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Jewish Community Council, Cleveland, Ohio, 1937.



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WRHS
Rabbi A H Silver
The Temple
Ansel Rd & E 105th St
Cleveland Ohio

AMERICAN JEWISH
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JUST TO REMIND YOU

The Jewish Community Council will meet on
Tuesday, January 5, at the Jewish Center.
The meeting will begin at 8:15 p.m.

We have an unusually important agenda, and
it is particularly necessary that the members
of the Executive Committee be present.

Max Simon
President.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting Held Tuesday, January 5, 1937, 8:30 p.m. at The Jewish Center

1. Minutes

Copies having been mailed to all the members, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

2. Schools

Mrs Benjamin Levine reported that the Committee on Schools was continuing to function as a standing Committee, dealing with specific problems as they arose. It was recalled that conferences had been held with the superintendents of the Cleveland and Cleveland Heights schools last Spring with regard to objectionable Christmas programs, and they had promised to caution the principals concerning this. Only one complaint had been received with reference to the past Christmas, involving a school in Cleveland Heights, and conferences with the superintendent and principal resulted in a change whereby Christmas carol singing was taken out of the classrooms entirely, and plans for the program were revised, in accordance with the Committee's request.

3. Discrimination in Employment

Milton Altschul reported that the Committee concerned with the problem of anti-Semitic discrimination in employment was continuing to contact employment agencies in order to get concrete information about specific employers guilty of such prejudice, and to see that the agencies did nothing themselves which would encourage such discrimination.

In two recent conferences it was reported that at least 50% of the Jewish employers refuse to hire Jewish applicants, and that a very large proportion of Gentile employers practiced similar discrimination; also that while employment generally had improved during the past two years, for Jews it was just as bad as before. Gentile employers knew that Jewish firms refused to hire Jews, and this encouraged them to do likewise. It was the Committee's intention to meet with the individual employers as soon as they could learn who the individual companies were, to persuade them to change their policies; and to develop a sense of responsibility among employers generally which would prevent and modify the practice on a broad scale. Employment agencies, however, were very unwilling to give the necessary specific information.

The possible causes of this discrimination were discussed, and it was pointed out that while a number of reasons were given by various employers, involving the behavior of Jewish employees, for which there sometimes was a basis in fact, in many instances it was due to a deep-seated anti-Semitism which had no relation to the quality of the applicant or the work done.

Individual representatives and member organizations were asked to send the Chairman or Secretary any authentic information which they might have concerning specific employers who discriminated against Jews.

4. Kashruth

It was reported by Oscar Steiner that the Committee on Kashruth, which had been established as a fact-finding body, had conducted a survey of Kashruth administration in the city. This was summarized for the Council:

There are about 10 packers in the city selling kosher meat, employing rabbis and schochtim to supervise this through private business arrangements, and paying them directly for such service. A few small packers use the facilities of the large ones for kosher slaughter. There are about 15 schochtim employed in this work in the city, who are supposed to go through a special period of instruction before qualifying for such positions.

At the time of slaughter, stamps or plumbs are placed on the meat by the religious supervisors to designate the meat as kosher. The stamps and plumbs are supposed to be retained by the rabbis or schochtim when not in use. There is also a state law which makes illegal the misrepresentation of non-kosher meat as kosher.

Retail butchers likewise select wholesale dealers through a private business arrangement. Religious supervision is by three inspectors, employed by Rabbi Jacob Berger to visit regularly the 75 kosher meat markots. Rabbi Berger was appointed supervisor of Kashruth by the governor of the State during the NRA, and has been retained in this position by the Kosher Meat Dealers Association. The consumption of Kosher meat is almost 100,000 pounds per week.

The central problem is whether the meat sold as kosher really is kosher. In the past there had been disputes concerning this among the local Rabbis themselves, and in the last analysis the housewife had to depend upon the integrity of her butcher. Dangers lay in the mixture of economic and religious factors; and the attempt by the Meat Dealers Association to enforce the observance of Kashruth by its members and also to regulate prices, had led to confusion and difficulty.

While the Committee was established as a fact-finding body, and had yet to investigate the poultry industry, several observations had been made which were pertinent to any improvement in the situation. The first requirement, and fundamental, was a sense of responsibility in the house^{wife} and the consuming public, and the active support of the Jewish community in any program which might be agreed upon. It was the function of the Rabbis and other community leaders to bring this about, the Committee believed. As an initial practical step, the problem might be taken out of the public courts and newspapers through settlement of Kashruth disputes by private arbitration, thus avoiding public scandal.

There was considerable discussion, involving the possible use of existing legislation, and the fact that inherent economic factors and the limited inspection logically might lead to misrepresentation. It was believed that before any attempt was made to bring the problem of Kashruth into the field of politics and government, the Jewish community itself should attempt to improve the situation.

The Committee was instructed to continue its study as a basis for further consideration by the Council.

5. Publicity

Sidney Weitz reported that a recent newspaper article had described the raid of a synagogue for bootlegging, and had charged that a Rabbi was involved in this. Not only was the incident a serious reflection upon the Jewish community, but there was considerable question about the facts.

A Committee appointed by the Executive Committee had met with the President and Vice-President of the Congregation and had visited the Synagogue. They were assured that the Synagogue had not been involved; rather, the private residential building in front of the synagogue had been raided, and the owner was not a rabbi and had no office in the Congregation other than being one of its 80 members. The Officers agreed to sign a statement to this effect for the Council, which would be used by the Committee in conferring with the editors of the newspapers and in securing their cooperation in being more careful with the use of the terms "Rabbi" and "Synagogue" in such publicity. There were other related problems discovered in connection with the incident, and the Committee would report more fully at the next meeting of the Council.

6. Arbitration

In order to keep Jewish disputes out of the public courts and newspapers, the Executive Committee recommended that a Committee be authorized to draw up permanent machinery for the arbitration of such disputes by the Council. The Council already had arbitrated several such controversies informally, and it was believed that not only was this helpful to the persons directly concerned and would protect the Jewish community, but it would tend to build up among groups and individuals a sense of responsibility for the honor and self-respect of the community. Upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, the recommendation was accepted.

7. Boycott

I R Morris, reporting for the League for Human Rights Against Naziism, reviewed the current status of the anti-Nazi boycott. He stated that local stores were observing the boycott very well, on the whole, but national chain stores continued to sell German merchandise. Of the large local stores, only the Higbee Company was selling German goods in any considerable quantity, and even this was

only a fraction of what was formerly sold. Of the chain stores on the other hand, Sears-Roebuck, Woolworth, Kresge, McGrory, Harvay, and Newberry were selling German merchandise. Efforts made to deal with these companies locally had not been successful, and apparently national action at the central offices was required. Local pressure would be continued and strengthened, however.

It was reported also that Miss Graco Meyette was the new executive secretary of the League and was active in organizing large numbers of women to protest to the buyers and managers in stores carrying German goods. In addition, she was conducting an active educational campaign among key organizations.

In the discussion, it was suggested that a more intensive effort should be made with regard to stores in the Jewish neighborhoods which apparently still continued to sell German merchandise. It was emphasized that the entire community bore a responsibility in making the boycott effective, and only with such support could the effort be successful. Representatives were impressed with the necessity of securing the cooperation of their organizations' memberships.

8. W.P.A.

The Chairman reported further correspondence in the attempt to have the W.P.A. permit, insofar as possible, Jewish employees to make up time lost through observance of religious Holy Days. Contact with the State headquarters again had resulted in the reply that such an arrangement could not be made. After discussion, the Council did not deem it wise to pursue the matter further.

9. Nominating Committee

In accordance with the terms of the Constitution, the following persons were elected to serve as a Nominating Committee: Judge D R Hertz, Chairman; Meyer Atkin, Mrs David Glasser, Rabbi David Genuth, Philmore Haber, Julius Schweid, and Meyer Weintraub. Due to the illness of Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal, previously recommended by the Executive Committee, the name of Rabbi Genuth was substituted. Simon Green and Jacob Sperc, also nominated for this position, withdrew, and the election of the seven persons was unanimous.

10. Yeshiva Adath B'nai Israel

Max Herman and Morris Azoff strongly urged the Council to take action in assisting the Yeshiva to obtain a subsidy from the Jewish Welfare Fund. The chairman ruled that inasmuch as an extensive Survey of the entire Jewish educational system had been completed recently; and the recommendations had not yet been acted upon by the Jewish Welfare Federation and the Bureau of Jewish Education, the Community Council had no province in the matter until such action was taken. This would be done prior to the next Jewish Welfare Fund campaign, the Yeshiva was assured, and any discussion in the Council at this time was out of order. Mr Resnick suggested that the entire subject of Jewish education in the community was a most important one for the Council's consideration.

11. Traveling Collectors

In answer to a question by Dr Samuel Braun, Rabbi Armond Cohen, chairman of the Committee in charge of the contingent fund recently established by the Jewish Welfare Fund, explained that several grants already had been made to European and Palestinian institutions. It was stated further by Rabbi Israel Porath, a member of the Committee, that institutions which had collection boxes in private homes had not received allotments from the fund to date, and these merited the continued private support of the community as in the past.

12. Centennial

The Council was informed that inasmuch as the year 1937 marked the 100th anniversary of Jewish settlement in Cleveland, a Committee headed by Leo Weidenthal had been authorized by the Executive Committee to coordinate plans of various organizations which were planning special programs to observe this event.

13. Announcements

It was announced that Rabbi Harold Goldfarb had been elected by the Executive Committee to fill the vacancy in the Committee caused by the departure from the city of Rabbi Abraham Nowak; and that the Annual Meeting of the Council would be held in February, at which time Officers would be elected for the current year.

Also that a mass inter-faith Peace Meeting would be held Monday evening, January 18, at the Public Music Hall; that the annual meeting of the American Jewish Congress would be held Sunday, January 10, 2:00 p.m., at the Jewish Center; and that the Orthodox Old Home would hold its annual meeting on the same date, 2:30 p.m., at the Home.

14. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Philip Bernstein

Secretary.



Officers

President
Max Simon

First Vice-President
Edward M. Baker

Second Vice-President
Edward J. Schweid

Third Vice-President
Mrs. Benjamin Levine

Treasurer
Jacob Wolpaw

Secretary
Philip Bernstein

The Jewish Community Council
Cleveland

Room 605 - 1900 Euclid Avenue

Telephone: CHerry 8176

Executive
Committee

Meyer Atkin
Dr. Samuel Braun
Rabbi B. R. Brickner
Rabbi Armond E. Cohen
Jerome N. Curtis
L. Mack Fein
Isadore Finesilver
Mrs. Julius Fryer
George W. Furth
Rabbi David Genuth
Mrs. Sol Gitson
Mrs. David Glasser
Rabbi Harold Goldfarb
Mrs. Siegmund Herzog
George E. Kath
Mrs. B. J. Klein
Rabbi Hugo Klein
Abraham Kollin
Ben Labowitch
I. R. Morris
Rabbi Israel Porath
Aaron Resnick
Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal
Rabbi A. H. Silver
Mrs. Harry Simon
Oscar H. Steiner
Meyer Weintraub
Sidney N. Weitz
Mrs. Victor L. Wise
Albert A. Woldman

Rabbi A H Silver
The Temple
Ansel Rd & E 105th St
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The Committee on Employment will meet Wednesday evening, February 17, 8:00 p.m., at the Ansel Road Temple (Parlor). The information gathered since our last meeting has indicated clearly that the problem with which we are concerned by no means has been overestimated. We have gone as far as we can with fact-finding activity at this time however, and it is necessary that we determine what our procedure shall be in attempting to deal with the situation. We shall need your guidance in making this decision, which obviously will be of fundamental importance, and I am counting on your presence.

Sincerely yours,

M. P. Altschul

Milton P. Altschul
Chairman

February 8, 1937

Officers

President

Max Simon

First Vice-President

Edward M. Baker

Second Vice-President

Edward J. Schweid

Third Vice-President

Mrs. Benjamin Levine

Treasurer

Jacob Wolpaw

Secretary

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Mrs. Sol Gitson

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Rabbi Harold Goldfarb

Mrs. Siegmund Herzog

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Mrs. B. J. Klein

Rabbi Hugo Klein

Abraham Kollin

Ben Labowitch

I. R. Morris

Rabbi Israel Porath

Aaron Resnick

Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal

Rabbi A. H. Silver

Mrs. Harry Simon

Oscar H. Steiner

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Mrs. Victor L. Wise

Albert A. Woldman

The Jewish Community Council

Cleveland

Room 605 • 1900 Euclid Avenue

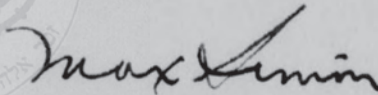
Telephone: CHerry 8176

To the Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee will meet Thursday evening, February 18, 8:15 p.m., at the Temple on the Heights (Men's Club Room, adjoining Spira Hall).

This will be our last session prior to the Annual Meeting of the Community Council, and it is of unusual importance that we have a full attendance. There are likewise several specific matters which require our consideration and action at this time. I am counting, therefore, on your presence.

Sincerely yours,



Max Simon
President

February 10, 1937.

February 11, 1937

Jewish Community Council

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee hereby submits its recommendations for Officers and Executive Committee of the Jewish Community Council for 1937.

The Committee is of the unanimous opinion that the present leadership of the Council should be continued in office. It recommends for re-election, therefore, the following persons:

President -- Max Simon
First Vice-President -- Edward M. Baker
Second Vice-President -- Edward J. Schweid
Third Vice-President -- Mrs. Benjamin Levine
Treasurer -- Jacob Wolpaw
Secretary -- Philip Bernstein

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meyer Atkin	George E. Kath
Rabbi B. R. Brickner	Rabbi Hugo Klein
Rabbi Armond E. Cohen	Abraham Kollin
Jerome N. Curtis	I. R. Morris
L. Mack Fein	Rabbi Israel Porath
Isadore Finesilver	Aaron Resnick
George W. Furth	Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal
Rabbi David Genuth	Rabbi A. H. Silver
Mrs. Sol Gitson	Oscar H. Steiner
Mrs. David Glasser	Meyer Weintraub
Rabbi Harold Goldfarb	Sidney N. Weitz
Mrs. Siegmund Herzog	Albert A. Woldman

Six members of the Executive Committee were not reappointed to the Council by their respective organizations this year, or are unable to serve again. To fill the vacancies in the Executive Committee thereby created, the Nominating Committee recommends for election:

Milton P. Altschul	Mrs. Walter Goldsmith
Dr. S. O. Freedlander	Mrs. Bernard Krangel
Mrs. Joseph Goldhamer	Aaron Permut

We believe that the persons herein nominated for Officers and the Executive Committee constitute a cross-section of the Jewish Community, and that they will provide the necessary leadership for the continued development and progress of the Jewish Community Council.

Respectfully submitted,

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Judge David Ralph Hertz, Chairman
Meyer Atkin
Rabbi David Genuth
Mrs. David Glasser
Philmore J. Haber
Julius Schweid
Meyer Weintraub

Article VIII, Section 4, of the Constitution: "At least fifteen days before each annual meeting the list of nominations for Officers and members of the Executive Committee made by the Nominating Committee shall be mailed to each representative. Such nominations together with any additional written nominations, signed by fifteen representatives and submitted to the chairman of the Nominating Committee or to the Secretary of the Council not later than three days before the annual meeting, shall be presented to the annual meeting. Only from the names so nominated shall be elected the Officers and members of the Executive Committee" Petition blanks for written nominations may be secured from the Secretary.



Officers

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Edward J. Schweid

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The Jewish Community Council

Cleveland

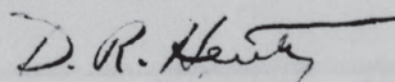
Room 605 - 1900 Euclid Avenue

Telephone: CHerry 8176

Dear Rabbi Silver:

We are very happy to inform you that the Nominating Committee is recommending your name for election to membership in the Executive Committee of the Jewish Community Council for 1937. We believe that your participation in this important capacity will help to provide the leadership which the Council requires for its further development and progress, and we trust that you will be able to give the necessary time and attention to this responsibility.

Sincerely yours,



David Ralph Hertz, Chairman
Nominating Committee

February 13, 1937.

Jewish Community Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 18, 1937, 8:30 p.m., at the Heights Temple

1. Attendance

There were present: Max Simon, Chairman; E M Baker, Philip Bernstein, Rabbi B R Brickner, Rabbi Armond E Cohen, Jerome N Curtis, L Mack Fein, George W Furth, Mrs Sol Gitson, Rabbi Harold Goldfarb, George E Kath, Rabbi Hugo Klein, Abraham Kollin, Mrs Benjamin Levine, Aaron Resnick, Oscar H Steiner, Sidney N Weitz, Albert A Woldman; and George Mayer and Leo Weiden-thal.

2. Minutes

Copies having been mailed to the members, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

3. Financial Report

The Secretary reported that to date a total of \$402 had been received from 98 organizations; that 15 organizations owed \$51 for 1936; that expenditures had been \$173.10; leaving a cash balance of \$228.90.

4. Unfavorable Publicity

It was reported that in accordance with the action of the Executive Committee at its last meeting, a special Committee had been appointed with Edward J Schweid as Chairman, and had met with the Ohel Jabne Congregation's officers regarding the newspaper publicity which had appeared, reporting the alleged illicit manufacture of liquor in the synagogue, to impress upon them the necessity for preventing this in the future. The Committee had secured a signed statement giving the facts in the matter, and correcting the apparent inaccuracies in the newspaper stories. Conferences were to be held with the editors to request that they exercise caution in the use of the terms "Rabbi" and "Synagogue".

The Committee had visited the Synagogue and had found conditions which warranted consideration of the advisability of its merging with a larger and better equipped Congregation in the neighborhood. The circumstances involved in the operation of a ritual bath in an adjoining room presented other problems, and it was believed that the entire matter should be the particular concern of the residents of that neighborhood, as well as the community in general. It was suggested, therefore, that the problem be presented to the Council Educational Alliance in that area with a view to its aiding in a constructive effort to improve the situation.

The ambiguity in the use of the terms "Rabbi" and "Reverend" constituted another problem, and the Committee had investigated the existing state statutes to see whether this could not be clarified.

5. Arbitration

In accordance with the action of the Community Council, a Committee had been appointed to set up permanent machinery for the arbitration of Jewish disputes. Membership consisted of Philmore J Haber, Chairman; Judge Samuel Silbert, Abraham Kollin, Rabbi Israel Porath, I R Morris, Rabbi Harold Goldfarb, Ezra Z Shapiro, and Aaron Resnick; the Committee had met and had agreed upon a preliminary draft of the plan, based in part upon the experience of the Jewish Conciliation Court in New York. It was expected that a complete report would be made to the next Community Council meeting.

It was also reported that a recent case arbitrated through the Council's facilities had resulted in the payment of \$224 by a Congregation to one of its members, in fulfillment of the agreement reached.

6. Nomination

It was announced that the Nominating Committee had met and had mailed its recommendations to the membership.

7. Discrimination in Employment

Mr Furth reported that the Committee on Employment had continued its investigation of discrimination, and that conferences had been held with several additional employment agencies and commercial college placement departments. Consistently it had been reported that at least 50% of the Jewish employers stated that they did not wish to employ Jews and that an equal or greater proportion of non-Jewish employers practiced a similar policy. Specific information concerning such employers had been extremely difficult to obtain, however.

The Committee saw the problem as having at least three aspects: that of the employment agencies, the Jewish employers, and the non-Jewish employers. With regard to the first, it was attempting to have the agencies avoid any policy which would encourage employers to discriminate. It had agreed, furthermore, to seek improvement among Jewish employers before contacting the non-Jewish ones, and to this end was planning a series of conferences with groups of large employers to present the problem and to discuss it with them. Similar conferences would be held with representative labor persons.

