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American Jewish Congress, 1930-1934.

## THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

171 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK

## FORMER PRESIDENTS

MAYER SULZBERGER, 1906-1912  
LOUIS MARSHALL, 1912-1929

## OFFICERS

CYRUS ADLER, President  
JULIUS ROSENWALD, Vice-President  
IRVING LEHMAN, Vice-President

MORRIS D. WALDMAN  
Secretary

HARRY SCHNEIDERMAN  
Assistant Secretary



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Philadelphia, Pa.

CYRUS ADLER, Philadelphia, Pa.  
JAMES H. BECKER, Chicago, Ill.  
DAVID M. BRESSLER, New York, N. Y.  
LEO M. BROWN, Mobile, Ala.  
BENJAMIN CARDOZO, New York, N. Y.  
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ELI FRANK, Baltimore, Md.  
MAX J. KOHLER, New York, N. Y.  
HERBERT H. LEHMAN, New York, N. Y.  
IRVING LEHMAN, New York, N. Y.  
JAMES MARSHALL, New York, N. Y.  
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LEWIS L. STRAUSS, New York, N. Y.  
CYRUS L. SULZBERGER, New York, N. Y.  
FELIX M. WARBURG, New York, N. Y.  
MORRIS WOLF, Philadelphia, Pa.

## NEWS LETTER

181

New York, N. Y.—April, 1930

## Brief Account of Some of the Important Matters Dealt With by the Executive Committee Since the Last Annual Meeting

### I. DOMESTIC MATTERS

#### JEWS AND CRIME

When toward the end of 1929, a great deal of discussion was evoked by statements made in the course of a public address by Judge Nathan Cayton of Washington to the effect that Jews furnish a disproportionate number of criminals, the Statistical Department of the Committee at once prepared, on the basis of available statistics, a report covering the number and proportion of Jews in the penal institutions of the State and City of New York, as well as those maintained by counties. This report, which showed that the number of Jews in these institutions was disproportionately low, made it possible for public speakers and the Jewish press to refute the allegations of Judge Cayton on the basis of indisputable official statistics.

#### IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION

These subjects continue to enlist the close attention of the Committee. The Committee has been represented at hearings before the Committees of Immigration and Naturalization of both the House of Representatives and the U. S. Senate in connection with: (a) a proposed legislation for humanizing the operation of existing immigration laws, and (b) in opposition to proposed legislation for the registration of aliens. Other steps to bring about the defeat of the registration proposal, which, in the opinion of the Committee, is bound to lead to the oppression of aliens and even of naturalized and native-born citizens, have also been taken. The Committee has also called the attention of the Department of Labor to the fact that without the warrant of law, applicants for naturalization are being required to state their race. In a memorandum on the subject, which was submitted to the Secretary of Labor at a conference between him and the representatives of the Committee, it was pointed out that information as to an applicant's race may be prejudicial to his rights. The Secretary of Labor declared that if it is a fact that the racial classification of applicants for naturalization is not sanctioned by law, it will be discontinued as soon as the Solicitor of the Department shall have passed upon the question.

#### ANTI-JEWISH MANIFESTATIONS

The Committee has taken action upon a number of complaints of anti-Jewish manifestations. Among these, the most important are briefly described below:

The Committee's attention was called to the fact that the Bradstreet Company was using in certain regions of the country an information blank on which the "racial" extraction of applicants for credit was to be noted and on which investigators were asked to state whether this was "American, Negro, Hebrew, Greek, Italian, etc." The Committee communicated with the officers of the Bradstreet Company who stated that these blanks are no longer official and that the company will see to it that their use is discontinued.

A sustaining member of the Committee reported that, in reply to an inquiry, he had received from the Foster Travel Service a letter stating that a certain hotel in Bermuda "reserved accommodations for Gentiles only." Replying for the Foster and Reynolds Company, to whose attention the offensive character of this statement was called, Ward G. Foster, the President, stated that this assertion was made in direct violation of the rules of the company and that the manager responsible for this violation would be reprimanded.

The Committee also took action in connection with an advertisement appearing in a Miami newspaper, in which, in a list of apartments advertised for rent, several were stated to be for "Gentiles only." A correspondent of the Committee received assurances from the representative of the publishers that all possible steps would be taken to prevent such advertising in the future.

The Committee protested also against the publication in a monthly periodical issued at Jacksonville, Fla., of a virulently anti-Semitic article, and has been informed that the editors have expressed their regret at the incident and have stated that the article in question does not reflect their views and that they will so state in a future issue of the periodical.

Several other complaints were called to the attention of the Committee with regard to which the Committee decided that it was advisable to take no action.

## II. FOREIGN MATTERS

### ROUMANIA

On December 18, 1929, Mr. Charles A. Davila, the Roumanian Minister to the United States called upon Dr. Cyrus Adler, the President of the Committee, and discussed with him the Jewish situation in Roumania. Dr. Adler pointed out that the Jewish Community Law had brought to this country, and also to other countries, reverberations indicating that the large majority of Jews in Roumania were opposed to it. The economic situation of the Jews and the possibilities open to them for obtaining credit were also discussed, as were the recent reports of disorders. Regarding the last topic, Mr. Davila stated that these unpleasant incidents had been provoked by the students' organization and that strong measures, including the use of the military, had been taken by the government to suppress anti-Jewish riots. He also stated that he would inform his government of the feeling which exists in America regarding the Community Law.

### POLAND

A conference on the situation of Poland also took place—this time with Mr. Charles S. Dewey, the financial adviser of the Polish Government. At this conference, the discussion concerned itself almost exclusively with the economic condition of the country as a whole and of the Jewish population in particular.

### SHEHITAH IN BAVARIA

When, on January 29th, the Bavarian Parliament passed a bill requiring the stunning of animals before slaughter, which auto-

matically outlaws Shehitah, the Jewish ritual method of slaughtering animals, German rabbis appealed to the Committee to take such steps as lay in its power to prevent the coming into force of this law, which was scheduled for October 1, 1930. The Executive Committee has taken measures, which, it is hoped, will have favorable results.

### RUSSIA

The situation in Russia has occupied much of the attention of the Executive Committee for years, and more especially during recent months when the intensification of the campaign to suppress religion was reported. The Committee studied this situation with all the earnestness it deserved and took such action, through diplomatic channels, as appeared to give promise of effectiveness. When reports of the arrest of a number of rabbis in Minsk and of their alleged threatened execution were received, correspondents of the Committee in Berlin and London were requested to take all possible steps to prevent the execution. Measures were taken in Berlin and London which happily proved successful.

### OTHER COUNTRIES

The Committee has kept in close touch with conditions not only in the countries already mentioned, but also in other lands, including Germany, Hungary, Italy and the Yemen, in each of which special problems confront the Jews, which require watching. In these matters the Committee continues to enjoy the invaluable cooperation of Jewish organizations, having kindred objects, in other countries.

## III. ORGANIZATION MATTERS

### CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION

Since the Annual Meeting, the President of the Committee has appointed a number of Standing Advisory Committees whose function it will be to study matters referred to it with a view to advising the Executive Committee as to what action, if any, to take. These Standing Advisory Committees are composed of corporate members. There are Committees on Federal Legislation, State Legislation, Immigration and Naturalization, Anti-Jewish Manifestations, Foreign Affairs (with sub-committees on Poland, Central Europe, Russia, Balkan Countries, Baltic Countries), Finance, and Office. Several of these Standing Advisory Committees have already been called upon for their opinion on subjects within their purview, and the results indicate that this system is likely to facilitate the work of the Committee to a great extent.

In view of the recent gradual enlargement of the Committee, the Executive Committee decided that its membership should also be enlarged, and a bill amending the charter of the Committee so as to increase the maximum membership on the Executive Committee from 20 to 30 was recently passed by both Houses of the New York State Legislature and signed by the Governor. The Executive Committee has appointed a sub-committee to make suggestions as to the filling of the resulting openings.

### COOPERATION WITH THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

On January 11th, a conference was held between a committee representing the American Jewish Committee, consisting of Judges Lehman and Stern, Doctor Adler, Mr. Bressler, and the Secretary, with a special committee of the American Jewish Congress, in pursuance of a resolution adopted by the American Jewish Congress recommending the arrangement of such a conference "to the end that sorely needed unity of action with respect to Jewish problems may be effected, and present and potential causes of discord in Jewish life be thus averted."

The conferees agreed to recommend to their respective organizations that the President of the Committee and the President of the Congress, at such times as they feel cooperation may be advisable, shall call upon the other and discuss with him the appointment by both of committees to decide upon a joint policy and to make such arrangements as they can agree upon for joint action, except at such times as the presidents of the two bodies may find it possible to agree upon a joint policy and action without resorting to the appointment of committees. This agreement has been ratified by both organizations.



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WE URGENTLY REQUEST YOU PARTICIPATE IN AMERICAN JEWISH  
CONGRESS SESSION AT WASHINGTON OCTOBER NINETEENTH AND  
TWENTIETH YOUR COUNSEL AND HELP NEEDED=

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AMERICAN JEWISH  
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# AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

122 East 42nd Street, New York

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Cable Address: "Congress"

Abraham H. Cohen, *Executive Director*

March 17, 1932.

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*President*  
Bernard S. Deutsch

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Mrs. Archibald Silverman

Baruch Zuckerman

*Chairman Administrative Committee*  
Nathan D. Perlman

*Chairman Executive Committee*  
Joseph Tenenbaum

*Treasurer*  
Jacob Leichtman

*Director Research and Publication*  
Bernard G. Richards

*Director Field Activities*  
Baruch Zuckerman

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I hope that we may be favored with your help in the matter of obtaining support from the Jewish Welfare Federation of Cleveland for the work of the Congress. We have addressed a communication to the President and Director of the Federation and we are counting on you to press this matter forward.

I suppose you have heard of our recent re-organization. It may interest you to read the attached minutes of the last two meetings of our Administrative Committee, which will indicate to you better than I can describe the new vitality which is now motivating the Congress.

We will all appreciate your help.

Very sincerely yours,

President.

BSD:LS  
Enc.

PRELIMINARY CLEVELAND COMMITTEE

A M E R I C A N   J E W I S H   C O N G R E S S

844 Standard Bank Building  
CLEVELAND.

May 14, 1932.

Dear Friend:

By request of the American Jewish Congress, a Preliminary Conference of representatives of Jewish Organizations and Institutions of this city is being called for Thursday, May 26th, at 8:00 o'clock, P. M., at the Cleveland Jewish Center. The purpose of this meeting will be the organization of a Central Committee which shall represent the Jewish Community of Cleveland, as an affiliated group of the American Jewish Congress.

At this Conference plans will be made to select Delegates to represent Cleveland at the sessions of the forthcoming Congress, to be held at the end of June.

Baruch Zuckerman, one of the outstanding leaders of the American Jewish Congress in this country, will be our guest. He will tell of the Special Committee of Economists appointed by the Congress, who have been making a survey of the economic situation of the Jews in this country, and the extent of the discrimination against our people in various fields of employment. He will also speak of the condition of the Jews in all parts of the world, which will form a part of the agenda of the forthcoming Congress.

Will you please elect or appoint delegates at your next meeting, or if not sufficient time is allowed for a meeting, see that your officers represent your organization, so that you may officially participate in this conference, which may vitally effect the future of the organized Jewish life of this city.

Preliminary Cleveland Committee  
AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS,

*Jennie K. Zwick*  
Chairman.

*J. A. Ashby*  
Secretary

Phone - CHerry 4360

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

122 E. 42nd Street,

New York, N.Y.

C  
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Y

September 8th, 1933

Dear friend :

Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Mrs. Wise will return to New York on September 15th from a two-months trip to Europe, where Dr. Wise conferred with leading foreign statesmen and prominent Jewish leaders with respect to the situation in Germany.

Their return to New York should be the occasion for a well deserved tribute by their fellow-members of the American Jewish Congress. We are, therefore, asking members of our Administrative and Executive Committees, as well as the Women's organization to turn out in a body to greet them at the station when they arrive.

Dr. and Mrs. Wise are returning on the "Empress of Britain" which lands in Quebec and will entrain immediately for New York, arriving at 7.50 A. M. (Daylight Saving time.)

We hope you will make an effort to be present.

Sincerely yours,

S) Bernard S. Deutsch  
President

# AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

122 EAST 42ND STREET, NEW YORK

LEXINGTON 2-5850

*Honorary President*  
STEPHEN S. WISE

*President*  
BERNARD S. DEUTSCH

*Vice-Presidents*  
NATHAN D. PERLMAN  
LOUIS LIPSKY  
SAMUEL MARGOSHES

*Treasurer*  
MAX ROSENFELD

*Chairman Executive  
Committee*  
JOSEPH TENENBAUM

*Cable Address "CONGRESS"*

September 11, 1933.

Dear Friend:

Owing to the uncertainty  
of the hour of Dr. Wise's arrival,  
our plans for a reception at the  
station have been cancelled.

Sincerely yours,

*Bernard S. Deutsch*  
President.

BSD/K.

American Jewish Congress,  
122 East 42nd Street,  
New York City

September 12, 1933

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

An East Side Chapter of the American Jewish Congress will be organized this evening at a meeting of 50 East Side Clubs to be held at 8.30 P.M., at the New Era Club, 274 East Broadway.

The meeting will be addressed by Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum, Chairman of the National Executive Committee of the American Jewish Congress and Z. Tygel, Secretary of the Federation of Polish Jews of America.

The meeting which is being sponsored by Louis S. Posner and Adolph Feldblum will also undertake a program of cooperation in the prosecution of the boycott by the American Jewish Congress.



ABRAHAM KOLLIN  
PRESIDENT

ALBERT A. WOLDMAN  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

CLEVELAND DIVISION

THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

CLEVELAND, OHIO

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
826 STANDARD BANK BUILDING  
CLEVELAND, OHIO  
CHERRY 2311



January 8, 1934.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,  
c/o The Temple,  
East 105th St. & Ansel Road,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The Cleveland Division of the American Jewish Congress has selected you as a member of its executive committee. The selection of course, is tentative due to the fact that you were not present at the meeting.

Before you make your decision concerning this office, will you kindly afford Mr. Abraham Kollin, President of the Cleveland Division, and myself, an opportunity to meet with you to discuss the situation. You will be interested in the contemplated plan of activities and the make-up of the local division of the Congress.

Will you please write or phone me when and where it will be convenient for you to meet with Mr. Kollin and myself. As we are desirous of releasing the names of the committeemen we would appreciate <sup>receiving</sup> your reply as soon as possible.

Cordially yours,

*Albert A. Woldman*

AAW/CC.

January 9, 1934.

Mr. Albert A. Woldman, Exec. Sec'y,  
Cleveland Division,  
The American Jewish Congress,  
828 Standard Bank Building,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Woldman:

Permit me to acknowledge receipt of your kind letter of January 8th. I do not wish to serve as a member of the executive committee of the Cleveland Division of the American Jewish Congress. I have never been identified with the work of the American Jewish Congress.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK

January 29, 1934

## MEMORANDUM OF THE JOINT COUNCIL

(with Enclosures)

The Joint Council, representing the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress and the B'nai Brith, calls your attention herewith to a highly important document, Senate Resolution 154, introduced in the United States Senate by Senator Millard Tydings of Maryland.

This resolution is now before the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and it is not necessary to tell you how important it is to bring the members of the Senate Committee to the realization that the best judgment of America is behind this resolution. This resolution would, if approved by the Committee and adopted by the Senate, provide perhaps the most powerful expression of American opinion that has yet been made on oppression and persecution by Hitlerism.

Support must come not only from Jews. We believe that our Christian neighbors and friends feel just as strongly as we do about the threat to civilization which is inherent in the Hitler regime. Will you not, therefore, see to it that organizations with which you are associated, religious, fraternal, cultural, social, and above all, the churches and synagogues, express themselves in favor of the resolution which we enclose, notifying the Chairman and members of the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, whose names we append, and urging the immediate adoption of this resolution.

**ACTION MUST BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY, DECISIVELY, UNITEDLY**

**THE JOINT COUNCIL**

**AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE**

171 Madison Avenue, New York City.

**AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS**

122 East 42nd Street, New York City.

**B'NAI BRITH**

36 West 69th Street, New York City.