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2

Box

1

Folder

57

American Jewish Congress, 1938-1950.

UNITE AGAINST HITLERISM

Vote for the American Jewish Congress

Hitler Plans New Drives on Jews
F. D. R. Deplores New Attacks on Jews in Europe
Holy Land Terror Kills 63 in Day
Anti-Semitic Bill Ready in Hungary
Ghetto Created in Polish Colleges
Terror Grips Jews in Rumanian Cities
Poles Celebrate Triumph With Attack on Jews
Austria Speeding Curb on Jews
Vienna Bars Jews in Universities
Jews Likened to Toadstools in Nazi Stories
Anti-Semitism Stirs in Alsace
Over Blum Law
Nazi Terrorism in Austria Bared; Vienna Arrests Are Put at 34,000
Catholics, Monarchists and Jews Are Archbishop Seized for Asking Pardon for Independence
Danzig Police Seize Jews' Bank Deposits; Jail Wealthy Merchants and Shopkeepers
Author Fears Anti-Semitism in South America
Tie Spurs Jews and Priests Victims of Nazi Drive in Austria
Blackshirts Put Torch to London Jews
Jewish Property Seized in Vienna
Jews Barred in Bermuda
Austrian Jews Set Adrift on Borders
51 Robbed and Expelled Are Saved From Breakwater—35 Forced Back, Jailed

REGISTER!
for the defense of
JEWISH RIGHTS

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS
June 25, 26, 27. Every Jew and Jewess 18 years and over may register and vote.

Registration Certificate 10¢
This is to certify that
(Address) (City)
Having paid the registration fee and subscribed to the declaration of the American Jewish Congress to be held on Saturday, June 25th, Sunday, June 26th and Monday, June 27th, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the National Board of Elections.

GET YOUR REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE TODAY
at your local organization or write to
AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS
221 West 57th Street
New York City

CONVENTION
OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES & ORGANIZATIONS
Of Ohio State

AUSPICES
AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

All day Sunday May 15, 1938

Spira Hall, Temple on the Heights
Mayfield at Lee - Cleveland, Ohio

HEADQUARTERS

ISAAC CARMEL,
New York Representative

Suite 736, Allerton Hotel,
Cleveland, Ohio

Telephone, CHerry 0780
Extension 736

May 5, 1938.

**TO ALL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS IN THE CITY OF CLEVELAND AND
LEADERS of JEWISH COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT the STATE of OHIO:**

Dear Friends:—

We have set aside Sunday, May 15, as the Jewish Congress day in Ohio state, and we are inviting your organization or community to participate in the deliberations Sunday morning and afternoon, May 15 at the Spira Hall, Temple on the Heights, Cleveland, Ohio.

We hope we will be able to organize for the American Jewish Congress elections and mobilize the Jews of the state for the defense of Jewish rights.

Our goal in these elections is to make every adult Jew or Jewess in this section of the country participate and vote in the national referendum.

The issues which confront us are the immediate concern of every Jewish family in this country. We have the right to expect that a million Jews in America will register their views on these vital issues through the American democratic method of voting on a referendum and for the delegates to carry out their wishes in devising a program for the protection of Jewish rights the world over.

The first session which will open at 10 a. m. will be devoted primarily to organizing the Cleveland committees for registration and elections. To elect officers and an executive committee for the Cleveland division of the American Jewish Congress, and for vitalizing the local group so that they will be able to carry on this great Jewish National campaign in Cleveland in behalf of the American Jewish Congress.

The second session will open at 2 p. m. and will be devoted to the problems in connection with the Jewish Congress elections in all parts of the state of Ohio. The convention will be addressed by Honorable M. Maldwin Fertig, chairman of the National Election Board of the American Jewish Congress, and other leaders of Jewish life in this country.

May we ask you to fill out the enclosed card and mail same to our office in Cleveland to enable us to send your delegates credentials and a program of the convention. In case your organization has no meeting, will you, as the chief officer of your organization appoint your delegates so that your organization may have representation at this important Jewish Convention.

