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## 140 TC APPEAR AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON RELIGION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON, April 23. (JTA) - Rep. Emanuel Celler, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, declared here today he hoped the American public would "think twice" about a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution, which would permit prayers and Bible reading in the public schools.

He made that statement as he opened the second day of hearings on the issue, with 140 proponents and opponents of the constitutional change scheduled to be heard. The issue had been stated yesterday by Rep. Frank J. Becker, New York Republican, proponent of an amendment which, he said, was "designed to guarantee permanently the right to pray and read Holy Scripture in the public schools of our nation."

"This is like an iceberg," said Rep. Celler, in resuming the hearings today. "There are a few simple words on top, but a lot of repercussions underneath." Congressman John V. Lindsey, New York Republican, supported Rep. Celler, saying: "I hope members who seriously question the issue raised here are not going to be charged with being anti-God." Another New Yorker, Rep. Jacob H. Gilbert, Democrat, warned "do not make this seem a battle between the godly and the godless."

Meanwhile, however, proponents of a constitutional change--which would negate the U. S. Supreme Court's ban against school prayers and Bible reading--told the committee that the Constitution must be amended in this manner. Rep. Louis C. Wyman, New Hampshire Republican, conceded under questioning that such a change might result in "slight erosion" of the First Amendment of the Constitution.

### Congressman Threatens to Bypass Judiciary Committee Hearings

Congressman Howard V. Smith, of Virginia, warned the committee that, if it does not approve the proposed Becker amendment, it would be bypassed, with the issue going directly to the floor of the House of Representatives. Rep. Becker has 167 signatures for such a discharge petition now. He would need 218 signatures to take the issue out of the hands of the Judiciary Committee.

Another Congressman, Rep. George Fallon, Maryland Democrat, testifying for the Becker amendment, told the committee he has petitions signed by 40,000 constituents, urging the restoration of the right to pray in public schools. Rep. Charlotte Reid, Republican of Illinois, said in his testimony that the issue is "either we are children of God or not." Rep. J. Edgar Chenoweth, Colorado Republican, said his heavy mail runs 99 to 1 in favor of the Becker move.

The pro-amendment forces were criticized by Rep. William Cahill, New Jersey Republican, who asked why the Becker proposal does not specify that prayers should be non-denominational.

## U. S. JEW COLLAPSES IN GERMAN COURT DESCRIBING NAZI MURDER OF HIS FAMILY

BCGHUM, West Germany, April 23. (JTA) -- Joseph Berger, 49, of Brooklyn, N. Y., collapsed yesterday at a Nazi war crimes trial here from a mild heart attack after describing how Gestapo men shot his wife and father to death and killed his twin daughters by smashing them against a wall in the ghetto in Tarnow, Poland in 1942.

The defendant is Hermann Blache, 63, now a steelworker, who is charged with the killing of 6,100 Jews as Gestapo head of the Tarnow ghetto. After his collapse, Mr. Berger was stretched out on a courtroom bench by a doctor and his second wife. He recovered and continued his testimony.

The Brooklyn Jew testified that the murder of his family occurred during one of the Gestapo "sweeps" through the ghetto which later was converted into a giant camp ringed with barbed wire under the control of Blache. Mr. Berger testified that Blache personally killed inmates.

Speaking directly to the defendant, the Brooklyn survivor said: "I saw you shoot women and children. It was in the big evacuation in 1943. They were dragged out of the wagons and you shot them." Blache jumped up and shouted: "I know nothing about this. The Gestapo did everything." He was challenged by the witness' second wife, Miriam, 49, another Tarnow survivor, who said: "I felt your brutality on my own body. Whenever you were loose in the ghetto, the Jewish watchmen would tell us to hide."

# NAZI CONVICTED FOR KILLING JEWS IN PINSK ESCAPES FROM PRISON

BRUNSWICK, West Germany, April 23. (JTA) -- A convicted Nazi war criminal escaped today from a maximum security prison where he was being held and officials said the disappearance was "a complete mystery."

Hans Walter Zech-Neenwich, 47, was convicted Monday of helping to murder 5,200 Jews in the Nazi-occupied Pinsk Ghetto in Russia. He was sentenced to a four-year prison term and was in jail awaiting the result of an appeal by the prosecution for a stiffer sentence. The prosecution had demanded a life sentence.