Rabbi Brickner pointed out that beyond the problem with which the Committee was concerned, was the fundamental question of vocational guidance for Jewish youth. It was his belief that this should be the concern of the entire Jewish community, and that the first step might be a collection of facts which would serve as the basis for intelligent guidance. Such data might then be used with similar information from other cities in seeing the problem in its national perspective.

While there was agreement as to the basic importance of vocational guidance, it was recognized that the Jewish Social Service Bureau had recently inaugurated a vocational adjustment department, and that the Council Educational Alliance had appointed a special committee to undertake a survey such as Rabbi Brickner suggested. The Chairman of the Council's Committee had been made a member of the Alliance Group, and the Council had also integrated its work closely with that of the J.S.S.B. vocational adjustment department. It was agreed, therefore, that the Council's Committee should limit itself to its present function for the time being, closely working with the other two bodies.

Due to its recent formation and small budget and staff, the limitations of the J.S.S.B. department were apparent, but it was believed that its facilities should be better known to the community, and it was recommended that Mrs Marc Grossman of the Bureau be contacted with a view to having her explain the work being done to the next meeting of the Community Council. It was recognized that the problem of vocational guidance was a general one which confronted the entire community, and its special Jewish aspects were the direct concern of the Jewish community.

8. Centennial

Leo Weidenthal, Chairman of the Centennial Committee, described the tentative program of the Committee for the community's observance of the one-hundredth anniversary of the first Jewish settlement in Cleveland. The program called for a series of events between May 7 and June 6, including a civic meeting and banquet, a literary exhibit at the library, an art exhibit at the Art Museum, sermons at the temples and synagogues on a special weekend, programs and essay contests in the religious schools; and included several events already planned, such as the district B'nai B'rith convention, a special Jewish War Veterans program, the closing of the Jewish Welfare Fund Campaign, dedication of the Hebrew Cultural Garden development. In addition to these community events, the Committee would aid organizations in their own centennial programs. A feature of the observance might be the compilation of a history of the local Jewish community.

The discussion of the program brought a favorable response, and it was stated that the observance would serve as a demonstration of Jewish integration into American life. It was believed that the program should be a dignified one, and to this end should have adequate financial support, although the amount of funds needed was quite flexible within the program as outlined. The Committee was given authority to draft a detailed budget and to present it to the Jewish Welfare Fund with the request for inclusion in the next campaign.

There was considerable question concerning the time of the observance, and many stated that it would be preferable to hold it in the fall, inasmuch as there appeared to be insufficient time to prepare for an adequate spring celebration, particularly since many persons would be busy with the Jewish Welfare Fund drive, temples and religious schools would close their activities unusually early, and organizations already had mapped out their programs for the remainder of the season. It was also believed that it would take a long period to build up proper interest throughout the community. For these reasons, it appeared that a fall celebration, possibly concentrated within a short period of time, would be advisable, although this would not rule out events by individual organizations prior to that time.

9. Kashruth

Oscar Steiner reported that the Committee on Kashruth had substantially completed its fact finding activity and had been given no authority to go beyond this. The question was raised, therefore, as to further procedure.

Discussion brought out the advisability of having the Committee continue its work and on the basis of further investigation, including study of the problem of changes in the price differentials between kosher and non-kosher meats and other elements, to draft a suggested program which might offer a constructive solution for many of the problems involved in Kashruth administration. While it was recognized that the situation was extremely difficult, and that all previous efforts to cope with it had failed, it was believed that the Council had a definite obligation to present a program which might bring improvement, and upon motion made, duly seconded and carried, the Kashruth Committee was authorized to make a deliberate and careful analysis of the situation and to recommend a program of action to the Executive Committee at a future meeting.

10. Polish Situation

It was reported by Abraham Kollin, president of the local chapter of the American Jewish Congress, that the Congress had called city-wide conferences in New York, Detroit, and other cities, to call attention to the increasingly tragic plight of the Jews in Poland and to seek to obtain a more humane policy from the Polish government. In view of the existence of the local Jewish Community Council, it was his belief that the matter could be presented to the local Jewish community through the Council, perhaps at a city-wide conference.

In the discussion of the matter, it was agreed that the situation should be brought to the next meeting of the Council, and the Chairman was authorized to appoint a Committee to draft a set of resolutions for presentation to the Council - and if accepted, to be forwarded to the Polish ambassador and other officials. Abraham Kollin, Albert Woldman, and George Furth were appointed. The Secretary was directed to write The American Jewish Committee in the meantime to obtain their advice.

11. Membership

It was announced that since the last meeting, the Jewish Big Brothers Association had accepted membership in the Council.

12. Annual Meeting

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Council should be held on Monday evening, March 8th.

Respectfully submitted,
(Signed) Philip Bernstein
Secretary.

Officers

President
Max Simon

First Vice-President
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Second Vice-President
Edward J. Schweid

Third Vice-President
Mrs. Benjamin Levine

Treasurer
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Sidney N. Weitz
Mrs. Victor L. Wise
Albert A. Woldman

The Jewish Community Council

Cleveland

Room 605 • 1900 Euclid Avenue

Telephone: CHerry 8176

To the Representatives:

The Jewish Community Council will hold its first Annual Meeting Monday evening, March 8, 8:15 p.m., at the Ansel Road Temple (Assembly Hall — Ansel Road entrance).

The Officers and Executive Committee for the current year will be elected at that time. In addition, the progress and activity of the Council to date will be analyzed, and the Council's various Committees will report on the work which they have been doing since the last meeting, for discussion by the Council. A matter of special significance will be the tragic plight of the Jews in Poland, and action suggested by the local officers of The American Jewish Congress in cooperation with the Executive Committee will be considered.

I am sure that the importance of the meeting is obvious, and I trust that we can count upon your presence and participation.

Sincerely yours,

Max Simon

Max Simon
President.

February 24, 1937.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the
JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Monday, March 8, 1937, 8:30 p.m., at The Temple

1. Minutes

Copies having been mailed to the members, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

2. Financial Report

Jacob Wolpaw, treasurer, reported that to date the Community Council had received a total of \$405 from 98 member organizations; 15 organizations still owed \$51 for the year 1936; total expenditures had been \$173.10 leaving a cash balance of \$231.90. Disbursements had been almost entirely for stationery, postage, and office supplies, Mr. Wolpaw explained, and announced that bills would be mailed soon to member organizations for 1937 dues, at the rate of three dollars for each representative which an organization sent to the Council.

3. Election of Officers

Judge David Ralph Hertz, chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Committee recommended for re-election all of the current officers of the Community Council and members of the Executive Committee, with the exception of those for whom replacements would be necessary due to the fact that their respective organizations had failed to re-appoint them or because they were unable to serve.

Mr. Simon then yielded the Chair to Mr. Woldman, and upon motion made, duly seconded, and unanimously carried, the following were re-elected: Max Simon, president; Edward M. Baker, first vice-president; Edward J. Schweid, second vice-president; Mrs. Benjamin Levine, third vice-president; Jacob Wolpaw, treasurer; and Philip Bernstein, secretary.

Re-elected to the Executive Committee were: Meyer Atkin, Rabbi B. R. Brickner, Rabbi Armond E. Cohen, Jerome N. Curtis, Isadore Fine-silver, George W. Furth, Rabbi David Genuth, Mrs. Sol Gitson, Mrs. David Glasser, Rabbi Harold Goldfarb, Mrs. Siegmund Herzog, George E. Kath, Rabbi Hugo Klein, Abraham Kollin, I. R. Morris, Rabbi Israel Porath, Aaron Resnick, Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal, Rabbi A. H. Silver, Oscar H. Steiner, Meyer Weintraub, Sidney N. Weitz, and Albert A. Woldman. Elected to fill vacancies in the Executive Committee were Milton P. Altschul, Dr. S. O. Freedlander, Mrs. Joseph Goldhamer, Mrs. Walter Goldsmith, Max Kohrman, Mrs. Bernard Krangel, and Aaron Permut.

4. President's Report

Mr. Simon took the Chair and reviewed briefly the objectives and function of the Council to date. The foundation of the Council was the development of a spirit of mutual understanding and respect, he said, based upon the belief that differences in Jewish life were inevitable and that progress lay in the harmonization of these various points of view rather than in the ruthless triumph of one over the other. It was the Council's purpose to encourage free and independent thinking -- but to develop also a sense of partnership that would enable different groups to think together and work together toward a more constructive, useful, and purposeful Jewish life.

The first year of the Council's existence had been marked by progress toward these goals, and he commended the representatives for their keen interest and as evidenced by their regular attendance, their willingness to serve in any capacity when asked to do so.

Several of the specific projects undertaken by the Council were reviewed, particularly as they related to the fundamental objectives of the Council. Included among these were the activity of the Committee seeking to eliminate fictitious Jewish issues from political campaigns, the Committee on Schools and Colleges, the Kashruth Committee, the Committee on Discrimination in Employment, and the Arbitration Committee.

It was pointed out how these groups had been working to protect the welfare of the Jewish Community, aiding in the personal adjustment of Jewish children, and making the community conscious of its problems as the first and necessary step toward their solution. It was his hope that the Council would carry forward toward greater achievement and service in the year ahead.

5. Polish Situation

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee, its attention had been brought by the local officers of the American Jewish Congress to the tragic plight of the Polish Jews, and to the necessity of urging the Polish government to restore the rights which had been withdrawn from them. A Committee had been appointed consisting of Abraham Kollin, Albert A. Woldman, and George Furth to draft appropriate resolutions and to present them to the Community Council.

Mr. Woldman reported for the Committee, and stated that the situation of Polish Jewry had become extremely critical, as a result of terrible poverty, pogroms, riots, economic boycotts, and government restrictions. Not only should a protest be lodged with the Polish government, he said, but every reasonable means should be used to arouse public opinion so that the rights guaranteed the Jews in the Versailles treaty might again be granted them. The Committee had drafted resolutions for these purposes, detailing the poverty, privation, and persecution of the Jews in Poland, making it clear that the problem must be solved in Poland and not by any mass emigration of Jews from the country, and calling upon the United States government, the Polish government, and the millions of Poles who had demonstrated their friendship in the past, to aid in correcting the situation. (copy attached)

The matter was discussed at length, and it was the feeling of several persons that the resolutions might have been worded more sharply, and that a special conference on the subject, with nationally known speaker, or a mass meeting might be more effective than action by the meeting of the Council. After considerable discussion, however, it was believed that the group present was as representative a gathering as could be obtained, and it was decided that it would be preferable that the Council act in the matter at its current session. Upon motion made, duly seconded, and unanimously carried, the resolutions as presented were approved and ordered sent to the Polish Ambassador at Washington, the Secretary of State, Senators Bulkley and Donahey, Representatives Crosser, Sweeney, Fleger, and Mosier, and to the local newspapers.

6. Arbitration of Jewish Disputes

In accordance with the action taken by the Community Council at its last meeting, a Committee had been appointed to establish permanent machinery for the arbitration of Jewish disputes. The Committee thereafter appointed, included Philmore J. Haber, chairman; Judge Samuel H. Silbert, Rabbi Israel Porath, Aaron Resnick, I. R. Morris, Abraham Kollin, Ezra Z. Shapiro, and Rabbi Harold Goldfarb.

Mr. Haber presented the report of the Committee, proposing the establishment of a Jewish Conciliation and Arbitration Court as a branch of the Community Council, to be under the administration of an Arbitration Committee of the Council, and functioning in accordance with the Ohio Arbitration statutes so that the decisions would have the effect of court orders. Each case would be heard by three arbitrators, selected from a panel of 25 to 50 persons to be approved by the Executive Committee. The Court would consider all cases submitted to it involving Jewish questions, thus avoiding trials in the public courts for such disputes and thereby protecting the name and honor of the Jewish community -- likewise giving competent attention to those cases involving Jewish ritual which the civil courts were unable to judge with understanding. It would be the solemn moral obligation of every Jew or Jewish organization involved in Jewish disputes to submit such controversies to the Committee for conciliation and arbitration.

In the discussion of the report, the work of the Committee and the project recommended by them were praised and endorsed. The question was raised

as to whether a Jewish person involved in a dispute which might not itself be of a Jewish character could not take this to the Committee for arbitration rather than to the civil courts. While there was no fundamental objection to this, it was believed that for the time being it would not be wise to over-burden the Court and that at the start its function should be confined to Jewish matters.

Upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, the recommendation of the Committee was accepted and the Jewish Conciliation and Arbitration Court was thereby established.

7. Centennial

Leo Weidenthal, chairman of the Committee which had been established to plan for the community celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary of the first Jewish settlement in Cleveland, reported that a program had been agreed upon which would have two purposes: (1) to give the members of the Jewish community an understanding of their background and present composition and activity; and (2) to interpret to the general community in a dignified way the contribution of the Jews to the development of the city and their integration into the general community life.

The Committee proposed that a special community celebration be held during the week of October 24-31, including the following events: an exhibit at the Cleveland Public Library; an art exhibit at the Art Museum; a program of Jewish music; essay contests for Jewish children; special programs in the Jewish schools; special sermons in the temples and synagogues; and as a climax, a large civic meeting with a nationally famous speaker. In addition to these events, the Committee would make available to individual organizations program material and speakers so that they might conduct projects for their own memberships during the year, at their convenience. Another feature would be the compilation of a history of the local Jewish community. It was estimated that the cost of such a celebration might be \$1,000 to \$1,500, and the Executive Committee had recommended that the Committee make application to the Jewish Welfare Fund for such support.

It was emphasized that the celebration was intended to embrace the entire Jewish community, and that only with the full cooperation and assistance of all groups could it be the constructive, unifying, and educational observance which was desired.

Upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, the report was approved, and the Committee was authorized to proceed with its plans.

8. Discrimination in Employment

Raymond Metzner, reporting for the Committee on Discrimination in Employment, stated that since the last meeting of the Council several additional interviews had been held with the placement directors of employment agencies and vocational colleges; and that they had been informed repeatedly that at least 50% of the Jewish employers who called for applicants stated that they would prefer Gentiles, and that an equal or greater proportion of non-Jewish employers followed a similar policy.

The Committee saw the problem as having at least three aspects: (1) that of the employment agencies; (2) the Jewish employers; and (3) the non-Jewish employers. The Committee already had been working to get the cooperation of the agencies, so that they would themselves not do anything to encourage discrimination by employers. This work would be continued.

The next step to be undertaken by the Committee would be to arrange in the immediate future a number of small conferences with the large Jewish employers, to discuss the problem with them and to obtain their cooperation in meeting it. Similar conferences would be called also with Jewish representatives of labor who would be able to give the Committee accurate information concerning both the organized and unorganized industries.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee, it had been pointed out that the entire problem of vocational guidance for Jewish youth was one of extreme importance. Two local agencies, the Vocational Adjustment Department of the Jewish Social Service Bureau, and a special Committee of the Council Educational Alliance was interested and working on this, and the Community Council's Committee was integrating its efforts with that of the other two bodies.

In the discussion of the report, much concern was expressed with the seriousness of the problem and with the plight of Jewish youths who applied to various companies only to be rejected repeatedly with the inference or the frank explanation that their religion stood in their way. The effect upon their morale and upon their attitude toward their Jewishness -- particularly when these rebuffs came from Jewish employers -- was one which should be of grave concern to the entire Jewish community, it was said. It was declared that the problem was the most important one which the Community Council had undertaken to meet, and the Committee was encouraged to proceed energetically in its efforts to improve the situation.

8. New Members

It was announced that four additional organizations had applied for membership in the Council: The Jewish Big Brothers Association; the Jewish Consumptive Relief Society (Men's Group); The Yiddish Culture Society; and the Pioneer Women's Organization, Chapter 1. Inasmuch as the latter two groups each did not have the necessary minimum of 75 members for automatic representation, upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, it was voted that each be entitled to one representative in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

9. The meeting was then adjourned.

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

Respectfully submitted,

(signed)

Philip Bernstein

Secretary.

Officers

President

Max Simon

First Vice-President

Edward M. Baker

Second Vice-President

Edward J. Schweid

Third Vice-President

Mrs. Benjamin Levine

Treasurer

Jacob Wolpaw

Secretary

Philip Bernstein

Executive

Committee

Meyer Atkin

Dr. Samuel Braun

Rabbi B. R. Brickner

Rabbi Armond E. Cohen

Jerome N. Curtis

L. Mack Fein

Isadore Finesilver

Mrs. Julius Fryer

George W. Furth

Rabbi David Genuth

Mrs. Sol Gitson

Mrs. David Glasser

Rabbi Harold Goldfarb

Mrs. Siegmund Herzog

George E. Kath

Mrs. B. J. Klein

Rabbi Hugo Klein

Abraham Kollin

Ben Labowitch

I. R. Morris

Rabbi Israel Porath

Aaron Resnick

Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal

Rabbi A. H. Silver

Mrs. Harry Simon

Oscar H. Steiner

Meyer Weintraub

Sidney N. Weitz

Mrs. Victor L. Wise

Albert A. Woldman

The Jewish Community Council

Cleveland

Room 605 - 1900 Euclid Avenue

Telephone: CHerry 8176

Rabbi A H Silver
The Temple
Ansel Rd & 105th St
Cleveland, Ohio

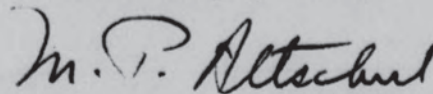
Dear Rabbi Silver:

In accordance with the plan agreed upon at our last session, we are arranging a meeting of our Committee to get a comprehensive picture of the problem of discrimination as they know it.

After some consultation with regard to the selection of persons to be invited, it appears that the following individuals will best be able to give us the information which we need, and they are being asked, therefore, to attend: William Goldberg, of the Jewish Carpenters Union; Beryl Peppercorn, of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union; Louis Friend and Nathan Solomon, of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union; and Albert Bogen, of the International Fur Workers Union of America; and Julius Uchitel, of the Millinery and Hat Workers Union.

The meeting will be held Tuesday evening, March 30, 8:15 p.m., at the Ansel Road Temple. Its importance is obvious, and I am counting on your presence and participation.

Sincerely yours,



Milton P. Altschul
Chairman

March 20, 1937.

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Max Simon

First Vice-President

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Second Vice-President

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Treasurer

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Mrs. Walter Goldsmith

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George E. Kath

Rabbi Hugo Klein

Abraham Kollin

Mrs. Bernard Krangel

I. R. Morris

Aaron Permut

Rabbi Israel Porath

Aaron Resnick

Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal

Rabbi A. H. Silver

Oscar H. Steiner

Meyer Weintraub

Sidney N. Weitz

Mrs. Victor L. Wise

Albert A. Woldman

Max Kohrman

The Jewish Community Council

Cleveland

Room 605 - 1900 Euclid Avenue

Telephone: CHerry 8176

March 31, 1937

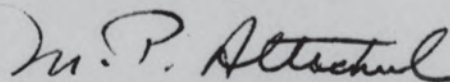
Dear Rabbi Silver:

The first conference with the Jewish employers, as agreed upon at our last meeting, will be held Wednesday evening, April 7, 8:15 p.m., at the Ansel Road Temple (Parlor).

The following persons are being invited to attend: L. W. Neumark, Richard H. Kohn, Adolph Farber, I. F. Freiburger, Edward Rosenfeld, Howard Wise, David Benjamin, A. F. Mellman, David Lowensohn and Hayden Kline.

The meeting will be of extreme importance, and I trust that you will be present to participate in the discussion.