The undertaking on which we are embarking is historic in its significance to the future of Jewish life so gravely assaulted in so many sections of the world. It represents a reaffirmation of our belief in the highest traditions and practices of the American people, which are analogous to the traditions and practices of the Jewish people. It is fitting that the Jews of America should demonstrate their faith in Defense of the Rights of the Jewish people democratically organized.

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM KOLLIN,
President of A. J. C.,
Cleveland Division.

A. I. HAUSMAN,
Executive Secretary.

NATIONAL OFFICERS

DR. STEPHEN S. WISE,
President.

LOUIS LIPSKY,
Vice President.

JACOB LEICHTMAN,
Treasurer.

JUDGE NATHAN D. PERLMAN,
Chairman Executive Committee.

HON. M. MALDWIN FERTIG,
Chairman National Board of
Elections.

**OFFICERS OF THE CLEVELAND
DIVISION**

ABRAHAM KOLLIN,
President.

ALBERT A. WOLDMAN

EZRA SHAPIRO

LEON WIESENFELD

EDWARD J. SCHWEID,
Vice Presidents.

A. I. HAUSMAN,
Executive Secretary.

SAMUEL KATZ,
Financial Secretary.

DR. I. MILCOFF,
Treasurer.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

CLEVELAND DIVISION

426 Engineers Building

CLEVELAND, OHIO

May 25, 1938

RABBI RUDOLPH ROSENTHAL
President.

ABRAHAM KOLLIN
AARON GARBER
LEON WIESENFELD
DR. I. MILCOFF
DR. BENJAMIN PERSKY
MRS. HARRY SIMON
ALBERT A. WOLDMAN
Vice Presidents.

Rabbi A. H. Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

NATHAN GORODETZER
Treasurer.

MRS. L. W. PHILLIPS
Executive Secretary.

SAMUEL KATZ
Financial Secretary.

Dear Colleague:

At the last meeting of the Administrative Committee of the American Jewish Congress, a resolution was unanimously adopted to designate one of the days of Shevuoth as "American Jewish Congress Day."

It is our belief that the program of Jewish Self Defense can best be dramatized by sermons dealing with that theme. We face in Jewish life a new crisis; our answer must be a new consecration.

We solicit your co-operation in this venture.

With kindest regards,

Very truly yours

Cleveland Division of A.J.C.

Rudolph Rosenthal
President

RR:FZ

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

CLEVELAND DIVISION

426 Engineers Building

CLEVELAND, OHIO

RABBI RUDOLPH ROSENTHAL
President.

May 25, 1938

ABRAHAM KOLLIN
AARON GARBER
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MRS. HARRY SIMON
ALBERT A. WOLDMAN
Vice Presidents.

Rabbi A. H. Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

NATHAN GORODETZER
Treasurer.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

MRS. L. W. PHILLIPS
Executive Secretary.

Your name was recommended for membership
on the Administrative Committee of the American
Jewish Congress.

SAMUEL KATZ
Financial Secretary.

As you know, the crisis we are facing in
our Jewish life today, necessitates uniting our
forces to combat our enemies, and we feel that
your assistance and counsel will be most valuable.

A meeting of this committee will take place
Tuesday, May 31, at 8:30 p. m., at the Temple
on the Heights, and I am looking forward to
seeing you present.

Very truly yours

Rudolph Rosenthal
President

RR:FZ

May 26, 1938

Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal, President,
American Jewish Congress - Cleveland Division,
Temple on the Heights,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Rosenthal:

Permit me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 25 informing me that my name has been recommended for membership on the Administrative Committee of the American Jewish Congress. I most respectfully decline and I would request that my name be not used in any way in connection with the Congress or any of its projects.

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

221 WEST 57th STREET
NEW YORK CITY

Circle 6-3840

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FOR RELEASE, FRIDAY, MAY 27th, 1938:

The American Jewish Congress, founded by the Hon. Louis D. Brandeis, the Hon. Julian W. Mack, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Professor Felix Frankfurter, Louis Lipsky, among others, will mark the Twentieth Anniversary of its establishment on Sunday, June 12th, with a dinner to take place at the Hotel Commodore.

It is expected that more than two thousand persons, representing every walk of life, will attend. The function, which will review twenty years of the defense of Jewish rights, will also serve as a rallying point for a renewed effort to protect the Jewish status now gravely jeopardized in so many sections of the world.