The officials said that the former SS cavalry officer broke out of the jail some time during the night and that they had no details of the escape. A blanket dummy was found on his bed.

He had led one of the cavalry squads in carrying out orders from Gestapo chief Heinrich Himmler to find and kill all Jews in the area. He was found innocent of personal participation in the murders and convicted of ordering his men to kill the Jews. He was tried with four other former cavalry men. Three received terms of up to five years and one was acquitted.

# BAVARIAN POLITICAL LEADER FOUND GUILTY OF ANTI-SEMITIC REMARKS

AUGSBERG, West Germany, April 23. (JTA) -- An appeals court in Augsburg has imposed a four-month suspended jail sentence on a former official of the Christian Social Union for making anti-Semitic remarks during a quarrel in his office.

Otto Roesch, 55, lost his job as a Bavarian state insurance official and was arrested after witnesses said he had shouted "The gassing and destruction of the Jews was right." The outburst came during an argument in December 1962 with a fellow official over a charity fund set up by a Jewish-owned Augsburg department store.

Roesch, who had served as chairman of the CSU, the Bavarian branch of Chancellor Erhard's Christian Democratic Union, was tried by a lower Augsburg court which acquitted him last November on grounds of lack of evidence. He had been charged with violating West Germany's law against inciting racial hatred; The decision of the appeals court in effect reversed the lower court acquittal.

# POLISH ENVOY WALKS OUT OF MEETING HONORING WARSAW GHETTO MARTYRS

CHICAGO, April 23. (JTA) -- Ambassador Edward Drozniak, Polish envoy to the United States, walked out demonstratively from a memorial meeting here honoring the martyrs of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, it was reported today in the current issue of The Sentinel, local English-Jewish weekly. More than 2,200 persons attended the meeting, where the Polish Ambassador was one of the speakers.

The Polish diplomat and other Polish officials marched out of the hall in protest against charges that Poles had stood by while the Nazi army was completing preparations to demolish the Warsaw ghetto. The charge was voiced by Herman Shumlin, producer of the controversial play "The Deputy," who was also a speaker at the meeting.

Mr. Shumlin read to the audience an actual statement by Cardinal Hlond which he said was typical of the attitude taken by many Poles during that period, in which the prelate stated that "it is an actual fact that Jews fight against the Catholic Church- they are users, immoral, live by trickery and deceit..." and listed a whole score of anti-Semitic canards.

"At this point," Sentinel editor J.I. Fishbein reported, "the Polish Ambassador to the United States, Edward Drozniak who had spoken previously, began to protest. Mr. Shumlin turned to the audience and asked whether he should stop speaking or continue. Shouts of "go on" and applause resounded through the hall.

"He went on to tell how on the final day of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, the Germans mounted their cannons in preparation for their annihilation of the few houses still standing. Poles by the thousands, in festive attire, stood outside the ghetto walls awaiting the end. At this point, the Polish Ambassador, his wife and their attache rose from their seats on the platform and marched out of the hall."

# VIENNA JEWISH COMMUNITY SEEKS EXTENSION OF TERM FOR NAZI CRIMES

VIENNA, April 23. (JTA) -- An appeal for an extension of the statute of limitations on Nazi crimes committed during Nazi control of Austria was urged by the Vienna Jewish community today in a letter to Justice Minister Christian Broda.

The community asked that the statute be extended on an unlimited basis or at least for another 20 years to permit prosecution of Nazi crimes detected immediately before or after the present expiration date which was fixed last year at June 25, 1965.

# ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT APPOINTS JEW AS ITS NEW AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL

BUENOS AIRES, April 23. (JTA) -- The Argentine Government has appointed a Jew as its new Ambassador to Israel. He is Adolfo Gass, a prominent Buenos Aires attorney. Mr. Gass is expected to take up his post in Israel in the very near future.

## NEGRO YOUTH SENTENCED FOR ATTACKING BROOKLYN YESHIVA STUDENTS

NEW YORK, April 23; (JTA) -- Telephone threats against the city building inspector, Leo Berkman, who made the only arrest in the attack on a Brooklyn Yeshiva Tuesday prompted police today to place a watch on the inspector's home.