Sincerely yours,



Milton P. Altschul
Chairman

P.S. Several members of our committee are calling the persons invited, to urge their attendance. Could you please phone Mr. Farber for this purpose, after he has received the enclosed letter? The Committee thought it wise not to be specific either in the letter or the telephone conversation with regard to the problem, but merely to stress the importance of their attendance.

Officers

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Second Vice-President

Edward J. Schweid

Third Vice-President

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Jacob Wolpaw

Secretary

Philip Bernstein

Executive
Committee

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Meyer Atkin
Rabbi B. R. Brickner
Rabbi Armond E. Cohen
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Isadore Finesilver
Dr. S. O. Freedlander
George W. Furth
Rabbi David Genuth
Mrs. Sol Gitson
Mrs. David Glasser
Rabbi Harold Goldfarb
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Sidney N. Weitz
Mrs. Victor L. Wise
Albert A. Woldman
Max Kohnman

The Jewish Community Council

Cleveland

Room 605 - 1900 Euclid Avenue

Telephone: CHerry 8176

April 22, 1937

Rabbi A. H. Silver
The Temple, Ansel & East 105th Street,
Cleveland, Ohio.

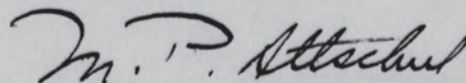
Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am enclosing a pamphlet which has just been published and which describes the problem of discrimination as encountered in New York, and likewise some of its national aspects. I believe you will be interested in the contents as they may reflect upon the local problem with which our Committee has been dealing.

Our last meeting was highly successful in many respects - particularly in securing the interest and concern of the men whom we invited to discuss the problem with us - and this, you will recall, was the central purpose of the meeting.

As soon as possible, we shall proceed along the direction outlined in previous sessions, and I shall, of course, inform you of our next steps.

Sincerely yours,



Milton P. Altschul
Chairman

SUGGESTED ARBITRATION PANEL

Judges:

Judge Lewis Drucker
Judge Mary Grossman
Judge David Ralph Hertz
Judge Manuel Levine
Judge Samuel H Silbert

Rabbis:

Rabbi B.R. Brickner
Rabbi Armond E Cohen
Rabbi David Genuth ✓
Rabbi Harold Goldfarb
Rabbi Melbourne Harris
Rabbi Hugo Klein ✓
Rabbi Isaac Krislow
Rabbi Israel Porath
Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal
Rabbi A.H. Silver

Attorneys:

Morris Berick
Jos. M. Berne
Jerome N. Curtis
Suggs Garber
B.D. Gordon
Simon J. Green
Samuel Horwitz
Max Kohrman
Abraham Kollin
Irwin N. Loeser
Nathan Loeser
Max E. Meisel
I.R. Morris
Henry A. Rocker
Edward J. Schweid
Ezra Z. Shapiro
Philip Steinberg
Sidney N. Weitz
Eugene E. Wolf
Meyer Wolpaw

Business Men:

Harry Affelder
Milton Atlschul
Ben Arsham
Louis S. Bing, Jr.
Myron A. Cohen
Nathan Cornsweet
B. B. Eisenberg
Aaron Garber
Jacob Goldman
Julius Goodman
S. P. Halle
Leo D. Markowitz
Aaron Permut
Max L. Rose
Julius Schweid

Officers

President
Max Simon

First Vice-President
Edward M. Baker

Second Vice-President
Edward J. Schweid

Third Vice-President
Mrs. Benjamin Levine

Treasurer
Jacob Wolpaw

Secretary
Phillip Bernstein

The Jewish Community Council

Cleveland

Room 605 - 1900 Euclid Avenue

Telephone: CHerry 8176

Executive Committee

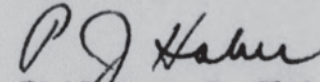
Milton P. Altschul
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Rabbi A. H. Silver
Oscar H. Steiner
Meyer Weintraub
Sidney N. Weitz
Mrs. Victor L. Wise
Albert A. Woldman
Max Kohrman

To the Members of the Executive Committee:

In accordance with the rules governing the operation of the Jewish Conciliation and Arbitration Court, established by the Jewish Community Council at its last meeting, the Arbitration Committee is submitting herewith a list of persons whom it is recommending for inclusion in the Arbitration Panel. From the Panel, in each case, will be selected three persons who will hear that particular dispute. Appointments to the Panel are for one year.

It is necessary that the list have the approval of the Executive Committee, before it can become official. Will you therefore please indicate below your wish in the matter and mail this to us? We shall appreciate an early reply, since there are a few cases now pending.

Sincerely yours,,



Philmore J. Haber
Chairman, Arbitration Committee.

I hereby approve the Arbitration Panel recommended by
the Arbitration Committee.

(Signed) _____

(Please mail this to Philmore J. Haber - Room 605 -
1900 Euclid Ave.)

THE CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION COURT OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY
COUNCIL OF CLEVELAND

- and -

)
)
) SUBMISSION AGREEMENT
)
)

We, the undersigned, hereby agree to submit to arbitration the following controversy:

We do hereby agree to submit such controversy for decision to

arbitrator(s) selected from the Panel of the Conciliation and Arbitration Court of The Jewish Community Council of Cleveland.

We further agree that the arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the Conciliation and Arbitration Court of The Jewish Community Council of Cleveland printed herein and pursuant to the Arbitration Laws of _____.

It is further agreed that we will abide by and perform any award rendered by the arbitrator(s), and that a judgment of a court having jurisdiction thereof may be entered upon such award.

Signed _____

Signed _____

RULES ADOPTED BY THE ARBITRATION COMMITTEE
OF THE CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION COURT OF
THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF CLEVELAND

The Arbitration Committee of The Jewish Community Council of Cleveland does hereby adopt the following rules relating to procedure and the conduct of arbitration hearings governing submissions to it:

1. Initial Proceeding. Any party desiring to arbitrate any dispute, difference or misunderstanding embraced by the arbitration plan covering the establishment of the conciliation and arbitration court of The Jewish Community Council of Cleveland, may file an application, which application shall indicate the nature of the controversy and shall be the consent of the party to submit such controversy to the conciliation and arbitration court for arbitration. The Secretary of the Arbitration Committee will then endeavor to secure the consent of the adverse party to the submission of such controversy for arbitration.

When both parties have consented to arbitration, arbitrators shall be selected in the manner hereinafter provided.

2. Submission. The submission shall be prepared in the form prescribed by the Arbitration Committee, which submission shall be in triplicate, with the signatures of each party to the controversy attached thereto. Each party shall be entitled to a copy of such submission, and the Arbitration Committee shall retain a copy. The submission shall contain an accurate, concise statement of the controversy, shall indicate that the parties agree to abide by the award, and shall contain the names of the arbitrators selected to decide such controversy.

3. The Appointment of Arbitrators. Each party to the controversy may select an arbitrator, and the Arbitration Committee shall select an arbitrator, which such arbitrators shall constitute the arbiter tribunal for such controversy. All the arbitrators shall be drawn from the panel appointed by The Jewish Community Council. By consent, the parties to a controversy may make their respective selections outside of such panel, but the Arbitration Committee shall make its selection, in any event, from such panel. Similarly, by consent, all the arbitrators to a controversy may be selected by the Arbitration Committee, which selections shall be taken from the panel. All arbiter tribunals shall be composed of three (3) arbitrators unless, because of an unusual situation, the Arbitration Committee shall deem the selection of a greater number to be necessary, in which event additional arbitrators shall be selected by the Arbitration Committee.

If within a period of ten (10) days from the receipt of the list of the members of the panel either party shall fail to select an arbitrator, the right of such selection shall devolve upon the Arbitration Committee.

4. Qualifications of Arbitrators. No person selected to act as an arbitrator under these rules shall serve in any controversy wherein he has a personal or financial interest, or where he is related to either party, or where he has any preconceived opinion which would prejudice the interest of either party, or where his business or other connections are such as to affect the impartiality of his decision. In the event of doubt concerning the qualifications of an arbitrator to act in any particular case, the matter shall be referred to the Arbitration Committee for decision.

5. Authority of an Arbitrator. The authority of an arbitrator in any particular controversy shall date from the time of his selection until the award is made. The duty of an arbitrator is to hear and determine the matter in controversy in accordance with the submission and with these rules and the prevailing Arbitration Statutes of the State of Ohio, and his authority is limited to the actual controversy submitted. In arriving at a decision, the arbitrator has a responsibility of a judge, and while not required to observe technical rules of evidence and law, he should be actuated by similar principles of justice and rules of conduct.

6. Vacancies. Vacancies caused by illness, death, resignation or other inability or incapacity shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made, and upon the appointment of the person to fill a vacancy, he and the remaining arbitrators and the parties shall meet and the substitute arbitrator shall be advised what has already taken place, the present status of the controversy, and he shall act with the other arbitrators in arranging for and taking part in future hearings.

7. Oaths. If the parties so select, each arbitrator shall swear or affirm that he will faithfully, fairly and impartially hear and examine all evidence and make a just award according to the best of his understanding and upon like election the arbitrators shall have the authority to require all witnesses who may testify in the particular controversy to make oath or affirmation.

8. Hearings. The parties to a controversy are entitled to a hearing. The time, place and number of such hearing or hearings shall be arranged by the arbiter tribunal as soon as practicable after the submission is executed, allowing at least five (5) days' notice to all persons required to be present. Hearings shall be open to such persons as are approved by the parties and by the arbiter tribunal. If either party desires to be represented by counsel, he shall notify the other party at least three (3) days prior to the date set for hearing in order that such adverse party may avail himself of a like privilege. The Arbiter tribunal shall prescribe the records to be kept of the particular controversy then in hearing, and such records shall be open only to such persons as are approved by the parties and the arbiter tribunal.

The arbiter tribunal shall hear the parties and their respective witnesses in such order as shall be best calculated to present the issues, and full opportunity shall be given all parties to a controversy to present the evidence upon which they rely. The arbiter tribunal may reject any and all evidence which they consider immaterial and irrelevant.

Questions of law which may arise during any hearing may be determined by the arbiter tribunal, but any such question may be referred by the arbiter tribunal, upon its own motion or if the same is required by the Ohio Arbitration Statutes then in force, to a judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

9. Charges. No fees or compensation shall be paid to the arbitrators comprising the arbiter tribunal.

10. Award. Unless otherwise provided in the submission, the award of the arbiter tribunal shall be made within twenty (20) days after the conclusion of the hearing or hearings, unless by mutual written consent of the parties such time shall be extended. If no award is made within this time and there is no extension of time, the arbiter tribunal shall lose jurisdiction of the particular controversy.

In the discretion of the arbiter tribunal, the award may include the reasons for the decision, but it is not incumbent upon the arbiter tribunal to do more than set forth its decision in definite and final terms.

An award made by a majority of the arbitrators composing the arbiter tribunal shall be binding upon the parties and shall conclude the controversy unless otherwise provided by law. The award shall be in writing, signed by all or a majority of the arbitrators, as the case may be, and shall be acknowledged by a notary public, and a copy of the award shall be delivered personally or by registered mail to each party to the controversy. The arbiter tribunal may (but it is not obligated so to do) file said award in any court having jurisdiction under the Ohio Arbitration Act and have judgment entered thereon.

11. If either party to an arbitration shall fail to proceed with an arbitration, having theretofore consented, or if either party neglects or refuses to abide by or perform an award, the aggrieved party may take appropriate legal action to enforce such obligations as may be available under the Ohio Arbitration Statutes then prevailing.

12. Unless otherwise provided for in the submission, the award shall be final and there shall be no appeal except as provided under the Ohio Arbitration Statutes then prevailing.

13. Special rules. Whenever the foregoing rules are not fully applicable, the parties, with the consent of the Arbitration Committee, may adopt special rules to cover such conditions, and in case of conflict the special rules adopted for any such controversy shall take precedence over the foregoing rules.

14. Arbiter tribunals shall apply these rules in the manner best calculated to insure a just and speedy hearing and termination of the controversy, and should any question arise concerning their meaning or interpretation, the Arbitration Committee shall have full power to interpret such rules.

15. All controversies submitted for determination to the conciliation and arbitration court shall be determined in accordance with the foregoing rules.

16. The Arbitration Committee of The Jewish Community Council of Cleveland shall have power to amend these rules from time to time but such amendments shall not be effective until the same have been ratified and approved by the Executive Committee of The Jewish Community Council.

Minutes of a Meeting of the
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 20, 1937, 8:30 p.m., at the Euclid Ave. Temple

1. Attendance

There were present: Max Simon, Chairman; Milton P. Altschul, Meyer Atkin, Edward M. Baker, Philip Bernstein, Rabbi David Genuth, Mrs. Sol Gitson, Mrs. David Glasser, Rabbi Harold Goldfarb, Mrs. Joseph Goldhamer, Mrs. Siegmund Herzog, George E. Kath, Rabbi Hugo Klein, Max Kohrman, Mrs. Bernard Krangel, Mrs. Benjamin Levine, Rabbi Israel Porath, and Sidney N. Weitz; and Leo Weidenthal and Daniel Fried.

2. Minutes

Copies having been mailed to all members, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

3. Finance

The Secretary reported that a total of \$ 231 had been received from 50 organizations in response to bills for 1937 dues mailed in March. Added to the amount remaining from 1936 income, this made a bank balance of \$ 414.43. A second bill would be sent shortly to groups which had not responded to the first request.

It was reported that 15 organizations had not paid their 1936 dues, and had not indicated the reasons for their failure to make such remittance. It was agreed that letters should be sent them requesting an explanation and an expression of their intention in the matter.

The Executive Committee authorized the purchase of a steel file cabinet for the Community Council; expense was expected to be about \$ 32.

4. Discrimination in Employment

Milton Altschul, chairman of the Committee on Employment, reported that the Committee had inaugurated a series of meetings with large Jewish employers. The first such session had been held recently, and in the discussion of the problem it had been reported that few Jews apply for certain types of positions, such as technical, factory, and heavy construction work; and that Jews apparently avoided employment in companies where advancement was more or less automatic and slow, with poor pay. This was in part responsible for overcrowding of Jews in other fields, and might have accounted in part for discrimination. Another reason why some employers refused to hire Jews was their belief that in this way they would avoid labor trouble; although recent events apparently had shown the weakness of this belief.

Two suggestions had been discussed at this first conference as possible constructive steps in meeting the problem: the establishment of a Jewish employment agency to find positions for Jews, and to discover more accurately the specific firms which were discriminating; and a survey to determine the extent and nature of Jewish unemployment and discrimination, and perhaps other pertinent information. No decision had been made concerning the advisability of creating such an agency or the type of survey to be made.

Similar conferences would be held soon with other groups of employers. Since little information had been secured or had been brought to the Committee giving the names of employers who discriminated, these sessions provided a general approach to large employers, in order to make them aware of the seriousness of the situation and to receive

suggestions from them as to how it might be met. The first conference had brought a marked interest and concern among the employers who participated.

Prior to that meeting, a conference had been scheduled with several labor leaders, to obtain from them a picture of the situation as they knew it and to secure what specific information they might have. None of those invited had appeared, however, and while it was known that a few of them had been called unexpectedly to an important labor meeting, the reasons for the absence of the others was not known. The members of the Committee were planning to have conferences with these persons individually, to obtain the desired information.

Two members of the Committee had conferred with a large non-Jewish employer about whom an apparently authentic charge of discrimination had been made. The charge was shown to be without foundation, inasmuch as the company employed a number of Jews, and had demonstrated friendship in several ways.

In answer to a question, it was stated that the Committee had reviewed some of the general literature on the problem and reports of efforts being made in other cities to deal with it. A recent pamphlet issued by the American Jewish Congress was among these and had received widespread comment, and the Secretary was instructed to procure and send copies to the members of the Executive Committee.

5. German Students Visit

A report of the activity of the League for Human Rights Against Nazism to prevent and counteract the visit of Nazi students to Cleveland was made by Mr. Kath, Mr. Weidenthal, Mrs. Levine, and the Secretary, who were members of the Executive Committee of the League.

It was pointed out that the original proposal to have the Boards of Education recruit students to go to Germany in exchange for Nazi students had been defeated; that it was impossible thereafter to prevent individual families from bringing students here; that an effort had been made to have Mayor Burton abstain from addressing the German students when they arrived, and although he refused to change his plans, he made his address a lecture on Americanism and tolerance; that an anti-Nazi meeting had been arranged shortly before their arrival, with Erika Mann as the chief speaker; that the Nazi students had been met by German refugee students and given a letter which contrasted the tragic plight of one group with the stated mission of the other; that thousands of these letters were being distributed throughout the schools by members of the Students Union and others to counteract the propaganda and goodwill efforts of the visitors; and that a mass meeting had been held in the Music Hall to inform the public of the true state of education in Germany. In short every effort was being made to destroy the propaganda purpose of the visit.

The question was raised as to why the Executive Committee of the Community Council had not been called into special session to map out a course of action in the matter. It was explained that the League for Human Rights was the agent of the community in all such situations, and that the Community Council was directly represented on its executive board together with all anti-defamation groups. The League had taken immediate action as soon as it had learned of plans for the student exchange. It was pointed out also that no members of the Executive Committee had suggested such a meeting, and it had been the belief of the officers of the Council that the matter should not be made a Jewish issue, but should remain a non-sectarian American issue.

As a general policy, however, it was agreed that every member of the Executive Committee had an obligation to bring matters to the attention of the President and Secretary, and that the activity and effectiveness of the Council was their direct responsibility.

The present status of the boycott was reviewed. Shoppers committees were actively checking on stores, and recent complaints involved the chain stores and small shops.

6. Centennial

Leo Weidenthal reported that a grant of \$ 500 had been received from the Jewish Welfare Fund to finance the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the first Jewish settlement in Cleveland. The observance would have its climax during the week of October 24-31, with a number of community events, including a literary and historical exhibit at the Library; an art exhibit (tentative); a program of Jewish music; essay contests; programs in the religious schools; sermons in the temples and synagogues; and a large civic meeting.

Activity was already under way. The Library had agreed to give the space and necessary assistance. Milton Fox of the Art Museum staff had offered his full cooperation. The street car pass of the current week had a sketch of Simson Thorman, the first Jewish settler in Cleveland, and called attention to the centennial anniversary of his arrival; the district convention of B'nai B'rith would have a pageant as part of the program with emphasis on the centennial; the Hebrew Cultural Gardens would be dedicated June 13 with centennial features.

Committees would be appointed soon to carry out the various aspects of the observance, bringing in the participation of various elements throughout the community, in order to make the celebration an integrating and unifying force.

7. Public Relations

As a result of a recent newspaper article describing the arrest of a rabbi for illicit manufacture of liquor -- the second such incident in the past few months -- the committee headed by Edward Schweid had visited the man to determine whether he actually was a rabbi and whether the story had been distorted. The man presented evidence that he had been admitted to the rabbinate, and the newspaper story was so carefully worded that there could be no question concerning its accuracy in this respect.

While there was nothing which could be done in this matter, the question was raised concerning the general situation which gave rise to such incidents. The Committee recognized that this was a serious problem, and was turning its attention to the underlying factors.

8. Arbitration

The Chairman announced that machinery for the Jewish Conciliation and Arbitration Court had been completed. Members of the Committee already had received copies of the rules and the list of persons recommended for the panel of arbitrators. Practically everyone invited to serve in this capacity had accepted.

9. Haym Solomon Memorial

Daniel Fried, president of the American Patriotic Order of Haym Solomon, explained the purposes of his organization in seeking to erect a memorial to the Jew who had rendered outstanding service to the colonial forces in the American Revolution, and requested membership for the organization in the Council and endorsement of the project.

