



daily news bulletin

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Friday, March 17, 1972

No. 54

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MEXICO CITY, March 16 (JTA)--Rabbi Dr. Abraham M. Hershberg, president of the Union of Rabbis of Latin America, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that during his recent trip to Chile he had received a promise from President Salvador Allende Gossens "that he will not allow any destruction of the Jewish community." Noting that 7000 Chilean Jews have left the country since Dr. Allende's Marxist regime was installed in Oct. 1970, and that the remaining 30,000 have no spiritual leaders, Rabbi Hershberg commented:

"There is full religious freedom in Chile, but the problem of the Arabs that started to bring in the Middle East problem to Chile has arisen, and they started to threaten the Jewish community of Chile." He was referring to the recent establishment of pro-Arab organizations in that South American country.

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ANTI-POVERTY CHIEF DUCKS ISSUE ON STATE ACTION TO BAN SABBATH ELECTIONS 8 Jewish Groups Hail Assembly Measure

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After an acrimonious debate, the Assembly backed the bill by a vote of 127 to 9. The bill now goes to the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is expected to report it out favorably to the State Senate after what is expected to be another sharp debate. Orthodox Jews, who comprise most of the 250,000 poor Jews in New York City, have complained that the scheduling of the elections for the community corporation boards of Saturdays for most of the city's 26 anti-poverty agencies, has disenfranchised poor Jews.

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The organizations include New York regional and metropolitan chapters and branches of the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Labor Committee, National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs and the New York Board of Rabbis.

Hussein's Plan Totally Unacceptable MRS. MEIR EXCORIATES PROPOSAL AS UNILATERAL, DETRIMENTAL TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir today flatly rejected King Hussein's proposal for a "United Arab Kingdom" comprising the east and west banks of the Jordan. She claimed the plan was not a basis for peace and was detrimental to Israel's interests. While there was no question that Hussein's plan would be turned down by Israel, the sharpness of Mrs. Meir's statement to the Knesset surprised many observers.

She heaped scorn on the Jordanian monarch, observing that his plan "concerns territories which are not under his control" and accused him of pretensions to "crown himself King of Jerusalem" and "ruler of larger expanses of territory than had been under his control even before the Six-Day War. This plan shows that Hussein has not learned his lesson from his defeat," Mrs. Meir said.

The plan was also denounced today by the official Egyptian government newspaper Al Gumbhuriya which called it a blow to Arab unity and predicted a break in diplomatic relations between Cairo and Amman and said that other Arab states might do the same.

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Mrs. Meir's statement won virtually unanimous approval in the Knesset during the debate that followed. All factions except the New Communists joined her in condemning Hussein's plan. By a 44-4 vote with 27 abstentions, the

Knesset tonight took note of Mrs. Meir's statement and reiterated Israel's policy as laid down in the platform of the coalition in 1969: Negotiations without prior conditions and adherence to the cease-fire lines while taking measures to strengthen Israel's security needs.

The larger factions abstaining were Gahal, the Free Center and the State List. The parties of the far left voted against the government. Poalei Agudat Israel voted with the coalition. All Knesset members of Agudat Israel are abroad and the faction did not take part in the debate and vote. Prior to the final vote the coalition split over a Gahal motion consisting of a single sentence asserting Israel's historic right to Eretz Israel. The National Religious Party voted with Gahal for it, but the other coalition factions defeated it.

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Israel, she continued, "will continue in her policy laid down when the cease-fire came into force in 1967. She will fortify as necessary, guided by considerations of security but will be ready at any time for peace talks," Mrs. Meir had a few words of approval for what she described as "recent internal changes in Jordan that led to stability." She spoke of Jordan's decision not to join forces with Egypt and Syria in an "Eastern command" against Israel as a positive step.

HUSSEIN DUE IN WASHINGTON AT END OF MONTH; ISRAELIS SAY U.S. KNEW IN ADVANCE KING'S INTENTION TO ANNOUNCE PLAN Warned Him It Would Jeopardize Peace

WASHINGTON, March 16 (JTA)--The White House announced today that King Hussein will meet with President Nixon on a "private visit" in the near future. It was understood that the monarch will arrive here before the end of the month. There was speculation that Hussein is seeking the support of the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain and France for his plan to establish a united Arab kingdom.

