

daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016 Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXXIX - Fifty-Fifth Year

Tuesday, February 22, 1972

No. 36

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program in New York because they lived outside the designated poverty areas.

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MILITARY EXERCISES INTENDED TO IMPRESS ENEMY WITH ISRAEL'S ARMED MIGHT

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mor and the Air Force. Weapons received during the last year or two are being employed, Gen, Elazar said.

According to the Chief of Staff, the exercises are designed to provide the answers to various operational problems the enemy might pose in the event of renewed hostilities. However, he said, it is important to note that "at a time when we are still threatened by war, this exercise is intended among other things to convey to the enemy the knowledge that their chances of gaining anything from war are next to ill."

ANTI-ISRAEL BANNERS IN PEKING

NEW YORK, Feb. 21 (JTA)—Anti-American and anti-Israel slogans were on display in Peking's buge Tlenamen Square as President Nixon and his entourage drove through this morning, according to the reports of correspondents covering the Nixon visit to China. One slogan said, "We warmly hall the great victories of the three Indochinese (Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam) peoples in their war against US impertalism and for national salvation." Another pledged support to the people of the Arab countries "in their struggle against US impertalism and Zionism."

RABBI MELCHIOR SAYS HE WAS SNUBBED BY ISRAEL'S ASHKENAZIC CHIEF RABBI

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 2l (JTA)--Chief Rabbi Bent Melchior of Denmark said yesterday that he was anubbed by Israel's Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi isser Yehuda Unterman during his visit to Israel last week. Rabbi Melchior said he had specifically requested a meeting with the 86-year-old Unterman to discuss recent allegations in some Orthodox circles in Israel that conversions performed by the Danish Chief Rabbi were not strictly in accordance with halacha, religious law, Rabbi Melchior said he was shunted from one subordinate to another though Unterman knew of his presence in Israel.

On the other hand, Rabbi Melchior said, he was received cordially by the Sephardic Chief Rabbi, Itzhak Nissim, by Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren of Tel Ariv, and by Beersheba's Chief Rabbi M, Kuzlowski. All three "showed understanding" for his position, Rabbi Melchior said. During his visit he was received by President Zalman Shazar at his Jerusalem home.

The Jewish weekly Judisk Orientirung meanwhile sharply criticized israel's Chief Rabbinate for questioning the validity of Rabbi Melohior's conversions. The rabbinate in Jerusalem has no right to interfere in the Danish rabbinate's decisions, the paper said, adding that the Israeli rabbis never even attempted to check the Danish conversions to determine whether or not they compiled fully with halacha. The paper welcomed any Israeli rabbinical delegation that might wish to visit Denmark in that connection.

SLOWDOWN AT PORTS ENDS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 21 (JTA)—The loading of citrus and other cargoes at Haifa and Ashdod was speeded up somewhat today after longshoremen and foremen ended a week-long slowdown that had caused serious congestion at Israel's major seaports at the peak of the citrus export season. But loading operations were not expected to return to normal for another two or three days. The port workers agreed to accept a bonus after the citrus season ends. But they apparently have little chance of realizing the demands that touched off the slowdown—a reduced tax on overtime pay.

JARRING TO VISIT ISRAEL THIS WEEK

JERUSALEM, Feb. 21 (JTA).—United Nations peace emissary Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring will visit here on his own initiative, the Foreign Ministry announced here late tonight. He is expected here tomorrow or Wednesday. Dr. Jarring, who today was at his beadquarters on Cyprus, had been expected to make this move after he went there and not back to UN headquarters in New York at the end of his visit to Egypt last week.

He is expected to confer with Foreign Minister Abba Eban, but not with Premier Golda Meir. In Egypt he mot with Foreign Minister Murad Chaleb, but not with President Anwar Sadat. Dr. Jarr' ge has been andous to renew his 51-month-old peace mission, which has been stalled since last February 8, when Dr. Jarring issued his aide memoire requesting Israel to commit itself to withdrawal to the former international boundary with Egypt.

Israel is expected to reiterate its position that its willing to let Dr. Jarring continue his mission, but without prior conditions. In effect, this would require him to cesse insisting on the Israell commitment he has unsuccessfully sought for more than a year. Plans for the Swedish envoy's visit here were made at a half-hour meeting today on Cyprus between Dr. Jarring and Israell Ambassador Rachamim Timor, on Dr. Jarring's initiative.