The threatening calls followed sentencing of the arrested youth to 18 months in the State Training School. The 15-year-old defendant had been in trouble frequently before and had been on probation since July, it was disclosed in Children's Court during the hearing. He was sentenced by a Negro judge.

Two teachers and some 15 children were roughed up in the attack on the United Lubavitcher Yeshiva in the slum-ridden Bedford-Stuyvesant area. The fighting started during luncheon recess when some 50 Negro boys and girls descended on the yeshiva school yard and began pushing and hitting the pupils.

Mr. Berkman, the inspector, who was driving by, stopped his car and ran to the defense of the children, making a citizen's arrest of the youth, who denied in court that he had anything to do with the fighting. He said he and his wife received today three threatening telephone calls.

### Association for Advancement of Colored People Condemns the Attack

A spokesman for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People condemned the assault as "a tragic and shocking revelation of the corroding effect of racial and religious bias."

The American Jewish Congress in a statement today said "it would be tragic, indeed, if the cordial relations now existing between the responsible elements in the Negro and Jewish communities should be jeopardized by this isolated incident." At the same time the statement expressed "sadness" over the fact that "Negro children, themselves the victims of ugly racial prejudice, should attempt to release their frustration and bitterness on other innocent children."

"This street fight," the AJCongress statement continued, "underlines the necessity for all of us--white and Negro, Christian and Jew--to redouble our efforts to eliminate discrimination and bigotry in our city and our nation. It also imposes a special obligation on Negro leaders to make certain that the noble and effective concepts of peaceful and non-violent demonstrations in the struggle for civil rights are understood by the entire Negro community, including its children."

## U.S. JEWISH COMMUNITIES URGED TO STRENGTHEN ENGLISH-JEWISH PRESS

NEW YORK, April 23; (JTA) -- American Jewish communities and their leaders were admonished here today that unless they assure a strong English-Jewish press and thereby strengthen communications among Jews there will be an increasing cause for concern over the ability of U.S. Jewry to survive.

The warning was made at the convention of the Jewish publishers currently in session here by Philip Slomovitz, editor of the Detroit Jewish News. Referring to the new volume "Intermarriage" by Dr. Albert Gordon and the article in Look magazine, "The Vanishing American Jew," Mr. Slomovitz charged that the lessening Jewish interests are due in great measure to a lack of knowledge about the Jewish position in the world occasioned by limited communication.

He told the convention of the American Jewish Press Association that in only a very few communities are there flourishing English-Jewish papers that can reach all ages of Jewish readers and that the lack of interest in the Jewish press by Jewish national movements is the most detrimental aspect of present-day Jewish experience.

Mr. Slomovitz said that an optimistic occurrence is the increasing interest now being shown in the work of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency which he described as a most vital factor in Jewish survival efforts. Morris Janoff of Jersey City, president of the American Jewish Press Association, is presiding at the sessions.

Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, chairman of the Jewish Agency American Section, addressed the meeting of the Association. She reported on the Actions Committee meetings in Jerusalem and gave a picture of Zionism throughout the world today. Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, executive vice-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, was also one of the principal speakers at today's session.

## NOTED ISRAELI AUTHOR HONORED IN NEW YORK AT JEWISH AGENCY RECEPTION

NEW YORK, April 23. (JTA) -- Leading Hebrew and Yiddish writers attended a reception today given by the Jewish Agency-American Section for Hayim Hazaz, noted Hebrew author, who is now in the United States on a lecture tour under the auspices of the Department of Education and Culture of the Jewish Agency. Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, chairman of the American Section, presided. Mr. Hazaz's visit to the United States is under the patronage of President Zalman Shazar.

## PROMINENT CANADIANS RECEIVE ANTI-SEMITIC MATERIAL MAILED IN UNITED STATES

TORONTO, April 23. (JTA) -- Reproductions of a May 1934 issue of Julius Streicher's notoriously anti-Semitic "Der Stuermer," published in Nazi Germany and devoted exclusively to the myth of Jewish ritual murder, have been received through the mail by a number of prominent Canadians, including members of Parliament and leaders of political life in Toronto.

The reproductions, which were sent from return addresses in Birmingham, Ala., contain the headline in German across the front page, "The Jews Are Our Misfortune," and its contents are strewn with reproductions of medieval woodcuts depicting Jews committing various diabolical and murderous acts. David Stanley, a 19-year-old Toronto hate peddler, is believed to be in Birmingham now.

## ISRAELI FREIGHTER, FIRST OF FLEET, JOINS LAKES TRADE IN CANADIAN WATERS

MONTREAL, April 23. (JTA) -- A 7,500-ton Israeli freighter, the Hadar of Haifa, equipped with built-in components recommended by the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, has arrived in Montreal harbor on her maiden voyage, and is expected to be joined by her three new sister ships during the season for a role in the Canadian lakes trade.

Her sister ships, the Etrog, Eshkol and Jaffa, will be identical in construction. The four vessels represent a \$16,000,000 investment by American-Israeli Shipping Company, Ltd. The Hadar's cargo, unloaded in Montreal, included marble, acids, glassware, iron fittings and other general material. Also in the cargo was canned Jaffa orange juice, making its first entry into the Canadian market.

## ISRAEL AMERICAN OIL CORP. CHANGES NAME, REFLECTING DIVERSIFICATION

NEW YORK, April 23. (JTA) -- The Israel-American Oil Corporation announced today that its name has been changed to Isram Corporation, to reflect the company's changing activities as a result of its stepped-up diversification program. The name change was approved at a stockholders meeting, which also voted a reverse stock split of one new share for 15 of the company's old shares. The shares are traded on the American Stock Exchange.

Apart from its oil exploration activities, Isram has helped establish Israel's leading producer of synthetic lubricants and is closely associated with another corporation which processes imported oil drums for re-use. The corporation is also building a low-cost housing project for 1,800 families in Haifa under municipal sponsorship.

## HIAS TOLD ABOUT BRAZILIAN INTEGRATION OF 7,000 JEWISH REFUGEES

NEW YORK, April 23. (JTA) -- More than 7,000 Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe and Egypt, who resettled in Brazil during the past decade, have made a successful readjustment with the aid of the United Hias Service working closely with local Sao Paulo Jewish organizations. This was reported here today by Mrs. Susanna Frank, a prominent member of the Sao Paulo Jewish community, who was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Women's Division of United Hias.

Mrs. Frank said that recent Jewish immigrants who, because of age, illness and lack of skill, cannot secure employment, are employed by the local Sheltered Workshop, which was recently opened in Sao Paulo as a joint project of Hias, the local Council of Jewish Women and the Polyclinic.

## NEW YIDDISH CONCERT TROUPE FORMED IN LENINGRAD; APPROVED BY PUBLIC

LONDON, April 23. (JTA) -- A new Yiddish concert troupe has been formed in Leningrad, according to reports reaching here today from the Soviet Union. The group's performances of Yiddish folk songs and modern Yiddish numbers by Soviet Jewish writers and composers have been extremely successful, according to these reports. Members of the troupe include Meir Braude, Simon Freidenberg and Anna Shevelieva.

At the same time, it was reported that a composition entitled "Jewish Folksongs," by the Soviet composer Dmitri Shostakovich, was included in the program of the Soviet National Music Festival, an annual event which this year took place in the city of Gorki. The festival was dedicated to Shostakovich.

## NEW YORK U. HONORS ISRAELI SCHOLAR, AUTHOR WITH \$1,000 LITERARY AWARD

NEW YORK, April 23. (JTA) -- New York University announced today that Dov Sadan, of Jerusalem, Hebrew writer and scholar, has been awarded the Irving and Bertha Newman Literary prize of the University's Institute of Hebrew Studies. The award carries a prize of \$1,000.

The committee of judges hailed Mr. Sadan, now professor of Yiddish Language and Literature and Hebrew Literature at the Hebrew University, as one of the foremost Hebrew writers making a significant contribution toward the re-evaluation of modern Hebrew Literature. The prize was given to Mr. Sadan's book of essays in literary criticism, "Ben Din L'Chesbon," published in Tel Aviv. Born in Galicia, Mr. Sadan settled in Palestine in 1925. He was editor of the literary supplement of the Hebrew daily, "Davar," for many years.