While there was expression of agreement with the ideals of the group, question was raised concerning the propriety of membership in the Council since it apparently was a transitory organization with a temporary purpose; and it was the consensus of opinion that no action could be taken either endorsing or rejecting the specific project since the organization had made no definite plans concerning the type of structure to be erected, the cost, or methods of raising the necessary funds. It was agreed, therefore, that the matter should be resubmitted after the organization had mapped out such a program.

10. Orthodox Synagogues

It was pointed out by Rabbi Gemuth that a number of Orthodox synagogues were facing serious financial difficulties, and several were being foreclosed. He presented the problem as having its roots in a situation which was of concern to the Jewish community, and suggested that the Council use its machinery to aid in increasing the memberships of congregations. It was his opinion that a community wide effort would bring about affiliation of many hundreds of Jews who were not now members of any congregation, and that this would help materially in relieving the situation.

It was recognized that the problem as it affected synagogues generally was caused by a variety of deep-seated factors, and that it would be extremely difficult to deal with it effectively. Due to the lateness of the hour, no extended consideration could be given to it, and members were asked to give thought to specific measures which might be taken, for discussion at a future meeting.

11. New Members

New members, which had complied with entrance requirements since the last meeting, were the Anshe Galicia Congregation, the Hebrew Vilner Society, and the Marmorisher Young Men's Association. Application had been received also from the Past Noble Grand Club of the Fairview Rebekah Lodge. There was some question concerning its inclusion, and since the group had failed to provide the necessary information concerning its purpose and activity, action was deferred until these facts were received.

12. No further business coming before the meeting, it was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) Philip Bernstein

Secretary

Minutes of a Meeting of the
JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Monday, June 7, 1937, 8:30 p.m., at The Temple

1. Copies having been mailed to all representatives, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

2. Centennial Celebration

Leo Weidenthal, chairman of the Centennial Committee, reported that preliminary plans were practically complete for the community celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the first Jewish settlement in Cleveland. The formation of committees to carry out the various projects would be concluded during the current week.

A sum of \$500 had been granted by the Jewish Welfare Fund to finance the celebration. The program would have its climax during the week of October 24-31, when the following events would take place: an exhibit at the Public library; a program of Jewish music; an art exhibit; special sermons in the synagogues and temples; programs in the religious schools and institutions; essay contests; and a large civic meeting. Organizations were requested not to plan any special programs during that week, in order that the entire Jewish community might center attention and all groups participate in this celebration.

Organizations desiring speakers or information for their own programs honoring the Centennial would receive assistance from the Committee. A few preliminary Centennial events already had occurred: namely, a pageant at the B'nai B'rith district convention; the appearance of the picture of the first Jewish settler in Cleveland, Simson Thorman, on the street car pass during the week of May 16th; and the forthcoming dedication of the Hebrew Cultural Gardens on Sunday afternoon, June 13, at 2:15 p.m., to which the Jewish community was invited.

It was pointed out that the success of the Centennial observance would depend directly upon the participation and support of the entire Jewish community.

3. Discrimination in Employment

Milton Altschul, chairman of the Committee dealing with the problem of discrimination in employment, reported that since the last session of the Council, the Committee had inaugurated a series of meetings with large Jewish employers, and likewise had begun to contact Jewish labor leaders. Failing to secure the attendance of the labor men at a meeting, members of the Committee had begun to interview them individually to secure information which would be helpful in dealing with the problem.

The first session with the employers had been held recently, and had brought the following information: that few Jews apply for factory or technical positions; there appears to be an overcrowding of Jews in white-collar jobs; discrimination is practiced sometimes by personnel managers without the knowledge of the head of the company; some employers object to Jews with the excuse that they are "too ambitious", either pressing for quick advancement, or leaving after a short period to become competitors; Jews do not seek positions in large companies, such as banks, where advancement is slow and more or less automatic.

Two suggestions had been discussed by these employers: (1) that a special employment agency be established with the special purpose of finding jobs for Jews, and to discover specifically which employers were discriminating; and (2) that a survey be made to determine the extent and nature of Jewish unemployment. No final decision was made with regard to these proposals, pending further consideration.

A second conference with employers already had been scheduled. It was pointed out that these sessions had a dual purpose. Not only would the Committee obtain valuable suggestions and information from them, but it would secure the interest and concern of these employers in the problem.

The Committee also was undertaking to investigate complaints about individual employers who apparently have been discriminating against Jews. One such employer had been visited recently, but it was found that the charge was not true, and that the company had many Jewish employees. It was pointed out that

very few specific complaints had been received, and delegates were urged to report such cases, with exact information, to the Committee so that action might be taken with regard to them.

4. German Student Exchange

I R Morris reported in detail on the work done by the League for Human Rights Against Nazism in opposition to the German student exchange. The League had first become aware of the plan early in February, and had begun at once to combat it. Going on the principle that the support of non-Jews should be obtained in opposing the project, that effort should be centered on the school boards to have them take no official part in the plan, and that the preservation of civil liberties should be emphasized in the schools, the following action was taken:

Superintendents of schools were immediately visited to prevent official participation in a German exchange;

A Committee of non-Jews was organized to protest the exchange;

Protestant ministers were contacted to secure their support, but in practically every case this was refused;

Pressure was brought upon the various school boards not to engage in the exchange as official hosts of the German students, or to recruit American students to go to Germany. This was successful, destroying the original plan for the exchange, and no school board openly endorsed or sponsored the exchange. The students came as guests of individual families, many of them German.

Several anti-Nazi meetings were held before the students arrived, to inform the public of the real purpose of the visit, and to stir up sentiment against it. Speakers were Erika Mann and Walter Schoenstedt.

A committee visited Mayor Burton to persuade him not to address the German students on their arrival. He refused to change his plans, but agreed to make his speech a sermon on tolerance and freedom.

When the students arrived, they were handed letters addressed to them by the German students in exile, contrasting their own tragic plight and that of their families with the picture which the visitors were trying to give the public. Thousands of these letters, and maps of concentration camps in Germany, were distributed by student organizations throughout the schools being attended by the Nazis.

An overflow mass meeting was held in the Public Music Hall to make clear the destruction of educational liberty in Germany, and to counteract the propaganda of the visitors.

Considerable publicity had been given nationally to the exchange, much of it distorted, exaggerated, and extremely harmful to Cleveland and the local Jewish community. Among the journals which commented on the situation were the "Nation", the "Detroit Jewish Chronicle", and the "Congress Bulletin". The latter criticized particularly the Jewish Community Council, making a number of charges which had no basis in fact and which were clearly misstatements. Mr Morris read this article, Mr Simon's letter in reply, and a second article in the "Bulletin" in part retracting the previous charges.

There was prolonged discussion of the exchange, its purpose, the action of the school boards and individuals involved, and the tactics employed to counteract and destroy the effectiveness of the Nazi propaganda scheme. It was pointed out that the visitors in many cases were not children, but young men and women, carefully instructed professional exchange students.

Involved in the discussion was the question of the activity of the Community Council in the matter. It was explained that all action had been channeled through the League in keeping with the established policy of the Council in this field of work, and in line with its general principle that the Council should assist rather than supersede organizations which already existed and were effectively carrying on specific community activities. In order to clarify more fully the League's relationship to the Council, however, it was moved, duly seconded, and carried that a Committee be appointed to study the matter, and likewise the advisability of further action with regard to the exchange; the Committee's report to be acted upon by the Executive Committee.

Upon motion made by Mr Meisel, duly seconded, and unanimously carried, the report of the League was received, accepted and ordered filed, with an expression of the gratitude of the Council for the work which had been done.

5. Situation in Poland and Germany

Albert Woldman reported that responses had been received from practically all of the Congressmen to whom resolutions had been sent by the Council with regard to the plight of the Jews in Poland. A reply from Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, said that "while the government understands the natural interest of American citizens of Jewish extraction in conditions affecting the Jewish population of Poland, it is not in a position to take any action with regard to matters which do not directly affect American citizens or interests".

Mr Woldman informed the Council that a study had revealed at least twenty-five occasions in which the United States had taken action when American citizens and interests were not directly affected, and believed that a brief to this effect should be filed with the State Department.

Related to this question, was the recent beheading of an American citizen, Helmuth Hirsch, by the Nazi Government in Germany. Mr Woldman explained the circumstances surrounding the execution, reporting that the German government had refused to meet the diplomatic requests of the United States with regard to a stay of execution or copy of the court proceedings, and presented for the approval of the Council a resolution condemning the Nazi action and the diplomatic affront of the Nazi government.

In discussing further action with regard to Polish Jewry, whose plight was becoming more tragic each day, and the German problem, it was the opinion of the Council that action taken locally should be guided by the national defense organizations dealing with the situation. It was therefore moved, duly seconded, and carried, that letters be sent to the American Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Committee, requesting their counsel as to the advisability of action by the Cleveland Community Council, and that the matter then be referred to the Executive Committee for decision in the light of the replies received.

6. Baltazar Memorial

It was announced by Rabbi Hugo Klein that a memorial meeting had been arranged to honor Dr Deszo Baltazar, European leader who had been outstanding in combatting anti-Semitism in Hungary and surrounding countries. The meeting would be held Tuesday evening, June 15, 8:00 p.m., at the Jewish Center, and the Community was invited to attend.

7. Due to the lateness of the hour, it was agreed that the remaining items on the agenda should be deferred until the next session of the Community Council. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Philip Bernstein

Secretary.

June 10, 1937

Mr. Philip Bernstein, Secretary,
Jewish Community Council,
1900 Euclid Avenue,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Bernstein:

In looking over the minutes of the Monday meeting of the Jewish Community Council, I find the following: "In order to clarify more fully the League's relationship to the Council, it was moved, duly seconded, and carried that a Committee be appointed to study the matter, and likewise the advisability of further action with regard to the exchange; the Committee's report to be acted upon by the Executive Committee." I do not recall that that was the motion which was voted upon. The motion which was made, seconded and put to the body for a vote was the second part, "the advisability of further action with regard to the exchange". The matter of looking into the League's relationship with the Council was an expression on the part of the chairman. It was not officially incorporated in the motion.

This might seem to be a technical point which I am raising but it has within it serious implications. Already, as you will recall, from the speech of one of the representatives, the thought was expressed that the League was only a committee of the Council - a subtle way of undermining the autonomy and independence of a constituent organization represented in the Council. Such attempts may be made in the future on the part of those who would like to work their way into other organizations, control or dominate them.

You may recall that in the case of the League there was a serious question as to whether it should be represented in the Council at all because the League is non-sectarian, and that a sort of special status was created for it in order to make it possible for the League to report to the Council from time to time about its activities.

The Council has over a hundred organizations represented on it. The relationship which exists between the Council and the organizations represented on it is, I believe, clearly defined

Mr. Bernstein

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June 10, 1937

in the constitution. It was also clearly restated at the last meeting by the president, quoting, I believe, from the minutes of an Executive meeting. The matter should be allowed to rest there.

With best wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



C O P Y

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
461 Fourth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

June 14, 1937.

Dear Mr. Bernstein:

I have your letter of June 10, informing us of the activities of the Jewish Community Council in connection with the Jewish situation in Poland. We are especially interested in Secretary Hull's reply to your resolution, in which he says that our government "is not in a position to take any action with regard to matters which do not directly affect American citizens or interests."

We have not yet received the summary of precedents for such action, which you refer to in your letter. I presume that this summary was prepared on the basis of similar material gathered by the late Max J. Kohler, a member of our Executive Committee. Since 1933, we have, on a number of occasions, brought these precedents to the attention of the State Department. We have become persuaded, however, that, in view of the present troubled and confused international situation, and in view also of the obvious feeling of the overwhelming majority of the American people that the United States should do nothing to become involved in controversies with European countries, our government cannot follow the traditions of the past which are set forth in the precedents to which you refer. We think that it is inadvisable for Jewish citizens to give the impression that they are urging our government to take steps for the benefit of Jews in other lands that may lead to involvement of this kind. Not only does urging that our government take such steps embarrass our State Department; it also gives our enemies a basis for charging that we are not loyal to the United States, but are ready to risk an international crisis for the benefit of our coreligionists in other countries.

Therefore, we are of the opinion, that the filing of any memorandum of precedents with the Department of State, of which Mr Hull and other officials have been made fully cognizant, would be of no avail. We deplore the fact that our State Department has, in the course of the past twenty years, departed from the policy established previously, and does not intervene, except, as Mr. Hull points out, when American citizens or American interests are involved, but we appreciate that this policy is not dictated by lack of humane sentiments or callousness to the principles of human rights, but by the earnest desire to maintain world peace. This policy is being pursued by other great democracies, notably England and France, as you well know.

We also advise against any protest in the matter of Helmuth Hirsch. As you know, our government did everything humanely possible to try to save Hirsch, even though there was a question as to whether he was a citizen. The German government knows very well that the execution of Hirsch has outraged not only Jewish opinion, but also public opinion generally in all democratic countries. There is no basis for lodging any protest with our government, and filing a protest with the German Ambassador in Washington would be a waste of time, first because protests of Jews will have no force because they are self-understood, and second, because your protest will not go any further than the German Embassy. Public protests are advisable in some situations but we doubt whether the unfortunate Helmuth Hirsch case is such a one.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Morris D Waldman

C O P Y

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS
221 West 57th Street
New York City

June 16, 1937

Mr. Philip Bernstein, Secretary
The Jewish Community Council
1900 Euclid Ave
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Bernstein:

It is not easy to answer your letter of June 10th, excepting that I may say that I am glad that the Jewish Community Council has forwarded its Minute to the Department of State and the Polish Ambassador at Washington.

As for further activity, I believe it would be highly desirable for the Cleveland community to register its increasing and continuing concern in the situation in Poland. The American Jewish Congress, as you know, has embarked upon a program of action in this respect which includes a request for United States Government intercession in a friendly way. This program was decided upon at a very important Conference attended by more than two thousand delegates last Thursday evening at the Hotel Astor.

I am enclosing a copy of the resolution adopted at the Conference for your information. From it you will note that it has been decided to send a national delegation of two hundred to Washington for the purpose of presenting the case of the Jews against Poland to the Government of the United States with a view to securing American government action. It is important that Cleveland, as other communities, should be represented on this delegation and it is important further that Cleveland should do its share in acquainting the public at large with the facts of Polish life as they have developed in the last several months. For that reason we have urged that a conference, similar to our own, of representatives of Jewish organizations in Cleveland be held publicly in the not too distant future, such conference to elect Cleveland's five delegates on the national delegation.

I am hopeful that the Community Council will take the action suggested above, which I understand Mr. Kollin, the President of the American Jewish Congress branch in your city, will have proposed to you by the time this communication reaches you.

Quite apart from the action suggested, I think it would be wise for Mr. Woldman to send his material on precedents for government intercession to Mr. Hull. In these matters it is effective to have contacts or "attacks" from different points. You might also continue to send resolutions to the Polish Ambassador.

With cordial greeting,

Yours,

P.S. Many thanks for your brief on the occasions on which the United States Government has interceded with foreign powers when the interests of American citizens were not directly affected.

(Signed) Stephen S. Wise
PRESIDENT

S.S.W.

Minutes of a Meeting of the
COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT
Wednesday, June 16, 1937, 8:00 p.m., at The Temple

1. There were present: Milton P. Altschul, chairman; George W. Furth, Judge D. R. Hertz, Jay Iglauer, Adolph Keller, Raymond Metzner, of the Committee; and A. F. Mellman, William J. Schoenberger, Robert L. Hays, Walter Goldsmith, Arthur Friedman, Harry H. Weiss, and Walter Goldhamer.

2. The Problem

Mr. Altschul read a letter which had been received from one of the local colleges, stating that it had experienced great difficulty in placing its Jewish graduates. Applications of Jewish men invariably had been returned by both Jewish and non-Jewish employers. Following receipt of this letter a Committee had been appointed to investigate the extent of discrimination, and interviews with placement directors of other schools and private employment agencies had revealed that the problem was even more widespread and acute than had been believed.

It was pointed out that repeated failure to find employment due to their being Jewish was having a disastrous effect upon the unemployed young Jews, causing them to react against their background, their people, and the entire social order. Viewed in this light, it became a very serious community problem, with which the Community Council was trying to cope. In this, it was seeking the advice of large employers, and this session was the second which had been called for that purpose.

3. Occupational Distribution

Mr. Friedman stated that he had been conscious of the problem for some time, and had been making an effort to cope with it in the mechanical and technical field. His attention had been stimulated by the inability of the same technical college to place its Jewish graduates, raising the question as to the necessity of restricting the number of Jewish students to a proportion which could be placed. Such an entrance restriction must be avoided, he emphasized, and said that he had discussed the matter intensively with one of the professors and had placed a number of young men in mechanical and chemical positions in his own and other companies.

Part of the difficulty was due to the fact that Jewish men were not satisfied to remain in these fields, because of the limitations in advancement and earnings. Employers hesitated to take Jewish graduates because of this uncertainty as to their length of employment, and the college had an obligation to graduate men who would remain in the field. It was his belief that careful vocational instruction should be given to prospective entrants, to point out these limitations to them, and to make clear the same facts to the students already enrolled.

Mr. Schoenberger, and Mr. Weiss, stated that few Jews were employed in factory positions, and that they had received practically no applications from Jews for such work. Mr. Schoenberger had placed an announcement on the bulletin boards of Case and Fenn Colleges advertising positions for summer employment. Of forty applicants, not one was Jewish. His experience with the Jewish persons who had been employed by his company was not a happy one, since they were dissatisfied with that type of work and did not remain long.

Mr Weiss recently had employed five Jewish young men in factory positions, and their adjustment had been very satisfactory. He had requested East Technical High School to send him Jewish applicants, but apparently very few were enrolled there.

It was reported by Mr. Metzner that a recent interview with one of the labor leaders had revealed that Jewish boys were not entering the building trades. There were openings for apprentices, specifically in carpentry, but very few Jewish young men undertook to train themselves for such work, and almost none remained through the entire apprenticeship period.

One of the elements in the scarcity of Jews in some factories was that these companies were not situated in Jewish neighborhoods, and the persons employed there were drawn largely from the surrounding areas. This was pointed out by Mr. Hays and Mr. Schoenberger.

4. Discrimination

There was a general belief that the unbalance in occupational distribution among Jews, due in part to their unwillingness to do factory work and to stay in fields or positions where earnings and advancement was limited, was a cause of some of the discrimination against them. In this regard, it was explained by one of those present that while his sales force was largely Jewish, his office staff was Gentile. It had been found that the latter were content to adjust themselves to a certain economic station in life, and that there was a minimum of turnover among them. It was pointed out, however, that this high degree of ambition among Jews was not an undesirable quality.

It was noted that several of the largest non-Jewish companies were known to employ few if any Jews, and some of these were specifically mentioned. The question was raised as to the reason for their discrimination, and while it was known that the factors noted above might have resulted in some unsatisfactory individual experiences with Jews and thereafter to a general discriminatory policy, it was not believed that this was a complete explanation. It was pointed out that some companies expected a certain amount of turnover, and looked upon such ambition as a desirable trait. Furthermore, one employer present whose firm had a large number of Jewish persons, had not noticed any difficulty with Jewish employees in comparison with non-Jewish ones.

Mr. Goldsmith reported that a recent application for an office person had resulted in an agency's sending fifteen persons, all Jewish. It was believed that this was due to the difficulty of placing Jews with other companies and the knowledge that this particular firm would employ them.

