000 pounds (\$12,000,000) for this fiscal year as against a budget of 20,000,000 pounds (\$6,666,666) for the previous year. Mrs. Meir said the budget would make possible increased activities in international cooperation, cultural relations and public relations as well as the needs of a broadening of Israel's representation abroad.

She expressed the hope that an independent Algeria would not be drawn automatically into the Arab "circle of hate and hostility" toward Israel. She added that Israel would be happy "if the independence of Algeria will become the first sign pointing toward a new chapter in Israel-Arab relations." She reiterated Israel's readiness to meet with its Arab neighbors for talks on any issue at any place at any level and without pre-conditions in the "firm convictions" that differences could be peacefully resolved.

ARGENTINE JEWS TO CLOSE STORES IN PROTEST AGAINST ANTI-JEWISH VIOLENCE

BUENOS AIRES, June 26 (JTA) -- The DALA, central representative body of Argentine Jewry, today called upon all Jewish-owned firms and shops in Argentina to close their places of business Thursday afternoon in protest against the recent wave of anti-Jewish violence in reaction to the hanging in Israel of Adolf Eichmann.

The organization yesterday sent a vigorous protest to Argentine President Jose Maria Guido over the latest act of anti-Semitic violence which involved a 19-year-old Jewish girl, Graciela Narcisca Sirota, who was abducted and tortured by three hoodlums who carved a wastika on her breast with a razor. The girl's parents said that the Buenos Aires police waited two days before accepting their complaint on the incident.

The Government today promised to "rigorously repress" such anti-Semitic incidents in the future. In an official statement, the Government said it was "taking cognizance of the savage attack against the young university student, Miss Graciela Narcisca Sirota and expresses its energetic repudiation of this fact as contrary to Argentine tradition." The Government pledged "its resolve to repress with the full rigor of the laws, manifestations of such nature which gravely injure the social body of nations."

Asked if he was satisfied with the Government statement on the anti-Jewish violence, Dr. Isaac Goldenberg, president of the DALA, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency: "We are convinced that a movement of public opinion by all democratic forces in the Western world will possibly eliminate these dangerous ignition points. The Government will be able to resolve the situation only with action, not with words alone. Argentine Jewry will not tolerate the situation of a lack of protection and police passivity. Thursday's half-day stoppage of all Jewish commerce, industry and offices in Argentina will be certain proof of that."

Many outstanding political figures, including the newly designated Interior Minister Dr. Carlos Adrogue, today strongly condemned the attack. Commenting on the incident, Silvano Antander, well known opposition leader, declared: "I am ashamed as an Argentinian."

EX-NAZI OFFICER SENTENCED TO LIFETIME TERM FOR KILLING JEWS

SAARBRUCKEN, W. Germany, June 26. (JTA) -- Kurt Koellner, 54, a former SS officer and Nazi security police officer was sentenced yesterday by the jury court to a lifetime term in prison at hard labor for participating in the killing of Jews in Chortkow, Galicia, during World War II. Some 60 witnesses from Poland, Austria and West Germany testified against him.

IX ROCKWELLITES ARRESTED IN PHILADELPHIA; PICKETED A.D.L. OFFICE

PHILADELPHIA, June 26. (JTA) -- Police today arrested six members of George Rockwell's American Nazi party who were picketing the building here housing the offices of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The arrest took place after a clash developed between the Rockwellites and several of the bystanders. The pickets were carrying placards bearing anti-Jewish slogans.

N. Y. JEWISH FEDERATION ANNOUNCES \$1,000,000 PROJECT FOR JOBS FOR AGED

NEW YORK, June 26. (JTA) -- The Federation of Jewish Philanthropies announced today plans for a joint program with federal and state agencies to demonstrate how local communities can provide job opportunities for disabled persons over 60 who want or need work.

The project will involve expenditures of \$1,000,000 over a five-year period. It is being started in New York City and the Coney Island section of Brooklyn by federal and state officials of vocational rehabilitation agencies in cooperation with the Federation's Employment and Guidance Service, Robert Rau, president of the Federation agency, said.

Abraham Ribicoff, Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in endorsing the project, said: "The Federation of Jewish Philanthropies in cooperation with the Federal Government will be showing the rest of the nation the worthwhile work that can be done by mature but handicapped people who will have been granted their deepest wish--to be allowed to live useful lives. My prediction is that long before the five years are up, people in many other parts of the country will be setting up similar projects."

The project will be financed jointly by the United States Vocational Rehabilitation Office of the HEW department, and the Federation. The object is to mobilize jobless disabled aged persons, through special counseling, job training and placement for a return to jobs in industry. The Federal Government will provide \$750,000, with annual grants of \$150,000. The Federation has pledged annual contributions of \$75,000.

Disabled clients will receive vocational rehabilitation training in workshop facilities created as "field laboratories" for the project in which they will polish old skills and learn new ones in realistic working conditions. The workshops are one phase of the six-phase project.

A pilot group of 200 men and women are currently taking part in the project in the Federation agency's mid-town workshop facilities and at its counseling and job placement headquarters here. Capacities of clients will range from those who can be placed in industry with little or no vocational training to those who cannot work full time but who can benefit from limited work opportunities in the areas in which they live.

All persons will be paid commensurate with their work output. The Federation's agency will be responsible for all aspects of planning and coordination with its interviewers encouraging clients to enter phases consistent with their highest capacities. Those proven to be ready for jobs will be registered for placement. This service includes counseling, planned activity in job hunting and job leads.

YOUNG ISRAEL CONVENTION CLOSES; RABBI HILL RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT

GREENFIELD PARK, N. Y., June 26. (JTA) -- Rabbi David H. Hill was elected today to a second term as president of the National Council of Young Israel at the closing session of the four-day Golden Jubilee of the orthodox group.

The delegates approved a resolution calling for a special committee to study a specific Young Israel program for Israel in addition to its long-time assistance to the Jewish State. In another resolution, the delegates urged an appeal to Mayor Wagner for an Israel Independence Day parade on Fifth Avenue similar to the annual Saint Patrick's Day parade.

DETROITER WINS GEN. MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY IN ISRAEL U.

DETROIT, June 26. (JTA) -- The General S. L. A. Marshall Scholarship of Wayne State University in Detroit in conjunction with Bar-Ilan University of Israel, has been awarded to Jerome M. Kutnick of Detroit, it was announced here today.

The scholarship bearing the name of General S. L. A. Marshall of Birmingham, Michigan, provides tuition, maintenance and transportation for a year's study at Bar-Ilan University for a Student from Wayne State University. The scholarship is honoring General S. L. A. Marshall, the well-known Military Historian, author of "Sinai Campaign." It was established in 1961 by Detroit supporters of Bar-Ilan University.

EPHRAIM LISITSKY, NOTED HEBREW AUTHOR AND EDUCATOR, DIES IN NEW ORLEANS

NEW ORLEANS, June 26 (JTA) -- Ephraim Lisitsky, a prominent Hebrew author and poet and a pioneer in Hebrew education in this country, died here today at the age of 77.

Born in Minsk, Russia, Mr. Lisitsky came to the United States in 1900. Although he earned a degree as a pharmaceutical chemist at the University of Wisconsin, he chose to devote his life to Jewish education and Hebrew literature. He came to New Orleans in 1918 where he reorganized the communal Hebrew School and served as its head for nearly 40 years. During that time, he published ten volumes of poems, essays and translations of English and American classics. In 1959, an English translation of his autobiography, entitled "In the Grip of Cross-Currents," was published in New York.