Charles Bray, State Department spokesman, said that the appointments and scheduling of Hussein's visit have not yet been completed. He added, however, that Hussein will meet with Secretary of State William P. Rogers.

Bray declined to comment on Israeli Premier Golda Meir's rejection of Hussein's plan and declined to elaborate on his statement of yesterday in

which he called for a "measured, thoughtful" response to Hussein's "initiative" and noted that "this involves a most delicate relationship, which I won't discuss." Bray also stated yesterday that Hussein's plan had not been discussed between Jordan and the US before Monday. (In Jerusalem, informed sources said the Nixon administration and the State Department had not given their approval to Hussein's federation plan. The sources said the US had known well in advance of Hussein's intention to announce the plan, but had warned the King that any such move at present might jeopardize plans for peace.)

ADL IN COURT ACTION AGAINST ARAB GROUP USING SIMILAR INITIALS

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According to Arnold Forster, ADL's general counsel, the complaint to the New York Supreme Court charges "that the Arab group seeks to exploit the name of ADL by using the phrase 'Anti-Defamation League' which is a key and distinctive identifying part of its name. If the Arab organization is permitted to use its present name, the good will of ADL will be diluted and destroyed."

Samuel Gottlieb, a New York attorney, is acting as ADL's special counsel in this case. Named as defendants in addition to the AADL are Mehdi and Ahmad Keljik, director of public relations for the Arab group. The Arab group has until March 30 to answer the complaint.

FORMER NATO COMMANDER TO RUN FOR PARLIAMENT ON NEO-FASCIST TICKET

ROME, March 16 (JTA)--Declaring that some of his best friends are Israelis, Admiral Gino Birindelli, former commander of NATO forces in southern Europe, announced today that he will run for parliament on the neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI) ticket. His running mates include avowed Fascists, some of whom are accused of the massacre of partisans during World War II.

Asked by newsmen if he didn't think his candidacy on such a ticket would encourage organizers of anti-Semitic activities and propaganda, Birindelli replied that he could not be regarded as a Fascist because the "Six-Day War winner Itzhak Rabin considers me one of his best friends." The Admiral was referring to Gen. Yitzhak Rabin who was Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces during the Six-Day War and is presently Israel's Ambassador to the United States. Birindelli claimed he had the friendship "of other Israeli personalities and of the Jewish people."

NY UJA INAUGURAL DINNER TO LAUNCH 1972 CAMPAIGN FOR \$150 MILLION Jack D. Weiler To Be Honored

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA)--The United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, which has already raised more than \$1 billion in 30 yearly drives since 1942 for aid to needy and endangered Jews overseas, will hold the Inaugural Dinner of its 1972 campaign on March 21. Plans

for the event have been announced by the organization's president, Herbert Tenzer. Shimon Peres, Israel's Minister of Transport and Communications, and Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller will be the principal speakers of the evening.

The dinner will be a testimonial to Jack D. Weiler, communal leader, philanthropist and real estate investor who has been a leading figure in both the New York and nationwide UJA campaigns for a quarter of a century. He will receive the highest honor conferred by the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, the Herbert H. Lehman Memorial Award for "notable humanitarian leadership."

The Inaugural Dinner traditionally marks the start of communitywide campaigning on behalf of the UJA throughout NYC and Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester Counties. The goal of the 1972 drive has been set at \$150 million, largely in response to a drastic increase--to 70,000--in the number of immigrants, including Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union, expected to reach Israel this year. The campaign chairmen are Meshulam Riklis and Laurence A. Tisch.

RA SETS STANDARD OF RABBINIC PRACTICES Prevents 'Heresy Hunting,' Sets Procedure For Imposing Sanctions

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA)--The 72nd annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis, acted this week to end a long-standing impasse under which one or two members of the RA Committee on Law and Standards could prevent the committee from setting standards binding on all members on issues of Jewish religious law, Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, RA executive vice-president, explained today.

In addition to abolishing the right of any one or two law committee members to bar the committee from declaring official and binding standards, Rabbi Kelman said, the resolution "a standard of rabbinic practices consistent with membership in the Rabbinical Assembly" also sets procedures for imposing sanctions on rabbis violating such standards, and establishes safeguards against what some of the 1000 rabbis at the convention, which ended yesterday, called "heresy hunting."