Little, if any, discrimination existed in the ladies garment manufacturing industry, Mr. Keller stated. This was due to the fact that the field was completely unionized, and the employment policy was controlled by a union which would not tolerate discrimination.

That discrimination sometimes was practiced by a department head without the knowledge of the company officials was illustrated by the experience of one of the employers present. One of his departments was under the direction of a Catholic person, who had filled the department completely with his Catholic friends, before the president discovered it.

5. Constructive Steps

Several suggestions were made looking toward the improvement of the situation. Widespread vocational guidance was recognized as a fundamental, long-time approach, and the necessity of a broad expansion of this was discussed. It was suggested that aptitude testing might be instituted at the State Employment Service, and it was recognized that the programs of group guidance at the Council Educational Alliance and individual testing at the Jewish Social Service Bureau were making a beginning in the desired direction. The need for a more varied vocational distribution among Jews, and for a more intelligent selection of occupations, was repeatedly stated.

With regard to placement of qualified Jewish applicants, it was suggested that committees of Jewish business and professional men might be formed to find employment for such persons in their respective fields. Thus it was proposed that a start might be made with a group which would assume the responsibility for placing technical and engineering graduates. If this were successful, a second group might be created for one of the professions, and gradually a series of committees would be set up.

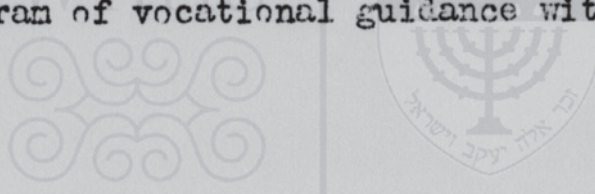
In this regard, it was pointed out that it might be necessary to break down the problem into its various aspects in order to deal with it effectively. Instead of trying to meet a general situation, it might be best to analyze it as it affected the technical and professional, the skilled and the unskilled Jewish unemployed, dealing with each aspect differently as the problem of each group varied.

The suggestion was made that small committees of Jewish leaders visit the employers in large non-Jewish companies known to discriminate against Jews, and to discuss the problem with them. It was believed that this might be done easily where cordial personal relations already existed between such Jewish persons and these employers, and that an attempt should be made to learn the reasons for this discrimination and to correct the policy.

An alternative approach proposed was the employment of a "public relations counsel" who would not be Jewish and who would determine definitely the policies of the various companies and try to correct those that were discriminatory. It was recognized that a considerable expense would be involved to obtain a person sufficiently competent to carry through this responsibility.

As a means of obtaining information, it was suggested that some volunteer women might be helpful. No specific plans were developed for this work.

Some of these approaches were not necessarily alternative, but could be made concurrently. Particularly was it necessary to carry on a positive program to break down discrimination already existing, while at the same time undertaking a broad program of vocational guidance with Jewish youth.



Respectfully submitted,

Philip Bernstein

Secretary

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Rabbi Israel Porath
Aaron Resnick
Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal
Rabbi A. H. Silver
Oscar H. Steiner
Meyer Weintraub
Sidney N. Weitz
Albert A. Woldman

[1937]
The Jewish Community Council
Cleveland

Room 605 - 1900 Euclid Avenue

Telephone: CHerry 8176

THE POLISH SITUATION

To Member Organizations:

You will recall that the Jewish Community Council at its last meeting directed the Executive Committee to take action with regard to the tragic plight of the Jews in Poland, on the basis of advice from the American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Congress. The Executive Committee met Monday evening for this purpose.

It was unanimously decided to send to Washington several representatives of the Cleveland Jewish community, who will join with 200 other leaders from all parts of the country in seeking the friendly intercession of the United States government to end the bloody pogroms. The Washington delegation is being arranged nationally by the American Jewish Congress, and the action here was taken in cooperation with the local Congress officers.

The persons who have been selected to go to Washington are Rabbi B.R. Brickner, Eugene E. Wolf, Abraham Kollin, Aaron Resnick, Judge Lewis Drucker, Leon Wiesenfeld, Philmore J. Haber, Albert A. Woldman, Henry Rocker, and Max Simon. Rabbi A.H. Silver, who was instrumental in the adoption of the plan, likewise was selected, but is leaving the country within the next few days.

The Executive Committee also authorized the drafting of forceful resolutions expressing the abhorrence and resentment of Cleveland Jewry at the killing and wounding of hundreds of Jews in Poland.

Careful consideration was given to the advisability of holding a mass protest meeting or conference. It was thought that this would not be effective at this particular time, for a number of reasons, and therefore would be unwise. The Executive Committee believes that its action is the most effective which can be taken to help the Jews of Poland.

Sincerely yours,

Max Simon

Max Simon
President

Officers

President
Max Simon

First Vice-President
Edward M. Baker

Second Vice-President
Edward J. Schweid

Third Vice-President
Mrs. Benjamin Levine

Treasurer
Jacob Wolpaw

Secretary
Philip Bernstein

Executive
Committee

Milton P. Altschul
Meyer Atkin
Rabbi B. R. Brickner
Rabbi Armond E. Cohen
Jerome N. Curtis
Isadore Finesilver
Dr. S. O. Freedlander
George W. Furth
Rabbi David Genuth
Mrs. Sol Gitson
Mrs. David Glasser
Rabbi Harold Goldfarb
Mrs. Joseph Goldhamer
Mrs. Walter Goldsmith
Mrs. Siegmund Herzog
George E. Kath
Rabbi Hugo Klein
Max Kohrman
Abraham Kollin
Mrs. Bernard Krangel
I. R. Morris
Aaron Permut
Rabbi Israel Porath
Aaron Resnick
Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal
Rabbi A. H. Silver
Oscar H. Steiner
Meyer Weintraub
Sidney N. Weitz
Albert A. Woldman

The Jewish Community Council

Cleveland

Room 605 - 1900 Euclid Avenue

Telephone: CHerry 8176

TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Enclosed are copies of letters received from Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, of the American Jewish Congress, and Morris Waldman, of the American Jewish Committee, advising us with regard to action in the Polish situation. Inasmuch as divergent views are presented, I am mailing this information to you so that you may give some thought to these positions before the meeting Monday evening.

As you know, the plight of the Jews in Poland has become extremely desperate. A recent survey reveals that in the first three months of this year "11 Jews were killed, 467 wounded, 14 Jewish stores bombed, and in 57 cities Jews were beaten, their shops picketed, their market stalls demolished, their merchandise destroyed, numberless windows of Jewish homes smashed.....and from seven villages Jews were completely expelled."

In this grave emergency, it is important that Cleveland Jewry act with intelligence and foresight, and your counsel is needed in guiding the action to be taken Monday evening. There are also other important matters to be considered, and I am counting on your attendance at the meeting, which will be held at the Jewish Center promptly at 8:15 p.m.

Sincerely yours,

Max Simon

Max Simon
President

[1937]

Cleveland, Ohio, June , 1937.

His Excellency the President
of the United States of America.

RESOLUTION ON POLAND

ADOPTED BY THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

As Americans whose government, acting with the sympathy of the entire nation, played an important role in the reconstruction of Polish independence, we, the delegates to the Jewish Community Council of Cleveland, Ohio, comprising 126 organizations and representing approximately 100,000 Jewish citizens of Cleveland, voice our profound protest against the recrudescence in Poland of anti-Jewish persecution which threatens the decimation of more than three million Jews residing in that land.

We can not but look with dismay and alarm on the policy of the present leaders of the Polish Government who, with the memory of their own oppression still before them, have nevertheless permitted a condition of incitement and virulent anti-Semitic propaganda, on the part of irresponsible elements, to continue unchecked, in their country resulting in numerous outbreaks and pogroms in which many have been killed and thousands have been injured, and in the bombing, burning and looting of numberless Jewish stores and homes, as well as in an economic boycott of Jewish business and labor.

Although the Jews of Poland are entitled by the terms of the Minority Treaty and under the Constitution of Poland, to equality of treatment as individuals and as members of a group recognized as such by law, these rights are being denied them.

In violation of the Minority Treaty, the Polish Government is engaged in systematically eliminating the Jews from the economic life of the country.

Notwithstanding the exorbitant and inequitable taxation upon the Jews, the Polish Government discriminates against them where employment, work projects, and government credits are concerned.

Not only has the Government failed to extend any aid to its Jewish citizens in rehabilitating their economic life which has been tragically impoverished since the World War, but it has placed every obstacle in the way of such recovery by systematically eliminating Jews from the economic life of the country and by legislation and other devices calculated to put them at a serious economic disadvantage to the rest of the population.

Having thus, through its own actions, aggravated the problem, the Government of Poland now attempts to solve it by means of a mass exodus of the three million Jews of Poland.

Recalling the historic role played by the American Government and people in bringing about the restoration of the Polish nation, on the assurance that full equality would be accorded to racial, religious and linguistic minorities within its borders, believing with President Wilson that maltreatment of minorities is the factor most likely to disturb the peace of the world;

We respectfully call to the attention of Your Excellency the many precedents in American history for friendly intercession on the part of our government against so alarming a situation as the tragic plight of the Jews of Poland now presents.

We petition your Excellency to use the good offices of our government - acting in the role of the "good neighbor" - through proper diplomatic channels to make clear to the Polish Government that the American People are alarmed at the oppressive acts and policies of the Polish Government which they can interpret only as a violation of the ordinary standards of civilized behavior, and

as an obstacle to the promotion of good neighborly relations.

In accordance with the courageous and envisioned leadership of the United States, we petition you to add the voice of our nation to that of all peoples of the world who love justice and liberty, with a view of saving Polish Jewry from an impending doom.

Respectfully submitted,

THE CLEVELAND JEWISH COMMUNITY

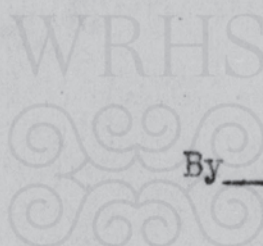
COUNCIL OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

By _____

President

By _____

Secretary



[undated]

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

In submitting its report, the Nominating Committee would like to make clear the procedure which it followed and factors which served as the basis for selection.

Recognizing the representative character and purpose of the Community Council, the Committee saw as its first requirement a selection which would include all the major elements and points of view in the Jewish Community, insofar as this was possible within the limits set by the size of the Executive Committee.

The following classification was made, therefore, and persons who represent these groups were chosen:

Religious: Reformed; Conservative; Orthodox
Zionist: General; Labor; Orthodox; Women
Jewish Education
Lodges and Benevolent Societies
Philanthropic and Social Service
Protective
Labor
Women (General)
Youth

Under most of these major groupings, furthermore, there are a number of different organizations and points of view represented.

With this as a basis, the Committee attempted to select as representatives individuals who have demonstrated an active interest and leadership in Jewish Community activities.

The Committee fully recognizes that there are many other persons who merit positions as officers or members of the Executive Committee. Approximately twice the number required by the Constitution were named and considered by the Committee, and the task of elimination and selection was extremely difficult.

The Committee is unanimously agreed, however, that the following persons represent as nearly a cross section of the leadership of the entire Jewish Community as was within its power to select, and therefore recommends their election as the Officers and Executive Committee of the Jewish Community Council:

President	- Max Simon
1st Vice President	- Edward M Baker
2nd Vice President	- Edward J Schweid
3rd Vice President	- Mrs Benjamin Levine
Treasurer	- Jacob Wolpaw
Secretary	- Philip Bernstein

Executive Committee

Meyer Atkin	Mrs B J Klein
Dr Samuel Braun	Rabbi Hugo Klein
Rabbi Barnett R Brickner	Abraham Kollin
Rabbi Armond E Cohen	Ben Labowitch
Jerome N Curtis	I R Morris
L Mack Fein	Rabbi Israel Porath
Isadore Finesilver	Aaron Resnick
Mrs Julius Fryer	Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal
George Furth	Rabbi A H Silver
Rabbi David Genuth	Mrs Harry Simon
Mrs Sol Gitson	Oscar Steiner
Mrs David Glasser	Meyer Weintraub
Simon J Green	Sidney N Weitz
Mrs Siegmund Herzog	Mrs Victor L Wise
George E Kath	Albert A Woldman

Respectfully submitted,

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Henry A Röcker, Chairman
George J Klein
Harry A Levy
Mrs Benjamin Levine*
Dr I Milcoff
Julius Schweid
Jacob Wolpaw

* Mrs Levine did not concur in her selection as 3rd Vice-Chairman.

Note: The Committee wishes to call attention to Article VIII, Section 4, of the Constitution, which provides that nominations may also be made by petition, signed by fifteen representatives to the Council, and presented to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee or to the Acting Secretary at least three days before the next meeting. Petitions may be obtained by writing or calling Mr Bernstein, Room 605 - 1900 Euclid Avenue, Phone: Cherry 8176.

[undated]

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND BOARD OF JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

President	Max Simon
✓ First Vice. Pres.	Edward M. Baker
Second " "	Edward J. Schweid
Third " "	Mrs. Benjamin Levine
Secretary	Philip Bernstein
Treasurer	Jacob Wolpaw

BOARD MEMBERS

✓ Rabbi A.H. Silver
✓ Mrs. Victor L. Wise
Oscar Steiner
Mrs. Sol Gitson
Rabbi A.E. Cohen
Mrs. Harry Simon
Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal
Ben Labowitch
Simon Green
Rabbi David Genuth
Rabbi Hugo Klein
Rabbi Israel Porath
✓ Jerome N. Curtis
✓ Mrs. David Glasser
Rabbi. B.R. Brickner

Dr. Samuel Braun
Mrs. Ben. J. Klein
I. Finesilver
✓ Mrs. Sig Herzog
Meyer Atkin
✓ Sidney N. Weitz
Abe Kollin
✓ Albert Woldman
✓ George W. Furth
George Kath
✓ I.R. Morris
✓ Mrs. Julius Fryer
Meyer Weintraub
Mack Fein
Aaron Resnick



Report of the Committee on Fictitious "Jewish Issues" in Political Campaigns1. Purpose of the Committee

The Committee was directed by the Jewish Community Council to: (1) obtain the facts concerning the manner in which fictitious "Jewish Issues" had been injected into local political campaigns to stir up racial and religious prejudice, and to determine where the responsibility for this practice lay; (2) to recommend a plan of action to the Council to eliminate such "issues" in the future.

2. The Problem

The following are the facts, as known to the Committee:

- A. The creation of "Jewish issues" has been a recurring practice in local political campaigns for the past several years;
- B. Both major political parties have been guilty of resorting to this device to obtain votes, charging the opposing candidates with racial and religious prejudice, and citing as "proof" the proportion of city positions given to Jews, alleged votes on legislative bills, etc.
- C. Appeal for support on the basis of these charges has been made through handbills printed in Yiddish and circulated a few days before the election, through individual word-of-mouth campaigns by precinct workers in the wards having a large proportion of Jewish voters, and through political campaign speeches.
- D. Invariably this has resulted in columns of publicity in the daily newspapers, bringing to the attention of the entire city the problem of racial and religious animosity without any real foundation.
- E. In almost every case, the printing of such handbills has been known to the campaign leaders before they were issued.
- F. Occasionally individuals print and distribute handbills without the knowledge of campaign leaders.
- G. The cost of these handbills is borne by campaign headquarters.
- H. Jews themselves have played a major role and are almost entirely responsible for the creation of such "issues", both through the issuance of handbills and the word-of-mouth campaigns.
- I. Some Jews holding high places in both parties have attempted to prevent this practice, but their individual efforts have not been successful.

3. Conclusions and Recommendations

On the basis of these facts, the Committee is agreed and recommends that the following steps should be taken to prevent such "issues" in the future:

- A. A Committee of Jewish leaders should be authorized to meet with campaign managers of each party in the very near future, months

4
ahead of the next campaign so that there will be no question concerning any particular candidate, and in the name of the Jewish Community Council make it clear that the Jewish Community looks with distinct disfavor upon the practice of dragging in "Jewish issues" in order to arouse racial prejudice, and urges that this be stopped. If such charges should be made by any individual or group, the matter should be brought to the Community Council for its investigation before any counter-charges are made in retaliation.

May we point out that while this had been requested in the past, it has been done by individuals and not the Jewish Community as such. And while the managers of the parties might disclaim responsibility, it would be clear to them that the Jewish Community discredits the use of such charges, and that their repetition in the future will act as an adverse boomerang to those responsible.

- B. A statement should be sent to all member organizations of the Jewish Community Council, to be read to their membership, pointing out the serious danger to the Jewish people in the practice of dragging in "Jewish issues" to arouse racial prejudice for partisan advantage; making it clear that the Jewish Community deplores and discredits such tactics; and asking all persons who are active in political campaigns to refrain from raising such "issues", out of consideration for the well-being of the Jewish people, and because a repetition of the practice would do serious damage to their own cause.

A similar statement should be sent to and printed in the two Angle-Jewish and the two Yiddish newspapers.

We believe that this information and understanding by the Jewish Community would tend to discourage the use of such "issues", and would discredit them even if they were injected.

- C. As a third possible step, may we suggest that letters be sent by the Community Council to Jewish persons active in political campaigns in the wards largely populated by Jewish people, asking them individually in the name of the Jewish Community to refrain from dragging into the campaign any Jewish questions or problems.

The Committee is agreed that these steps not only would go to the roots of the problem in reaching those persons primarily responsible for the practice, but in addition would tend to create a community point of view which would make the use of such tactics extremely unprofitable for those resorting to them.

Respectfully submitted,

Rabbi A H Silver, Chairman
Saul Danaceau
Mrs Raymond S Haas
Jack A Persky
Joseph White

Officers

President

Max Simon

First Vice-President

Edward M. Baker

Second Vice-President

Edward J. Schweid

Third Vice-President

Mrs. Benjamin Levine

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The Jewish Community Council

Cleveland

Room 605 - 1900 Euclid Avenue

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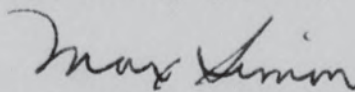
Dear Rabbi Silver:

In connection with the public meeting which will be held on Sunday afternoon, November 8, to receive the Report by Dr I B Berkson of New York on the results of his Survey of Jewish Education in Cleveland, may we urge you to extend an invitation to your members, directly by mail, to be present.

We cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of a full attendance by the Jewish community at this meeting. The subject of Jewish Education is one which concerns every Jewish parent and every member of the community interested in the future of Jewish life. The report of Dr Berkson on the present status of Jewish education in this city, and his recommendations concerning suggested changes, should reach the ears of every person who can possibly be present.

The enclosed letter suggests the lines along which your invitation might be drafted. If you have a large membership, we shall be glad to arrange to have them mimeographed on your letter-heads without any expense to you, although the mailing and addressing will of course have to be done by your organization. If you wish to have the letters mimeographed for you, will you please phone Mr Bernstein at your early convenience.

Sincerely yours,



Max Simon,
President.

[undated]

Dear Friend:

The subject of Jewish Education has been one of frequent discussion in this Community, as in others.

What contribution does Jewish Education make to the training of the American Jewish child? What types of schools and what curricula are most effective? What has Cleveland to offer in Jewish Education? What is its place in communal endeavor? What has been the value of the educational facilities and training offered here? Along what lines should they be developed in the future?

These and many other related questions will be answered in the Report of the Jewish Education Survey, conducted under the auspices of the Jewish Welfare Federation, with the cooperation of the Bureau of Jewish Education and all established educational institutions in the city. The Report, which has just been completed, will be presented by Dr I B Berkson of New York, director of the Survey, at a community meeting to be held on Sunday afternoon, November 8, at 3 o'clock, in the Heights Temple Auditorium (Mayfield near Lee Road).