Outstanding leaders in the life of the nation are expected to participate in the anniversary function. The Committee arranging the dinner is headed by Mrs. Bernard S. Deutsch, Louis Lipsky, Judge Julian W. Mack; and Dr. Stephen S. Wise as honorary chairmen, with Maurice Levin, the Hon. Irwin Steingut and Mrs. Stephen S. Wise as chairmen. Mr. Israel Sachs is treasurer, and Mr. Sol Sussman, associate treasurer.

The anniversary function comes at a time when the Jews of America, just as in 1917, are mobilizing for the defense of the rights of five million Jews in Europe and are seeking the creation of a united democratic front against anti-Semitism through democratic elections. These elections will take place on June 25th, 26th and 27th when 400 delegates to an extraordinary session will be named, the function of which will be to devise a program for the protection of the lives, the property, and the future of Jews. In June of 1917, the first American Jewish Congress was established by direct popular vote in which 335 ballots were cast. It is expected that one million voters will register for the participation in the elections of 1938.

The first session of the American Jewish Congress was held on December 15, 1918 and unanimously adopted resolutions in support of the Balfour Declaration and supporting the submission of the problem of minority rights to the Peace Delegation. Acting jointly with the representatives of other Jewish communities who formed a Committee of Jewish Delegations, a commission named by the American Jewish Congress labored successfully to have the definition and safeguarding of the rights of national minorities written into the Peace Treaties.

Pledges guaranteeing economic, political, cultural and religious equality to minorities in various countries of Central and Eastern Europe have been completely discarded in many lands and are today being violated in others.

The anniversary function on the eve of a great election^{and}/referendum is intended is intended not to serve as a celebration but as a revitalization of the responsibility of American Jewry to stricken Jewish communities.

Judge Julian W. Mack, who is serving as an Honorary Chairman of the anniversary dinner, was the first President of the American Jewish Congress. Dr. Stephen S. Wise is President of the organization and Louis Lipsky, Vice-President.

The Committee of Sponsors of the dinner include: David Bernstein, Beatrice Block, Mark Eisner, Hon. M. Waldwin Fertig, Isaac Ginsberg, Leonard Ginsberg, Mrs. Nathan L. Goldstein, Louis Gordon, Morris W. Haft, Maurice L. Handler, Mrs. Oscar Herrnsstadt, Ira A. Hirschmann, Harold Jacobi, Sanford Jacobi, Aaron L. Jacoby, George Kline, Arthur M. Lampert, Mrs. Benjamin Lazarus, Jacob Leichtman, Mrs. Jacob Leichtman, Mrs. Rae Lesselroth, Mrs. Maurice Levin, Joseph M. Levine, Mrs. Joseph M. Levine, Meyer Liberman, Joseph Love, Max Manischewitz, Mrs. Jacob Marcuson, Mitchell May, Sol Mutterperl, David Nemerov, Louis Nizer, Nathan D. Perlman, John Polachek, Mrs. Samuel Reitman, Benjamin C. Ribman, Simon H. Rifkind, Sidney R. Rosenau, William Rosenblatt, Mrs. Sol Rosenbloom, Henry Rothman, Louis F. Rothschild, William Salzman, Harry Scherman, Morry Schulman, Carl Sherman, Mrs. Carl Sherman, Abraham I. Spiro, Alfred A. Strelsin, J. David Stern, Louis Sturz, William S. Sussman, Aaron Sverdlik, Isidor Teitelbaum, Sol Tekulsky, Wilton C. Weisman. and George Miller.

* * * * *

June 10, 1938

BUREAU ON JEWISH EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS

Summary of Activities

December 1, 1937, through June 10, 1938

Widespread concern about the extent of discrimination against Jews in employment led in 1937 to the organization of the Bureau on Jewish Employment Problems to deal with the problem. In operation since December 1, 1937, it was formed through the joint efforts of the American Jewish Congress, Chicago Division, and the Chicago B'nai B'rith Council. The budget of \$8900 for the first year of its operation, December 1, 1937, to December 1, 1938, is being met by these two organizations, together with a third organization which provides a subvention.

The Bureau operates autonomously through its board of nine directors, three designated by each of the organizations providing financial support. During the first six months, the work has been carried on by the Board through its executive director, Mr. A. L. Sudran. The Board itself has maintained a strong interest, consulting frequently on individual and general problems, and giving active cooperation in the work.

The Bureau has naturally not had sufficient experience during the initial period of careful first steps to draw definite conclusions as to success. The work has been done during a period of declining employment in general, and insufficient time has elapsed to make follow-up visits to most of the firms that have been seen. Nevertheless, a general account of the Bureau's activity should be of significant interest at this point.

The guiding principle of the Bureau has been to accomplish its aims through friendly, non-militant methods. The activity has taken four general directions:

1. The Bureau has established beginning relationships with dozens of employment agencies to secure fair treatment of Jewish applicants.
2. It has given attention to the employment situation in Jewish institutions.
3. It has worked with firms on which reports of discrimination were received.
4. It has organized activity with firms in specific industries where discrimination may be more than usually acute, without waiting for reports on the individual firms in these industries.

Along with its principal emphasis on remedial activity, the Bureau has naturally also made an organized effort to collect reliable information regarding the extent and character of the problem of discrimination.

Statistical Summary of Contacts made

The following table presents a summary of the employment agencies, Jewish institutions, business firms, and other organizations that were contacted from the beginning of the Bureau's operation, December 1, 1937, to the present date, June 10, 1938, approximately six months. The table does not set forth activities such as repeat visits to firms, visits to gain information on firms individually reported to discriminate, and visits to establish friendly relationships with groups working in related fields. It should be pointed out also that reports unsuited for action at this time were received frequently; the firms so reported are not included in the table.

| | |
|---|------|
| I. Work with employment agencies | |
| A. Employment agencies visited | 54 |
| 1. Commercial employment agencies | 29 |
| 2. Medical employment agencies | 2 |
| 3. Non-profit employment agencies | 15 |
| 4. Office machine company employment agencies | 8 |
| II. Work with Jewish institutions | |
| A. Institutions worked on | 14 |
| 1. Visited | 10 |
| 2. Worked on preparatory to a visit | 4 |
| III. Work with firms on which reports of discrimination were received* | |
| A. Firms worked on | 71 |
| 1. Firms visited | 41** |
| 2. Firms worked on preparatory to a visit | 21 |
| 3. Firms referred to the Jewish Vocational Service & Employment Center, to be handled on a positive employment basis. | 9 |
| IV. Work in specific industries | |
| A. Firms worked on | 46 |
| 1. Accounting firms | 10 |
| a. Firms visited | 1 |
| b. Firms worked on preparatory to a visit | 9 |
| 2. Banks | 1 |
| b. Banks worked on preparatory to a visit | 1 |
| 3. General insurance firms | 22 |
| a. Firms visited | 15 |
| b. Firms worked on preparatory to a visit | 7 |

| | |
|--|----|
| 4. Life insurance firms | 6 |
| a. Firms visited | 4 |
| b. Firms worked on preparatory to a visit | 2 |
| 5. Public utilities firms | 7 |
| b. Firms worked on preparatory to a visit | 7 |
| B. Sources visited for advice on specific industries | 38 |
| 1. Accounting | 4 |
| 2. Banks | 3 |
| 3. Department stores | 1 |
| 4. General insurance | 10 |
| 5. Life insurance | 9 |
| 6. Mail order houses | 1 |
| 7. Public utilities | 6 |
| 8. Radio | 1 |
| 9. Railroads | 2 |
| 10. Real estate | 1 |



* Some firms on which reports were received are classified in IV, under the specific industry in which they were treated, rather than here.

** Two of these cases were handled by telephone.

Some comments on the four general fields of activity summarized in the table may be of interest.

I

Work with Employment Agencies

The Bureau has attempted to create a cooperative relationship with employment agencies, and has visited fifty-four personally. Information obtained indicates that the agencies have been facing a large problem of discrimination against Jews. Their estimates of the proportion of their jobs restricted by employers to non-Jews have ranged from 25% to nearly 100%. They have found the problem the most severe in the office occupations.

There is probably little question that the situation has been approximately as serious as the employment agencies state. On the other hand, it appears rather clear that for economic reasons the employment agencies themselves in many cases have been contributing to the severity of the problem. A few agencies probably refuse applications from all or almost all Jews, and in some others Jewish registrations are probably accepted on a more limited basis than Gentile. A number of the agencies have been stating religious restrictions on their jobs in the "Help wanted" columns in the newspapers, a practice that obviously tends to spread the idea of employment discrimination to hundreds of thousands of readers. In numerous instances, it has been a regular policy of employment agencies to ask all firms calling for employees if they have a religious preference, and the agencies themselves have admitted that this policy tends to suggest discrimination to employers who might not otherwise think in terms of religious preferences. There is indication, based on frank admission in some cases, that many of the agencies have had a general reluctance to refer Jews even to jobs not carrying a religious restriction, apparently because of the feeling that a Gentile is always more acceptable than a Jew.

The Bureau's remedial activity with employment agencies is taking the form of gradual education. The agencies are shown how some of their present policies are unfair or unfavorable to Jewish applicants, and they are given suggestions for improving their treatment of Jewish applicants without unfair inconvenience to themselves or to Gentile applicants. In several cases, the Bureau has been invited to staff meetings of placement workers in the agencies, and has conducted discussions on the employment problems of Jews and other minority groups, pointing out ways in which the employment agencies can minimize the difficulties that arise. In addition, the Bureau has begun to work with the trade association of commercial employment agencies, including about eighty members, in an effort to secure a collective standard of improved practices. The association has promised official consideration of the whole question in the near future.

The attitude of the employment agencies visited has generally been at least superficially friendly, and in a number of cases sincerely so. In this field of work, as in the others the Bureau has undertaken, additional time will show how much total effect can be produced. In revisits to some of the agencies, the Bureau has already been gratified in several cases to hear expressions of an improved philosophy.

One concrete result is already clearly evident in the marked reduction in the number of "Gentile only" "Help wanted" advertisements that the employment agencies insert in the daily newspapers. In addition to following the ads daily, on a given three days in every month the Bureau has made a count of the total

number of "Help wanted" ads in the two morning papers that carry most of them, and of the number restricted to non-Jews. The following table shows the absolute and relative reduction in the number of restricted advertisements inserted by agencies; for reasons having to do with lineage rates, it has been easier to effect a reduction in the Herald & Examiner than in the Tribune. While other factors may have been present, a good part of the reduction is to be accounted for by the employment agencies that promised the Bureau not to run restricted advertisements and that kept their promise, regardless of the restrictions specified to them by employers.

| 3 days | Total "Help wanted" items* | Employment agency ads restricted to Gentiles, Protestants, or Nordics | Proportion of these ads to total | Other ads restricted |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------|
| <u>Herald & Examiner</u> | | | | |
| November, 1937 | 2,468 | 87 | 3.6% | 0 |
| December, 1937 | 1,683 | 55 | 3.3% | 0 |
| January, 1938 | 1,284 | 23 | 1.8% | 0 |
| February, 1938 | 980 | 28 | 2.9% | 3 |
| March, 1938 | 1,245 | 22 | 1.8% | 0 |
| April, 1938 | 1,277 | 14 | 1.1% | 0 |
| May, 1938 | 1,088 | 4 | .4% | 0 |
| <u>Tribune</u> | | | | |
| November, 1937 | 1,166 | 15 | 1.3% | 9 |
| December, 1937 | 824 | 15 | 1.8% | 2 |
| January, 1938 | 991 | 9 | .9% | 10 |
| February, 1938 | 838 | 7 | .8% | 6 |
| March, 1938 | 1,090 | 12 | 1.1% | 7 |
| April, 1938 | 1,049 | 9 | .9% | 4 |
| May, 1938 | 978 | 6 | .6% | 6 |

* Advertisements for domestics and for straight commission salesmen were not counted. These ads are numerous, and for obvious reasons practically never carry a restriction against Jews.

II

Work with Jewish Institutions

There has been a certain amount of report and rumor regarding the employment situation in Jewish institutions. So far, information has been collected on fourteen organizations in the field, and visits have been made to ten of them.

While the Bureau does not take the position that Jewish institutions should employ only Jews, nothing is more important than that Jewish institutions maintain a fair employment policy. The facilities of the Bureau have permitted close and cooperative contact with the Jewish institutions in Chicago, and it can be said at this point with certainty that there will be constructive results. One group of small Jewish institutions, that had formerly erroneously believed that Jews were not suited to their type of work, has, through the efforts of the Bureau, filled six new jobs with Jews, and has found their work completely satisfactory. The important work in this field has just begun, and the Bureau, with definite plans, is following it further.

III

Work with firms on which reports of discrimination were received

Exclusive of firms on which reports of discrimination were not of a character to warrant action, the Bureau has worked on seventy-one firms in this group. Thirty-nine were visited directly, and in two cases the work has been done by telephone for the time being. Work preparatory to a visit was done on twenty-one additional firms, and in nine cases it seemed best to refer firms to the Jewish Vocational Service. The Bureau makes an effort to collect all pertinent information before visiting a firm, so as to conduct interviews in the most effective manner possible.

While every firm represents an individual situation, the following cases may illustrate briefly in a general way the methods used by the Bureau:

Case #1: An individual report alleging discrimination in this Jewish firm was received from a reputable non-profit employment agency. The agency stated that it had received two orders from the firm for Gentile stenographers. The company is a wholesaler of various types of merchandise, has its home office in the East, and employs several hundred people in Chicago. Through one of the Board of Directors living in Chicago, the Bureau was able to communicate with the Chairman of the Board in the East, who officially disavowed any policy of discrimination and sent the Bureau a letter putting himself on record to that effect. The Bureau then visited the headquarters of the firm in Chicago, fortified by the statement from New York. The head of the Chicago office admitted that he had had some fear concerning the employment of Jewish girls, lest Gentiles coming into the offices feel that he was unfairly favoring people of his own religion, and had consciously tried to avoid employing Jews. His attitude on the whole was friendly and cooperative, and he showed both guilt feeling regarding his policy and fear that Jewish customers might learn of it. He promised that he would not discriminate thereafter against Jews, and that he would inform employment agencies that he was willing to and would hire them.

Case #2: A young Jewish woman who registered with an employment agency as a Gentile was referred to an opening as a stenographer in this furniture company. She was warned, because of the employment agency's suspicion that she was really Jewish, that the office manager would not hire a Jew. The Bureau interviewed the head of the firm, a Gentile, who appears to have about 100 people in his employ, between the factory and the office. He stated that he had absolutely no prejudice against Jews and that he had known nothing of his office manager's having such a policy, although he considered him a narrow-minded person who would be capable of it. On the other hand, he did express some feeling that Jewish girls might be too impatient for promotion, but in the course of conversation admitted that such generalizations were unwarranted. He said that he disapproved of any religious discrimination, and that he would undertake to see that none is practiced in the future. The Bureau notified the employment agency that it could from now on refer Jews as well as Gentiles to the company.

In general, it has been found that most of the firms visited accord an at least superficially friendly reception to the Bureau, and give reassurances regarding their future policy. While follow-up will show how effective the work has been, several hopeful signs appear. In the first place, some firms have been

so sensitive to the effects of a discriminatory policy on their Jewish business that, although the Bureau has made no attempt to bring economic pressure, they will probably exercise care in the future. Other firms have committed themselves, for example by inviting a revisit at a later date, in such a way as to suggest an undoubted intention to show an improvement. It has come to us definitely that one Jewish firm among those visited has since found employment for three Jews, two of them in other firms.

IV

Work with firms in specific industries where discrimination may be more than usually acute

As indicated by Section IV of the table, forty-six firms have been worked on because they fell in specific industries in which the Bureau has been particularly interested, and twenty have been visited directly so far. The activity with general (fire and casualty) insurance companies, which was the first specific field to be studied, may serve as an example. Preliminary information indicated that these companies, many of which welcomed Jewish agents, employ an extremely small percentage of Jews among the thousands in their offices. The Bureau secured the cooperation of a number of Jewish men prominent in the general insurance field, who are acting as an advisory committee. These men have been preparing the way for the Bureau to approach a number of Gentile firms with which they are acquainted, and so far the Bureau has called on fifteen of these firms. The work has revealed apparent under-employment of Jews in almost every case; one insurance firm with nearly 250 office employees has two Jews among them, for example, and another, with about 1000 office employees, has ten. The conversations with these insurance firms have usually been frank and pleasant. A number of promises of improvement have been secured, and some of them appear to be sincere. In this field, as in others, follow-up is necessary and will show how effective the work can be.

In the life insurance field also an advisory committee was formed, and visits to life insurance firms have begun, as indicated in the table. For accounting firms and banks, the valuable cooperation of interested Jews and, it is hoped, interested Gentiles, is being enlisted, and a program of visits to individual firms in these fields is being planned. An advisory committee for public utilities is in process of organization, and plans for work with firms in this field will be made as soon as it is feasible. As indicated in part B of Section IV of the table, the Bureau has also studied several other fields in a preliminary way (department stores, mail order houses, radio, railroads, real estate). When and if organized work in these special fields becomes necessary, the information and contacts already made should be of value.

The following case illustrates briefly the general type of approach used with firms visited as part of the work in a specific field, without a definite individual report of discrimination:

Case #3: A Jewish insurance man who had attended a meeting of the advisory committee on life insurance companies, introduced the Bureau to a Gentile firm with which he does business. The head of this firm discussed the situation in his own offices, and afterward asked if the Bureau would like to meet Mr. L., a friend of his who also runs an office. He performed the introduction himself. Mr. L., also Gentile, employs about 100 people, four of them Jewish. While in terms of percentage the situation in his office is not so bad as in some others, he showed a

good deal of interest in the Bureau's work, and admitted frankly that he had hesitated in the past to employ Jews. Some of his reasons were discussed; they seemed to be based on a supposed tendency on the part of Jews to be ~~dannish~~ in offices. His criticisms were discussed fully and frankly, and in the end he agreed that there was no reason why Jews would not be as acceptable in his office as Gentiles. He volunteered that he was going to show the Bureau some concrete cooperation, and he remarked, also of his own accord, that on his next visit to the home office of his company in the East he would himself discuss the question of employment discrimination. At the Bureau's request, he authorized us to tell the employment agency through which he does his hiring that in the future applicants should be referred to him on a strictly merit basis.

There seems reason to hope that a substantial part of the effect of the Bureau may come through increased interest on the part of Jews and others who are visited primarily for advice. The visits by the Bureau to sources for suggestions about various fields, as indicated in Section IV of the table--these sources were in many cases Jewish firms engaged in the line of business being studied--may already have produced an improvement in the policy of these firms. One firm that had served in an advisory capacity and that already had some Jews in its employ called the Bureau for information as to where it could find well-qualified Jews for two openings. Two more such firms, for the first time in their history, called an employment agency and asked specifically for Jewish girls; the non-Jewish personnel manager of one of these companies had in the past always rejected Jewish applicants from this employment agency. The Bureau definitely does not feel that Jewish employers should hire only Jews, but the fact that some are beginning to take an active interest in the employment of a fair proportion appears encouraging.

It seems fair to say, finally, that a by-product of the Bureau's work in the way of increased general good will between Jews and Gentiles seems possible. While the Bureau's work is specifically in the economic field, a high proportion of the Gentile employers visited have interpreted the approach as an attempt also to reduce religious and racial antagonisms; such employers have expressed what seemed to be sincere good wishes for the Bureau's success. Whatever incidental contribution the Bureau makes in this way will undoubtedly be welcomed by all groups.

Respectfully submitted,

Claude A. Benjamin, President
BUREAU ON JEWISH EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS

AMER JEW Cong

BUREAU ON JEWISH EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS

130 NORTH WELLS STREET, ROOM 1113
TELEPHONE RANDOLPH 9817 ** CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

SPONSORED BY

Chicago B'nai B'rith Council
American Jewish Committee, Chicago Section
American Jewish Congress, Chicago Division

April 22, 1940

H. I. BARRON,
Executive Director

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Harris Perlstein
Otto F. Weiner

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street & Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

As a trustee of the Bureau on Employment Problems of Cleveland, I am sure that you will be interested in the enclosed report, representing the work of the Chicago Bureau for 1939.

May I take this opportunity to call your attention particularly to the significant contribution to our work being made by interested laymen? It has been our experience that in work of this type the assistance of lay persons both on the Board and from the community is indispensable.

You may be sure that we shall be very glad to receive your reactions and comments.

With best wishes for the success of your work in Cleveland, I am

Sincerely yours,

H. I. Barron
H. I. Barron
Executive Director

HIB:mc
enc.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

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July 27, 1943

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I was informed that you had apparently expressed doubts as to the advisability of the present campaign of collecting clothing for refugees in different countries which was proclaimed by the Womens' Division of the American Jewish Congress upon the initiative of and in closest cooperation with the World Jewish Congress. Your doubts were based on the fact that there are several other organizations doing the same work, among them especially the Joint Distribution Committee.

As the member of the Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress responsible for this decision which was made by the Congress and by the Womens' Division, may I offer the following few words of explanation.

It is true that there are a number of organizations in this country active in the work of collecting clothing for refugees. All those organizations, as f.i. The Selfhelp for Emigrees from Central Europe, The National Council of Jewish Women, The American Friends Service Committee, The National Refugee Service, The Greater New York Federation of Churches, The Women's Branch of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, and a few others, work in close cooperation with each other and the same cooperation is being established between the Womens' Division of the American Jewish Congress and them. In this way the work is done without any over-lapping, and on the other hand there can scarcely be enough bodies active in this field in view of the tremendous needs of the refugees the greatest part of whom are deprived of the necessary clothing and are suffering severely because of this. The more that is done in this field - the better.

The World Jewish Congress decided to participate in this work after having been strongly urged to do so by the representatives of our organization in

Rabbi Silver
July 27, 1943

-2-

the different countries who stressed the most difficult situation of the refugees and thought that something should be done immediately in order to help them. In fact, our decision to collect clothing for refugees was received most enthusiastically by our representative in Lisbon and in Spain, and at the present moment negotiations are being conducted between the Portuguese and the Spanish Red Cross in order to have the clothing collected in this country despatched there as soon as possible.

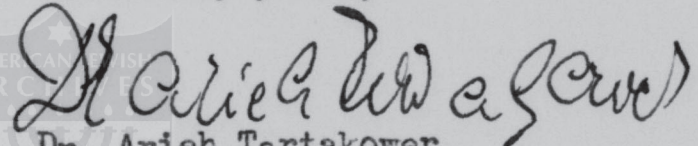
Incidentally, may I remark that I know nothing of any activities in this field done by the Joint Distribution Committee. This organization is engaged in raising funds in this country to be used for relief activities and it has nothing to do with collecting clothing whether in this country or in any other.

I hope that these few words of explanation will serve to remove your doubts, and may I take this opportunity to appeal for your cooperation with the Womens Division of the American Jewish Congress in their activities in this very important field of relief.

With kindest regards, I am,

at/rr

Faithfully yours,


Dr. Arieh Tartakower



AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

1834 BROADWAY

NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 17, 1950

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

At its meeting last Sunday, the Administrative Committee of the American Jewish Congress approved in principle the enclosed Statement of Principles, and recommended its incorporation into the Constitution of the Congress.

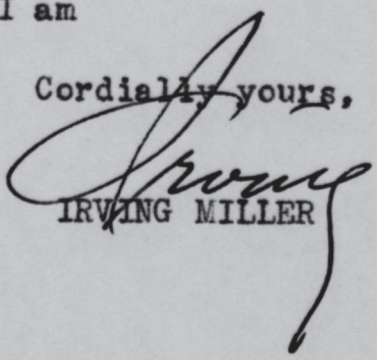
You will, I trust, agree with me that this action represents a noteworthy and forward step in spelling out, in so far as it is possible, the relationship which ought to obtain between American Jews and those areas of American and Jewish life in which an organization like the Congress has a proper interest.

I should be exceedingly grateful to you if you will take the trouble to go over the enclosed draft and suggest any changes in substance, content or style which, in your opinion, will improve and strengthen it. Because of its importance, I am most anxious to leave nothing undone to make it eminently correct and significant.

May I hear from you at your earliest convenience since the final draft must be circularized by the end of this month to our Administrative Committee, in time for Constitutional revision in June.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Cordially yours,


IRVING MILLER

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