Sanctions range from suspension for varying periods to fines and expulsions, Rabbi Kelman said. He added that the resolution had established, for the first time, "machinery for really gross violations" of standards by RA members. The procedures embodied in the resolution changed the rule requiring unanimity for law committee action to establish a given standard. The new procedure requires 80-percent approval. Unanimity had rarely happened in the past.

The resolution also requires that the 25 law committee members are to be appointed to five-year terms by the president of the RA with the "prior explicit advice and consent" of the RA executive council. No president may appoint more than 12 members. Rabbi Kelman said that the impasse created by the unanimity requirement came to a head with a mass resignation of members of the law committee in Dec. 1970.

Disciplinary Actions Rare

The issue then was whether the Conservative rabbinate should have not only a binding ban against Conservative rabbis officiating at a mixed marriage--which has always been in effect--but also in clarifying such issues as requirements for conversion and whether a rabbi could give a blessing at a mixed marriage performed under other than Conservative auspices.

A committee headed by Rabbi Robert Gordis of

New York was named to study the problem and the law committee was persuaded to reconvene pending the decision at the RA convention this month. Five draft resolutions were submitted to the convention resolutions committee, which met for an entire year on the problem, and boiled the proposals down to three, which were placed on the ballot for convention action.

Under the new provisions, the law committee may declare--by an 80 percent agreement--a particular situation to involve a binding single standard, subject to approval at the next RA convention. Thereafter, a complaint of violation of that approved standard by a member rabbi may be referred to the RA committee on ethical policies. If that committee decides that the rabbi has violated the standard, it may impose any sanction--such as suspension, refusal of placement service, or fine--but not expulsion. An expulsion decision must be ratified at the next RA convention to be effective, Rabbi Kelman said.

He noted that disciplinary actions against RA members have been rare; no more than four or five rabbis have been expelled. There have also been some suspensions and, on occasion, members have quietly resigned from the RA to avoid censure and publicity.

JEWISH WELFARE FUND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SUMMER PROGRAMS IN ISRAEL OFFERED

CHICAGO, March 16 (JTA)--Once again this summer, the Jewish Welfare Fund of Metropolitan Chicago will make scholarships available to Chicago area teenagers to enable them to participate in one of the many study-work programs in Israel which are offered, during the summer, by various Jewish educational institutions and youth organizations in cooperation with the Jewish Agency for Israel. The JWF Summer Scholarship program was initiated in 1971.

The announcement of the 1972 program was made by JWF president Raymond Epstein, who explained that the program is being repeated because of the success of the program in 1971 when 39 students received JWF Summer Scholarships. According to Epstein, the students have been enthusiastic about their 1971 summer experience in Israel. They reported that their stay in Israel had encouraged them to continue their Jewish education and inspired them to a more active commitment to Jewish life.

Epstein, a member of the board of directors of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, stated that the 1972 scholarships are being offered by the JWF to legal residents of Metropolitan Chicago who have reached their 16th birthday and have not yet reached their 20th birthday by July 1, 1972. Those attending a school in the Chicago area, but whose legal residence is elsewhere, are not eligible to apply. Financial need is an important factor and scholarship grants will be made, in varying amounts, based on verifiable financial information supplied by applicants.

Applicants should have evidenced an active interest in Jewish life through involvement in Jewish youth groups, Jewish educational programs or some aspect of Jewish organizational or community activity. Preference will be given to those who have not previously participated in a study-work program in Israel. The Scholarship Fund, in the amount of \$40,000, is administered by the Jewish Education Committee of the Jewish Welfare Fund.

There will be no bulletin March 31 because of Passover.

DR. COHEN URGES GREATER ROLE FOR LAY, RESTRUCTURING OF RABBINATE

RIAMENSHA LAKE, N.Y., March 16 (JTA)—Dr. Gerson D. Cohen, president-elect of the Jewish Theological Seminary, has called for "commitment to the values of Jewish faith and practices with dispassionate research and critical examination of the Jewish past and present," so as to achieve "the resurgence of an autonomous and self-sustaining diaspora tradition on American soil."