The subject of Jewish Education is one which concerns every Jewish parent and every member of the Jewish community. May I therefore join the sponsors of the Survey in urging your acceptance of the invitation to attend this meeting.

Sincerely yours,

President.

(Organization)

[undated]

(Jewish Community Council)

C O N F I D E N T I A L

To the Members of the Committee on Employment:

During the past two weeks your Chairman and Secretary have had interviews with two employment agencies in an effort to obtain specific information concerning large employers, and to determine what the policies of the agencies are in this respect. The following summarizes the information obtained:

AGENCY #1

This agency is perhaps the largest in the city in the field of secretarial and office placement. Its management is Gentile, although the person interviewed is Jewish.

She stated that while employment generally has improved during the past few years, the discrimination against Jews has become worse, and that it is as difficult as ever for a Jew to obtain employment.

More than one-half of the Jewish employers specify that they do not wish to hire Jews. A very large number of Gentile employers practice similar discrimination. The reasons for this policy is not stated by employers and is not known by the person interviewed. No complaints have been received from employers who have accepted Jewish applicants concerning their behavior or achievement.

Of the 60 persons placed in positions by this staff member during the past $2\frac{1}{2}$ months, only five were Jewish. This is considered a very good record, despite the fact that the proportion of Jewish applicants is much greater.

In the tests which the agency gives to applicants, the Jewish persons average much higher than the others.

This agency does not raise any question with the employer concerning religion. This initiative is always taken by the employer.

The Gentile employers know that the Jews themselves discriminate, and this makes it almost impossible to improve the situation among them. She believes that the problem is an extremely difficult one to handle, and is very skeptical concerning the Committee's possible success.

She refused to give any information concerning specific employers. This would violate a company rule which could not be broken, she said.

AGENCY #2

This agency also specializes in office placement.

The person interviewed was the head of the agency and is not Jewish, but is known to be liberal and fair-minded.

She stated that the great majority of both Jewish and Gentile employers refuse to hire Jews. She was particularly incensed about the Jewish employers.

There is also a widespread discrimination against Catholics, but this is not nearly so great as that against Jews.

The employment agency itself practices no discrimination. The religious question is never raised with employers, and when a placement opening is received which does not specify any religious restriction, the agency sends applicants of all faiths (where this is known).

The agency has made an effort to place Jewish persons in temporary positions even with firms known to be anti-Semitic, in an attempt to break down this discrimination.

She was extremely reluctant to give information concerning specific employers, believing the matter to be too delicate. She did, however, mention a few very large Gentile concerns which are very marked in their anti-Semitic policy. This information is precisely the type which the Committee desires. Specific information concerning Jewish employers was not revealed, however.

- - - - -

Your Chairman and Secretary are scheduling conferences with other agencies in effort to obtain additional specific information. This, as you can see, is very difficult to secure. We are trying to keep the number of Committee meetings at a minimum, and if you have any suggestions in the meantime, we shall appreciate your calling us.

Milton P Altschul
Chairman.

[undated]

CONSTITUTION OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF CLEVELAND

NAME:

ARTICLE I

Section 1.

The name of this Organization shall be The Jewish Community Council of Cleveland.

PURPOSE:

ARTICLE II

Section 1.

It shall be the purpose of this Organization to deal with matters of general concern to the Jewish Community of Cleveland.

DEFINITION
OF TERMS:

ARTICLE III

Section 1.

Member shall mean an organization which has accepted and continues its membership in The Jewish Community Council.

Council means The Jewish Community Council of Cleveland, which shall consist of the representatives of members.

Representative means a person selected by a member to sit in the Council.

MEMBERSHIP AND
REPRESENTATION:

ARTICLE IV

Section 1.

Any Jewish organization of Metropolitan Cleveland which is concerned with some aspect of Jewish communal, cultural, civic, fraternal, social, economic, or religious life, shall be eligible for membership in the Council.

Section 2.

The organizations whose names are listed in Schedule A appended hereto shall be members of the Council upon their respective acceptance of this Constitution.

Section 3.

All other organizations which desire to become members shall make application therefor on forms and in the manner to be prescribed by the Executive Committee. Such applications shall be transmitted to the Secretary of the Council and shall be submitted to the Council together with the recommendation of the Executive Committee thereon, for approval or rejection by the Council.

Section 4.

The basis for determining the number of representatives to be selected by each member shall be the dues-paying and/or voting individual membership of such member on the 1st day of May preceding the call for election of such representatives.

Section 5.

The representatives shall be apportioned among the members, subject to the provisions contained in Section 7 of this Article, as follows: each member having seventy-five to two hundred and fifty dues-paying and/or voting individual members, shall be entitled to select one representative; each member having a dues-paying and/or voting individual membership in excess of two hundred and fifty in number shall be entitled to select one representative for every two hundred fifty of such individual members or a major fraction thereof. No member, irrespective of the size of its individual membership, shall select more than four representatives.

Section 6.

A member which has no dues-paying and/or voting individual membership, or has fewer than seventy-five dues-paying and/or voting individual members may be permitted to select one representative with the consent of the Council and upon such plan as it may require.

Section 7.

Any member which has a dues-paying and/or voting individual membership of not less than seventy-five individual members, and which is a branch auxiliary or affiliate, but not an integral part, of another member which has a dues-paying and/or voting individual membership and which selects representatives to the Council, or which is an organization within a congregation, shall be entitled to select one representative.

Section 8.

The American Jewish Congress, The Anti-Defamation Committee and The American Jewish Committee, because of their purpose, position and activity in Jewish life, shall each be entitled, upon application to the Council, to four representatives in the Council.

FUNCTION OF COUNCIL:

ARTICLE V

Section 1.

The Council shall consist of the representatives selected by the members for terms of one year and until their respective successors are elected and qualified.

Section 2.

The Council shall have power to deal with all matters of general concern to the Jewish Community. It shall have power to adopt such rules and regulations for its conduct and for the carrying out of the purposes of this Constitution as shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution. It shall elect the officers of the Council and the members of the Executive Committee for terms of one year and until their respective successors are elected and qualified.

Section 3.

Each representative in the Council shall have one vote. His action shall be construed as reflecting his personal opinion as a representative of the community, as well as the belief of the member which he represents, but shall not necessarily be binding upon this member.

Section 4.

Upon the affirmative vote of not less than one-third of the representatives present, the voting on any matter not listed in the call for the meeting, shall be postponed until the next succeeding meeting of the Council.

Section 5.

Meetings of the Council shall be held quarterly and the first quarterly meeting shall be in February of each year. Other meetings shall be held at the call of the President or of the Executive Committee, or upon written request signed by twenty or more representatives, stating in such request the reason therefor and the matters to be considered at such requested meeting.

Section 6.

If any representative shall die, resign, or otherwise be unable to continue in his duties his place shall be filled for the unexpired term by the member which selected him.

Section 7.

A quorum of the Council shall consist of forty representatives.

EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE:

ARTICLE VI

Section 1.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Council and thirty members to be elected by the Council. The officers of the Council shall serve as the officers of the Executive Committee.

Section 2.

The Executive Committee shall prepare the agenda for each meeting of the Council and shall cause reasonable notice of such agenda to be mailed to each representative in advance of each such meeting. The Council may consider matters not on the agenda prepared by the Executive Committee, except as limited by Article V, Section 4.

Section 3.

The Executive Committee in addition to the powers and duties given it by this Constitution shall have such other powers and duties as may from time to time be delegated to it by the Council.

Section 4.

The Executive Committee shall have power to adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business and for carrying out its powers and duties as shall not be inconsistent with this Constitution or with the decisions of the Council.

Section 5.

The Executive Committee shall fill any vacancies which may occur in any office, in the Executive Committee or in the Nominating Committee for the unexpired term.

Section 6.

Fifteen members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Section 7.

The Executive Committee shall meet at least once before each of the quarterly meetings of the Council. It shall have such other meetings as it may prescribe and it shall meet on the call of the President or at the request in writing of seven members of the Executive Committee.

Section 8.

The Executive Committee shall determine the number of representatives each member is entitled to select under the provisions of this Constitution before the time for the call provided for in Article VIII, Section 2 hereof.

OFFICERS:

ARTICLE VII

Section 1.

The officers of the Council shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President and a Third Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The officers shall have such powers and duties as generally appertain to their respective offices and such other powers and duties as may be assigned them by the Council or the Executive Committee.

ELECTIONS:

ARTICLE VIII

Section 1.

The quarterly meeting in February of each year shall be the annual meeting. At this meeting the officers of the Council and the members of the Executive Committee shall be elected.

Section 2.

Within ten days after October 1st of each year the Secretary shall issue a call to the members to select representatives to the Council. The call shall state the number of representatives the member is entitled to select as determined by the Executive Committee under the provisions of Article VI, Section 8 hereof. No person shall be selected as a representative by more than one member. The Executive Committee shall adopt rules for the certification of the selection of representatives by the members.

Section 3.

At the last quarterly meeting in every year, the Executive Committee shall submit a list of seven suggested names for a Nominating Committee. At this meeting the Council shall elect a Nominating Committee of seven representatives.

Section 4.

At least fifteen days before each annual meeting the list of nominations for officers and members of the Executive Committee made by the Nominating Committee shall be mailed to each representative. Such nominations together with any additional written nominations, signed by fifteen representatives and submitted to the chairman of the Nominating Committee or to the Secretary of the Council not later than three days before the annual meeting, shall be presented to the annual meeting. Only from the names so nominated shall be elected the officers and members of the Executive Committee.

Section 5.

The provisions of this Constitution as to time elements in the election of representatives, officers and members of the Executive Committee shall apply only so far as is reasonably convenient and possible to the first such elections to be held hereunder. The representatives, officers, and members of the Executive Committee first elected under this Constitution shall serve until the annual meeting in February of 1937 and until their respective successors are elected and qualified.

FINANCE;
DECISIONS:

ARTICLE IX

Section 1.

The expenses of the Council shall be borne in such manner as may be determined by the Council.

Section 2.

A member may choose not to be bound by any particular decision of the Council. It shall, however, give notice of its decision not to be so bound.

AMENDMENT:

ARTICLE X

Section 1.

Amendments to this Constitution may be made by a two-thirds vote at any meeting, provided written notice of said proposed amendment is sent to the representatives at least ten days before the meeting at which it is to be acted on. Amendments may be initiated by the Executive Committee or by fifteen members of the Council who shall present the proposed amendment in writing to the Secretary for notification.

RATIFICATION:

ARTICLE XI

Section 1.

This Constitution shall become effective from the time that at least one-third of the organizations listed in Schedule A have signified in writing to the Temporary Organization Committee which has presented this Constitution that they have accepted this Constitution and have thereby become members. Thereupon the Temporary Organization Committee shall provide for the selection of representatives by the members and for the holding of the first meeting of the Council.



THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting Held Tuesday, January 5, 1937, 8:30 p.m. at The Jewish Center

1. Minutes

Copies having been mailed to all the members, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

2. Schools

Mrs Benjamin Levine reported that the Committee on Schools was continuing to function as a standing Committee, dealing with specific problems as they arose. It was recalled that conferences had been held with the superintendents of the Cleveland and Cleveland Heights schools last Spring with regard to objectionable Christmas programs, and they had promised to caution the principals concerning this. Only one complaint had been received with reference to the past Christmas, involving a school in Cleveland Heights, and conferences with the superintendent and principal resulted in a change whereby Christmas carol singing was taken out of the classrooms entirely, and plans for the program were revised, in accordance with the Committee's request.

3. Discrimination in Employment

Milton Altschul reported that the Committee concerned with the problem of anti-Semitic discrimination in employment was continuing to contact employment agencies in order to get concrete information about specific employers guilty of such prejudice, and to see that the agencies did nothing themselves which would encourage such discrimination.

In two recent conferences it was reported that at least 50% of the Jewish employers refuse to hire Jewish applicants, and that a very large proportion of Gentile employers practiced similar discrimination; also that while employment generally had improved during the past two years, for Jews it was just as bad as before. Gentile employers knew that Jewish firms refused to hire Jews, and this encouraged them to do likewise. It was the Committee's intention to meet with the individual employers as soon as they could learn who the individual companies were, to persuade them to change their policies; and to develop a sense of responsibility among employers generally which would prevent and modify the practice on a broad scale. Employment agencies, however, were very unwilling to give the necessary specific information.

The possible causes of this discrimination were discussed, and it was pointed out that while a number of reasons were given by various employers, involving the behavior of Jewish employees, for which there sometimes was a basis in fact, in many instances it was due to a deep-seated anti-Semitism which had no relation to the quality of the applicant or the work done.

Individual representatives and member organizations were asked to send the Chairman or Secretary any authentic information which they might have concerning specific employers who discriminated against Jews.

4. Kashruth

It was reported by Oscar Steiner that the Committee on Kashruth, which had been established as a fact-finding body, had conducted a survey of Kashruth administration in the city. This was summarized for the Council:

There are about 10 packers in the city selling kosher meat, employing rabbis and schochtim to supervise this through private business arrangements, and paying them directly for such service. A few small packers use the facilities of the large ones for kosher slaughter. There are about 15 schochtim employed in this work in the city, who are supposed to go through a special period of instruction before qualifying for such positions.

At the time of slaughter, stamps or plumbs are placed on the meat by the religious supervisors to designate the meat as kosher. The stamps and plumbs are supposed to be retained by the rabbis or schochtim when not in use. There is also a state law which makes illegal the misrepresentation of non-kosher meat as kosher.

Retail butchers likewise select wholesale dealers through a private business arrangement. Religious supervision is by three inspectors, employed by Rabbi Jacob Berger to visit regularly the 75 kosher meat markets. Rabbi Berger was appointed supervisor of Kashruth by the governor of the State during the NRA, and has been retained in this position by the Kosher Meat Dealers Association. The consumption of Kosher meat is almost 100,000 pounds per week.

The central problem is whether the meat sold as kosher really is kosher. In the past there had been disputes concerning this among the local Rabbis themselves, and in the last analysis the housewife had to depend upon the integrity of her butcher. Dangers lay in the mixture of economic and religious factors; and the attempt by the Meat Dealers Association to enforce the observance of Kashruth by its members and also to regulate prices, had led to confusion and difficulty.

While the Committee was established as a fact-finding body, and had yet to investigate the poultry industry, several observations had been made which were pertinent to any improvement in the situation. The first requirement, and fundamental, was a sense of responsibility in the house^{wife} and the consuming public, and the active support of the Jewish community in any program which might be agreed upon. It was the function of the Rabbis and other community leaders to bring this about, the Committee believed. As an initial practical step, the problem might be taken out of the public courts and newspapers through settlement of Kashruth disputes by private arbitration, thus avoiding public scandal.

There was considerable discussion, involving the possible use of existing legislation, and the fact that inherent economic factors and the limited inspection logically might lead to misrepresentation. It was believed that before any attempt was made to bring the problem of Kashruth into the field of politics and government, the Jewish community itself should attempt to improve the situation.

The Committee was instructed to continue its study as a basis for further consideration by the Council.

5. Publicity

Sidney Weitz reported that a recent newspaper article had described the raid of a synagogue for bootlegging, and had charged that a Rabbi was involved in this. Not only was the incident a serious reflection upon the Jewish community, but there was considerable question about the facts.

A Committee appointed by the Executive Committee had met with the President and Vice-President of the Congregation and had visited the Synagogue. They were assured that the Synagogue had not been involved; rather, the private residential building in front of the synagogue had been raided, and the owner was not a rabbi and had no office in the Congregation other than being one of its 80 members. The Officers agreed to sign a statement to this effect for the Council, which would be used by the Committee in conferring with the editors of the newspapers and in securing their cooperation in being more careful with the use of the terms "Rabbi" and "Synagogue" in such publicity. There were other related problems discovered in connection with the incident, and the Committee would report more fully at the next meeting of the Council.

6. Arbitration

In order to keep Jewish disputes out of the public courts and newspapers, the Executive Committee recommended that a Committee be authorized to draw up permanent machinery for the arbitration of such disputes by the Council. The Council already had arbitrated several such controversies informally, and it was believed that not only was this helpful to the persons directly concerned and would protect the Jewish community, but it would tend to build up among groups and individuals a sense of responsibility for the honor and self-respect of the community. Upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, the recommendation was accepted.

7. Boycott

I R Morris, reporting for the League for Human Rights Against Naziism, reviewed the current status of the anti-Nazi boycott. He stated that local stores were observing the boycott very well, on the whole, but national chain stores continued to sell German merchandise. Of the large local stores, only the Higbee Company was selling German goods in any considerable quantity, and even this was

only a fraction of what was formerly sold. Of the chain stores on the other hand, Sears-Roebuck, Woolworth, Kresge, McCrory, Harvey, and Newberry were selling German merchandise. Efforts made to deal with these companies locally had not been successful, and apparently national action at the central offices was required. Local pressure would be continued and strengthened, however.

It was reported also that Miss Grace Meyette was the new executive secretary of the League and was active in organizing large numbers of women to protest to the buyers and managers in stores carrying German goods. In addition, she was conducting an active educational campaign among key organizations.

In the discussion, it was suggested that a more intensive effort should be made with regard to stores in the Jewish neighborhoods which apparently still continued to sell German merchandise. It was emphasized that the entire community bore a responsibility in making the boycott effective, and only with such support could the effort be successful. Representatives were impressed with the necessity of securing the cooperation of their organizations' memberships.

8. W.P.A.

The Chairman reported further correspondence in the attempt to have the W.P.A. permit, insofar as possible, Jewish employees to make up time lost through observance of religious Holy Days. Contact with the State headquarters again had resulted in the reply that such an arrangement could not be made. After discussion, the Council did not deem it wise to pursue the matter further.

9. Nominating Committee

In accordance with the terms of the Constitution, the following persons were elected to serve as a Nominating Committee: Judge D R Hertz, Chairman; Meyer Atkin, Mrs David Glasser, Rabbi David Genuth, Philmore Haber, Julius Schweid, and Meyer Weintraub. Due to the illness of Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal, previously recommended by the Executive Committee, the name of Rabbi Genuth was substituted. Simon Green and Jacob Spero, also nominated for this position, withdrew, and the election of the seven persons was unanimous.

10. Yeshiva Adath B'nai Israel

Max Herman and Morris Azoff strongly urged the Council to take action in assisting the Yeshiva to obtain a subsidy from the Jewish Welfare Fund. The chairman ruled that inasmuch as an extensive Survey of the entire Jewish educational system had been completed recently; and the recommendations had not yet been acted upon by the Jewish Welfare Federation and the Bureau of Jewish Education, the Community Council had no province in the matter until such action was taken. This would be done prior to the next Jewish Welfare Fund campaign, the Yeshiva was assured, and any discussion in the Council at this time was out of order. Mr Resnick suggested that the entire subject of Jewish education in the community was a most important one for the Council's consideration.

11. Traveling Collectors

In answer to a question by Dr Samuel Braun, Rabbi Armond Cohen, chairman of the Committee in charge of the contingent fund recently established by the Jewish Welfare Fund, explained that several grants already had been made to European and Palestinian institutions. It was stated further by Rabbi Israel Porath, a member of the Committee, that institutions which had collection boxes in private homes had not received allotments from the fund to date, and these merited the continued private support of the community as in the past.

12. Centennial

The Council was informed that inasmuch as the year 1937 marked the 100th anniversary of Jewish settlement in Cleveland, a Committee headed by Leo Weidenthal had been authorized by the Executive Committee to coordinate plans of various organizations which were planning special programs to observe this event.