FISHER SAYS ISRAEL AND THE U.S. EACH OWED THE OTHER 'A GREAT DEAL' Honored By Bnat Zion

NEW YORK, Feb. 21 (JTA).—Max M, Fisher received the 1972 Baat Zion America-Israel Friendship Gold Medal Award here iast night. The Detroit industrialist who is chairman of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency and president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds was cited for his "foutstanding contributions to the promotion of friendship and good will between the peoples of both countries" at the 4th annual award dinner of Bnal Zion, a national Zionist fraternal order.

The presentation to Fisher was made by the Hon, Herbert Tenzer, national vice president of Bnai Zion and president of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York,

Fisher arrived at the dinner only hours after he returned from Israel where he escorted Henry Ford, head of the Ford Motor Co., and Mrs. Ford on a week-long tour of Israel--their first visit there. In his acceptance remarks, Fisher stressed that both Israel and the United States owed the other "a great eal." Since the emergence of the Jewish State in 1948; "The United States has granted Israel the greatest assistance and the most consistent help," he said; adding that "the support that President Nixon and his administration have given Israel has been paritoularly outstanding."

At the same time, Fisher maintained, Israel has also given something for which America is in her debt. Observing that Israel's presence has been "a serious deterrent to the ambitions of the Soviets to control the Middle East and thereby to control Europe," Fisher added, "I believe that the debt America and the American people owe Israel rests on something more basic and more significant than this. By her very existence—by her forward progress—Israel and her freedom-loving people demonstrate daily that democracy is still a working proposition—and that democratic principles are still vital principles on which to build nations."

In his address, Fisher made a plea for increased support for Israel, particularly to finance the housing and absorption of the influx of Soviet Jews. Another speaker at the Bnai Zion dinner was George Romney, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

GLATSTEIN HONORED POSTHUMOUSLY, CITED AS NATIONAL CULTURAL SPOKESMAN

NEW YORK, Feb. 21 (JTA)—The late Jacob Glatstein, the ceiebrated Yiddish poet, was honored yesterday posthumously with the B'nai B'rith Jewish Heritage Award. The \$1,000 literary prize was accepted by his widow, Fanny Glatstein, who cited the writer as a "national cultural spokesman" whose works helped to preserve "a distinctive Yiddish consciousness." Glatstein was "5 when he died last November.

In presenting the award, Dr. Louis L. Kaplan In presenting the award, Dr. Louis L. Kaplan Baltimore, chairman of the Brail Brithr's Commission on Adult Education Advisory Council, urged the luncheon audience of 300 "hot to let the Yiddiah pertiage of Jacob Glatstein sitp through our fingers." In his tribute, Dr. Kaplan recited "A Farewell to Glatstein," a Yiddish poem written for the occasion by editor and essayist, Eliezer Greenberg.

A companion B'nai B'rtib literary prize of \$500 for a single work of Jewish excellence published in 1971 was presented to Cynthia Ozick, the young author of "The Pagan Rabbi and Other Stories."

KIEV SCENE: 10 JEWS ARRESTED OUTSIDE SYNAGOGUE; 20 ATTACKED BY HOOLIGANS

NEW YORK, Feb. 21 (JTA)—Ten Jews were arrested outside the synagogue in Kiev, the Ukraine, last Saturday after Sabbath services, it was reported today by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. As of last night they had not been released, according to the Conference which did not report a reason for the arrests. Five of the Jews were identified to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency—four from Riga, Latvia, surnamed Feldman, Remnik, Kogan and Boorstein, and one from Moscow.

(Officials of the Chicago Chapter of the American Jewish Committee told the JTA that 20 Jews in Klev, congregating outside the synagogue waiting for services to start last Friday night, were attacked by hooligans who shouted "There should be another Babl Yar." All the Jews were reportedly arrested. Nineteen were released shortly; it was not known why the 20th was being held.) The incident was recounted over the telephone by two Jewish activists in Moscow, Lella Kornfeld and Boris Kogan.