Speaking on "The Jewish People in an Age of Revolution" at the 72nd annual convention of the (Conservative) Rabbinical Assembly, which concluded yesterday, Dr. Cohen said that "a new form of religious participation between lay and scholar is taking place," and that "the layman can no longer be a mere passive receiver in the community, but must be granted a role as a creative participant in the religious process of decision-making."

In this connection, he observed that a growing number of women "are assuming roles in Conservative Judaism as members of the Seminary faculty and as influential members in the councils of local communities, thus taking on a new role in the shaping of Jewish tradition." Dr. Cohen proposed a restructuring of the rabbinate to make it professional-oriented, with rabbis specially trained "so they can operate most efficiently as pastor-teacher, scholar, communal worker, researcher, and so on."

He also proposed "new vehicles for lay education from childhood through college"; the granting of "a new and added dignity to Jewish women through the use of halacha as a living process"; "a genuine American Judaism that will generate its own interpretation of the messianic tradition, adapted to modern needs, on the basis of continuing Jewish tradition, one that will synthesize our new culture with our tradition"; and finally, "a Judaism for American Jews that is at home with itself, that will satisfy the educated Jew that is so much a part of our people, a Jewry that can participate in the revolutionary world in which we live."

End Second-Class Citizenship Of Women

The "recognition of women as thinking people" with "the right to vote in their congregations" was urged on the convention by Mrs. Henry N. Rapaport, president of the National Women's League of the United Synagogue of America. "Our 18-year-olds are voting for the President of the United States," she declared. "Our (200,000) Sisterhood women, second-class citizens, have no ballot in all too many of our synagogues."

She said she was "asking for the recognition of the right of capable women to take their places as individuals at the policy- and decision-making levels, as well as in the implementation of the projects and policies determined by--let us face it, gentlemen--undemocratically designated boards of directors with a token place for women." Her audience was all-male, except for rabbis' wives.

Calling the present setup "an abomination," Mrs. Rapaport said "a firm statement giving positive direction" was overdue. "I am not talking about hair length and informal clothes," she went on, "but about relaxed ethical values and permissive sex codes. I believe that we, the people, the members of your congregations, are ready to listen to what only you can tell us. We will welcome clearly defined guides on moral behavior and social responsibility....Gentlemen, we need your strong leadership."

ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY

CHICAGO, March 16 (JTA)—A National Interrelig-

ious Consultation on Soviet Jewry—the first such gathering by Jewish, Protestant, Catholic and Greek Orthodox leaders—will be held here March 18-20 at the Center for Continuing Education of the University of Chicago. The sponsor is the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry, whose honorary national chairman is R. Sargent Shriver, the former Peace Corps director and former ambassador to France. Shriver said the conference would be "of great importance," since "through it we share in shaping the future rather than merely reacting to history."

According to co-chairman Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, interreligious affairs director for the American Jewish Committee, the meeting will be concerned in part with drafting an ecumenical statement on Soviet Jewry for President Nixon before he visits Moscow in May. Mrs. Rita Hauser, US representative on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, will represent the administration at the two-day conference. She and Mayor Charles Evers of Fayette, Miss., will deliver the keynote speeches.

Rabbi Tanenbaum said Mrs. Hauser plans to deliver a policy statement by the administration "on behalf of human rights of Jews and all those in the Soviet Union." He added that the conference's sponsors believe "a prestigious statement (by the consultation) will demonstrate symbolically the emergence of a national consensus on this issue." At a press conference called to announce the meeting, Rabbi Tanenbaum said there are two principal concerns to be discussed—the restrictions on Jews who desire to leave the Soviet Union, and the limitations the USSR imposes on Jewish religious practices.

HATCHER CRITICAL OF BLACK RESOLUTION CALLING FOR DESMANTLING OF ISRAEL

GARY, Ind., March 16 (JTA)—Mayor Richard G. Hatcher criticized as "very unfortunate" yesterday a resolution passed at the National Black Political Convention here earlier this week advocating the "dismantling" of the State of Israel. Suggesting that the resolution was "snuck through," since it was passed by voice vote near the end of the convention with only a few hundred delegates present, the Black Mayor told a news conference that it did not reflect "the sentiments of the majority." He remarked: "I didn't see any strong anti-Israeli sentiments on the floor of the convention."

The text of the resolution was not available to the press. The convention's organizers refused to disclose the contents of the resolution and Hatcher's office said it did not have a copy. His press secretary noted, however, that it was subject to amendment or rejection by the convention's 60-member steering committee, which will publish the texts of various resolutions May 19. The delegates also passed a strong anti-bussing resolution.

47 JEWS DEMAND TO HOLD ULPAN

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA)—Forty-seven Minsk Jews have asked the Soviet authorities to remedy a "crude violation" of Soviet law and initiate evening classes in Hebrew and educate teachers to lead them. They stated that the right to study and teach Hebrew is "not forbidden" by Soviet law and "categorically" protested what they called official harassment of two Jews who unsuccessfully tried to establish an ulpan.



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Samuel Gottlieb, a New York attorney, is acting as ADL's special counsel in this case. Named as defendants in addition to the AADL are Mehdi and Ahmad Keljik, director of public relations for the Arab group. The Arab group has until March 30 to answer the complaint.

FORMER NATO COMMANDER TO RUN FOR PARLIAMENT ON NEO-FASCIST TICKET

ROME, March 16 (JTA)--Declaring that some of his best friends are Israelis, Admiral Gino Birindelli, former commander of NATO forces in southern Europe, announced today that he will run for parliament on the neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI) ticket. His running mates include avowed Fascists, some of whom are accused of the massacre of partisans during World War II.

Asked by newsmen if he didn't think his candidacy on such a ticket would encourage organizers of anti-Semitic activities and propaganda, Birindelli replied that he could not be regarded as a Fascist because the "Six-Day War winner Itzhak Rabin considers me one of his best friends." The Admiral was referring to Gen. Yitzhak Rabin who was Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces during the Six-Day War and is presently Israel's Ambassador to the United States. Birindelli claimed he had the friendship "of other Israeli personalities and of the Jewish people."

NY UJA INAUGURAL DINNER TO LAUNCH 1972 CAMPAIGN FOR \$150 MILLION Jack D. Weiler To Be Honored

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA)--The United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, which has already raised more than \$1 billion in 30 yearly drives since 1942 for aid to needy and endangered Jews overseas, will hold the Inaugural Dinner of its 1972 campaign on March 21. Plans

for the event have been announced by the organization's president, Herbert Tenzer. Shimon Peres, Israel's Minister of Transport and Communications, and Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller will be the principal speakers of the evening.

The dinner will be a testimonial to Jack D. Weiler, communal leader, philanthropist and real estate investor who has been a leading figure in both the New York and nationwide UJA campaigns for a quarter of a century. He will receive the highest honor conferred by the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, the Herbert H. Lehman Memorial Award for "notable humanitarian leadership."

The Inaugural Dinner traditionally marks the start of communitywide campaigning on behalf of the UJA throughout NYC and Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester Counties. The goal of the 1972 drive has been set at \$150 million, largely in response to a drastic increase--to 70,000--in the number of immigrants, including Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union, expected to reach Israel this year. The campaign chairmen are Meshulam Riklis and Laurence A. Tisch.

RA SETS STANDARD OF RABBINIC PRACTICES Prevents 'Heresy Hunting,' Sets Procedure For Imposing Sanctions

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA)--The 72nd annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis, acted this week to end a long-standing impasse under which one or two members of the RA Committee on Law and Standards could prevent the committee from setting standards binding on all members on issues of Jewish religious law, Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, RA executive vice-president, explained today.

In addition to abolishing the right of any one or two law committee members to bar the committee from declaring official and binding standards, Rabbi Kelman said, the resolution "a standard of rabbinic practices consistent with membership in the Rabbinical Assembly" also sets procedures for imposing sanctions on rabbis violating such standards, and establishes safeguards against what some of the 1000 rabbis at the convention, which ended yesterday, called "heresy hunting."

Sanctions range from suspension for varying periods to fines and expulsions, Rabbi Kelman said. He added that the resolution had established, for the first time, "machinery for really gross violations" of standards by RA members. The procedures embodied in the resolution changed the rule requiring unanimity for law committee action to establish a given standard. The new procedure requires 80-percent approval. Unanimity had rarely happened in the past.

The resolution also requires that the 25 law committee members are to be appointed to five-year terms by the president of the RA with the "prior explicit advice and consent" of the RA executive council. No president may appoint more than 12 members. Rabbi Kelman said that the impasse created by the unanimity requirement came to a head with a mass resignation of members of the law committee in Dec. 1970.

Disciplinary Actions Rare

The issue then was whether the Conservative rabbinate should have not only a binding ban against Conservative rabbis officiating at a mixed marriage--which has always been in effect--but also in clarifying such issues as requirements for conversion and whether a rabbi could give a blessing at a mixed marriage performed under other than Conservative auspices.

A committee headed by Rabbi Robert Gordis of

New York was named to study the problem and the law committee was persuaded to reconvene pending the decision at the RA convention this month. Five draft resolutions were submitted to the convention resolutions committee, which met for an entire year on the problem, and boiled the proposals down to three, which were placed on the ballot for convention action.

Under the new provisions, the law committee may declare--by an 80 percent agreement--a particular situation to involve a binding single standard, subject to approval at the next RA convention. Thereafter, a complaint of violation of that approved standard by a member rabbi may be referred to the RA committee on ethical policies. If that committee decides that the rabbi has violated the standard, it may impose any sanction--such as suspension, refusal of placement service, or fine--but not expulsion. An expulsion decision must be ratified at the next RA convention to be effective, Rabbi Kelman said.

He noted that disciplinary actions against RA members have been rare; no more than four or five rabbis have been expelled. There have also been some suspensions and, on occasion, members have quietly resigned from the RA to avoid censure and publicity.

JEWISH WELFARE FUND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SUMMER PROGRAMS IN ISRAEL OFFERED

CHICAGO, March 16 (JTA)--Once again this summer, the Jewish Welfare Fund of Metropolitan Chicago will make scholarships available to Chicago area teenagers to enable them to participate in one of the many study-work programs in Israel which are offered, during the summer, by various Jewish educational institutions and youth organizations in cooperation with the Jewish Agency for Israel. The JWF Summer Scholarship program was initiated in 1971.

The announcement of the 1972 program was made by JWF president Raymond Epstein, who explained that the program is being repeated because of the success of the program in 1971 when 39 students received JWF Summer Scholarships. According to Epstein, the students have been enthusiastic about their 1971 summer experience in Israel. They reported that their stay in Israel had encouraged them to continue their Jewish education and inspired them to a more active commitment to Jewish life.

Epstein, a member of the board of directors of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, stated that the 1972 scholarships are being offered by the JWF to legal residents of Metropolitan Chicago who have reached their 16th birthday and have not yet reached their 20th birthday by July 1, 1972. Those attending a school in the Chicago area, but whose legal residence is elsewhere, are not eligible to apply. Financial need is an important factor and scholarship grants will be made, in varying amounts, based on verifiable financial information supplied by applicants.

Applicants should have evidenced an active interest in Jewish life through involvement in Jewish youth groups, Jewish educational programs or some aspect of Jewish organizational or community activity. Preference will be given to those who have not previously participated in a study-work program in Israel. The Scholarship Fund, in the amount of \$40,000, is administered by the Jewish Education Committee of the Jewish Welfare Fund.

There will be no bulletin March 31 because of Passover.

DR. COHEN URGES GREATER ROLE FOR LAY, RESTRUCTURING OF RABBINATE

RIAMENSHA LAKE, N.Y., March 16 (JTA)—Dr. Gerson D. Cohen, president-elect of the Jewish Theological Seminary, has called for "commitment to the values of Jewish faith and practices with dispassionate research and critical examination of the Jewish past and present," so as to achieve "the reemergence of an autonomous and self-sustaining diaspora tradition on American soil."

Speaking on "The Jewish People in an Age of Revolution" at the 72nd annual convention of the (Conservative) Rabbinical Assembly, which concluded yesterday, Dr. Cohen said that "a new form of religious participation between lay and scholar is taking place," and that "the layman can no longer be a mere passive receiver in the community, but must be granted a role as a creative participant in the religious process of decision-making."

In this connection, he observed that a growing number of women "are assuming roles in Conservative Judaism as members of the Seminary faculty and as influential members in the councils of local communities, thus taking on a new role in the shaping of Jewish tradition." Dr. Cohen proposed a restructuring of the rabbinate to make it professional-oriented, with rabbis specially trained "so they can operate most efficiently as pastor-teacher, scholar, communal worker, researcher, and so on."

He also proposed "new vehicles for lay education from childhood through college"; the granting of "a new and added dignity to Jewish women through the use of halacha as a living process"; "a genuine American Judaism that will generate its own interpretation of the messianic tradition, adapted to modern needs, on the basis of continuing Jewish tradition, one that will synthesize our new culture with our tradition"; and finally, "a Judaism for American Jews that is at home with itself, that will satisfy the educated Jew that is so much a part of our people, a Jewry that can participate in the revolutionary world in which we live."

End Second-Class Citizenship Of Women

The "recognition of women as thinking people" with "the right to vote in their congregations" was urged on the convention by Mrs. Henry N. Rapaport, president of the National Women's League of the United Synagogue of America. "Our 18-year-olds are voting for the President of the United States," she declared. "Our (200,000) Sisterhood women, second-class citizens, have no ballot in all too many of our synagogues."

She said she was "asking for the recognition of the right of capable women to take their places as individuals at the policy- and decision-making levels, as well as in the implementation of the projects and policies determined by--let us face it, gentlemen--undemocratically designated boards of directors with a token place for women." Her audience was all-male, except for rabbis' wives.

Calling the present setup "an abomination," Mrs. Rapaport said "a firm statement giving positive direction" was overdue. "I am not talking about hair length and informal clothes," she went on, "but about relaxed ethical values and permissive sex codes. I believe that we, the people, the members of your congregations, are ready to listen to what only you can tell us. We will welcome clearly defined guides on moral behavior and social responsibility....Gentlemen, we need your strong leadership."

ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY

CHICAGO, March 16 (JTA)—A National Interrelig-

ious Consultation on Soviet Jewry—the first such gathering by Jewish, Protestant, Catholic and Greek Orthodox leaders—will be held here March 18-20 at the Center for Continuing Education of the University of Chicago. The sponsor is the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry, whose honorary national chairman is R. Sargent Shriver, the former Peace Corps director and former ambassador to France. Shriver said the conference would be "of great importance," since "through it we share in shaping the future rather than merely reacting to history."

According to co-chairman Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, interreligious affairs director for the American Jewish Committee, the meeting will be concerned in part with drafting an ecumenical statement on Soviet Jewry for President Nixon before he visits Moscow in May. Mrs. Rita Hauser, US representative on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, will represent the administration at the two-day conference. She and Mayor Charles Evers of Fayette, Miss., will deliver the keynote speeches.

Rabbi Tanenbaum said Mrs. Hauser plans to deliver a policy statement by the administration "on behalf of human rights of Jews and all those in the Soviet Union." He added that the conference's sponsors believe "a prestigious statement (by the consultation) will demonstrate symbolically the emergence of a national consensus on this issue." At a press conference called to announce the meeting, Rabbi Tanenbaum said there are two principal concerns to be discussed—the restrictions on Jews who desire to leave the Soviet Union, and the limitations the USSR imposes on Jewish religious practices.

HATCHER CRITICAL OF BLACK RESOLUTION CALLING FOR DESMANTLING OF ISRAEL

GARY, Ind., March 16 (JTA)—Mayor Richard G. Hatcher criticized as "very unfortunate" yesterday a resolution passed at the National Black Political Convention here earlier this week advocating the "dismantling" of the State of Israel. Suggesting that the resolution was "snuck through," since it was passed by voice vote near the end of the convention with only a few hundred delegates present, the Black Mayor told a news conference that it did not reflect "the sentiments of the majority." He remarked: "I didn't see any strong anti-Israeli sentiments on the floor of the convention."

The text of the resolution was not available to the press. The convention's organizers refused to disclose the contents of the resolution and Hatcher's office said it did not have a copy. His press secretary noted, however, that it was subject to amendment or rejection by the convention's 60-member steering committee, which will publish the texts of various resolutions May 19. The delegates also passed a strong anti-bussing resolution.

47 JEWS DEMAND TO HOLD ULPAN

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA)—Forty-seven Minsk Jews have asked the Soviet authorities to remedy a "crude violation" of Soviet law and initiate evening classes in Hebrew and educate teachers to lead them. They stated that the right to study and teach Hebrew is "not forbidden" by Soviet law and "categorically" protested what they called official harassment of two Jews who unsuccessfully tried to establish an ulpan.