13. Announcements

It was announced that Rabbi Harold Goldfarb had been elected by the Executive Committee to fill the vacancy in the Committee caused by the departure from the city of Rabbi Abraham Nowak; and that the Annual Meeting of the Council would be held in February, at which time Officers would be elected for the current year.

Also that a mass inter-faith Peace Meeting would be held Monday evening, January 18, at the Public Music Hall; that the annual meeting of the American Jewish Congress would be held Sunday, January 10, 2:00 p.m., at the Jewish Center; and that the Orthodox Old Home would hold its annual meeting on the same date, 2:30 p.m., at the Home.

14. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Philip Bernstein

Secretary.



Minutes of a Meeting of the
JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Wednesday, March 18, 1936, 8:30 p.m.,
at the Jewish Center

1. Minutes

Copies of the minutes of the previous meeting of the Community Council and the Executive Committee having been mailed to all the representatives, upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

2. Community Calendar

The Secretary reported that the Community Calendar, authorized at the previous meeting of the Council, had been set in operation. A list of events planned by the organizations had been compiled, and groups were regularly telephoning the Council office to obtain this information before planning their programs, with the result that several conflicts already had been avoided. The Calendar was being published weekly in the Anglo-Jewish and Yiddish newspapers.

3. Dues.

The suggestion that the ordinary expenses of the Community Council be met through a system of dues to be paid by member organizations had been referred to the Executive Committee. The Chairman reported that the Committee recommended the adoption of such dues, at the rate of three dollars per year for each representative which an organization sent to the Council.

In the discussion of the recommendation, it was pointed out by Mr. Labowitch, Mr. Julius Schweid, Mr. Most, and others that the sum would be so small as to cause no inconvenience to any group, that it would lend greater dignity and respect to membership in the Council, and would provide for the ordinary needs of the Council. Since all groups had been informed of the recommendation several weeks before and had been reminded of it in the notice of the meeting, it was agreed that there had been ample time for consideration.

It was therefore moved, duly seconded, and unanimously carried that each member organization of the Jewish Community Council pay an annual dues of three dollars per year for each delegate representing it in the Council.

4. Fictitious "Jewish Issues" in Political Campaigns

The report of the Committee which had been appointed to recommend a plan of action looking toward the elimination of fictitious "Jewish Issues" in the future political campaigns was then presented to the Council. (Copies had been mailed previously to all delegates.)

In the discussion of the report, it was agreed that the measures recommended would tend to prevent the injection of false charges of anti-Semitism in order to stir up racial and religious prejudice, and would discredit the practice if it did recur.

Upon motion made, duly seconded, and unanimously carried, the report was approved, and the Committee was authorized to proceed with the three steps which it had recommended: namely, a conference of Jewish leaders with the campaign managers of the two major political parties, to make it clear that such tactics are deplored by the Jewish Community and that they will serve as an adverse boomerang to those using them; letters to be sent by the Community Council to member organizations and to the Jewish newspapers, explaining the purpose and danger of such "issues" and seeking to discredit their use; and letters to be sent to the individual political workers in the wards populated largely by Jews, asking them to refrain from dragging such issues into future campaigns.

5. Kashruth

The Chairman reported that the question of Kashruth administration, referred by the Council to the Executive Committee at the last meeting, had been discussed by the latter, and a special Committee had been appointed to obtain the facts in the matter. This was being done, and a report would be made at a future meeting.

6. Samuel Rocker

The Council noted with deep regret the passing of Samuel Rocker. A Committee was authorized to draft a resolution expressing the regret of the Jewish Community in the loss of Mr. Rocker, and the representatives rose for a few moments in silent tribute.

Mr. Kollin and Mr. Simon lauded his service to the Community, rendered over a long period of years as editor of the Jewish World, and praised his personal efforts to unify and harmonize the various forces in Jewish life. "The life of Mr. Rocker was such that it is above eulogy," they said.

7. Committee on Schools and Colleges

In the absence from the meeting of Rabbi Brickner, chairman of the Committee on Schools and Colleges, Mr. Kollin reported for this Committee. In accordance with the task given it by the Executive Committee, the Committee had written the Superintendents of the various public school systems and the Deans of the local colleges, enclosing lists of Jewish holidays, and asking them to avoid holding examinations and other important events on those days, because of the necessary absence of Jewish students. Almost all had replied in writing, and every one who did pledged his cooperation in carrying out this request.

The Committee was also conferring directly with the Superintendents with the aim of eliminating insofar as possible Christmas and Easter celebrations in public schools having large populations of Jewish students. One such conference had already been held with the Superintendent of Cleveland Public Schools, who had promised to contact the teachers and principals responsible for such practice and to ask them to modify this in the future. Another conference had been scheduled with the Superintendent of Cleveland Heights Public Schools for the near future.

The report was received with considerable praise, and upon motion made by Mr. Kohrman and Mr. Freedheim, duly seconded, and unanimously carried, the Committee was made a Standing Committee and was directed to send lists of Jewish holidays to the school officials each year and to continue to deal with other matters such as those already presented. It was suggested by Mr. Freedheim that the work of the Committee should be made known to Community Councils in other cities, so that they might have the benefit of Cleveland's experience.

In relation to this general subject, Mr. Woldman reported that there had been brought to his attention the formation of Glenville Gentile Association at Glenville High School. The Committee reported that it had already taken up the matter with the principal of the school and had been informed that the organization was no longer in existence.

Mr. Sharlitt raised the question as to whether the group might not merely be driven underground instead of being disbanded, whether it wasn't necessary to deal with the fundamental problem, that of the inability of Gentile children to obtain any class offices, and whether there wasn't a danger of the spread of such groups to other schools unless the problem were properly handled. It was Rabbi Rosenthal's opinion that this was due to the democratic method of election, with a large majority of Jewish students in the schools, and that the children should not be taught to "hide their light under a bushel basket" in order to give Gentile children a few class offices at the expense of Jewish students who might be more capable.

Mr. Edward Schweid, Rabbi Cohen, Mr. Kollin, Rabbi Porath and others pointed out that Gentile students should not be prevented from holding office merely because they were in the minority, and that this was a matter of justice rather than expediency. After further discussion it was agreed, therefore, that the Rabbis should talk to Glenville Jewish students whom they knew personally in the attempt to have them take a broader view and make possible representation of non-Jewish students in class offices, and that Mr. Sharlitt and the Secretary should help work this out with them.

8. The Situation of the Jews in Poland

Rabbi Genuth reported that messages had been sent to Orthodox Rabbis throughout the country asking them to call mass meetings in protest against the threatened law preventing the kosher slaughter of cattle in Poland. Inasmuch as there already existed a Community Council in Cleveland, he asked whether the Council should not call such a mass meeting.

In the discussion which followed it was pointed out that entire situation of the Jews in Poland was extremely precarious, with more than a million suffering from extreme poverty, and with physical riots and pogroms becoming almost daily occurrences. Inasmuch, however, as a large conference was being called at New York within a few days to consider the matter, it was agreed that no action should be taken by the Council as a body pending the decision arrived at there.

9. Anti-Nazi Boycott

Mr. Fenster raised the question as to whether the anti-Nazi boycott in the city was not bogging down, and stated in his opinion that the Jewish Community seemed to be forgetting about it. It was his opinion that much more vigorous stimulation was needed than had been in evidence in recent months.

Mr. Furth explained the measures being taken by the League for Human Rights Against Nazism, and pointed out that every organization had been asked appoint a Boycott Chairman to keep the group informed of the steps to be taken. Many had failed to carry out their responsibility, however, with the result that the matter was not being kept alive in these organizations. There were, however, according to Mrs. Goldhamer, several women's groups who were cooperating very actively. Mr. Kohrman pointed out the necessity of reaching the individuals not affiliated with organizations.

It was agreed that the matter was a most important one, and that it should be regular subject for the agenda of Community Council meetings. The Secretary was directed to ask the Anti-Nazi League to have a representative at every meeting prepared to report on progress of the boycott.

10. Yeshiva Adath B'nai Israel

Mr. Herman, president of the Yeshiva Adath B'nai Israel requested the assistance of the Community Council in obtaining a subsidy from the Bureau of Jewish Education. Since an application to the Bureau already had been made, and had not been rejected, the Chairman ruled that the Community Council had no province in the matter.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip Bernstein
 Secretary

1. Arbitration

The Council was informed that one of the activities which received no publicity was its service in arbitrating disputes within Jewish organizations. Such a case had recently occurred, in which one faction of the membership of a philanthropic organization had threatened to bring the matter to the public courts because of alleged mismanagement. The parties were brought together quietly by the Chairman, and the dispute apparently settled without court action or publicity.

14. No other business coming before the meeting, it was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Bernstein
Secretary

JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting Held Monday, October 19, 1936, 8:30 p.m., at The Temple

1. Minutes

Copies having been mailed to all members, the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was dispensed with.

2. Treasurer's Report

Jacob Wolpaw, treasurer, reported that to date a total of \$351.00 had been received from 83 organizations; expenditures had totalled \$59.48, leaving a cash balance of \$291.52. The sum of \$111 remained to be collected, and a few personal contacts had indicated that much of this would be secured readily, Mr Wolpaw said.

3. Schools and Colleges

Rabbi Barnett R Brickner, Chairman of the Schools Committee, reported that the Committee recently had: (1) written to the superintendents and deans of the local schools and colleges, reminding them of the dates of the Jewish holidays and of their agreement to avoid important work on those days; (2) sent letters to the Rabbis of the various congregations, asking them to secure the assistance of the parents and children; (3) communicated with the presidents of the college fraternities and sororities, informing them of the Committee's contact with the deans, and asking the cooperation of their membership.

Again, very favorable replies had been received from the school officials, assuring the Council of their willingness to permit Jewish students to be absent on those days without any penalty. Rabbi Brickner explained the Committee's work in contacting principals and teachers whenever any problems arose involving specifically Jewish matters, helping them to meet them intelligently.

4. Discrimination in Employment

The problem of anti-Semitism in Employment was discussed by Milton Altschul, Chairman of the Committee which had been appointed to analyze the situation and to take such action as it might deem appropriate. Mr Altschul reported that the Committee, which included Jay Iglauer, Sam Gross, I F Freiburger, Adolph Keller, E J Meisel, Rabbi A H Silver, Judge D R Hertz, George Furth, Raymond D Metzner, and I R Morris, had gathered considerable information from a similar committee in Chicago which had been working on the same problem for several years, and thus had the benefit of their experience with regard to successful methods. It was recognized that the problem existed among both Jewish and non-Jewish employers, and would have to be attacked among both groups.

The situation was a very serious one, both to the individuals unable to obtain jobs because of this discrimination, and to the entire Jewish community as a result of the bitterness toward their Jewishness and the social order, caused by their disheartening experience. The Committee had resolved to devise a constructive program of action which would help to break down this discrimination, and was obtaining concrete information concerning specific employers who practiced such discrimination, as a first step in this program.

Members of the Council were asked to bring such information to the Committee. They were also asked to make clear to the members of their organizations and their individual associates, the importance of eliminating such discrimination.

5. Fictitious Political Issues

Rabbi A H Silver, Chairman of the Committee on Fictitious "Jewish Issues" in Political Campaigns, reviewed the Council's previous action in going on record deploring the injection of such issues into political campaigns and discrediting the myth of a "Jewish vote". He recalled that the Committee had been appointed to devise methods of preventing such "issues", and that its recommendations had been adopted at a meeting several months ago.

During the current campaign, the Committee had met with two Jewish leaders who were touring the country, to discuss with them the false charges of anti-Semitism in the presidential campaign, this meeting having been transferred from private auspices to the Executive Committee of the Council, in session with the political Committee. As a result of this meeting, the Committee had agreed that both major candidates were free from anti-Semitism, and the issuance of a public statement to this effect was left to the discretion of the Committee, depending upon the extent to which false rumors had spread in this city. A house to house canvass in the largest Jewish neighborhood had revealed that such rumors were not widespread in Cleveland.

The Committee also had been in contact with political leaders to keep "Jewish issues" out of the campaign, and had secured their cooperation in preventing such issues.

It had been reported in the Plain Dealer on that morning (October 19) however, that a meeting of leaders of Jewish organizations had been held on the previous evening to obtain the "Jewish vote" for one of the candidates for governor. The Committee had promptly issued a public statement to the daily newspapers pointing out that there was no such thing as a "Jewish vote", that Jews voted as individual American citizens, and that there was no Jewish issue in the current campaign.

Two of the persons who had been present at the meeting in question, Henry Rocker and Leon Wiesenfeld, explained to the Council that the newspaper report had been distorted badly, and that there had been no intention to control any "Jewish vote". Mr Rocker pointed out that his remarks at the meeting had duplicated those of the Committee's statement, making it clear to all those in attendance that there was no "Jewish vote", that no individual controlled the votes of the Jewish people, and that there were no Jewish issues in the campaign. Max Kohrman, who also had attended the meeting, likewise expressed "amazement" with the newspaper's interpretation. They believed, therefore, that the Council's statement had been issued too hastily, without consulting adequately those who had attended.

In the discussion of the situation, it was pointed out that despite the understanding of those attending, the impression gained by the hundreds of thousands who read the newspaper account had made it necessary to issue a statement correcting the resulting belief concerning a "Jewish vote". It was likewise explained that in order to be effective, the statement had to be issued immediately. It was recognized, too, that any meeting of leaders of Jewish organizations lended itself readily to such misinterpretation, regardless of the intention of those participating, and that the danger of this to Jews was greater than that to other minority groups.

It was therefore moved, duly seconded, and unanimously carried that the action of the Committee on Political Issues be approved.

Upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, the Community Council accepted and recorded Mr Rocker's and Mr Wiesenfeld's explanation that they had no intention of controlling any "Jewish vote", and that Mr Rocker had in fact made this clear to the assembly in the same terms as the Community Council statement.

A motion made and duly seconded that the Committee, with the addition of Mr Rocker and Mr Wiesenfeld, issue a statement pointing out the inaccuracy of the newspaper account, was tabled. It was suggested that this might be done individually by those who participated.

It was suggested by Edward Schweid to the Committee that they consider the advisability of contacting the leaders of the political parties, in order to prevent the formation of Jewish political Committees in the future. It was his belief that not only would this be helpful to the Jewish community, but that it would be welcomed by the political parties themselves.

6. Miscellaneous Solicitations

It was reported by Rabbi Armond E Cohen that the Committee of which he was Chairman had been appointed by the Executive Committee to concern itself with the dual problem of eliminating impostors who came into the city saying they represented European and Palestinian institutions, and were securing money under false pretenses; and to determine a method of assuring adequate support for these agencies which were rendering a real service.

A survey of other cities had revealed that they had been accomplishing this satisfactorily through a special fund established by the Jewish Welfare Fund. This was administered by a Committee in each city, which met ^{with} the solicitors when they came to the city and granted their institutions amounts from the special fund, which were sent directly to the institutions. In this way solicitations had been practically ended, and in many cases the solicitors no longer came to the city.

The Executive Committee at its last meeting had accepted the recommendation of the Committee that a similar arrangement should be established in Cleveland, and had suggested to the Jewish Welfare Fund that it consider the advisability of setting up such a fund. This had been accepted by the Welfare Fund, and a special Committee had been authorized by it for this purpose.

7. Kashruth

Isadore Finesilver, reporting for the Committee on Kashruth, stated that the Committee had been making a factual survey of the subject, and had issued a preliminary statement to the Executive Committee. It had been following closely recent developments, and while it had gathered considerable information, it was not ready to make any final recommendations to the Council at this time. Definite progress had been made by the Committee in its inquiry, however, and a more detailed report would be made at the next Council meeting, he said.

8. Public Relations

It was announced that the Officers of the Council had been conducting a number of varied public relations activities. Among these were negotiations with the WPA authorities to have them permit Jewish employees to make up the time lost through observance of the Jewish Holy Days; this was still in process. The Council had succeeded in having such observance permitted by one of the local public utilities, and had attempted to work this out with some private employers. All this had been done in response to specific requests or complaints by employees.

The Council had also been requested to assist a small Orthodox Synagogue which was being evicted from its building, and had succeeded in making a satisfactory arrangement.

9. Jewish Education Forum

It was announced that a community meeting would be held on Sunday afternoon, November 8, to hear the final report of the survey of Jewish Education which was virtually completed. Dr I B Berkson, of New York, director of the Survey, would be in the city to give the report, which included all Jewish educational institutions in the city, and would describe the present status and recommend specific improvements in local Jewish education. Representatives were urged to secure a full attendance by the members of their respective organizations.

10. No further business coming before the meeting, it was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Philip Bernstein

Secretary.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting Held Tuesday, January 5, 1937, 8:30 p.m. at The Jewish Center

1. Minutes

Copies having been mailed to all the members, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

2. Schools

Mrs Benjamin Levine reported that the Committee on Schools was continuing to function as a standing Committee, dealing with specific problems as they arose. It was recalled that conferences had been held with the superintendents of the Cleveland and Cleveland Heights schools last Spring with regard to objectionable Christmas programs, and they had promised to caution the principals concerning this. Only one complaint had been received with reference to the past Christmas, involving a school in Cleveland Heights, and conferences with the superintendent and principal resulted in a change whereby Christmas carol singing was taken out of the classrooms entirely, and plans for the program were revised, in accordance with the Committee's request.

3. Discrimination in Employment

Milton Altschul reported that the Committee concerned with the problem of anti-Semitic discrimination in employment was continuing to contact employment agencies in order to get concrete information about specific employers guilty of such prejudice, and to see that the agencies did nothing themselves which would encourage such discrimination.

In two recent conferences it was reported that at least 50% of the Jewish employers refuse to hire Jewish applicants, and that a very large proportion of Gentile employers practiced similar discrimination; also that while employment generally had improved during the past two years, for Jews it was just as bad as before. Gentile employers knew that Jewish firms refused to hire Jews, and this encouraged them to do likewise. It was the Committee's intention to meet with the individual employers as soon as they could learn who the individual companies were, to persuade them to change their policies; and to develop a sense of responsibility among employers generally which would prevent and modify the practice on a broad scale. Employment agencies, however, were very unwilling to give the necessary specific information.

The possible causes of this discrimination were discussed, and it was pointed out that while a number of reasons were given by various employers, involving the behavior of Jewish employees, for which there sometimes was a basis in fact, in many instances it was due to a deep-seated anti-Semitism which had no relation to the quality of the applicant or the work done.

Individual representatives and member organizations were asked to send the Chairman or Secretary any authentic information which they might have concerning specific employers who discriminated against Jews.

4. Kashruth

It was reported by Oscar Steiner that the Committee on Kashruth, which had been established as a fact-finding body, had conducted a survey of Kashruth administration in the city. This was summarized for the Council:

There are about 10 packers in the city selling kosher meat, employing rabbis and schochtim to supervise this through private business arrangements, and paying them directly for such service. A few small packers use the facilities of the large ones for kosher slaughter. There are about 15 schochtim employed in this work in the city, who are supposed to go through a special period of instruction before qualifying for such positions.

At the time of slaughter, stamps or plumbs are placed on the meat by the religious supervisors to designate the meat as kosher. The stamps and plumbs are supposed to be retained by the rabbis or schochtim when not in use. There is also a state law which makes illegal the misrepresentation of non-kosher meat as kosher.

Retail butchers likewise select wholesale dealers through a private business arrangement. Religious supervision is by three inspectors, employed by Rabbi Jacob Berger to visit regularly the 75 kosher meat markets. Rabbi Berger was appointed supervisor of Kashruth by the governor of the State during the NRA, and has been retained in this position by the Kosher Meat Dealers Association. The consumption of Kosher meat is almost 100,000 pounds per week.