(Kogan also reported that 50 Moscow Jews, mostly lawyers, met with Soviet Interior Minister Nikolai Schelokov last Thursday to ask for emigration permits, but were turned down because they are specialists. In New York, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry said more than 130 Jews from Moscow and Wilna--scientists, doctors, academicians and lawyers--received a similar rebuff Friday from Tichon Mikhailovich Shukayer of the Interior Ministry, assistant chief of administrative management of police, who supervises the ovirs.)

The Conference also reported that the resistance of Jewish political prisoners against repressions has "stiffened." Five prisoners in Camp 17A of the Potma complex in Soviet Mordovia launched a hunger strike Feb. 7 because "fearlier complaints have gone unheeded," the Conference said. The five were joined in a "solidarity strike" Feb. 17 by five prisoners in Camp 7.

A group of Jewish settlers from the US plans to revive the ancient Jewish community at Shafer Amr in the Galilee. Now a Druze village, it was in Biblical times the seat of the Sanhedrin. The last Jews left the village in 1917, moving to Haifa.

JTA Daily News Bulletin SPECIAL JTA ANALYSIS

A SEASON TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

By MURRAY ZUCKOFF, JTA News Editor

Both opponents and supporters of the 840-unit low-income project in Forest Hills, Queens, have displayed a remarkable capacity for talking about Jewish needs in the abstract but copping out on Jewish concerns in the concrete. The Forest Hills affair illustrates a deep split in the Jewish psyche. Opponents of the project express concern for Jews but at the expense of other people. Supporters proclatm concern for other people while relegating Jews to a secondary and incidental place in their schema of bumanism and universalism.

Opponents concerned with retaining the Jewish character of the neighborhood contend that the influx of poor from the city's poverty areas will change the predominately Jewish nature of the community. They believe that they are struggling as and for Jews by campaigning to keep others out of their community. Supporters deny that the Jewish character of the area is threatened by some 2,000 newcomers and state that, in any event, the Jewish concern should be for social justice for all. They see themselves struggling for and as Jews by demonstrating to the non-Jews that the traditional Jewish commitment to justice does not give automatic priority to Jewish concern

Each side is hung up in an identity crisis, or more pointedly, a commitment crisis. Neither side seems able to integrate commitment to Jewish needs and concerns with commitment to social justice. The two elements have become separated from each other and dissolved into abstractions. Supporters are committed to Social Justice. Opponents are committed to a Jewish Neighborhood. (For the purpose of this article opponents of the project who have eliminated the Jewish issue even as a minimal one and have transformed the controversy into a middle-America issue are not considered.

Meanwhile, there are some 10,000 Black Jews in the city, many of whom are triply oppressed and exploited; they are ostractzed by Blacks because they are Jews, they are Ignored by Jews because they are Black, and they are forced to live in intolerable conditions because they are Black, Jews and poor. For years they have struggled, in valn, to move out of the slums of The Bronx and Brocklyn where most of them reside and into Jewish neighborhoods to live as Jews.

No Voice For Black Jews

But not a voice, not a whisper, not a hint has been raised by either the opponents or supporters of the project to the effect that one of the objectives of the project should be to alleviate the miserable conditions of these Black Jews and, indeed, poor white Jews. The supporters of the project are so involved with concern for social experiments such as scatter-site housing and for the needs of the oppressed and poor Blacks that they haven't the time to speak out for the rights of Black Jews. The opponents have been so hung up with keeping Forest Hills exclusively Jewish that they haven't once reflected on the fact that Black Jews are Jews.

Is this concern too narrow or partican? Is this demand too limited and not sufficiently in tune with the larger social issues concerning poor whites and Blacks? Is this an effrontery to middle class white Jews for whom Black Jews reside only in the intersitions of society and Jewish concern?

the opponents actually want to retain the Jewish character of the area why have they kept allent on the issue of the Jewish poor? If the supporters are advocates of social justice for Blacks and the poor, why have they maintained silence on the Black Jews? The opponents, it seems, do not want any poor in Forest Hills - white, Black, Jewish whites or Black Jews. The supporters, it seems, do not care about Black Jews, just Blacks.

The real culprits are not the opponents who say, in effect, that an empty lot is preferable to fai-filled needs, Despite disclaimers, and semantics aside, that is what their stand amounts to. They have, to be sure, claimed that the city administration has offered phony compromises to ease the tensions in the community. Righl! They say the community should have been consulted. Right!
They say that a vibrant community is being destroyed by bureaucratic double talk. Right!

Lip Service Replaces Action

But the fact of the matter is that they have not offered any just and realistic alternatives, certainly not alternatives that involve poor Jews white or Black. They have squandered precious time and energy before against rather than being for

time and energy being against rather than being for. The universalist, humanist and socially conscious Jews are the real oulprits. They are the ones who speak gilbly about the rights of the poor, about the needs of the Jews, about Jewish traditions of social justice. But nowhere have they said publicly that these rights include, let alone focus on, poor Jews – Black and white.

These Jews fight so fervently and speak out so eloquently for the rights of all oppressed peoples but slur over or remain mute on the needs and rights of the Jewish poor, or pay lip service to these needs in press releases and press conferences but not in action, not on picket lines, not in confrontation with the city administration. Like the philosophical idealists who reject apples, oranges and pears because they aren't Fruit, the universalist Jew can't see Jewish needs for Social Issues.

Justice Begins At Home

The real question is why not? Why shouldn't Jews fight for the rights as Jews? Why is it impermissible, shameful or heretical for Jews to fight for Jews who are oppressed and disfranchised? Why must the universalist, humanist Jew fight for the rights of everyone else and only incidentally for Jews? For all other peoples fighting for social justice in an urban society the primal scream is to end oppression for the given group. For the universalist Jews, however, it becomes the primal kyelch of pleading and reassuring non-Jews that Jews really mean no harm when they assert themselves as Jews.

Every social group has realized that the progressive struggle for social justice, for self-determination, for community control begins at home and among those segments of society that are economically oppressed and politically disfranchised. The Blacks fight for Black liberation. The Catholics in Northern Ireland fight for Catholics. The French in Quebec fight for the French and the Basques in Spain for the Basques.

There is a passage in Ecolesiastes which state that there is a season for everything under the sun. Now that State Supreme Court Justice Irving H. Supreme Cou

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TEL AVIV. Feb. 21 (JTA)—Israell armed forces began today large scale military exercises in the Negev and Sinai which Chief of Staff Gen. David Elazar said bluntly were intended in part to impress the enemy with israel's armed might. The exercises are simulating various tactics of defense and attack on the very terrain that a future battle with Egypt may be waged. According to military sources the stress is on coordinated action by infantry, ar-

mor and the Air Force. Weapons received during the last year or two are being employed, Gen, Elazar said.

According to the Chief of Staff, the exercises are designed to provide the answers to various operational problems the enemy might pose in the event of renewed hostilities. However, he said, it is important to note that "at a time when we are still threatened by war, this exercise is intended among other things to convey to the enemy the knowledge that their chances of gaining anything from war are next to ill."

ANTI-ISRAEL BANNERS IN PEKING

NEW YORK, Feb. 21 (JTA)—Anti-American and anti-Israel slogans were on display in Peking's buge Tlenamen Square as President Nixon and his entourage drove through this morning, according to the reports of correspondents covering the Nixon visit to China. One slogan said, "We warmly hall the great victories of the three Indochinese (Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam) peoples in their war against US impertalism and for national salvation." Another pledged support to the people of the Arab countries "in their struggle against US impertalism and Zionism."

RABBI MELCHIOR SAYS HE WAS SNUBBED BY ISRAEL'S ASHKENAZIC CHIEF RABBI

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 2l (JTA)--Chief Rabbi Bent Melchior of Denmark said yesterday that he was anubbed by Israel's Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi isser Yehuda Unterman during his visit to Israel last week. Rabbi Melchior said he had specifically requested a meeting with the 86-year-old Unterman to discuss recent allegations in some Orthodox circles in Israel that conversions performed by the Danish Chief Rabbi were not strictly in accordance with halacha, religious law, Rabbi Melchior said he was shunted from one subordinate to another though Unterman knew of his presence in Israel.

On the other hand, Rabbi Melchior said, he was received cordially by the Sephardic Chief Rabbi, Itzhak Nissim, by Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren of Tel Ariv, and by Beersheba's Chief Rabbi M, Kuzlowski. All three "showed understanding" for his position, Rabbi Melchior said. During his visit he was received by President Zalman Shazar at his Jerusalem home.

The Jewish weekly Judisk Orientirung meanwhile sharply criticized israel's Chief Rabbinate for questioning the validity of Rabbi Melohior's conversions. The rabbinate in Jerusalem has no right to interfere in the Danish rabbinate's decisions, the paper said, adding that the Israeli rabbis never even attempted to check the Danish conversions to determine whether or not they compiled fully with halacha. The paper welcomed any Israeli rabbinical delegation that might wish to visit Denmark in that connection.

SLOWDOWN AT PORTS ENDS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 21 (JTA)—The loading of citrus and other cargoes at Haifa and Ashdod was speeded up somewhat today after longshoremen and foremen ended a week-long slowdown that had caused serious congestion at Israel's major seaports at the peak of the citrus export season. But loading operations were not expected to return to normal for another two or three days. The port workers agreed to accept a bonus after the citrus season ends. But they apparently have little chance of realizing the demands that touched off the slowdown—a reduced tax on overtime pay.

JARRING TO VISIT ISRAEL THIS WEEK

JERUSALEM, Feb. 21 (JTA).—United Nations peace emissary Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring will visit here on his own initiative, the Foreign Ministry announced here late tonight. He is expected here tomorrow or Wednesday. Dr. Jarring, who today was at his beadquarters on Cyprus, had been expected to make this move after he went there and not back to UN headquarters in New York at the end of his visit to Egypt last week.

He is expected to confer with Foreign Minister Abba Eban, but not with Premier Golda Meir. In Egypt he mot with Foreign Minister Murad Chaleb, but not with President Anwar Sadat. Dr. Jarr' ge has been andous to renew his 51-month-old peace mission, which has been stalled since last February 8, when Dr. Jarring issued his aide memoire requesting Israel to commit itself to withdrawal to the former international boundary with Egypt.

Israel is expected to reiterate its position that its willing to let Dr. Jarring continue his mission, but without prior conditions. In effect, this would require him to cesse insisting on the Israell commitment he has unsuccessfully sought for more than a year. Plans for the Swedish envoy's visit here were made at a half-hour meeting today on Cyprus between Dr. Jarring and Israell Ambassador Rachamim Timor, on Dr. Jarring's initiative.

FISHER SAYS ISRAEL AND THE U.S. EACH OWED THE OTHER 'A GREAT DEAL' Honored By Bnat Zion

NEW YORK, Feb. 21 (JTA).—Max M, Fisher received the 1972 Baat Zion America-Israel Friendship Gold Medal Award here iast night. The Detroit industrialist who is chairman of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency and president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds was cited for his "foutstanding contributions to the promotion of friendship and good will between the peoples of both countries" at the 4th annual award dinner of Bnal Zion, a national Zionist fraternal order.

The presentation to Fisher was made by the Hon, Herbert Tenzer, national vice president of Bnai Zion and president of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York,

Fisher arrived at the dinner only hours after he returned from Israel where he escorted Henry Ford, head of the Ford Motor Co., and Mrs. Ford on a week-long tour of Israel--their first visit there. In his acceptance remarks, Fisher stressed that both Israel and the United States owed the other "a great eal." Since the emergence of the Jewish State in 1948; "The United States has granted Israel the greatest assistance and the most consistent help," he said; adding that "the support that President Nixon and his administration have given Israel has been paritoularly outstanding."

At the same time, Fisher maintained, Israel has also given something for which America is in her debt. Observing that Israel's presence has been "a serious deterrent to the ambitions of the Soviets to control the Middle East and thereby to control Europe," Fisher added, "I believe that the debt America and the American people owe Israel rests on something more basic and more significant than this. By her very existence—by her forward progress—Israel and her freedom-loving people demonstrate daily that democracy is still a working proposition—and that democratic principles are still vital principles on which to build nations."

In his address, Fisher made a plea for increased support for Israel, particularly to finance the housing and absorption of the influx of Soviet Jews. Another speaker at the Bnai Zion dinner was George Romney, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

GLATSTEIN HONORED POSTHUMOUSLY, CITED AS NATIONAL CULTURAL SPOKESMAN

NEW YORK, Feb. 21 (JTA)—The late Jacob Glatstein, the ceiebrated Yiddish poet, was honored yesterday posthumously with the B'nai B'rith Jewish Heritage Award. The \$1,000 literary prize was accepted by his widow, Fanny Glatstein, who cited the writer as a "national cultural spokesman" whose works helped to preserve "a distinctive Yiddish consciousness." Glatstein was "5 when he died last November.

In presenting the award, Dr. Louis L. Kaplan In presenting the award, Dr. Louis L. Kaplan Baltimore, chairman of the Brail Brithr's Commission on Adult Education Advisory Council, urged the luncheon audience of 300 "hot to let the Yiddiah pertiage of Jacob Glatstein sitp through our fingers." In his tribute, Dr. Kaplan recited "A Farewell to Glatstein," a Yiddish poem written for the occasion by editor and essayist, Eliezer Greenberg.

A companion B'nai B'rtib literary prize of \$500 for a single work of Jewish excellence published in 1971 was presented to Cynthia Ozick, the young author of "The Pagan Rabbi and Other Stories."

KIEV SCENE: 10 JEWS ARRESTED OUTSIDE SYNAGOGUE; 20 ATTACKED BY HOOLIGANS

NEW YORK, Feb. 21 (JTA)—Ten Jews were arrested outside the synagogue in Kiev, the Ukraine, last Saturday after Sabbath services, it was reported today by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. As of last night they had not been released, according to the Conference which did not report a reason for the arrests. Five of the Jews were identified to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency—four from Riga, Latvia, surnamed Feldman, Remnik, Kogan and Boorstein, and one from Moscow.

(Officials of the Chicago Chapter of the American Jewish Committee told the JTA that 20 Jews in Klev, congregating outside the synagogue waiting for services to start last Friday night, were attacked by hooligans who shouted "There should be another Babl Yar." All the Jews were reportedly arrested. Nineteen were released shortly; it was not known why the 20th was being held.) The incident was recounted over the telephone by two Jewish activists in Moscow, Lella Kornfeld and Boris Kogan.

(Kogan also reported that 50 Moscow Jews, mostly lawyers, met with Soviet Interior Minister Nikolai Schelokov last Thursday to ask for emigration permits, but were turned down because they are specialists. In New York, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry said more than 130 Jews from Moscow and Wilna--scientists, doctors, academicians and lawyers--received a similar rebuff Friday from Tichon Mikhailovich Shukayer of the Interior Ministry, assistant chief of administrative management of police, who supervises the ovirs.)

The Conference also reported that the resistance of Jewish political prisoners against repressions has "stiffened." Five prisoners in Camp 17A of the Potma complex in Soviet Mordovia launched a hunger strike Feb. 7 because "fearlier complaints have gone unheeded," the Conference said. The five were joined in a "solidarity strike" Feb. 17 by five prisoners in Camp 7.

A group of Jewish settlers from the US plans to revive the ancient Jewish community at Shafer Amr in the Galilee. Now a Druze village, it was in Biblical times the seat of the Sanhedrin. The last Jews left the village in 1917, moving to Haifa.

JTA Daily News Bulletin SPECIAL JTA ANALYSIS

A SEASON TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

By MURRAY ZUCKOFF, JTA News Editor

Both opponents and supporters of the 840-unit low-income project in Forest Hills, Queens, have displayed a remarkable capacity for talking about Jewish needs in the abstract but copping out on Jewish concerns in the concrete. The Forest Hills affair illustrates a deep split in the Jewish psyche. Opponents of the project express concern for Jews but at the expense of other people. Supporters proclatm concern for other people while relegating Jews to a secondary and incidental place in their schema of bumanism and universalism.

Opponents concerned with retaining the Jewish character of the neighborhood contend that the influx of poor from the city's poverty areas will change the predominately Jewish nature of the community. They believe that they are struggling as and for Jews by campaigning to keep others out of their community. Supporters deny that the Jewish character of the area is threatened by some 2,000 newcomers and state that, in any event, the Jewish concern should be for social justice for all. They see themselves struggling for and as Jews by demonstrating to the non-Jews that the traditional Jewish commitment to justice does not give automatic priority to Jewish concern

Each side is hung up in an identity crisis, or more pointedly, a commitment crisis. Neither side seems able to integrate commitment to Jewish needs and concerns with commitment to social justice. The two elements have become separated from each other and dissolved into abstractions. Supporters are committed to Social Justice. Opponents are committed to a Jewish Neighborhood. (For the purpose of this article opponents of the project who have eliminated the Jewish issue even as a minimal one and have transformed the controversy into a middle-America issue are not considered.

Meanwhile, there are some 10,000 Black Jews in the city, many of whom are triply oppressed and exploited; they are ostractzed by Blacks because they are Jews, they are Ignored by Jews because they are Black, and they are forced to live in intolerable conditions because they are Black, Jews and poor. For years they have struggled, in valn, to move out of the slums of The Bronx and Brocklyn where most of them reside and into Jewish neighborhoods to live as Jews.

No Voice For Black Jews

But not a voice, not a whisper, not a hint has been raised by either the opponents or supporters of the project to the effect that one of the objectives of the project should be to alleviate the miserable conditions of these Black Jews and, indeed, poor white Jews. The supporters of the project are so involved with concern for social experiments such as scatter-site housing and for the needs of the oppressed and poor Blacks that they haven't the time to speak out for the rights of Black Jews. The opponents have been so hung up with keeping Forest Hills exclusively Jewish that they haven't once reflected on the fact that Black Jews are Jews.

Is this concern too narrow or partican? Is this demand too limited and not sufficiently in tune with the larger social issues concerning poor whites and Blacks? Is this an effrontery to middle class white Jews for whom Black Jews reside only in the intersitions of society and Jewish concern?

the opponents actually want to retain the Jewish character of the area why have they kept allent on the issue of the Jewish poor? If the supporters are advocates of social justice for Blacks and the poor, why have they maintained silence on the Black Jews? The opponents, it seems, do not want any poor in Forest Hills - white, Black, Jewish whites or Black Jews. The supporters, it seems, do not care about Black Jews, just Blacks.

The real culprits are not the opponents who say, in effect, that an empty lot is preferable to fai-filled needs, Despite disclaimers, and semantics aside, that is what their stand amounts to. They have, to be sure, claimed that the city administration has offered phony compromises to ease the tensions in the community. Righl! They say the community should have been consulted. Right!
They say that a vibrant community is being destroyed by bureaucratic double talk. Right!

Lip Service Replaces Action

But the fact of the matter is that they have not offered any just and realistic alternatives, certainly not alternatives that involve poor Jews white or Black. They have squandered precious time and energy before against rather than being for

time and energy being against rather than being for. The universalist, humanist and socially conscious Jews are the real oulprits. They are the ones who speak gilbly about the rights of the poor, about the needs of the Jews, about Jewish traditions of social justice. But nowhere have they said publicly that these rights include, let alone focus on, poor Jews – Black and white.

These Jews fight so fervently and speak out so eloquently for the rights of all oppressed peoples but slur over or remain mute on the needs and rights of the Jewish poor, or pay lip service to these needs in press releases and press conferences but not in action, not on picket lines, not in confrontation with the city administration. Like the philosophical idealists who reject apples, oranges and pears because they aren't Fruit, the universalist Jew can't see Jewish needs for Social Issues.

Justice Begins At Home

The real question is why not? Why shouldn't Jews fight for the rights as Jews? Why is it impermissible, shameful or heretical for Jews to fight for Jews who are oppressed and disfranchised? Why must the universalist, humanist Jew fight for the rights of everyone else and only incidentally for Jews? For all other peoples fighting for social justice in an urban society the primal scream is to end oppression for the given group. For the universalist Jews, however, it becomes the primal kyelch of pleading and reassuring non-Jews that Jews really mean no harm when they assert themselves as Jews.

Every social group has realized that the progressive struggle for social justice, for self-determination, for community control begins at home and among those segments of society that are economically oppressed and politically disfranchised. The Blacks fight for Black liberation. The Catholics in Northern Ireland fight for Catholics. The French in Quebec fight for the French and the Basques in Spain for the Basques.

There is a passage in Ecolesiastes which state that there is a season for everything under the sun. Now that State Supreme Court Justice Irving H. Supreme Cou

To commemorate its 60th anniversary, Hadassah is sponsoring an exhibition at the Jewish Museum, N.Y. from Feb. 29 through March 26.