The central problem is whether the meat sold as kosher really is kosher. In the past there had been disputes concerning this among the local Rabbis themselves, and in the last analysis the housewife had to depend upon the integrity of her butcher. Dangers lay in the mixture of economic and religious factors; and the attempt by the Meat Dealers Association to enforce the observance of Kashruth by its members and also to regulate prices, had led to confusion and difficulty.

While the Committee was established as a fact-finding body, and had yet to investigate the poultry industry, several observations had been made which were pertinent to any improvement in the situation. The first requirement, and fundamental, was a sense of responsibility in the house^{wife} and the consuming public, and the active support of the Jewish community in any program which might be agreed upon. It was the function of the Rabbis and other community leaders to bring this about, the Committee believed. As an initial practical step, the problem might be taken out of the public courts and newspapers through settlement of Kashruth disputes by private arbitration, thus avoiding public scandal.

There was considerable discussion, involving the possible use of existing legislation, and the fact that inherent economic factors and the limited inspection logically might lead to misrepresentation. It was believed that before any attempt was made to bring the problem of Kashruth into the field of politics and government, the Jewish community itself should attempt to improve the situation.

The Committee was instructed to continue its study as a basis for further consideration by the Council.

5. Publicity

Sidney Weitz reported that a recent newspaper article had described the raid of a synagogue for bootlegging, and had charged that a Rabbi was involved in this. Not only was the incident a serious reflection upon the Jewish community, but there was considerable question about the facts.

A Committee appointed by the Executive Committee had met with the President and Vice-President of the Congregation and had visited the Synagogue. They were assured that the Synagogue had not been involved; rather, the private residential building in front of the synagogue had been raided, and the owner was not a rabbi and had no office in the Congregation other than being one of its 80 members. The Officers agreed to sign a statement to this effect for the Council, which would be used by the Committee in conferring with the editors of the newspapers and in securing their cooperation in being more careful with the use of the terms "Rabbi" and "Synagogue" in such publicity. There were other related problems discovered in connection with the incident, and the Committee would report more fully at the next meeting of the Council.

6. Arbitration

In order to keep Jewish disputes out of the public courts and newspapers, the Executive Committee recommended that a Committee be authorized to draw up permanent machinery for the arbitration of such disputes by the Council. The Council already had arbitrated several such controversies informally, and it was believed that not only was this helpful to the persons directly concerned and would protect the Jewish community, but it would tend to build up among groups and individuals a sense of responsibility for the honor and self-respect of the community. Upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, the recommendation was accepted.

7. Boycott

I R Morris, reporting for the League for Human Rights Against Naziism, reviewed the current status of the anti-Nazi boycott. He stated that local stores were observing the boycott very well, on the whole, but national chain stores continued to sell German merchandise. Of the large local stores, only the Higbee Company was selling German goods in any considerable quantity, and even this was

only a fraction of what was formerly sold. Of the chain stores on the other hand, Sears-Roebuck, Woolworth, Kresge, McCrory, Harvay, and Newberry were selling German merchandise. Efforts made to deal with these companies locally had not been successful, and apparently national action at the central offices was required. Local pressure would be continued and strengthened, however.

It was reported also that Miss Graco Meyette was the new executive secretary of the League and was active in organizing large numbers of women to protest to the buyers and managers in stores carrying German goods. In addition, she was conducting an active educational campaign among key organizations.

In the discussion, it was suggested that a more intensive effort should be made with regard to stores in the Jewish neighborhoods which apparently still continued to sell German merchandise. It was emphasized that the entire community bore a responsibility in making the boycott effective, and only with such support could the effort be successful. Representatives were impressed with the necessity of securing the cooperation of their organizations' memberships.

8. W.P.A.

The Chairman reported further correspondence in the attempt to have the W.P.A. permit, insofar as possible, Jewish employees to make up time lost through observance of religious Holy Days. Contact with the State headquarters again had resulted in the reply that such an arrangement could not be made. After discussion, the Council did not deem it wise to pursue the matter further.

9. Nominating Committee

In accordance with the terms of the Constitution, the following persons were elected to serve as a Nominating Committee: Judge D R Hertz, Chairman; Meyer Atkin, Mrs David Glasser, Rabbi David Genuth, Philmore Haber, Julius Schweid, and Meyer Weintraub. Due to the illness of Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal, previously recommended by the Executive Committee, the name of Rabbi Genuth was substituted. Simon Green and Jacob Spero, also nominated for this position, withdrew, and the election of the seven persons was unanimous.

10. Yeshiva Adath B'nai Israel

Max Herman and Morris Azoff strongly urged the Council to take action in assisting the Yeshiva to obtain a subsidy from the Jewish Welfare Fund. The chairman ruled that inasmuch as an extensive Survey of the entire Jewish educational system had been completed recently; and the recommendations had not yet been acted upon by the Jewish Welfare Federation and the Bureau of Jewish Education, the Community Council had no province in the matter until such action was taken. This would be done prior to the next Jewish Welfare Fund campaign, the Yeshiva was assured, and any discussion in the Council at this time was out of order. Mr Resnick suggested that the entire subject of Jewish education in the community was a most important one for the Council's consideration.

11. Traveling Collectors

In answer to a question by Dr Samuel Braun, Rabbi Armond Cohen, chairman of the Committee in charge of the contingent fund recently established by the Jewish Welfare Fund, explained that several grants already had been made to European and Palestinian institutions. It was stated further by Rabbi Israel Porath, a member of the Committee, that institutions which had collection boxes in private homes had not received allotments from the fund to date, and these merited the continued private support of the community as in the past.

12. Centennial

The Council was informed that inasmuch as the year 1937 marked the 100th anniversary of Jewish settlement in Cleveland, a Committee headed by Leo Weidenthal had been authorized by the Executive Committee to coordinate plans of various organizations which were planning special programs to observe this event.

13. Announcements

It was announced that Rabbi Harold Goldfarb had been elected by the Executive Committee to fill the vacancy in the Committee caused by the departure from the city of Rabbi Abraham Nowak; and that the Annual Meeting of the Council would be held in February, at which time Officers would be elected for the current year.

Also that a mass inter-faith Peace Meeting would be held Monday evening, January 18, at the Public Music Hall; that the annual meeting of the American Jewish Congress would be held Sunday, January 10, 2:00 p.m., at the Jewish Center; and that the Orthodox Old Home would hold its annual meeting on the same date, 2:30 p.m., at the Home.

14. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Philip Bernstein

Secretary.



Officers

President
Max Simon

First Vice-President
Edward M. Baker

Second Vice-President
Edward J. Schweid

Third Vice-President
Mrs. Benjamin Levine

Treasurer
Jacob Wolpaw

Secretary
Philip Bernstein

The Jewish Community Council

Cleveland

Room 605 • 1900 Euclid Avenue

Telephone: CHerry 8176

**Executive
Committee**

Milton P. Altschul
Meyer Atkin
Rabbi B. R. Brickner
Rabbi Armond E. Cohen
Jerome N. Curtis
Isadore Finesilver
Dr. S. O. Freedlander
George W. Furth
Rabbi David Genuth
Mrs. Sol Gitson
Mrs. David Glasser
Rabbi Harold Goldfarb
Mrs. Joseph Goldhamer
Mrs. Walter Goldsmith
Mrs. Siegmund Herzog
George E. Kath
Rabbi Hugo Klein
Max Kohrman
Abraham Kollin
Mrs. Bernard Krangel
I. R. Morris
Aaron Permut
Rabbi Israel Porath
Aaron Resnick
Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal
Rabbi A. H. Silver
Oscar H. Steiner
Meyer Weintraub
Sidney N. Weitz
Albert A. Woldman

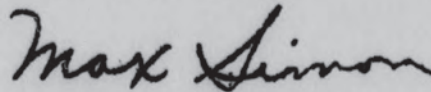
TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

There will be a special meeting of the Executive Committee Monday evening, June 21, 8:15 p.m., at the Jewish Center.

The primary purpose of the meeting will be to take action on the questions referred to the Committee by the Community Council at its last session, notably the Polish situation. We have corresponded with the American Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Committee in New York to obtain their advice, and the question of Cleveland's participation in national action requires immediate decision.

The problem of what shall be done is of extreme importance, and it is essential that there be a full attendance so that all points of view may be considered. I know that there are a few events scheduled for that evening, but other nights present equal difficulties, and I trust that you will be present.

Sincerely yours,



Max Simon
President

June 16, 1937.

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Executive Committee

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Sidney N. Weitz
Mrs. Victor L. Wise
Albert A. Woldman

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THE GERMAN STUDENTS IN CLEVELAND

To the Representatives:

We have received a number of calls concerning the arrival and propaganda activity of the German students in Cleveland. In keeping with the policy adopted by the Community, we have been centering our efforts through the League for Human Rights Against Nazism. Your Chairman and Secretary, as well as several members of the Executive Committee, have been attending the meetings held by the League to map out a course of action.

It is the considered opinion of the League that the most effective action which can be taken is to demonstrate to the entire community the true state of education in Germany, in contrast to the picture which the Nazi students are trying to paint.

For this reason there will be a large civic meeting Monday evening, May 10, 8:00 p.m., at the Music Hall of the Public Auditorium.

An outstanding array of America's leading educators will speak. They are Prof. Paul Douglas, of the University of Chicago; Dr. Peter Odergard, of Ohio State University; and Dr. Henry Pratt Fairchild, of New York University. Rabbi A H Silver will be the local speaker.

You are urged to be there, together with your friends and associates. If at all possible, try to bring this to the attention of the members of your organization.

Sincerely yours,

Max Simon

President

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the
JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Monday, March 8, 1937, 8:30 p.m., at The Temple

1. Minutes

Copies having been mailed to the members, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

2. Financial Report

Jacob Wolpaw, treasurer, reported that to date the Community Council had received a total of \$405 from 98 member organizations; 15 organizations still owed \$51 for the year 1936; total expenditures had been \$173.10 leaving a cash balance of \$231.90. Disbursements had been almost entirely for stationery, postage, and office supplies, Mr. Wolpaw explained, and announced that bills would be mailed soon to member organizations for 1937 dues, at the rate of three dollars for each representative which an organization sent to the Council.

3. Election of Officers

Judge David Ralph Hertz, chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Committee recommended for re-election all of the current officers of the Community Council and members of the Executive Committee, with the exception of those for whom replacements would be necessary due to the fact that their respective organizations had failed to re-appoint them or because they were unable to serve.

Mr. Simon then yielded the Chair to Mr. Woldman, and upon motion made, duly seconded, and unanimously carried, the following were re-elected: Max Simon, president; Edward M. Baker, first vice-president; Edward J. Schweid, second vice-president; Mrs. Benjamin Levine, third vice-president; Jacob Wolpaw, treasurer; and Philip Bernstein, secretary.

Re-elected to the Executive Committee were: Meyer Atkin, Rabbi B. R. Brickner, Rabbi Armond E. Cohen, Jerome N. Curtis, Isadore Fine-silver, George W. Furth, Rabbi David Genuth, Mrs. Sol Gitson, Mrs. David Glasser, Rabbi Harold Goldfarb, Mrs. Siegmund Herzog, George E. Kath, Rabbi Hugo Klein, Abraham Kollin, I. R. Morris, Rabbi Israel Porath, Aaron Resnick, Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal, Rabbi A. H. Silver, Oscar H. Steiner, Meyer Weintraub, Sidney N. Weitz, and Albert A. Woldman. Elected to fill vacancies in the Executive Committee were Milton P. Altschul, Dr. S. O. Freedlander, Mrs. Joseph Goldhamer, Mrs. Walter Goldsmith, Max Kohrman, Mrs. Bernard Krangel, and Aaron Permut.

4. President's Report

Mr. Simon took the Chair and reviewed briefly the objectives and function of the Council to date. The foundation of the Council was the development of a spirit of mutual understanding and respect, he said, based upon the belief that differences in Jewish life were inevitable and that progress lay in the harmonization of these various points of view rather than in the ruthless triumph of one over the other. It was the Council's purpose to encourage free and independent thinking -- but to develop also a sense of partnership that would enable different groups to think together and work together toward a more constructive, useful, and purposeful Jewish life.

The first year of the Council's existence had been marked by progress toward these goals, and he commended the representatives for their keen interest and as evidenced by their regular attendance, their willingness to serve in any capacity when asked to do so.

Several of the specific projects undertaken by the Council were reviewed, particularly as they related to the fundamental objectives of the Council. Included among these were the activity of the Committee seeking to eliminate fictitious Jewish issues from political campaigns, the Committee on Schools and Colleges, the Kashruth Committee, the Committee on Discrimination in Employment, and the Arbitration Committee.

It was pointed out how these groups had been working to protect the welfare of the Jewish Community, aiding in the personal adjustment of Jewish children, and making the community conscious of its problems as the first and necessary step toward their solution. It was his hope that the Council would carry forward toward greater achievement and service in the year ahead.

5. Polish Situation

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee, its attention had been brought by the local officers of the American Jewish Congress to the tragic plight of the Polish Jews, and to the necessity of urging the Polish government to restore the rights which had been withdrawn from them. A Committee had been appointed consisting of Abraham Kollin, Albert A. Woldman, and George Furth to draft appropriate resolutions and to present them to the Community Council.

Mr. Woldman reported for the Committee, and stated that the situation of Polish Jewry had become extremely critical, as a result of terrible poverty, pogroms, riots, economic boycotts, and government restrictions. Not only should a protest be lodged with the Polish government, he said, but every reasonable means should be used to arouse public opinion so that the rights guaranteed the Jews in the Versailles treaty might again be granted them. The Committee had drafted resolutions for these purposes, detailing the poverty, privation, and persecution of the Jews in Poland, making it clear that the problem must be solved in Poland and not by any mass emigration of Jews from the country, and calling upon the United States government, the Polish government, and the millions of Poles who had demonstrated their friendship in the past, to aid in correcting the situation. (copy attached)

The matter was discussed at length, and it was the feeling of several persons that the resolutions might have been worded more sharply, and that a special conference on the subject, with nationally known speaker, or a mass meeting might be more effective than action by the meeting of the Council. After considerable discussion, however, it was believed that the group present was as representative a gathering as could be obtained, and it was decided that it would be preferable that the Council act in the matter at its current session. Upon motion made, duly seconded, and unanimously carried, the resolutions as presented were approved and ordered sent to the Polish Ambassador at Washington, the Secretary of State, Senators Bulkley and Donahoy, Representatives Crosser, Sweeney, Fleger, and Mosier, and to the local newspapers.

6. Arbitration of Jewish Disputes

In accordance with the action taken by the Community Council at its last meeting, a Committee had been appointed to establish permanent machinery for the arbitration of Jewish disputes. The Committee thereafter appointed, included Philmore J. Haber, chairman; Judge Samuel H. Silbert, Rabbi Israel Porath, Aaron Resnick, I. R. Morris, Abraham Kollin, Ezra Z. Shapiro, and Rabbi Harold Goldfarb.

Mr. Haber presented the report of the Committee, proposing the establishment of a Jewish Conciliation and Arbitration Court as a branch of the Community Council, to be under the administration of an Arbitration Committee of the Council, and functioning in accordance with the Ohio Arbitration statutes so that the decisions would have the effect of court orders. Each case would be heard by three arbitrators, selected from a panel of 25 to 50 persons to be approved by the Executive Committee. The Court would consider all cases submitted to it involving Jewish questions, thus avoiding trials in the public courts for such disputes and thereby protecting the name and honor of the Jewish community -- likewise giving competent attention to those cases involving Jewish ritual which the civil courts were unable to judge with understanding. It would be the solemn moral obligation of every Jew or Jewish organization involved in Jewish disputes to submit such controversies to the Committee for conciliation and arbitration.

In the discussion of the report, the work of the Committee and the project recommended by them were praised and endorsed. The question was raised

as to whether a Jewish person involved in a dispute which might not itself be of a Jewish character could not take this to the Committee for arbitration rather than to the civil courts. While there was no fundamental objection to this, it was believed that for the time being it would not be wise to over-burden the Court and that at the start its function should be confined to Jewish matters.

Upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, the recommendation of the Committee was accepted and the Jewish Conciliation and Arbitration Court was thereby established.

7. Centennial

Leo Weidenthal, chairman of the Committee which had been established to plan for the community celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary of the first Jewish settlement in Cleveland, reported that a program had been agreed upon which would have two purposes: (1) to give the members of the Jewish community an understanding of their background and present composition and activity; and (2) to interpret to the general community in a dignified way the contribution of the Jews to the development of the city and their integration into the general community life.

The Committee proposed that a special community celebration be held during the week of October 24-31, including the following events: an exhibit at the Cleveland Public Library; an art exhibit at the Art Museum; a program of Jewish music; essay contests for Jewish children; special programs in the Jewish schools; special sermons in the temples and synagogues; and as a climax, a large civic meeting with a nationally famous speaker. In addition to these events, the Committee would make available to individual organizations program material and speakers so that they might conduct projects for their own memberships during the year, at their convenience. Another feature would be the compilation of a history of the local Jewish community. It was estimated that the cost of such a celebration might be \$1,000 to \$1,500, and the Executive Committee had recommended that the Committee make application to the Jewish Welfare Fund for such support.

It was emphasized that the celebration was intended to embrace the entire Jewish community, and that only with the full cooperation and assistance of all groups could it be the constructive, unifying, and educational observance which was desired.

Upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, the report was approved, and the Committee was authorized to proceed with its plans.

8. Discrimination in Employment

Raymond Metzner, reporting for the Committee on Discrimination in Employment, stated that since the last meeting of the Council several additional interviews had been held with the placement directors of employment agencies and vocational colleges; and that they had been informed repeatedly that at least 50% of the Jewish employers who called for applicants stated that they would prefer Gentiles, and that an equal or greater proportion of non-Jewish employers followed a similar policy.

The Committee saw the problem as having at least three aspects: (1) that of the employment agencies; (2) the Jewish employers; and (3) the non-Jewish employers. The Committee already had been working to get the cooperation of the agencies, so that they would themselves not do anything to encourage discrimination by employers. This work would be continued.

The next step to be undertaken by the Committee would be to arrange in the immediate future a number of small conferences with the large Jewish employers, to discuss the problem with them and to obtain their cooperation in meeting it. Similar conferences would be called also with Jewish representatives of labor who would be able to give the Committee accurate information concerning both the organized and unorganized industries.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee, it had been pointed out that the entire problem of vocational guidance for Jewish youth was one of extreme importance. Two local agencies, the Vocational Adjustment Department of the Jewish Social Service Bureau, and a special Committee of the Council Educational Alliance was interested and working on this, and the Community Council's Committee was integrating its efforts with that of the other two bodies.

In the discussion of the report, much concern was expressed with the seriousness of the problem and with the plight of Jewish youths who applied to various companies only to be rejected repeatedly with the inference or the frank explanation that their religion stood in their way. The effect upon their morale and upon their attitude toward their Jewishness -- particularly when these rebuffs came from Jewish employers -- was one which should be of grave concern to the entire Jewish community, it was said. It was declared that the problem was the most important one which the Community Council had undertaken to meet, and the Committee was encouraged to proceed energetically in its efforts to improve the situation.

8. New Members

It was announced that four additional organizations had applied for membership in the Council: The Jewish Big Brothers Association; the Jewish Consumptive Relief Society (Men's Group); The Yiddish Culture Society; and the Pioneer Women's Organization, Chapter 1. Inasmuch as the latter two groups each did not have the necessary minimum of 75 members for automatic representation, upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, it was voted that each be entitled to one representative in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

9. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) Philip Bernstein

Secretary.

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES