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### **MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**

Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

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Jewish Community Council, Cleveland, Ohio, 1937-1938.



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.



## Officers

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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 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

You will recall that one of the first acts of the Jewish Community Council was to condemn the injection of fictitious Jewish issues in political campaigns. About a year and a half ago it appointed a Committee, headed by Rabbi Silver, to prevent the recurrence of such issues in our local campaigns. The Committee was effective in minimizing this practice in the election last November.

Another election is scheduled to take place in Fall. The Committee already has met to take such steps as may be necessary to keep fictitious racial issues out of the campaign.

If you have any information that such issues are being created and utilized, will you please report them to Mr. Bernstein, secretary of the Council. The Committee can work promptly and effectively with the leaders of both parties to halt such practices.

The Committee is depending on your cooperation in this way to prevent the injection of false Jewish issues, which are harmful to the welfare of the entire Jewish community.

Sincerely yours,

*Max Simon*

Max Simon  
President

July 13, 1937.



C O P Y

HALL, HARRIS, HABER, & BERICK  
1090 Union Trust Bldg.  
Cleveland

July 19, 1937

Mr. Philip Bernstein, Secretary  
The Jewish Community Council  
Room 605 - 1900 Euclid Ave,  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Phil:-

The letter anent racial issues in political campaigns is timely. The racial issue undoubtedly will be injected into the coming campaign. The fact that Mayor Burton welcomed the German exchange students has been used to fan the flame of considerable bitterness, to the extent that he is now considered, among some people, as being anti-Semitic. These people overlook two or three things:

1. That he had no part in bringing the students here.
2. That he used the occasion of his welcome to preach something of the American ideals and to caution them against the kind of thing which was being practiced in Germany.

Instead of being opposed to Mayor Burton on racial grounds, it should be admitted that his welcome represented a degree of courage in plain and forthright speaking.

I am not interested as to who any of our people may vote for, so long as the selection is made by each individual on normal grounds.

It seems to me that before the campaign generates much excitement, that the responsible leaders of the community should give widespread currency to some kind of statement which will remove any stigma of anti-Semitism from Mayor Burton, as indeed, I believe, from both leading candidates.

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Philmore J. Haber

PJH/MM



C O P Y

25th WARD CITIZENS CLUB  
A Non-Partisan Political Organization  
Frank Sugarman in Charge  
1081 East 105th Street  
Cleveland, Ohio

President

Harry J. Karr  
1411 East Blvd.  
CEdar 2268 - PRospect 7040

Secretary

Samuel J. August

Treasurer

Frank Sugarman

Dear Friend:

The 25th Ward Citizens Club is a non-partisan political organization that welcomes to its folds all free thinking, liberal minded citizens regardless of their race, religion, or creed.

We feel that Mayor Burton by his pro-Nazi activities has shown himself unfit to be mayor of a Cosmopolitan city like ours.

In the coming campaign, we believe that our destinies and the future welfare of our children will be more secure, if placed in control of one who was born, raised, educated and lived among us all his life, as has, JOHN O. McWILLIAMS. He will find competent Cleveland citizens for responsible City Hall positions, instead of running all over the country seeking so-called experts to impede our progress.

We hope you can join us in our work and are enclosing a Pledge Card, which we wish you would fill out, place in the return envelope and drop in a mail box immediately, it requires no stamp.

Thanking you for your cooperation and in the spirit of good government, we remain

Sincerely yours,

THE COMMITTEE



JEWISH WORLD -- August 8, 1937

MEETING TOMORROW OF SYNAGOGUE  
AND ORGANIZATION PRESIDENTS

The presidents of synagogues and Jewish organizations are being called to a meeting which will be held tomorrow, Monday evening, in the Kinsman Jewish Center, East 147 Street and Kinsman Road.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss plans of how to help lawyer A.I. Hausman in his campaign as candidate for City Council in the 30th Ward. Mr. Benny Blaushild will be chairman.





CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER -- September 1, 1937

"Inside the News in Cleveland" -- By Philip W. Porter

..... "Hidden away in one of the Burton speeches -- one which slipped away from him and did make Page One copy -- was one very smart line, which may go some distance toward winning back the Jewish vote, which began to ease away from him when he showed the usual courtesy of welcoming to the city the German exchange pupils. The professional anti-Nazis resented this very much.

"Burton in this speech made a strong denunciation of Fascism and Communism. It was all very general, but it will reach its mark. By denouncing Fascism, he in effect denounced Hitler, and may have won back some votes. By denouncing Communism he probably won a few of the errant independents back; certainly he did not hurt himself with the Communists, who don't count here."

CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER -- September 6, 1937

Excerpt from story by Ralph J. Donaldson

..... "Opposition also is being created against Burton by appeals to racial and religious prejudice. Such appeals are a part of every mayoralty campaign, but they appear to be more widespread this year than they have been in recent years."



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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

September 9, 1937

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I'm sorry that I wasn't able to reach you today to discuss the matter of further procedure with regard to the Committee on Jewish Political Issues. I shall call you tomorrow (Friday), but in the meantime I thought you would like to have copies of some publicity which has appeared recently, and a brief resume' of events which have occurred while you were out of the city. The following is a short summary:

1. In accordance with the action of the Committee at its last meeting, a letter was sent to member organizations reminding them of the existence and purpose of the Committee, and asking them to bring to the Committee any specific evidence of fictitious Jewish issues in the campaign. A copy is enclosed.

2. As you probably know, this letter was criticized by Mr. Wiesenfeld as being a "white-wash" for Mayor Burton, and by Mr. Furth for failing to take a positive stand in breaking down what he said were false charges of anti-Semitism against Mr. Burton. Other persons whose comment was received thought the letter a fair statement.

3. A letter was received from Mr. Philmore Haber requesting that action be taken to destroy fictitious charges of anti-Semitism against Mr. Burton. A copy is enclosed.

4. Dr. F.M. Falkman sent in a copy of a letter being distributed by a political club criticizing Mayor Burton for "pro-Nazi activities" but making no mention of a Jewish question as such. A copy is enclosed.



September 9, 1937

5. The Plain Dealer has carried at least two stories in which there were paragraphs referring to the racial issue in the mayoralty campaign, one specifically referring to the "Jewish vote". Copies of the paragraphs are enclosed.

6. An unrelated item, but one which I thought you would want to know about, is a small story which appeared in the Jewish World stating that the presidents of Jewish congregations and organizations were being requested to attend a meeting to discuss plans for aiding the candidacy of A.I. Hausman for the City Council. A translation is enclosed.

The whole Burton question undoubtedly will be discussed at the meeting of the Community Council next Thursday evening, and Mr. Simon and I thought that the Committee would probably want to meet beforehand, so that it would be prepared to discuss the charges and counter-charges which may be made by opposing forces, and possibly formulate at least tentatively some program of action, if deemed wise. Consideration might be given to the question of whether an early clarification of the facts would serve to prevent a repetition of previous undesirable publicity and practices, or whether positive steps should be delayed pending the occurrence of such acts. The Committee might give some thought to this before the Council meeting. We can discuss this when I call you.

I hope you had a pleasant summer, and I should like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

*Philip Bernstein*  
Secretary



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# The Jewish Community Council

## Cleveland

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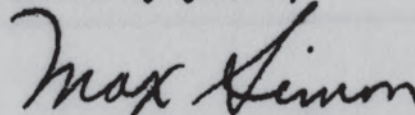
### TO THE REPRESENTATIVES:

The Jewish Community Council will meet  
Thursday evening, September 16, 8:30 p.m. (sharp), at the  
Jewish Center.

Problems which have arisen since the last meeting, and the work which has been going on actively will be reported and discussed. Included are the recent newspaper disclosures of anti-Semitic activities in Cleveland; the work of the Council's committees dealing with arbitration, discrimination in employment, the Centennial observance, schools and colleges; the Polish situation; local anti-Nazi work; and others.

I trust that you will be present.

Sincerely yours,



Max Simon  
President

September 10, 1937.

P.S. Inasmuch as we have a full and unusually important agenda, it will be necessary to start the meeting promptly at 8:30 p.m.



Minutes of a Meeting of the  
JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
Thursday, September 16, 1937, 8:30 p.m., at the Jewish Center.

1. Minutes

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

2. Summary of Council Activities

The Chairman reviewed briefly several of the activities which had taken place since the last Community Council meeting. Included were the following:

Polish Situation -- A Committee had gone to Washington to confer with Secretary State Hull as part of a national delegation seeking the friendly intervention of the United States in halting the pogroms in Poland, on the basis of the latter's treaty obligations to minorities. Resolutions were also sent by the Council to Washington. The action had been authorized by the Executive Committee, as directed by the Council, on the basis of advice from the American Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Committee. Although the administration refused to change its non-intervention policy, the conference demonstrated that the State Department was fully informed of the Polish situation, and remarks in Congress and newspaper publicity following the meeting indicated a strong stir of public sentiment against the pogroms. Cleveland delegates were Abraham Kollin, Philmore J Haber, and Albert Woldman.

Helmuth Hirsch -- Both national organizations had stated that they had already undertaken all that could be done to prevent and protest the execution of Helmuth Hirsch by the Nazi government, and advised against local action here. This advice was accepted.

Arbitration -- The Arbitration Committee had been successful recently in bringing together disputing parties in three cases. These involved a suit by an individual against a Jewish institution for work which he claimed to have done; a suit by a rabbi against a congregation for back salary; and a suit by a Jewish individual against a Christian charitable organization, which was having unfortunate repercussions because of the tactics used.

Fictitious Political Issues -- A letter had been sent to all Council members by the Committee on Fictitious Jewish Political Issues, asking them to report to the Committee any such false issues as came to their attention in the current campaign. The Committee planned to hold a meeting very soon.

Schools and Colleges -- As in the past, letters had been sent to the authorities of all local schools and colleges, informing them of the dates of Jewish holidays, and requesting that examinations and other important work be avoided on those occasions, so that Jewish students would not be penalized by their absence from classes. The replies received assured the Council of their continued cooperation.

3. Centennial

Mr Woldman reported that preparation had been going on actively for the Centennial Week October 24-31, marking the 100th anniversary of Jewish settlement in Cleveland. Several Committees had been appointed to direct the various projects, and these events were now taking definite shape. Chairmen of the Committees were: Mrs Emil Brudno, music program; David Warshawsky, art exhibit, Leo Weidenthal, library historical exhibit; Leonard Levy, essay contests; Mrs Sig Braverman, children's programs; Edward M Baker, civic meeting; Albert A Woldman and Mrs A F Mellman, compilation of the history of the local Jewish Community.

It was emphasized that the participation of the entire Jewish Community was sought for the Centennial Week programs, and presidents of member organizations had been requested to avoid scheduling special events during that week, so that their membership would be free to participate in the Centennial. It was also pointed out that the primary purpose of the Centennial was not a demonstration of Jewish achievement for the general community, but rather to serve as an



integrating, constructive force for the Jewish community and to bring about within it a better understanding and appreciation of local Jewish history and development and Jewish values.

#### 4. Discrimination in Employment

Milton Altschul reported that the Committee on Employment had been investigating complaints which had come to it concerning anti-Semitic discrimination in the W.P.A. general layoffs which had taken place when Cleveland's quota had been cut. It was found that the proportion of Jews discharged was approximately the same as the general proportion laid off, and investigation of the individual cases brought no evidence of discrimination. The Committee had conferred with high W.P.A. officials and had their full cooperation in tracking down any indication of anti-Semitism.

A second conference had been held with large Jewish employers to secure their advice and assistance in dealing with the problem of discrimination, and had received valuable information and suggestions. Another conference was planned soon with representatives of several agencies directly concerned with Jewish vocational guidance and placement, which was related to the problem of discrimination, and it was hoped that from such a session would come at least the beginning of a broad, coordinated program.

#### 5. Relationship to League for Human Rights

A special Committee had been appointed following the last meeting of the Community Council to clarify the relationship of the Council and the League for Human Rights Against Nazism, and to advise concerning further action with regard to the German student exchange. The Committee's report, which had been accepted by the Executive Committee, was presented by Sidney N Weitz.

The Committee pointed out that the League was an autonomous body, on the general principle of Article IX, Section 2, of the Constitution; and that it was a basic principle of the Council to assist rather than supersede organizations already in existence which were handling specific problems effectively, as noted by the Executive Committee on June 11, 1936. It urged that the League strengthen its non-Sectarian character, rather than become a strictly Jewish organization, but pointed out the necessity of having a close working relationship between the League and the Council, so that the community might be fully informed of the League's activities, and the League would have a ready channel for securing community sentiment and support, which was essential for the effectiveness of its work. That there was already a close affiliation was indicated by the fact that half of the League's executive committee were members of the Community Council, representing various organizations. It was suggested, however, that it would be helpful to have a wider representation on the League executive committee than at present, by adding persons who would reflect views of elements in the community which currently did not appear to have adequate representation.

With regard to the German student exchange, the Committee proposed that the Council go on record clearly condemning the project on the ground that it was not a bona fide exchange but an attempt to develop acceptance of a regime that existed on hatred and persecution, and pledging the effort of the Council to prevent similar schemes in the future.

Upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, the Council endorsed the action of the Executive Committee in approving the report of the Committee.

#### 6. Anti-Nazi Activity in Cleveland

I R Morris, reporting for the League for Human Rights Against Nazism, presented the following information:

Investigation revealed that Sir Henry Deterding, who had just made another tremendous contribution to the Nazi party in Germany, still owned two-thirds of the stock of the Shell Oil Co.

Efforts thus far had been successful in keeping out of Cleveland German moving pictures which were spreading Nazi and anti-Semitic



propaganda. Two leases with Theaters, inadvertently made, had been broken.

The German American Cultural League, an anti-Nazi group, had recently been host to a national musical festival, which according to reports had been attended by 20,000 people. Songs sung were those which had been banned by the Nazi Government in Germany, and the audience was constantly reminded of this.

The Anti-Nazi League executive Committee had seen the evidence used by the Cleveland Press in the expose of the Association of Leagues as an anti-Semitic organization. A close tie-up with the Silver Shirts had been shown, the names of prominent Clevelanders alleged to have contributed to the Association were listed, and co-operation with local Nazis, was revealed. The evidence had been uncovered by the League Against War and Fascism, and the League for Human Rights while desiring that this group continue its investigation, had decided that it could not officially contribute to its financial support, or join with it to the extent of endorsing its mass meeting or its request for an investigation by the City Council.

Investigation of the Nazi Camp in Cleveland had revealed marching behind Nazi flags, Nazi salutes, and actions derogatory to the United States government and flag. The camp had been a failure, and had closed after ten days.

There was also evidence before the League that at least one of the professors at Western Reserve University was strongly pro-Fascist and anti-Semitic.

There was a long discussion of the evidence uncovered concerning the Association of Leagues, and the question of possible support and assistance by the Anti-Nazi League and Community Council to the League Against War and Fascism in this investigation. It was believed by some that such support should be given because of the service being rendered to the Jewish Community; others opposed any tie-up, while favoring a continuation of the investigation, because of some of the membership and other activities of the League Against War and Fascism, which were said to be connected with the investigation. They believed that each agency should continue its work in its own way.

It was explained that the Executive Committee of the Community Council at its last meeting had discussed the situation thoroughly and had decided not to join in a request for a Councilmanic investigation, as sought by the League Against War and Fascism, partly because the City Council had no power to subpoena witnesses and it was not believed that such an investigation could be effective. A Committee had been appointed, including Mrs Siegmund Herzog, Rabbi Armond E Cohen, and Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal, to meet with the League for Human Rights and advise the Community Council concerning further action.

Mrs Herzog reported for the Committee, and stated that the City Council had requested a federal investigation of activities and organizations in Cleveland which were spreading racial and religious hatred; and the Federal Department of Justice had undertaken a survey of Nazi activities throughout the country. The Committee recommended that the Council adopt the following resolution:

"The Jewish Community Council of Cleveland, including in its membership more than 130 organizations and representing the Jewish population of the city, strongly endorses the action of the Federal government in conducting an investigation of Nazi activities in the United States, through the Department of Justice, and urges that there be a full investigation and expose of the activities of Nazi and other organizations which are spreading racial and religious animosity in Cleveland and other parts of the United States".

It recommended that copies of the resolution be sent to President Roosevelt, Attorney General Cummings, J Edgar Hoover, and congressional leaders and local congressmen. Upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, the resolution and recommendation were adopted.



7. Membership

The Council accepted for membership the B'nai B'rith Balfour Auxiliary, and granted it representation. There was considerable discussion of the application of the Past Noble Grands Club, and upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, the matter was referred to the Executive Committee for further consideration and action. It was stated as a basic principle, that organizations having fewer than 75 members must have some activity or service which makes it peculiarly qualified for representation, in order to be granted special dispensation.

8. German Jewish Refugees

The assistance of Council representatives and their organizations' members was requested by Sidney Weitz, to aid German Jewish refugees who had come to Cleveland in finding employment. Persons knowing of available positions were asked to call Mrs Jacobs at the Jewish Social Service Bureau.

9. Masaryk Memorial

The Council was informed that Dr Thomas G Masaryk, founder and first president of Czechoslovakia and staunch friend of the Jews and all minorities, had recently died. A memorial meeting was being planned for an early date by the local Czechs, and it was believed that some expression from the local Jewish Community would be fitting. Several suggestions were made with regard to the form of such an expression, and upon motion made, duly seconded, and unanimously carried, the Chairman was authorized to appoint a special Committee to determine and take appropriate action.

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

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am enclosing the copy of the Resolution which the Special Committee would like to have you read at the meeting tomorrow evening at the Public Hall, which will honor the memory of the late Dr. Masaryk.

Sincerely yours,

*Philip Bernstein*  
Secretary.

September 21, 1937.

## CENTENNIAL WEEK OCTOBER 24-31

*Marking the 100th Anniversary of Cleveland's Jewish Community*

### Chairmen

**General Chairman**  
Leo Weidenthal

**Civic Meeting**  
Edward M. Baker

**Art Exhibit**  
David Warshawsky

**Music Program**  
Mrs. Emil Brudno

**Essay Contest**  
Leonard Levy

**Children's Programs**  
Mrs. Sig. Braverman

**Community History**  
Albert A. Woldman  
Mrs. A. F. Mellman

### General

Mrs. I. Fineman

Miss Florence Goldman

Rabbi Melbourne Harris

Louis Moskowitz

Mrs. Norman Siegel



September 22, 1937

Mr. Philip Bernstein,  
Jewish Welfare Federation,  
1900 Euclid Avenue,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Bernstein:

A few people have spoken to me recently about the frequency with which advertisements appear in the local papers, particularly in the Plain Dealer (in the Want Columns), stating "gentiles preferred". There seemingly has been a considerable increase in this sort of thing in the last year due, of course, to well-known conditions.

I wonder whether it wouldn't be wise for the Executive Committee of the Jewish Community Council to talk this matter over. It may be desirable to contact with the newspapers about this matter. In some cities, this kind of advertisement is not accepted. It might be well for you to contact with some of the larger communities to find out what the practice there is.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



## Officers

**President**  
Max Simon

**First Vice-President**  
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**Second Vice-President**  
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Mrs. Benjamin Levine

**Treasurer**  
Jacob Wolpaw

**Secretary**  
Philip Bernstein

## Executive Committee

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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

September 23, 1937

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

As you already know, the Centennial Committee is planning a Community Meeting as the climax of the Centennial Week which will mark the 100th anniversary of Jewish settlement in Cleveland. The meeting will be held at the Public Music Hall Sunday evening, October 31, at 8:00 p.m.

It is our hope that it will be a very significant occasion in which the Jewish Community can take stock of its progress to date and gain a perspective of future development.

The Committee which is planning the program would like very much to have you speak on "Cleveland's Jewish Community -- Looking Ahead". Other speakers will discuss the past historical development, and we should like to have you sound an inspirational note in pointing out the paths along which sound progress lies. Due to the length of the program it will be necessary to limit addresses to twelve minutes, but I trust that this will not prove an undue restriction.

I hope that we may count upon your acceptance, and that we may have your confirmation within a few days.

Sincerely yours,

*Edward M. Baker*

Edward M. Baker  
Chairman

## CENTENNIAL WEEK OCTOBER 24-31

Marking the 100th Anniversary of Cleveland's Jewish Community

### Chairmen

**General Chairman**  
Leo Weidenthal

**Civic Meeting**  
Edward M. Baker

**Art Exhibit**  
David Warshawsky

**Music Program**  
Mrs. Emil Brudno

**Essay Contest**  
Leonard Levy

**Children's Programs**  
Mrs. Sig. Braverman

**Community History**  
Albert A. Woldman  
Mrs. A. F. Mellman

### General

Mrs. I. Fineman

Miss Florence Goldman

Rabbi Melbourne Harris

Louis Moskowitz

Mrs. Norman Siegel



September 24, 1937

Mr. Edward M. Baker, Chairman  
The Jewish Community Council  
1900 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Baker:

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter of September 23 and for the invitation which you extend to me to share in the program of the public meeting to be held at the Public Music Hall on Sunday evening, October 31, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Jewish settlement in Cleveland. I shall be very pleased to attend the meeting and to speak. I note the restriction of time and I shall, as far as it is rabbinically possible, to keep within the prescribed limitations.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



C O P Y

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE  
130 North Wells Street  
Chicago, Ill.

September 30, 1937

Mr. Philip Bernstein, Secy.  
The Jewish Community Council  
1900 Euclid Avenue, Room 605  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Bernstein:

Some time ago I sent you a report on the activities of the committees on unjust discrimination. I also sent you a form letter which I prepared for the various committees seeking information on how to organize and carry on this work.

Unfortunately, I have been unable to devote my entire time to discrimination in employment and therefore have not compiled a report since 1933.

It has always been my policy before taking action on any rumors regarding national organizations to make a complete investigation of the local situation and ascertain if the local branch discriminates, and if so whether this is a national policy or the policy of the local branch manager.

Some time ago, we investigated the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company and were assured that if any of the branches discriminated, this was the policy of the local manager.

We have had no complaints and no reason to investigate the National Carbon Company, the Aluminum Corporation of America or the Dow Chemical Company.

The problem of newspaper advertisements that specify "Gentile" or "Gentile preferred" is a matter of deep concern to us. In most instances, these are blind ads and the newspapers will not reveal the name of the organization who placed these ads.

We have been trying to get the Newspaper Publisher's Association of America to agree not to publish ads of this kind, but up to date we have not succeeded.

It may be possible in some instances to get local newspapers to discontinue this practice, but we are primarily concerned with having the entire Newspaper Publisher's Association adopt such a policy.

I am not aware of any cities where the co-operation of the newspapers has been secured in eliminating these objectionable practices.



Should you succeed in getting your local newspaper to consent to refuse to print such ads, would appreciate hearing from you. Also, would like to know the technique used by your local committee.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Miles Goldberg

Assistant Secretary

MMG:RR





## 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

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

C O P Y

Dear Rabbi Silver:

You will remember that some time ago, the Jewish Welfare Federation asked that representatives be appointed to attend a conference with the Employment Committee of the Jewish Community Council, to consider the problem of Jewish vocational guidance and placement.

This conference has been scheduled for Thursday evening, October 7, 8:15 p.m., at the new offices of the Federation in the Community Service Building, 1001 Huron Rd. (Room 1015). It is essential that each agency be represented fully, if the conference is to achieve its purpose, and unless I hear from you to the contrary within the next day or two, I shall assume that you will attend.

Sincerely yours,

*M. P. Altschul*

Milton P. Altschul  
Chairman, Employment Committee

October 2, 1937.

## CENTENNIAL WEEK OCTOBER 24-31

*Marking the 100th Anniversary of Cleveland's Jewish Community*

### Chairmen

**General Chairman**  
Leo Weidenthal

**Civic Meeting**  
Edward M. Baker

**Art Exhibit**  
David Warshawsky

**Music Program**  
Mrs. Emil Brudno

**Essay Contest**  
Leonard Levy

**Children's Programs**  
Mrs. Sig. Braverman

**Community History**  
Albert A. Woldman  
Mrs. A. F. Mellman

### General

Mrs. I. Fineman

Miss Florence Goldman

Rabbi Melbourne Harris

Louis Moskowitz

Mrs. Norman Siegel



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Jacob Wolpaw

**Secretary**  
Philip Bernstein

## Executive Committee

Milton P. Altschul  
Meyer Atkin  
Rabbi B. R. Brickner  
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Isadore Finesilver  
Dr. S. O. Freedlander  
George W. Furth  
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Mrs. Joseph Goldhamer  
Mrs. Walter Goldsmith  
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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

1001 Huron Road • CHerry 8176

Dear Rabbi Silver:

You will recall that in planning the observance of the 100th anniversary of Jewish settlement in Cleveland, the central purpose has been to give the Jewish community a better understanding of its background, and to serve as an occasion on which Cleveland Jewry will re-dedicate themselves to Jewish values and ideals, integrated with American traditions. The Centennial Committee is agreed that in the light of this purpose, there could be no more appropriate opening to the Centennial Week than special sermons on this theme by the rabbis in all of our temples and synagogues on the week-end of October 22- 23- 24.

We are writing, therefore, to ask your cooperation in using that subject for your sermon on the week-end indicated. Under separate cover we are sending you a digest of the history of the local Jewish community, which may be helpful to you. If there is any further information which you desire, we shall be happy to supply it.

You may be sure that your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

*Leo Weidenthal*

Leo Weidenthal  
Chairman, Centennial Committee

October 5, 1937.

## CENTENNIAL WEEK OCTOBER 24-31

*Marking the 100th Anniversary of Cleveland's Jewish Community*

### Chairmen

**General Chairman**  
Leo Weidenthal

**Civic Meeting**  
Edward M. Baker

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David Warshawsky

**Music Program**  
Mrs. Emil Brudno

**Essay Contest**  
Leonard Levy

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Mrs. Sig. Braverman

**Community History**  
Albert A. Woldman  
Mrs. A. F. Mellman

### General

Mrs. I. Fineman

Miss Florence Goldman

Rabbi Melbourne Harris

Louis Moskowitz

Mrs. Norman Siegel



October 6, 1937

Mr. Milton P. Altschul, Chairman Employment Committee,  
The Jewish Community Council,  
1001 Huron Road,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Altschul:

I regret that it will not be possible for me  
to attend the meeting called for October 7. I shall  
be out of the city that evening.

With best wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



## 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  
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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

# The Jewish Community Council Cleveland

1001 Huron Road - CHerry 8176

Rabbi A H Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I was very happy to learn that you will be able to participate in the Centennial Community Meeting Sunday evening, October 31, 8:00 p.m., at the Public Music Hall. We are looking forward to an occasion which we hope will be outstanding in local Jewish history.

We are asking speakers to come to Room 208 shortly before 8:00 p.m., entering through the stage door (1300 East 6th Street). A guide will direct you to the room. Dress will be informal.

I shall look forward to seeing you at that time.

Sincerely yours,

*Edward M Baker*

Edward M Baker,  
Chairman.

October 28, 1937.

## CENTENNIAL WEEK OCTOBER 24-31

*Marking the 100th Anniversary of Cleveland's Jewish Community*

### Chairmen

**General Chairman**  
Leo Weidenthal

**Civic Meeting**  
Edward M. Baker

**Art Exhibit**  
David Warshawsky

**Music Program**  
Mrs. Emil Brudno

**Essay Contest**  
Leonard Levy

**Children's Programs**  
Mrs. Sig. Braverman

**Community History**  
Albert A. Woldman  
Mrs. A. F. Mellman

### General

Mrs. I. Fineman

Miss Florence Goldman

Rabbi Melbourne Harris

Louis Moskowitz

Mrs. Norman Siegel



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Max Simon

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Edward J. Schweid

**Third Vice-President**  
Mrs. Benjamin Levine

**Treasurer**  
Jacob Wolpaw

**Secretary**  
Philip Bernstein

# The Jewish Community Council

## Cleveland

1001 Huron Road - CHerry 8176

October 29, 1937

**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  
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Mrs. Joseph Goldhamer  
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Mrs. Bernard Krangel  
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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

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am enclosing a summary of the meeting held late this afternoon with regard to a tabloid circular issued in the East 105th Street neighborhood on Thursday, charging that Mayor Burton was in "Hitler's corner". I received a number of phone calls immediately from persons who were very indignant, and inasmuch as both you and Mr. Simon were out of the city and it seemed imperative that your committee should at least meet to consider the matter, a meeting was held with Mr. Baker acting as chairman in his capacity as first vice-president of the Council.

On the whole there was no great divergence of opinion with regard to the circular and the conclusions which were reached. Unfortunately, I do not have a copy of the circular in the office, but I shall try to get one immediately to send to you, if one already has not found its way to your office. I shall be glad to discuss the matter with you after you have had an opportunity to review what has occurred.

Sincerely yours,

*Philip Bernstein*  
Secretary

### CENTENNIAL WEEK OCTOBER 24-31

*Marking the 100th Anniversary of Cleveland's Jewish Community*

**Chairmen**

**General Chairman**  
Leo Weidenthal

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Albert A. Woldman  
Mrs. A. F. Mellman

**General**

Mrs. I. Fineman

Miss Florence Goldman

Rabbi Melbourne Harris

Louis Moskowitz

Mrs. Norman Siegel



Memorandum of Meeting of the Committee on Fictitious Political Jewish Issues  
Friday, October 29, 1937, 3:30 p.m., at the Union Trust Bldg. (Room 1289)

1. Attendance -- There were present: E.M. Baker, acting chairman; Saul Danaceau, Mrs. Raymond Haas, and Jack Persky, of the Committee; and Henry A. Rucker, Rabbi Armond E. Cohen, Leon Wiesenfeld, Meyer Atkin, and Louis Singer.

2. Purpose It was explained that the meeting had been called in response to numerous telephone calls which had been received by the Secretary, vigorously condemning a political newspaper which had been distributed on Thursday, October 28, in the East 105th Street neighborhood. The tabloid circular, issued by the 25th Ward Citizens Club and listing Frank Sugarman as editor, was devoted to a condemnation of Mayor Burton as being "in Hitler's Corner". It contained numerous cartoons depicting Burton attending Nazi meetings and receiving the Nazi salute. It also had reproductions of local newspaper articles on Nazism in the United States.

Complaints had been directed against the general nature of the circular, the specific statements made, the implications of the charges, and the effect upon the Jews of the city in view of the fact that a Jew was listed as editor and it was dragging into the campaign a Jewish issue.

3. Specific Charges The Committee discussed the specific charges made in the circular. With regard to the endorsement of Mr. Burton by the Staatsverband, Mr. Rucker explained that this was a federation of about forty German societies, and that it had regularly endorsed candidates in the past. Mr. Rucker questioned whether it was a Nazi organization. Mr. Danaceau, on the other hand, believed that it was a Nazi group. Mr. Wiesenfeld stated that the organization itself was not Nazi, but that its chief officers were Nazi leaders.

Mr. Rucker objected to the inclusion of a Nazi song, and a reproduction of a Nazi membership card, saying that they had no connection with Mr. Burton, and were intended merely to mislead the readers.

With regard to the charge that Mr. Burton participated in a meeting in which Fritz Kuhn had a prominent part, Mr. Rucker stated that he had spoken with Mr. Burton and had been told that the Mayor had never met Mr. Kuhn and that on the date noted he had in fact been out of the city. Mr. Wiesenfeld stated that Mr. Burton had ~~not~~ participated in such a meeting, and that he had not been out of the city at the time.

Mr. Burton had admitted applauding a speech in German at one of the meetings, but said that he had not understood the contents, and had recently made it a practice never to applaud remarks in a foreign language. It was alleged that the speech referred to included statements derogatory to Jews. Mr. Wiesenfeld reported that Mrs. Burton understood German, and that she too had applauded that speech.

It had been charged in the circular that Mr. Burton and Mr. Clum had ruled against a resolution introduced by Councilman Victor Cohen against racial and religious intolerance. The cartoon showed them raising such objection. It was explained by Mr. Rucker and Rabbi Cohen that Mr. Clum had ruled against the form in which the resolution had been drafted, and that



after it had been altered slightly, it had been passed. Mr. Burton had not raised his objection on the floor of the Council, as depicted, it was said, but in conference.

The remainder of the discussion was concerned with the circular as a whole, rather than the numerous other specific items. Mr. Wiesenfeld stated that Mr. Burton had attended the meetings referred to in the bulletin, and that the specific statements referring to them were correct. He condemned the circular as a whole, however, saying that there was no truth in the charge that Mr. Burton was anti-Semitic and pointing out that in his own public addresses opposing the reelection of the Mayor he had made it clear that Mr. Burton was not an anti-Semite. He thought that the circular was very poorly composed and said that he had not known of its publication until after it had been printed. He said that he might have prevented its distribution, but was not in a position to do so in view of the fact that the Jewish World had published an editorial written by Mr. Rocker declaring that there was no Jewish issue in the mayoralty campaign.

Mr. Persky stated that he had attended one of the meetings referred to and that he had not seen Mr. Burton give a Nazi salute. He had arrived late, however, and did not know exactly what had preceded his arrival.

Mr. Wiesenfeld contrasted the action of Mr. Burton with that of Judge Arthur Day. The latter, after having been greeted in the Nazi manner at a German meeting, had made it clear to his audience that he was not in sympathy with such greetings and opposed the importation of foreign doctrines.

Mr. Danaceau stated that he knew Mr. and Mrs. Burton well personally, and that the Mayor had not been and was not anti-Semitic. The circular which had been issued was "stupid". Rather, the Mayor had made a practice of attending meetings of all kinds, as a political opportunist to build political fences, and that if the exact facts were presented with regard to this there could be no justifiable complaint.

(Mr. Danaceau stated that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee which had been distributed had not accurately reported the conclusions and that he and the Committee had been accused of "white-washing Mr. Burton". He did not want this to happen again. The Secretary reported that the minutes had not been distributed, but rather a letter had been sent in accordance with the instructions of the Committee, and read the letter to the group. The letter was a general statement asking the representatives in the Community Council to bring any specific information regarding fictitious Jewish issues to the Committee. Any criticism could not have been based upon the minutes, therefore, and must have been founded on rumor, the Secretary said.)

4. Action Mr. Rocker explained that his interest in the matter arose from his concern with its effect upon the Jews of the city. He recalled the experience a year before in which he had been involved as a result of attending a meeting which had been inaccurately <sup>reported</sup> in the newspapers as an attempt to secure the "Jewish vote", even though he had made it clear that there was no such thing as a "Jewish vote" and that each Jew voted as an individual American citizen. He had been held up to ridicule before the community, he said, as a "peanut politician" as a result of the statement which the Committee of the Community Council had hastily issued, and was anxious that the current problem be handled properly.



It was his opinion that the implication of the circular clearly was "Jews! Don't vote for Burton! He is an enemy of the Jews!" He believed that most people thought Mr. Burton to be fairminded, and that such charges, issued by Jews, would react against the Jews and put them in a position of danger. If Jews inject such issues today, their enemies will inject them tomorrow, he said.

He stated that he would publish in the Jewish World on Sunday morning, October 31, a strong editorial under his own name strongly condemning the circular's charge that Mr. Burton was an "agent of Hitler". He believed that the Community Council should issue a similar statement.

He had no objection to an individual making speeches reflecting his personal endorsements, and Mr. Baker agreed that the right of an individual to endorse a candidate was not impaired by the purpose of the Committee. He believed however, that the circular was "cheap and scurrilous" and that the Council should do what it could to suppress that kind of campaigning.

It was Mr. Wiesenfeld's belief that a statement by the Council would merely call forth a retaliatory statement by those who had issued the bulletin. He said that he had authentic information that the daily newspapers would ignore the matter. It was Mr. Baker's opinion that in view of that fact, the Committee should concentrate on what might be done to prevent another similar statement from being issued.

Mr. Danaceau reported that he had conferred with Mr. Gongwer following the last meeting of the Committee and had been informed that neither he nor the Democratic party, insofar as it was possible for him to control the matter, would permit the injection of a Jewish issue in the campaign.

Mr. Baker summarized the conclusions of the meeting, which were then accepted by the Committee:

(1) Any individual has the right to express his point of view with regard to a candidate.

(2) The circular which had been issued was indecent, scurrilous, and inflammatory.

(3) The Committee should do what it could to prevent the publication and distribution of another statement like it.

(4) In the absence from the city of the chairman, Rabbi Silver, Mr. Baker was unwilling to assume the responsibility of issuing any statement, and this should be deferred as to decision until Rabbi Silver's return. If he believed that a statement should be issued, it should be done in consultation with the Committee.

(5) Inasmuch as there was almost no publicity in the daily press -- only one newspaper had carried a small item with regard to it -- it was not believed wise to spread the matter by giving it further general publicity.



It was agreed that if any action were taken, the facts in the matter should be clear so that it could not be construed as a "whitewash" for Mr. Burton.

Mr. Wiesenfeld asked that the Committee review a statement which he was preparing for publication. If there were objection to it, he would not publish it. The statement was read, and it was agreed that there was nothing objectionable.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Philip Bernstein

Secretary





November 1, 1937

Mr. Philip Bernstein, Secretary,  
The Jewish Community Council,  
1001 Huron Road,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Bernstein:

Was anything done by the Council  
in the matter of the "gentiles preferred" ads  
which have been appearing in the local press?  
At the last meeting of Mr. Altschul's committee  
which I attended, some plan was worked out.  
I would appreciate hearing from you.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



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Treasurer  
Jacob Wolpaw

Secretary  
Philip Bernstein

# The Jewish Community Council

## Cleveland

1001 Huron Road - CHerry 8176

November 2, 1937

### 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

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Following the meeting of the Committee on Employment, I wrote to the Anti-Defamation in Chicago to secure what information it might have on action taken in various cities, with regard to the problem of newspaper ads which state "gentiles preferred". You will recall that the Committee asked that this be done, as a basis for determining the approach to be used here.

A copy of the reply is enclosed, in which you will note that the League has no knowledge of successful action in any city, and itself has not been able to meet the situation on a national scale.

Due to the very heavy pressure of other matters, I have not been able to do anything further since the receipt of this reply. Milton Altschul and I have arranged, however, to meet with Jay Iglauer on Thursday of this week to work out a specific plan of action with each newspaper. The plans developed at that time will be carried through immediately thereafter.

Your suggestions in this, as in other matters, are of course most welcome.

Cordially yours,

*Philip Bernstein*  
Secretary



C O P Y

November 6, 1937.

Hon. Harold H Burton  
City Hall  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mayor Burton:

The Press of yesterday, November 5, carried a report that a uniform parade in honor of Fritz Kuhn is being planned as a feature of the convention of the German American Bund to be held in this city on Saturday, November 13. Assuming that the report is correct, may we take the liberty of suggesting that the city should feel constrained to withhold a permit for such a parade.

There may be an honest difference of opinion on what constitutes reasonable limits of patience and tolerance with the overt and provocative acts of individuals and groups whose sole aim is to introduce into American life old-world hates and prejudices. We can even understand the reluctance of persons in authority to establish any restrictions of freedom of thought and action, out of fear of limiting those liberties which are sacred to democracy. However, to permit the use of our streets through the issuance of a permit for a uniform parade of American Nazis, is an affront to the city and an insult to its citizens.

It is bad enough that Cleveland was selected as the convention city of the Nazi group. To abuse our fortuitous hospitality by strutting the streets of our city in a uniform suggestive of the contempt for American institutions and loyalty to a foreign government which blatantly preaches its hatred of democracy and openly advocates its overthrow -- to permit the use of our highways for such an exhibition of anti-Americanism is not to honor the theories or principles of democracy, but to cheapen them and give courage to a movement which seeks their destruction.

We trust that this will receive your very serious consideration; and may we also express the hope, which represents the feeling of the entire Jewish community, that the Nazi convention will not be graced by the presence of representatives of the city government appearing in their official capacities.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Max Simon

President.



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# The Jewish Community Council

## Cleveland

1001 Huron Road - CHerry 8176

### THE NAZI CONVENTION IN CLEVELAND

#### To the Executive Committee:

You undoubtedly have read in the newspapers that there will be a regional convention of the German American Bund in Cleveland on November 13. The meeting will be held in the Sons of Italy Hall.

We have been cooperating actively with the League for Human Rights Against Nazism to prevent any official recognition of the meeting and to defeat its purpose. Due to the necessity of taking immediate action, there was not time to call a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Community Council, and I trust that the enclosed letter will meet with your approval.

You will note that we have made it clear to Mayor Burton and to Assistant Safety Director Chamberlain that the Jewish people of the city strongly oppose the issuance of a permit for a parade by the Nazi group, and the participation of any officials representing the city government. Non-Jews have given their strong support to this, and to date no permit has been issued. Other steps are being taken by the League to destroy the propaganda value of the meeting.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council will be held in the very near future, and we shall inform you soon of the exact date.

Sincerely yours,

*Max Simon*

Max Simon,  
President.

November 8, 1937.



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# The Jewish Community Council

## Cleveland

1001 Huron Road - CHerry 8176

### To the Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee will meet Monday evening, November 22, 8:15 p.m., at the Jewish Center.

There are several matters which require the attention of the Committee, and it will be an important session. Among them will be the question of further action with regard to the Polish situation. As you know, there has been pressure for a city-wide Jewish protest conference, and a committee representing some of the groups in favor of such a step will be present to explain their point of view to the Committee. It is important that we have a full attendance, in order that the question may receive the careful consideration it requires.

Another item is the opportunity to make a census of the Jewish population of the city, with the cooperation of Howard W Green and the W.P.A. funds which he has at his disposal. It has been suggested that such a survey would be an essential basis for any future community planning, and Mr Green is prepared to proceed if the Community Council will sponsor the project and give him the necessary assistance.

In addition, recent Nazi and anti-Nazi activities in Cleveland, the expanded program undertaken by the Committee on Discrimination, and several other important developments will be considered, making very full agenda. I trust that you will arrange to be present so that we can start the meeting promptly.

Sincerely yours,

*Max Simon*

Max Simon,  
President.

November 16, 1937.



1937 MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN

1. The Committee met in June, months before the active campaign began, to consider what action, if any, it should take at that time.
2. As a result of the meeting, a letter was sent to the representatives and presidents of Jewish organizations, reiterating the stand which the Community Council had taken with regard to fictitious Jewish issues, and asking them to bring to the Committee information concerning specific false issues which came to their attention.
3. One of the members of the Committee discussed the problem with the head of the local Democratic organization informally, and was assured that no such issues would be injected into the campaign if he could prevent them.
4. The Secretary later discussed the matter with the Executive Secretary of the local Republican organization, and likewise was told that no such activities were contemplated, and that he would be contacted before any steps were taken to combat fictitious Jewish issues if injected by the opposing party.
5. The Council at its last meeting was reminded of the position which it had taken in the matter, and members again were asked to bring any information bearing on the problem to the Committee.
6. During the campaign, there was issued in the East 105th Street neighborhood a circular charging that "Mayor Burton Is in Hitler's Corner." Several persons immediately called the Community Council office to protest and condemn the circular, and a meeting of the Committee was called immediately to consider the matter. While there was general condemnation of the tone and conclusions drawn by the circular, the Committee agreed that to issue a statement would serve to give it further publicity, and decided not to do this since the daily newspapers had almost completely ignored the matter and it was understood that they would continue to do so, and inasmuch as the Jewish Daily World would print an editorial condemning it. (I don't know whether you want to mention your action with regard to Mr. Wiesenfeld's circular.)
7. Reviewing the campaign, there was very little publicity (almost none) in the daily newspapers with regard to Jewish issues, and this consisted of minor paragraphs buried in other general articles --- in sharp contrast to the columns of front page publicity and editorials which have featured previous campaigns.



CHILEL HASHEM

That the Jews in this country do not vote as a racial or religious bloc but as citizens with independent and widely varying political views has been demonstrated often enough to be entirely convincing. Yet, in New York's exciting mayoralty election, a deliberate and demagogic effort on the part of some Jews and one Yiddish newspaper to rally Jewish voters for one of the candidates was made on purely racial grounds.

Ignoring the fact that the Nazis have a constitutional right to parade in New York City and have paraded for several years, and taking advantage of the fact that the police department issued a permit for a Nazi parade on the Saturday before election day, Judge Jonah J Goldstein and Dr Samuel Margoshes, editor of the Day, attempted over the radio to brand Mayor La Guardia a friend of the Nazis. Not satisfied with the air waves, Dr Margoshes also made use freely of the columns of his paper. That these tactics failed must redound to the credit of New York Jewry.

Rabbi Stephen S Wise was rightly indignant and expressed himself to Mr Hillel Rogoff, managing editor of the Jewish Daily Forward, in the following manner:

"At your request that I express my opinion on the conduct of the Day in the recent New York City elections, I must, to my regret, state that the attempt which the Day through its editor and publisher made to drag the Jewish question into the city elections which have just ended, is one of the sorriest chapters in the history of the American Jewish community. I cannot imagine any more serious profanation than to abuse the Jewish name and to invent a Jewish issue so that with it the interests of a political party can be served. This was done by the Jewish Day. I sympathize with it and its readers ..... It is one thing to fall into error in the heat of a political campaign. But it is quite another thing to drag the Jewish name through the mud and to exploit the Jewish issue in order to serve personal egoistic purposes and the purposes of a political machine, such as the Day has done. We can only hope that when a sober understanding and feeling of responsibility will return to the editor and publisher of the Day, they will beg forgiveness of the Jews whom they have insulted and betrayed by their conduct in the course of this campaign."



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*Treasurer*  
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*Secretary*  
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Executive  
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# The Jewish Community Council

## Cleveland

1001 Huron Road - CHerry 8176

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am enclosing copies of two articles which appeared recently concerning the storm created in newspapers by the attack on Mayor LaGuardia in the columns of "The Day" over the issuance of a permit for a Nazi parade. If you have not already seen them, they will be pertinent because of the question of the "Jewish Political Issue" which was created, and likewise because of our own attitude in Cleveland toward a Nazi parade. The Editorial in the "Youngstown Times" was reproduced, I believe, in other newspapers published by the owner, who operates a chain of Anglo-Jewish weeklies.

With regard to the local political situation, Mr Simon would like very much to have you summarize the work of your Committee and the situation with regard to fictitious Jewish issues in our recent Mayoralty Campaign, at the meeting of the Executive Committee, Monday evening, November 22nd. I am enclosing a brief memorandum, in the thought that this might be helpful to you. It is merely an outline which you can fill in and supplement with the information which you already have. If there is any further data which you wish, I shall of course be happy to supply it.

Cordially yours,

*Philip Bernstein*  
Secretary.

November 18, 1937.



Minutes of a Meeting of the  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, November 22, 1937, 8:40 p.m., at the Jewish Center

1. Attendance There were present: Max Simon, Chairman; Meyer Atkin, Philip Bernstein, Rabbi Armond E Cohen, I Finesilver, Rabbi David Genuth, Mrs Sol Gitson, Mrs David Glasser, Mrs Joseph Goldhamer, George E Kath, Rabbi Hugo Klein, Max Kohrman, Abraham Kollin, Mrs Benjamin Levine, I R Morris, Aaron Permut, Rabbi Israel Porath, Aaron Resnick, Sidney N Weitz.

2. Minutes Copies having been mailed to all members, the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting of the Jewish Community Council was dispensed with.

3. Centennial

The Secretary reviewed and evaluated briefly the Centennial observance which recently had been concluded. He explained that the observance had been undertaken as a means of furthering the constructive development of the Jewish community, and had not been intended merely as a celebration.

Many of the temples and synagogues had cooperated in opening the Centennial Week with special services and sermons; the tree-planting ceremony on Sunday afternoon, October 24, at the Hebrew Cultural Gardens had had the participation of descendants of the first Jewish settlers; the music concert had attracted an overflow audience of 1,400 persons, and had been unanimously judged as one of the finest programs of its kind in recent years; more than forty-five Cleveland Jewish artists, past and contemporary, had been represented in the art exhibit, the quality and variety of works surprising even the artists who had arranged it, and bringing very favorable comment from the many Jews and non-Jews who witnessed it; the historical exhibit at the Cleveland Public Library had been held there for more than three weeks, and likewise had attracted a good attendance and favorable comment; the closing community meeting at the Public Music Hall had been attended by 1,500 persons, and comment concerning the program had been enthusiastic.

It was recognized that the observance was not as extensive as some persons had desired, nor did it filter through to all elements of the community as thoroughly as had been hoped. This was partly due to limitation of funds and staff, a total of \$500 having been appropriated for the entire observance, and the work being done without any increase in the Community Council administrative or clerical staff. And while there had been wide participation from all elements of the community, the absence of many of the older families was noticed at the community meeting -- despite the fact that they had attended the art exhibit and some of the other events.

With these limitations in mind, it was pointed out that the Centennial had given a perspective, previously lacking, of the development of the Jewish community -- liabilities and assets -- which should serve as an impetus to further progress; had focused attention upon a constructive joint effort, instead of negative, defensive measures which had been practically the sole means of achieving any Jewish unity; had highlighted cultural attainments, bringing to wide attention creative activities of which many persons had been unaware, and serving as a stimulus to greater interest and achievement; had brought together persons with common interests and skills, working together for the first time in joint projects through the various Centennial committees, laying the groundwork for further similar effort and contributing concretely to community unity; had broadened and strengthened the Community Council's position in the community; and had brought about some very favorable publicity and editorials in the daily newspapers, calling public attention to the contributions made by Jews to every phase of the city's development, and serving to cement the place of Jewry in the general community.



Upon motion made, duly seconded, and unanimously carried, the Executive Committee expressed its gratitude to the Centennial Committee under the Chairmanship of Leo Weidenthal which had planned and carried out the Centennial observance.

### 3. Nazi Convention

Mr Morris reported the events associated with the recent regional convention of the German American Bund in Cleveland, and the efforts which had been undertaken by the League for Human Rights Against Naziism and other groups to prevent public recognition of the conference and to counteract its propaganda purpose. The Mayor and the Department of Public Safety had received numerous telephone calls and letters urging that no permit should be granted for a Nazi parade on the streets of the city and requesting that the convention should not be graced by members of the city administration participating in their official capacities. No parade was held, and no city officials took part. The City Council passed a resolution making it clear that the convention was not welcome in Cleveland, and labor groups took the leadership in picketing the Nazi meeting, keeping away many persons who preferred to miss the meeting rather than walk through a picket line. About 500 persons did attend.

A protest meeting was held on the following night, addressed by Dr Eric Von Schroeder of Chicago and Dr Hans Simons of New York, under the sponsorship of the local German American Cultural League. About 600 persons were present, and it was generally judged to have been very successful.

As a result of the activity, the daily newspapers had taken a much more positive stand in opposition to Naziism. It had been revealed that the local Nazi organization was much smaller than had been believed, and that the anti-Nazi German organization far outnumbered the Nazi membership.

The Community Council had worked closely with the Anti-Nazi League and had sent a letter to the Mayor and Safety Department.

The activity of the League in distributing reprints of articles from prominent journals and other literature designed to point out what actually has been happening in Germany, and the nature of Nazi propaganda, was explained. There was considerable discussion as to how the Jewish community might be informed more fully in these matters, the state of the anti-Nazi boycott, and other activities of the League. It was believed that contact through boycott chairmen of the various groups left much to be desired, and suggestions included reprinting some of the circulars in temple bulletins, written reminders to boycott chairmen, and organization of a speakers bureau through the Community Council to address the organizations directly. It was recognized that the minutes of Community Council meetings served this purpose to some extent, and the full cooperation of the Council was offered to the League in bringing its message to the Jewish community. In this regard, it was stated that there was apparently a better understanding and appreciation of the work of the Council and League, as evidenced by comments recently made by various individuals.

### 4. Polish Situation

A Committee representing the Brisker organizations had been invited to discuss with the Executive Committee their views on local action concerning the plight of Polish Jewry. The discussion was prefaced by a brief summary of the Council's attention to the problem, in which it was pointed out that during the current year the Council twice had sent resolutions to Secretary of State Hull, the Polish Ambassador, and local Congressmen, protesting in behalf of the Jewish people of Cleveland the persecution of Jews in Poland and seeking the friendly intervention of the United States Government on the basis of Poland's treaty obligation to minority groups. A delegation also had gone to Washington for a personal audience with the Secretary of State and Congressmen, joining with representatives of other cities under the auspices of the American Jewish Congress.



In every instance, the State Department had expressed sympathy but had taken the stand that the United States was not in a position to intervene in matters which do not directly affect American citizens or interests. The submission of exhaustive briefs pointing to situations in the past when the United States had intervened under similar conditions had not altered this policy.

The Polish problem had been discussed at practically every meeting of the Council during the past two years, and on one occasion no action had been taken when both the American Jewish Congress and American Jewish Committee had advised against it. The suggestion at other times that a mass meeting or conference be held had not been accepted, because it was felt that the Council through representation of more than 130 organizations already constituted such a conference; that the conference proposed in June would not have been effective in stirring public opinion since an anti-Nazi protest meeting had just been held, and repetition of the same method of protest would meet with public indifference; and that action by the Council, with proper publicity, would be as effective as any other form of protest in swaying public opinion.

In June, the Brisker organizations independently had called a conference to consider protest action. The President and Secretary of the Council had attended, and had explained the Council's position in the matter. The Conference had delegated decision as to action to a Committee, which had decided to arrange mass demonstrations. These had not been held, however, and recently an open letter had been published in the "Jewish World" in which the Brisker organizations called upon the Community Council to take action.

Dr Oscar Halperin, the first to speak for the Committee, stated that during the past few months the situation had changed rapidly, and the Committee had no concrete plan of action to offer at this time. He criticized American Jewry for not having done enough for the Jews in Poland, and stated that the Community Council's action had not had enough force and had disregarded the wishes of thousands of persons in failing to call a mass protest demonstration. In this situation we must follow our hearts and emotions, not merely our minds, he said. If for no other reason, we must make an energetic protest to satisfy our consciences that we have done our duty, he stated. He believed, however, that decision as to definite action should be deferred until after the national meeting to be held in Washington soon by the American Jewish Congress.

Mr Max Gordon, following Dr Halperin, reported that the 800 families here from Brisk had been sending relief since the pogroms, but concerted protest action also was necessary. This had been postponed by the twenty-eight organizations which had participated in the conference, in the belief that the Community Council would take such steps, and they wanted to work with the Council. He objected to criticism of the conference because of its Communist participation, it having been stated that Communist groups were using the problem for their own ends. He believed that all groups should unite in this protest. Mr Fingerman, the third member of the Committee, stated that the Council should have called a special meeting immediately after the pogroms.

In the discussion, it was pointed out that the Council had taken those steps which in the judgment of the members appeared to be most effective, and that it was not always possible to satisfy any group when there was a divergence of views. The Council had not prevented action by the Brisker organizations, as had been charged. On the contrary, it had been made clear that full discussion was desired. What the Council did object to was initiation of mass protest by single organizations, representing themselves as speaking for the entire Jewish community. This was in direct violation of the position and purpose of the Council. Instead, it was asked that all groups should express their views at meetings of the Council, abiding then by the will of the majority. That was the democratic method, and it should be followed within Jewish life as well as generally, it was said.



There was also some discussion of other conferences recently held. It was pointed out that these had been inspired and led by Communist groups, as had been the march in Washington a few days before. The sincerity of these efforts was questioned, in view of other statements concerning Polish Jewry alleged to have been made by Communists, and it was said that the protests were being used by Communists as a means of placing themselves in positions of leadership among Jews.

Inasmuch as no proposal had been made for specific action, the discussion was closed with the suggestion that a written summary of the Council's activities in the matter be sent to the Brisker groups, and an invitation was extended to them to bring the problem to the Community Council for further discussion when they so desired.

#### 5. Membership

The applications of the Kiever Hebrew Aid Society and the Alpha Omega Fraternity were approved, to be recommended for membership to the Jewish Community Council. The application of the Past Noble Grands Club was rejected, in view of the fact that its twenty-five members were below the established minimum, that it was a segment of a larger non-sectarian body which itself did not seek membership, and that its activities and position did not merit the special dispensation which would be necessary in view of its sub-minimum size.

#### 6. Nominating Committee

The Executive Committee had been given the responsibility of suggesting to the Council seven persons to comprise a Nominating Committee. In view of the lateness of the hour, a motion was made, duly seconded, and carried, that the Chairman appoint a Committee of three persons to make such a selection, and to present these names to the Executive Committee at a special meeting to be held immediately preceding the next Council Meeting.

#### 7. Jewish Population Survey

The Chairman informed the Committee that the Community Council had the opportunity to make a census of the Jewish population of the city, through the offer of assistance by W.P.A. staff persons under the direction of Howard W Green. In the discussion of the project, it was pointed out that such information would be very helpful as a basis for planning various activities and services. It was expected that the Jewish Welfare Federation would supply any modest funds necessary in addition to that already assured, and it was agreed that the census should be recommended to the Community Council, with the understanding that the survey would be made under the general direction of the Council.

8. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Philip Bernstein

Secretary.



Minutes of a Meeting of the  
JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, December 14, 1937, 8:30 p.m., at the Euclid Avenue Temple

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

2. Review of Activity The Chairman reviewed briefly the following action:

Masaryk Memorial - As directed by the Council, a special Committee had drafted a resolution expressing the regret of the Jewish community of Cleveland in the passing of the late Thomas G Masaryk. The resolution was read at a memorial meeting by Rabbi Silver, and a copy had been sent to the Czechoslovakian minister at Washington.

Nazi Investigation - Copies of the Council's resolution endorsing the Federal investigation of the activities of Nazi and other groups spreading racial and religious animosity had been sent to the designated Federal officials. Several replies had been received, some pledging vigorous support to the inquiry.

Fictitious Political Issues - The effect of the work which the Council and its special Committee had been doing during the past two years to eliminate fictitious Jewish issues from political campaigns was evident in the last campaign. Whereas in previous years there had been columns of front page publicity and editorials concerning such issues, there was very little mention of them in the last campaign, and this was almost entirely buried in other general stories. One circular had been issued in the East 105th Street neighborhood, but indications were that it did more harm than good to the group which issued it.

Past Noble Grands Club - The application for membership of this group had not been approved by the Executive Committee, because of its sub-minimum membership of twenty-five, its affiliation with a larger non-sectarian body which itself had not applied for membership, and its inclusion of several persons who were members of groups already in the Council.

3. Christmas Programs in Public Schools

The Secretary reported that conferences were in progress with the authorities of the Shaker Heights schools, to seek the elimination of objectionable Christmas and Easter practices. It was recalled that similar conferences had been held with the Superintendents of the Cleveland and Cleveland Heights Schools, in which they had pledged their cooperation, and that since that time only one complaint had been received with regard to these schools. The work of the Committee had been made difficult, however, because Jewish parents had permitted the practice to grow in the schools without objection, and even when asked by school officials, had indicated approval. The necessity of full cooperation from the parents was stressed, and representatives of the various organizations and particularly of the temples and synagogues were asked to emphasize this to their memberships.

In this connection, Julius Schweid urged that temple leaders give similar concern to the practice of some Jewish families in having Christmas trees and exchanging Christmas gifts. It was also reported that during the past two years the opening day of Freshman Week at Western Reserve University had fallen on Yom Kippur. Although the university had written the Council that Jewish students would be excused without penalty, the Council was asked to see whether the conflict could not be avoided entirely in the future.

4. Arbitration

It was reported by Philmore Haber that since the Jewish Arbitration and Conciliation Court had been established by the Council last Spring, about ten cases had been brought to it, and that most of them had been settled without resorting to formal arbitration. An example was the collection of back salary for a person who had been a teacher at a Jewish school which was no longer in existence. A case requiring formal arbitration had been an election dispute in a congregation.

The Court also was attempting to settle controversies between Jewish individuals and Christian or public institutions, where the good name of the Jewish community was affected. Such a case had just been handled, involving a Jewish man and the Parent Teachers Association of a public school, and an open split in the community had been prevented.



It sometimes had required a long period of negotiation before some of the parties in disputes had consented to arbitration, Mr Haber stated, and it was hoped that one of the by-products of the Court would be to create a widespread sense of responsibility among Jewish individuals and groups for the welfare of the entire Jewish community, and that they would guide their actions accordingly. In reviewing the situation as a whole, however, it was his belief that since the Court was organized there had been far less unfavorable publicity concerning Jewish disputes than in many years.

5. Centennial The Centennial Observance which had been planned and sponsored by the Jewish Community Council, was reviewed and evaluated by Leo Weidenthal. He stated that the various events had been on a high standard and had attracted large audiences. Included had been special sermons in the synagogues and temples; a tree planting ceremony in the Hebrew Cultural Gardens; a music concert attended by an overflow throng of 1,400; an art exhibit of works by more than 45 past and contemporary Cleveland Jewish artists; an historical exhibit at the Public Library which was on display for more than three weeks; and a community meeting attended by 1,500. The response to the sessions had been enthusiastic, and the event had been recognized nationally by a message from President Roosevelt, and civically by the naming of a new parkway for the first Jewish settler.

While the project had been limited by finances and staff, the Centennial appeared to have achieved the following results: (1) it had given the Jewish community a perspective of its past development, which should serve as an impetus to further progress; (2) had centered attention upon a constructive joint effort, instead of the defensive measures which had been almost the sole means of achieving any Jewish unity; (3) had highlighted cultural activities of which many persons had not been aware, stimulating further interest and attainment in these fields; (4) had brought together persons of similar skills to work together for the first time in joint Committees, contributing concretely to community unity; (5) had strengthened the Council's position in the community; (6) had brought very favorable publicity and editorials in the daily newspapers, serving to cement the place of Jewry in general civic life.

6. Nazi Activities Summarizing the recent anti-Nazi activities, I R Morris reported the following:

Six-Day Bicycle Race - The League for Human Rights was agreed that persons opposed to Nazism should not attend the races, since the German riders undoubtedly would carry away a substantial part of the ticket money in prizes, and a portion of their tax payment to the German government would then be used for Nazi propaganda in this country. There would be no widely publicized boycott of the races, however.

Boycott - All of the large local stores were cooperating completely in the boycott of German goods, with the exception of one which had some German toys. Sears-Roebuck was still selling German merchandise, however, as were all the Five and Ten Cent Stores, except Neisners.

Nazi Convention - Numerous letters and telephone calls had come from both Jews and non-Jews to the Mayor and Safety Department, asking that no permit be issued for a Nazi parade in conjunction with the regional convention of the German American Bund which was held in Cleveland on November 13. The Community Council was among those who had sent such a message, and no permit had been issued and no parade was held. The City Council had passed a resolution unanimously stating that the convention was not welcome in Cleveland, and the C.I.O. had picketed the meeting as a measure of protest. A successful anti-Nazi meeting had been arranged on the following evening under the auspices of the German American Cultural League.

Professor Polt - The "Union Leader", labor newspaper, had published an article concerning the Nazi salute given by Professor Polt of Western Reserve University at the convention, and reprints had been distributed widely. A letter concerning his action had been sent by the League for Human Rights to President Leutner.

Newspapers - The daily newspapers recently had taken a much more aggressive stand in opposition to Nazi activities, particularly after it had been learned that the local Nazi membership was smaller than had been believed.

German Films - The Associated Theaters had broken the lease which had been made innocently with a group intending to show German-made films at the Gordon Square Theater, and at considerable financial sacrifice had leased the theater to another group showing Austrian and Hungarian pictures. While these were in the German language, they were not sympathetic to the Nazi regime.



Literature - The League for Human Rights had distributed considerable quantities of reprints of anti-Nazi articles. Organizations desiring such material for their membership were asked to call the League office.

In the discussion of the report by Mr Wiesenfeld, Mr Schoenfeld, and others, it was stated that the local Staatsverband was composed of forty important German organizations and that it was controlled by the Cleveland Nazi leaders. A large number of German groups were being subjected to Nazi propaganda, by Nazis who were working within their membership. It was stated also that the German Round Table was more dangerous than the German American Bund. The activities of some Western Reserve University professors said to be leaders of the local pro-Nazi and pro-Fascist groups were discussed, as was the necessity of preventing another German student exchange. These matters were referred to the Anti-Nazi League for further attention. It was stated that in general, however, there appeared to be developing a stronger anti-Fascist sentiment in the community, and that the primary task was to strengthen and spread this attitude.

7. Discrimination in Employment

The Committee dealing with the problem of discrimination in employment, headed by Milton Altschul, reported the following activity; it was contacting individual employers about whom apparently authentic reports had been received that they were discriminating; had taken steps to secure the cooperation of prominent Catholics in contacting the newspapers to have them discontinue publishing advertisements of "Gentile Preferred" and "Protestant Preferred"; had held conferences with placement directors of three more colleges and employment agencies, to secure valuable information and to get their consent to refrain from any practices which might suggest discrimination to employers; and was planning additional conferences with groups of large Jewish employers.

A meeting also had been held recently with representatives of the various Jewish organizations directly concerned with the problem of vocational guidance and placement. The group had recommended that the Jewish Welfare Federation and the Cleveland Welfare Federation jointly should take steps to bring about an expanded program of vocational guidance in the public schools, and would continue to meet to give further attention to the special Jewish aspects of the problem.

8. American Jewish Congress

Abraham Kollin reviewed briefly the recent conference of the American Jewish Congress held in Washington, stating that among the matters considered were discrimination in employment, the possibility of suits for criminal libel against individuals who slander the Jewish people, and the situation of world Jewry. The conference had approved plans whereby two-thirds of the delegates to its conference in June, 1938, would be chosen by direct election, and the other third by national Jewish organizations.

9. Polish Jewry

A delegation was present from the Jewish People's Committee for United Action Against Fascism and Anti-Semitism, with Mr Eleph and Mr Laidman as spokesmen. They reported that a conference called by their group had sent a delegation to Washington which joined with one thousand other delegates from various cities to meet with the Secretary to the President, with Secretary of State Hull, and with some Congressmen, to seek aid for the Jews of Poland. They announced that they were planning a Tag Day to raise funds for Polish Jewry, and that there would be a mass meeting on Thursday, December 16, to hear the report of the Washington delegates. They asked the Community Council to take a positive stand in the matter and to call a conference of all Jewish organizations to take appropriate protest action. If a united front of all Jewish organizations were achieved and such a conference were called, the Jewish People's Committee would give up their independent action.

The request was discussed at length with Messrs Wiesenfeld, Woldman, Altshuld, Curtis, Atkin, Adelstein, Rabbi Cohen, and others participating. It was stated in the discussion that most of the thirty-six groups said to be included in the People's Committee were really branches of the Communist organization, and that the Council should not unite with a group which condemned the pogroms in Poland while supporting them in Palestine; that the Committee had never contacted the Council before taking independent action; that it had merely repeated what had been done by the American Jewish Congress during the past summer, and had so timed its work as to harm in part the Congress' last conference in Washington; that



reports from Poland indicated a change of attitude toward the Jews by the Polish government, that nothing should be done which would turn the government back to anti-Semitism, and that action should be guided by the advice of Polish Jewish leaders; that the Council already had done what the Committee was requesting, since it had taken a positive stand in the matter and in effect was in itself a conference of the Jewish organizations of the city; and it was proposed that the Council should vote a censure of the mass meeting and the Tag Day. An alternate proposal was that the Council should appoint a Committee to confer with the People's Committee further in the matter if the latter would agree to give up its own plans for the time being, but the representatives stated that they had no authority to do this. Instead they extended an invitation to send a speaker to the mass meeting, which found no expression of acceptance. It was stated finally that the fundamental basis for the Council's existence was that it represented the Jewish community of the city, and that any proposals should be brought to the Council for action, abiding by its decision. The floor of the Council was open to all groups.

10. Nominating Committee The Council elected the following persons to constitute a Nominating Committee: Eugene H Freedheim, Chairman; Mrs David Ralph Hertz, Rabbi Israel Porath, George Mayer, Meyer Weintraub, Max Kohrman, and George Kath.

11. Jewish Population Study The Council approved a motion to cooperate in a proposed survey of the Jewish population of the city, to be conducted under the direction of Howard W Green with W.P.A. funds and staff, with proper guidance. Organizations would be expected to supply the names and addresses of their members. The information would be helpful in planning various Jewish educational, recreational, and other facilities and services.

12. Membership Upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council granted membership to the Kiever Hebrew Aid Society and the Alpha Omega Fraternity, and special representation to the Montefiore Old Home.

13. Announcements Announcements were made of the dramatic production by the Ohio State Hillel Players to be given at Severance Hall Sunday evening, December 26, under the auspices of the B'nai B'rith Cleveland Auxiliary; and of the several citizenship classes being offered without charge by the B'nai B'rith and Council of Jewish Women in various parts of the city. Application for the latter could be made to the Council Educational Alliance of the Council of Jewish Women office.

14. New Years Eve Celebrations Rabbi Cohen called attention to the fact that some Jewish organizations were planning celebrations on New Years Eve, which fell on a Friday. He said that Rabbi Silver and Rabbi Brickner concurred with him in the belief that every effort should be made to cancel or postpone these events, and that if this were impossible in some cases, at least no general publicity should be given to them. This conflict had been avoided by the social clubs in Chicago, and similar action had been urged by the rabbis in Buffalo.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Philip Bernstein

Secretary.



C1937?

ELECT  
McWILLIAMS  
MAYOR

# The 25th Ward Citizen

1220 E. 105TH ST.

EFFICIENT  
TOLERANT  
HONEST

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE 25TH WARD CITIZENS CLUB IN THE INTEREST OF BETTER GOVERNMENT AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING AMONG AMERICAN CITIZENS

FRANK SUGARMAN, EDITOR

## NEW NAZI SONG

### THE DEVIL IS THE FATHER OF THE JEW

When God Almighty made this world  
He thought of different races—  
Indians, Negroes, Chinese, Jews;  
With all their ugly faces.

We, Germans, were another group  
To whom the Lord donated  
The fertile fields that honest hands  
Could well have cultivated.

But, oh, the Jew! He would not do  
The part that he was bidden,  
For at the very outset he  
Was by the Devil ridden.

The Devil ably trained him in  
Deceiving and denying,  
So that the Talmud might record  
His art of clever lying.

Until the Pharaoh on the Nile  
Beheld this people's failings  
And made them work by hauling bricks,  
Despite their bitter wallings.

And so the Jews first came to have  
Hunch backs and crooked noses;  
Disgusting creatures in their looks,  
Their manners and their poses.

Then to the Devil did they turn  
Their wretched, horrid faces;  
He sneaked them into Germany  
To take the Germans' places.

The Talmud is the book of Jewish rules for criminals.  
(This is part of the translation.)

# Flash!

## CLEVELAND NAZI ENDORSE MAYOR BURTON

## Wächter und Anzeiger

Cleveland, Ohio, Freitag, den 24. September 1937

### Stadterband für Burton

Die Unterzeichneten sind dem Stadterband genannt worden, dem Stadterbande und den deutschen Bürgern Empfehlungen für die kommende Bürgermeisterwahl zu machen.

Wir erachten es darum als unsere Pflicht, der wir sehr gerne nachkommen, den Bürgermeister Harold H. Burton dem Vertrauen für seine sparsame, gründlich ethische, furchtlose und tüchtige Verwaltung zur Wiederwahl bestens zu empfehlen. Wir glauben, es steht unumwunden fest, daß Harold H. Burton der Stadt Cleveland die beste, ehrlichste und am bewährtesten mit politischer Verwaltung in den letzten 25 Jahren gegeben hat. Er steht für all den Idealismus, den wir gern am Stadterband sehen, und ist von seinen politischen Feind abhängig.

John S. Feisel  
Oscar Schneider,  
Sons Engler.

WE CAN AND WILL PROVE TO THE CITIZENS OF CLEVELAND THAT MAYOR HAROLD H. BURTON HAS BEEN USED BY THE LOCAL NAZI ORGANIZATION ON MANY OCCASIONS, THAT MAYOR BURTON HAS ACCEPTED NAZI HELP IN HIS CAMPAIGN, THAT THE LOCAL NAZI ORGANIZATION HAS ENDORSED HIM FOR RE-ELECTION, AND THAT NAZI LEADERS IN THIS CITY ARE CALLING ALL GERMAN VOTERS TO SUPPORT AND VOTE FOR BURTON FOR MAYOR.

↑ ↑ ↑  
?? WHO IS THE STADTVERBAND ??  
PRESIDENT, OTTO L. FRICKE, GOD-FATHER  
OF  
NAZI-ISM IN CLEVELAND  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MARTIN RESSLER  
CHAIRMAN OF POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE  
REV. JOHN H. FEISEL  
WELL KNOWN NAZI ORATOR AND ANTI-SEMIT

## NAZI MEMBERSHIP CARD

Zur Beachtung: Änderung der Adresse bei  
Wechsel. Die Mitgliedskarte hat nur Gültigkeit,  
wenn die Beschriftung richtig lautet.

Amerikadeutscher Volksbund

BUNDESGEMEINSCHAFT

ORTSGRUPPE: ASTORIA, L. I.

Mitgliedskarte Nr. 12345



Diese Karte ist ungültig, wenn die Beschriftung  
des letzten zwei Strichen nicht lautet und

Name: Hellmut Oberwinder

Wohnort: New York City

Strasse: 150 East 84th St.

Gilt am: 2. August 1934

Unterschrift: Hermann Schwab

This membership card, with swastika insignia on back cover, was presented to TIMES Reporter John C. Metcalfe when, using family name of Hellmut Oberwinder, he joined Amerikadeutscher Volksbund in New York.

OUR THREE WELL-EDITED DAILY PAPERS SELDOM  
RETRACT REPORTS AND STATEMENTS PUBLISHED BY THEM.  
THIS IS TO THEIR CREDIT.

THE STATEMENTS PRINTED IN THIS ISSUE ARE  
ACTUAL REPRODUCTIONS OF ARTICLES PUBLISHED AND  
NEVER RETRACTED BY THE CLEVELAND PRESS, NEWS  
AND PLAIN DEALER, THE THREE PRINCIPAL SUPPORTERS  
OF HITLER'S "LOCAL" CANDIDATE.

WE CAN AND WILL PROVE TO THE CITIZENS OF CLEVELAND  
THAT MAYOR HAROLD H. BURTON HAS KNOWINGLY AND WILL-  
INGLY PROMOTED THE NAZI CAUSE IN THIS CITY, AND IS  
THE ONLY MAYOR IN AMERICA WHO HELPED STRENGTHEN THE  
NAZI CAMPAIGN AGAINST JEWS, NEGROES, CATHOLICS,  
PROTESTANTS, AND ORGANIZED LABOR.

## FRITZ KUHN of N.Y.

### NAZI LEADER IN AMERICA



Fritz Kuhn, bundesführer of Amerikadeutscher Volksbund, as he addressed Fourth of July  
gaze of 10,000 at Camp Siegfried, Yaphank, Long Island. His listeners included two TIME

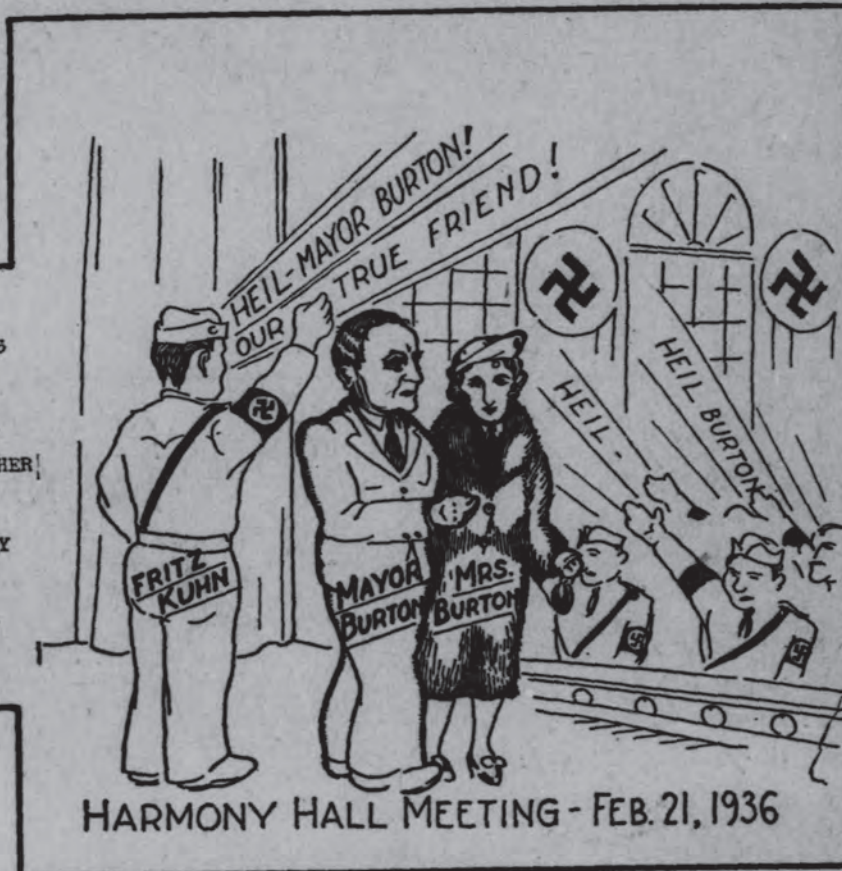
### ISOLATE JEWS

Have Designate Benches for Them  
Along Thoroughfare

By United Press  
BERLIN, Sept. 16 — Special  
benches for Jews, painted a bright  
yellow and bearing signs saying so,  
were placed today along the Kur-  
fürstendamm, a fashionable thor-  
oughfare in Berlin's West End which  
is frequented by foreign tourists.  
Jews must sit on no other bench.  
Similar benches had been placed  
previously in parks in the outlying  
and working class districts.

HARMONY HALL, 2515 FRANKLIN AVE., FEBRUARY 21, 1936  
MAYOR BURTON AND WIFE ATTEND NAZI MEETING AND  
ARE INTRODUCED BY FRITZ KUHN OF NEW YORK, HITLER'S  
AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE AND LEADER OF AMERIKADEUTSCHER  
VOLKSBUND.

MAYOR BURTON WAS ACCLAIMED AS A "TRUE FRIEND" BY  
ALL NAZI PRESENT AND GIVEN THE NAZI SALUTE.  
SWASTIKA FLAGS DECORATED THE ENTIRE HALL.



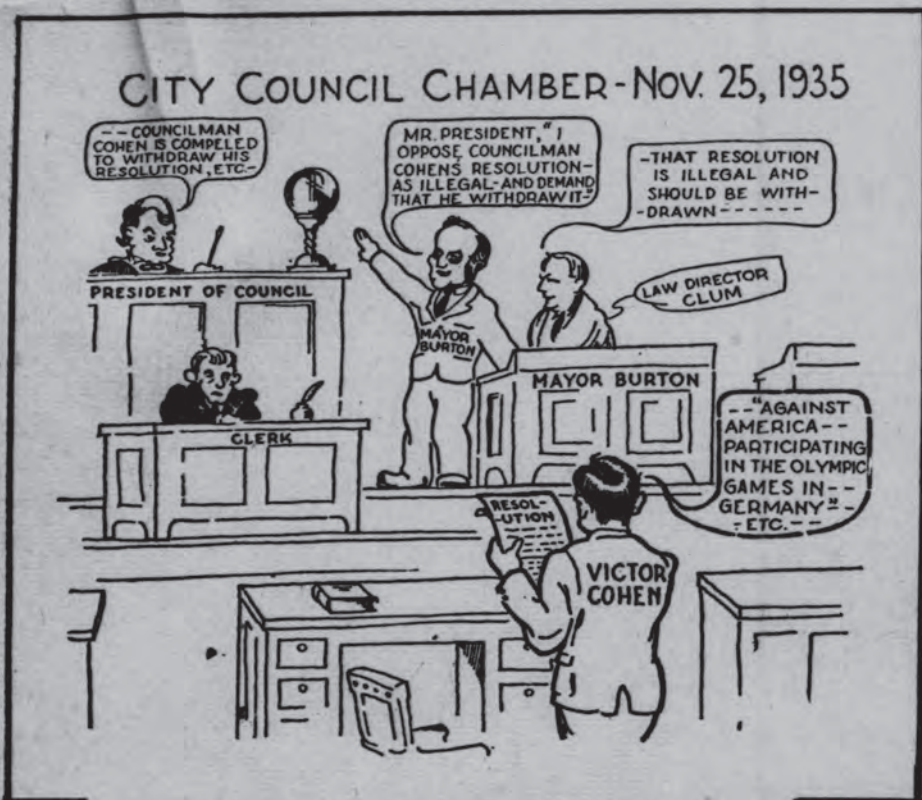
HARMONY HALL MEETING - FEB. 21, 1936

TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION!

# BURTON IN HITLER'S CORNER

## Jews, Catholics, Negroes, Look Out!





CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER-NOV. 25, 1935

COUNCILMAN COHEN COMPELLED TO WITHDRAW HIS RESOLUTION, ETC.

MR. PRESIDENT, I OPPOSE COUNCILMAN COHEN'S RESOLUTION AS ILLEGAL AND DEMAND THAT HE WITHDRAW IT

THAT RESOLUTION IS ILLEGAL AND SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

LAW DIRECTOR CLUM

MAYOR BURTON

RESOLUTION

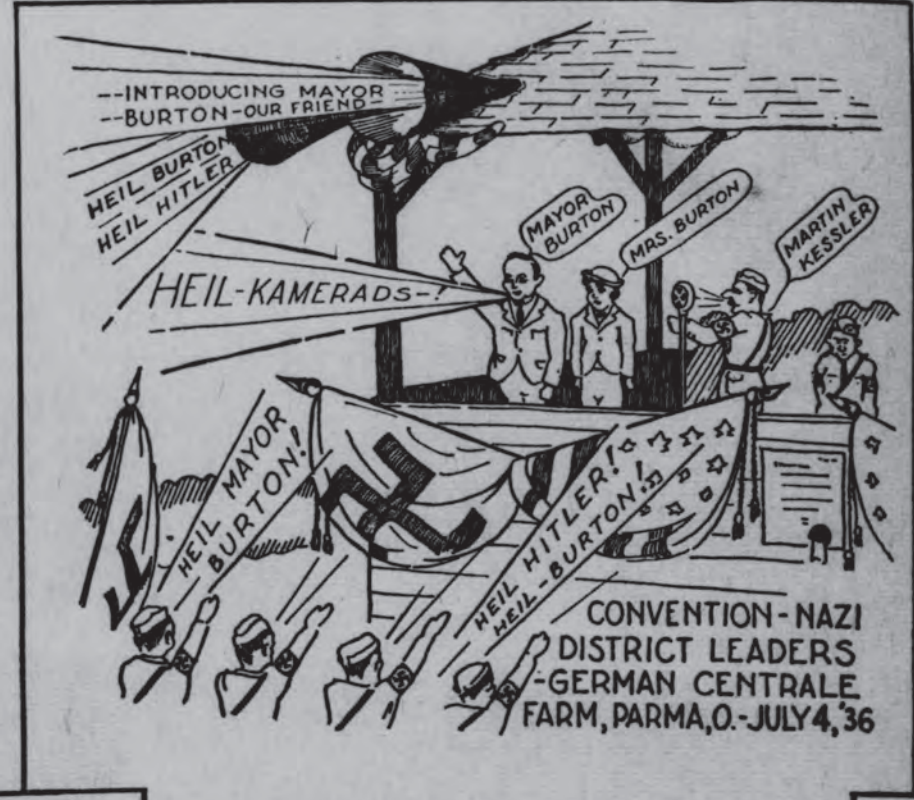
VICTOR COHEN

## HITLER CLOSES NAZI CONGRESS, ATTACKS REDS

Says Jewish Problem Is World-Wide and "Must Be Solved"

By United Press  
MUNICH, Germany, Sept. 13.—Fuehrer Adolf Hitler closed the Nazi Party congress today with a bitter attack on Bolshevism and Jews.  
Hitler said in a speech that the Jewish problem was a world problem which would be solved "because it must be solved."  
Charging that Jews have gained control of Russia and are using it merely as a starting point for a world revolution, Hitler said that Jews have joined democratic movements because democracy has made it possible to organize terrorist groups as revolutionary vanguards.  
"Facts Distorted"  
Regarding Spain, Hitler said: "It is a coarse distortion of facts to say that the Bolsheviks have legal power while the nationalists are illegal usurpers. Not we see in Franco the representative of the real, abiding Spain. While the usurpers in Valencia today may fight in Spain, they may at another time fight elsewhere."

Open About Activities  
Mr. Kessler's Friends of New Germany are quite open about their activities and willingly pose for newspaper photographs of their uniformed "guards" around Nazi swastika. Despite the fact Miss Sterling, when asked if uniforms were worn at these meetings, declared: "Oh, no. They are quite harmless." When asked what the "German activities" were that she claims to report upon, she changed the subject.  
In contrast to Miss Sterling's story of spying on German-American activities was the frank admission of Mr. Kessler, head of the America-Deutscher Volksbund, that he is a friend of Miss Sterling and has been a member of her organization for years.



INTRODUCING MAYOR BURTON-OUR FRIEND

HEIL BURTON

HEIL HITLER

HEIL-KAMERADS

HEIL MAYOR BURTON

HEIL HITLER

HEIL BURTON

HEIL HITLER

HEIL BURTON

CONVENTION-NAZI DISTRICT LEADERS-GERMAN CENTRALE FARM, PARMA, O.-JULY 4, 36

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER AT CITY HALL NOVEMBER 25th, 1935  
COUNCILMAN VICTOR COHEN, REPRESENTING THE 27th WARD, INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE OPPRESSION OF JEWS AND OTHER NATIONALITY GROUPS BY NAZIS AND OPPOSING AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN THE GERMAN OLYMPICS. LAW DIRECTOR CLUM RULED THE RESOLUTION ILLEGAL AND MAYOR BURTON REQUESTED MR. COHEN TO WITHDRAW IT.

THIS SAME RESOLUTION WAS PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCILS OF NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA, LOS ANGELES, DENVER, ST. LOUIS, PITTSBURGH, AND BOSTON.

## MAYOR AND MRS. BURTON APPLAUDING NAZI GEO. FORBOESE'S SPEECH JULY 4, 1936 AT GERMAN CENTRALE FARM, PARMA, OHIO



SAME DAY  
GERMAN CENTRALE FARM, PARMA, O., JULY 4TH 1936

GEORGE FORBOESE, MILWAUKEE NAZI LEADER SPOKE AND ATTACKED ALL JEWS BECAUSE OF THE ANTI-GERMAN BOYCOTT. HE URGED EXTERMINATION OF ALL JEWS HERE AS IN GERMANY, AND URGED A COUNTER-BOYCOTT AGAINST AMERICAN JEWS. HE RECEIVED A GREAT OVATION AMID CHEERS OF "HEIL HITLER".

MAYOR BURTON AND MRS. BURTON STOOD AND JOINED IN THE CHEERING AND APPLAUSE.

ALL PRESENT WORE NAZI SLEEVE BANDS AND THE PLACE WAS DECORATED WITH SWASTIKA FLAGS.

GERMAN CENTRALE FARM, PARMA, O., JULY 4TH 1936  
CONVENTION OF MIDDLE-WEST NAZI DISTRICT LEADERS. 14 STATES REPRESENTED

MAYOR BURTON & WIFE APPEARED. GREETED WITH NAZI SALUTE, HEIL, ETC. AMERICAN AND NAZI FLAGS FLYING - MAYOR BURTON INTRODUCED BY MARTIN KESSLER, PRESIDENT OF THE CLEVELAND NAZI ORGANIZATION, WHO PROCLAIMED BURTON AS A FRIEND OF ALL NAZI. BURTON IN REPLY PRAISED ALL PRESENT AND CONGRATULATED THEM ON THEIR WORK. ALL PRESENT THEN SANG THE GERMAN STORM TROOPER MARCH AND THE "HORST WESSEL" SONG, BOTH OF WHICH ARE HYMNS OF HATE AGAINST JEWS.

"EXCERPT"  
"HORST WESSEL SONG"  
"WHEN FROM MY SWORD JEWISH BLOOD DRIPS  
MY GERMAN SOUL IS CLEANSED"

WILLIAM J. REMEDY  
Secretary of State

STATE OF OHIO

JAMES F. CONNELLEY, JR.  
Assistant Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
COLUMBUS

July 27, 1937.

Susan  
Sterling's  
Brother

Mr. Walter Doyle,  
16049 Euclid Ave.,  
West Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

THE WEST SIDE FILMHOUSE, INC., at Lakewood, was incorporated April 10, 1936, not for profit, by J.N. Rogers, J.J. Theuer and J. Lindsay with as incorporators. William J. Theuer, 15515 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, is statutory agent. Names of officers of not for profit corporations are not available, from the Tax Commission of Ohio.

Very truly yours,

W. J. Remedy  
Secretary of State

Cleveland  
Recreation Commissioner

## The Cleveland Press

CLEVELAND, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1937

## FINDS HITLER BOOK PRIZED POSSESSION OF NAZI-AMERICANS

Reporter Reveals More Activities of Germans in U. S. Who Belong to Bunds; Finds Feeling Strong Against Non-Members

John Metcalfe, who joined the Astoria (O.) post of the America-Deutscher Volksbund, confesses his story of his experiences as an American Nazi storm trooper. Metcalfe, reporter for The Chicago Times, is telling his own story of what he saw during his membership in the Nazi-American group.

"You've won the most important prize of the entire drawing!" The speaker is an American-born storm trooper and he is referring to a copy of Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf" (My Battle) which I discovered is just as much a "Bible" to American Nazis as it is to Hitler's Schutz Staffeln guards in Berlin.

I hold the ticket which wins "Mein Kampf" in a drawing at the fourth annual German Day of Nassau County June 6 at the Brauhof in New Hyde Park, Long Island. The main prize is a round trip to Germany but loyal storm troopers feel it is no more important than a copy of Der Fuehrer's account of his struggle.

Rain holds down attendance at the celebration which is sponsored by the Nassau County and Nassau County groups of the Bund and about 300 men, women and children are there.

Boys in brown trousers and shirts and girls in dark skirts, white blouses and brown ties parade into the assembly room with a file and drum corps and sing songs of Hitlerland. They march out but return later with about 50 uniformed Ordnungsmann and all stand stiffly at attention in the center of the hall while Bundjunker Fritz Kuhn speaks.

"Hitler has shown the whole world a new idea in government—a good idea," the Bundjunker says. "We with him like they are doing in Germany. This doesn't mean you can't be an American, but that you must be a good American German."

He says it is a thousand times more important to teach the principles of national socialism in the United States than "the work you are doing is vitally important" because of the dangers confronting the country. The Bund, he admitted, doesn't yet have the following it should have among German Americans, but "don't be discouraged, there is work to be done."

Greets White Americans  
The only English speech is by George Wilhelm Kuhn, Philadelphia leader, who is in uniform. He greets Bund members, German Americans and all white Americans and draws a great cheer from the crowd each time he mentions the need of saving the country for

"white Americans" and "outlet" "alien Jews."  
"German-Americans represent 25 per cent of the population and could control the policies of America if united," he says.

My copy of "Mein Kampf" arouses a storm of bitter comment from a German carpenter named Kluge who sees it in my room a few days later when he comes in to supply a cabinet.

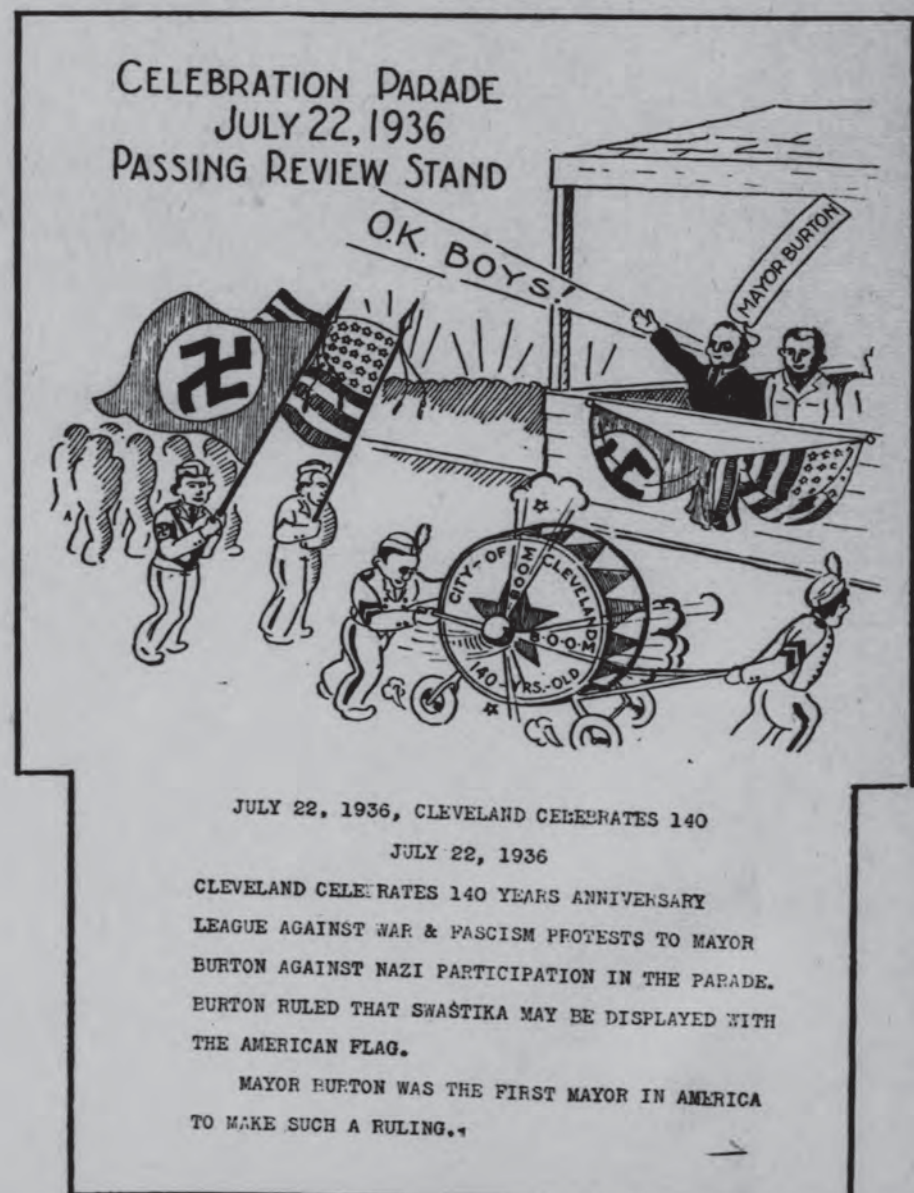
"The fire is the place for that sort of trash," he fumes. "I was out-of-town in Germany before Hitler's revolution, but I lost everything. Hitler has provided work for all men, but they all are working at manufacturing war materials and planes to each other that way."

Group Is Assailed  
Kluge is one of the many German-Americans for whom the Bund members have nothing but contempt. The Bund newspaper, The Deutsche Arbeiter, characterizes the "German-American Element" of having the German flag in America as a "group of scoundrels and scoundrels."

I attend several Bund meetings in Astoria and march around the Astoria fair grounds before the June 24 meeting, called to nominate and elect delegates to the national convention. There are more than 100 present and roll call the Bund's membership of about 100, of whom 30 are storm troops.

Members are given no choice in the selection of delegates. Further, German Schweigmann merely reads the names of three delegates, toasting himself, and one alternate, and four signs of paper are passed around to each member.

We are asked to vote "Ja" or "Nein" as the names of candidates are called. The Bundjunker explains the purpose of the convention is to elect a Bundjunker and declare



CELEBRATION PARADE  
JULY 22, 1936  
PASSING REVIEW STAND

OK. BOYS

MAYOR BURTON

JULY 22, 1936, CLEVELAND CELEBRATES 140

JULY 22, 1936

CLEVELAND CELEBRATES 140 YEARS ANNIVERSARY  
LEAGUE AGAINST WAR & FASCISM PROTESTS TO MAYOR BURTON AGAINST NAZI PARTICIPATION IN THE PARADE. BURTON RULED THAT SWASTIKA MAY BE DISPLAYED WITH THE AMERICAN FLAG.

MAYOR BURTON WAS THE FIRST MAYOR IN AMERICA TO MAKE SUCH A RULING.



SWISS HALL - WALTON AVE.  
OCT. 28, 1936. WEST SIDE  
GERMAN MEETING

ROOSEVELT FAVORS JEWS AND COMMUNISTS - ETC.

I DENOUNCE ROOSEVELT FOR HIS VIEWS!

BLA -

BLA -

BLA -

BLA -

BLA -

OCTOBER 28th, 1936, SWISS HALL, WALTON AVE., WEST SIDE GERMAN HOLD ANTI-ROOSEVELT MEETING. NAZI SPEAKERS OPPOSE ROOSEVELT, SAYING HE FAVORS JEWS AND COMMUNISTS. MAYOR BURTON ALSO ATTACKED ROOSEVELT, BUT SAID NOTHING ABOUT JEWS BEING BROUGHT INTO THE CAMPAIGN BY ANTI-SEMITIC SPEAKERS.



SEP 10, 1937

## M'WILLIAMS RAPS BACKERS OF ISMS

Tells 25th Ward Gathering Neighborhood Is Needed

John O. McWilliams, Democratic candidate for mayor, last night assailed those who may "attempt to inject Nazism, Communism or any other such thing into our national life."

Speaking from a prepared statement at a meeting of the 25th Ward Democratic Club, E. 105th Street and Pasadena Avenue N. E., McWilliams said:

"I regard it a majority duty to promote and preserve the mutual neighborly relationships that should exist between all the residents of our great city, that we may live in peace and harmony, and in the finest traditions of American democracy."

"In Cleveland we cannot and will not tolerate propaganda or any activity prejudicial to the fundamental principles of our great nation. There is an obligation upon every American to observe the principles of our Constitution, which guarantees to every citizen of the land the same rights and privileges."

His "Unhealthy Movements" "Every American must condemn the attempt to inject Silver Shirts, Secret, Nervous, Associations of Loaves, Fascism, Nazism, Communism or any other such thing into our national life. These same, within themselves, embody elements which are contrary to our democratic principles and the ideals of the United States. Therefore, it becomes the duty of every responsible official, federal, state or city, to counteract these unhealthy movements, lest they become in time a very real danger."

"As candidate for mayor of the city of Cleveland, I, therefore, say to you and all other citizens of our great city that under my administration there will never be the slightest discrimination against anyone."

"In my position as county engineer I have always endeavored to abide by the principles of fairness and justice to all citizens. You may rest assured that when I am elected mayor the same principles will apply in the City Hall."

McWilliams, earlier had repeated before the 500 persons in the club rooms his thesis that "the improvements which Cleveland citizens are now enjoying have come only from the helping and understanding hand of our great Democratic leader, President Roosevelt." He spoke in similar vein before about 300 persons at the Eleventh Ward Democratic Club, 3953 Central Avenue S. E., earlier in the evening.

Morris Friedman, club president and assistant county prosecutor, presided at the 25th Ward Club.

# The Cleveland Press

## SAYS U. S. NAZIS WAIT "DER TAG" TO SEIZE NATION

Chicago Paper Reveals Its Survey Showing Strong Anti-Jewish Fascist Group

By United Press

CHICAGO, Sept. 9.—The Chicago Times said in a copyrighted story today that it had completed a 'six months' under-cover investigation which revealed an army of 20,000 American Nazis preparing to seize control of the United States.

Borah said that there was "no doubt" that Nazi organization in this country was going on and that he had been informed it was being supported and financed by Nazis in Germany.

Borah suggested a congressional investigation. He said he had been informed Nazi organizations in this country are being supported and financed by Nazis in Germany.

We shall go on the side of Fascism. We do not believe in racial equality—that Negroes and Jews are as good as white men."

"American history is revised in public addresses for them to show that this country has been saved from Jewish destruction only through the influence of German-Americans."

"Chief tenet of the German-American Bund is an intense hatred of Jews and all things Jewish. Other anti-Semitic organizations are lining up with the bund in what leaders plan will be a general Fascist merger."

"In one breath," Mueller wrote, "they predict there never will be another democratic election in the United States; in the next, they talk of uniting with other 'Aryan' groups in a political party to 'uphold the Constitution.'"

# The Cleveland Press

CLEVELAND, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1937

HERMAN SCHWARZMANN, a father of the Astoria post, calls the troops to order and after a series of drills about the hall we line up in company formation. Then we are divided into groups consisting of those who have been with the O. D. three years, two years, one year and new members. After a check of names by a visiting officer, we are returned to company formation.

The Jew pigs are grabbing control of everything they can get their sticky hands on. This is exactly

## Repeats Jew Charges

"In all likelihood the day of trouble will come with a financial crisis in Washington. Then will be the time to wipe out the Jew pigs." Schwarzmann then repeats the

that took place in Germany. Finally the people rise up in protest. This will happen here—it is inevitable. When that day comes, and it probably is not far off, we must be prepared to fight for the right kind of government. We must win the masses, the good people to our side.

"THERE will likely be bloodshed, and fighting. We shall have to do our part. No one knows where we shall have to go—New Jersey, New York or some other part of the country—or what we may be called upon to do. When that time comes, every man must be thoroughly trained to assume his responsibility, the important duties, of course, falling upon the shoulders of our O. D. membership."

"You may think I am just dreaming or talking in the clouds. But I tell you that I know what I'm talking about. This trouble will come, probably sooner than we think. It has to come, judging from the trend of the nation. When we understand how Germans handled their situation in Germany, we shall know how to handle the difficulties which will arise in America."

charge, reportedly made by all Bund members, that Jews have gained control of the press, radio, stage, movies and practically everything else in the United States.

"While we are still German-blooded is stronger than pigs—we are also American citizens," he continued. "And as American citizens, we have the same rights as any other good citizens. But our rights have not been observed. The O. D. are not even permitted to march on the streets."

"The Jewish-controlled press will not print our side of the story. Some day that will be changed. For some day we will demand our rights as citizens be observed as are the rights of any American. Right now we demand that you become an American citizen."

Reeds Clipping  
The Bunders then reads chapters telling the part Jews of German blood played in the building of the American nation from the days of the revolution to the present. The meeting adjourns with three cheers for the Bunders, Hitler and the German-American Bund.  
Three new members are signed up that night. New and old members both contribute to the "vaude" and I see many dollar bills passed when the time comes for donations.  
"The American is joining with us," one member says as I order a beer with a group of O. D's.  
"You mean the Germans," another member says. "He's one of us now."



MAY 2, 1937 NAZI STUDENTS ESCORTED THRU CLEVELAND STREETS BY MOTORCYCLE POLICE

MAY 2, 1937, NAZI STUDENTS ARRIVE IN CLEVELAND

BURTON SENDS MOTORCYCLE POLICE TO ESCORT THEM

TO PUBLIC AUDITORIUM. 3 BUSES ESCORTED THROUGH

CLEVELAND STREETS, NAZI STUDENTS ALL WAVING &

CARRYING SWASTIKA FLAGS.

THESE STUDENTS VISITED NEW YORK, BUFFALO,

ROCHESTER, NIAGARA FALLS, AND WERE NOT GIVEN A

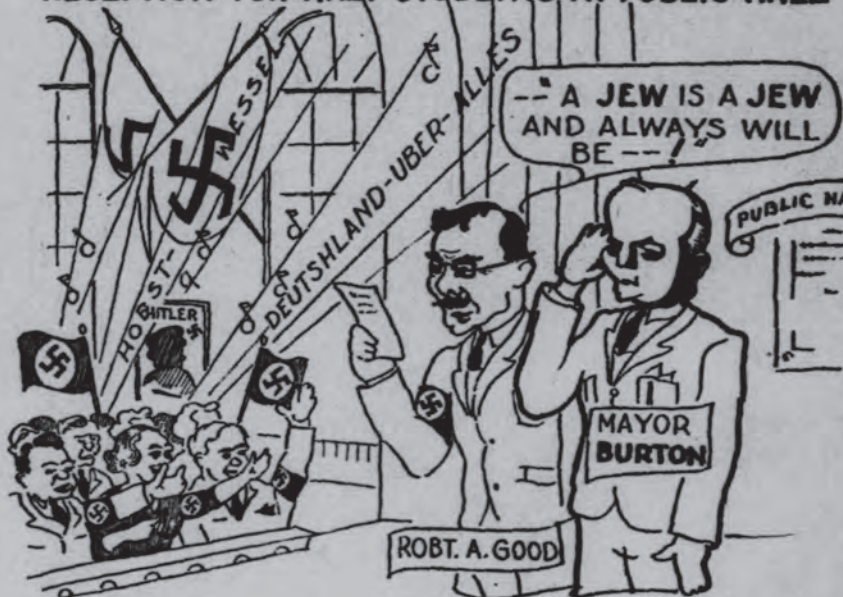
PUBLIC RECEPTION, EXCEPT IN CLEVELAND.

A NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT CALLED RABBI

SILVER, AND ASKED HIM WHY THIS RECEPTION WAS

PERMITTED WITHOUT A PROTEST.

## RECEPTION FOR NAZI STUDENTS AT PUBLIC HALL



MAY 2, 1937, PUBLIC AUDITORIUM, NAZI CELEBRATION

FOR GERMAN STUDENTS

ENTIRE HALL DECORATED WITH NAZI SWASTIKA FLAGS

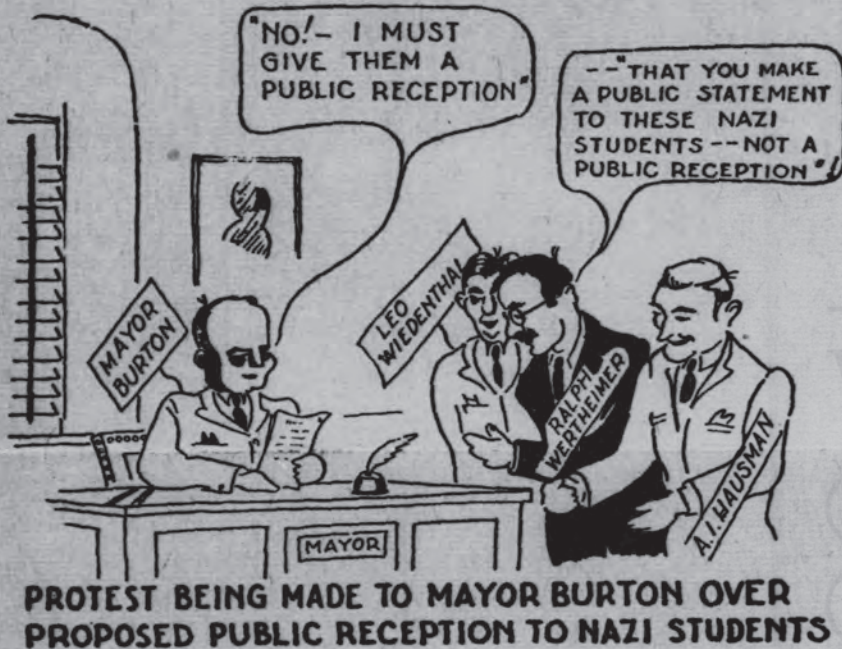
ROBERT A. GOOD, CLEVELAND LAWYER READS ANTI-

SEMITIC POEM AGAINST JEWS AND CATHOLICS. BURTON

AND HIS DIRECTORS APPLAUD AND ALL THEN SING THE

"NAZI HORST-WESSEL SONG" AND "DEUTCHLAND UBER

ALLES".



PROTEST BEING MADE TO MAYOR BURTON OVER PROPOSED PUBLIC RECEPTION TO NAZI STUDENTS

APRIL 29, 1937, COMMITTEE CALLS ON MAYOR BURTON -

LEO WEIDENTHAL, EDITOR OF THE JEWISH INDEPENDENT,

RALPH WERTHEIMER, EDITOR OF THE JEWISH REVIEW &

OBSERVER, AND A.I. HAUSMAN OF THE LEAGUE FOR HUMAN

RIGHTS CALL ON THE MAYOR AND PROTEST A RECEPTION

TO THESE NAZI STUDENTS IN OUR PUBLIC AUDITORIUM.

MAYOR BURTON REFUSES REQUEST AND SAYS "I MUST

GIVE THEM A PUBLIC RECEPTION".

## MAY 3, 1937-CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER -MAYOR BURTON AND SOME OF THE BOYS GET TOGETHER IN A HUDDLE TO DEFEAT COHEN'S RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION ASKING MAYOR BURTON NOT TO EXTEND A PUBLIC WELCOME OR USE OF PUBLIC HALL FOR NAZI PURPOSES OR PROPAGANDA



MAY 3, 1937 CLEVELAND COUNCIL CHAMBER COUNCILMAN VICTOR COHEN RENEWS HIS REQUEST THAT MAYOR BURTON NOT EXTEND AN OFFICIAL RECEPTION TO THE NAZI STUDENTS AND NOT ALLOW OUR PUBLIC HALL TO BE USED FOR NAZI PROPAGANDA. COUNCILMAN ERNEST BOHN AFTER CONSULTING MAYOR BURTON, AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF UTILITIES DIRECTOR WALLENE AND OTHER DIRECTORS WORKED AGAINST THE COHEN RESOLUTION AND IT WAS DEFEATED.

## Press

## SAYS OHIO KLAN HEAD AIDED NAZI

Former European Writer Declares Colecott Gave Help in Propaganda Work

By United Press

BOSTON, Oct. 15.—A charge that J. A. Colecott, Ku Klux Klan grand dragon of the Illinois, Ohio and Michigan realm, is directly "tied up" with Edward H. Hunter, alleged chief Nazi propagandist for Massachusetts, was made by a former European news correspondent today.

Resuming testimony for the second day before a special legislative committee investigating radical activities here, John L. Spivak said he was ready to "back up" his charge that Hunter, director of the Industrial Defense League, was chief Nazi propagandist in this state.

Colecott, who lives at Columbus, O., is in charge of propagandizing the country for the Klan. Spivak said, adding that Colecott now was touring the Atlantic coast organizing Klan units, and recently visited Imperial Wizard Hiram W. Evans in Georgia.

He charged that Colecott's Klan realm issued pamphlets against Jews and Catholics in which it is stated that President Roosevelt is controlled by them. Less than six months ago, Spivak said, Colecott was in Springfield, Mass., and distributed literature throughout the state through Hunter's office.

ATLANTA, Ga., Oct. 15.—J. A. Colecott, grand dragon of the Ohio, Illinois and Michigan Ku Klux Klan realm, today denied he was "tied up" with Edward H. Hunter, alleged chief Nazi propagandist for Massachusetts.

Colecott termed the testimony of John L. Spivak, former European news correspondent, before a Massachusetts legislative committee as "absurd."





20,000 Cheer Marchers

ANDOVER, N. J., Sept. 26.—(AP)—A parade of 1,000 uniformed men, women and children goose-stepping to the heels of 20,000 persons marked the end of the first season of the German-American Volksbund at Camp Nordland.

The largest throng of the year, massed on the camp grounds, target of attacks by veterans and other organizations as "Nazi and un-American," heard National Bundsfuehrer Fritz Kuhn proclaim the "determination of the bund to continue its fight for Americanism until America is controlled by Americans and not by a bunch of Russian-controlled Jews."

American flags outnumbered swastikas today in the buildings and on the grounds of the woodland camp, nestled in the hills of Sussex overlooking idyllic Lake Illif, as ground was broken for the construction of a \$40,000 building for next season.



HARMONY HALL  
FEB. 22, 1937  
CLEVELAND NAZI CELEBRATE  
GEO. WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY 22, 1937 HARMONY HALL, FRANKLIN AVE.

NAZI CELEBRATE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

"STAHLHEIM" GERMAN STEEL HELMETS SOCIETY LEAD

SINGING OF STORM-TROOPER AND HORST-WESSEL SONGS.

HALL DECORATED WITH NAZI FLAGS AND "STAHLHEIM"

WEAR SWASTIKA SLEEVE BANDS.

MAYOR BURTON AND WIFE ENTER AND ARE GREETED

WITH HEIL BURTON AND NAZI SALUTE.

The Cleveland Press

CLEVELAND, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1937

NAZI GROUP FINDS  
WEST COAST AREA  
HARD TO ORGANIZE

Germans Are Widely Scattered and Wealthy Ones  
Frown Upon Organization Meetings,  
Leader Declares

Charge Children  
"Nazified" in U. S.

By United Press

The Cleveland Press

CLEVELAND, FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1937

Susan Sterling and her Association of Leagues, which has connections with pro-Nazi and anti-Semitic groups, such as the Silver Shirts, were under fire today from four different directions.

Rabbi Joined by Legion in  
Protests on Inciting of  
Race Prejudice

The American Legion, the "Anti-Semite" League Against War and Fascism, and Jewish and Negro groups were among those condemning phases of her activities.

Federal and local investigations will be demanded by Councilman Stephen E. Craig, who said he had "definite and conclusive information the group is anti-Negro as well as anti-Semitic."

Mayor Harold H. Burton was asked to investigate the association.

by Rabbi Armond E. Cohen, who denounced the group's connections with Nazi elements and said Cleveland had become "nationally infamous as one of the leading centers of the Nazi movement." Mayor Burton said he would refer the matter to Council President A. L. De Maiores and Council's Legislative Committee.

The American Legion's trustees condemned the statement made Sunday by Miss Sterling, reported that County Commander Jack A. Perak had told her he was opposed to Americanism.

The American League Against War and Fascism charged Silver Shirts had "framed" Gus Hall, C. I. O. state leader at Warren, O., charged with poisoning nitroglycerin.

Mail Carrier Gives Clue

Meanwhile, further light was shed on Miss Sterling's identity. A woman of mystery who has avoided getting her name in either the telephone book or City Directory, she told reporters she came here 2 1/2 years ago from Jersey City, N. J.

However, John Brady of 2022 Lakeland avenue, Lakewood, retired mail carrier, said he had recognized Miss Sterling's picture in The Press, and that she was Miss Elsie Thuermer who, he said, has lived at 16211 Detroit avenue for the last 25 or 30 years.

"I carried her mail for at least that long," said Mr. Brady. "She is a sister of the Thuermer brothers who ran the Suburban News & Herald at 15515 Detroit avenue."

Gives Name's Address

This newspaper, as recently as two weeks ago, had an office with "Susan Sterling's" name on the door, but when reached today Fred Thuermer, publisher, said "Miss Sterling hasn't been with us for some time."

Mr. Thuermer confirmed the fact he had a sister named Elsie Thuermer but when asked if she and "Susan Sterling" were one and the same, he said: "Not to my knowledge. He said Elsie Thuermer lives at 16211-Detroit avenue, which also is "Miss Sterling's" address."

In his letter to Mayor Burton, Rabbi Cohen also wrote:

"When the names of prominent

Martin Kessler, leader of Cleveland Nazi sympathizers, has admitted membership in Miss Sterling's group and that she furnished him a report of the proceedings of a Steel Workers Organizing Committee meeting to which she had sent an agent.

Mr. Kessler's organization, the Amerikadeutscher Volksbund, has connections with William Dudley Pulley's Silver Shirts, a violently anti-Semitic group of which Miss Sterling is a "master councilor."

Friend of Nazis



Susan Sterling, secretary of the Association of Leagues, distributor of anti-Semitic literature, friend of American Nazis and Silver Shirts, is shown above. A woman of mystery, her telephone is not listed. Her name is not in the City Directory. Neither is her organization listed in either book. Her office is at 388 Canton Building.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BANQUET  
MARCH 6, 1937



MARCH 6, 1937 CLEVELAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BANQUET HELD IN HONOR OF NORMAN ZIMMER OF HANOVER, GERMANY NAZI PROFESSOR SENT OVER BY HITLER TO FURTHER NAZI PROPAGANDA.

SEATED AT THE SPEAKERS TABLE

NORMAN ZIMMER; FRITZ KUHN OF NEW YORK, OFTEN CALLED THE "AMERICAN HITLER"; WALTER KOPPE, FAMOUS ANTI-SEMITIC AND NAZI ORATOR; FRANZ GISSIBLE, CHICAGO NAZI LEADER; GEORGE FORBOESE, MILWAUKEE NAZI LEADER, AND HIS HONOR MAYOR HAROLD H. BURTON, WHO WAS INTRODUCED BY DR. OTTO L. GLASSER OF THE CLEVELAND CLINIC AS

"OUR FRIEND AND WE ARE ALL BEHIND HIM"

Federal Probe  
Of Silver Shirts  
To Be Sought

A resolution memorializing the President and Congress to investigate the activities of the Silver Legion, the Silver Shirts and the Association of Leagues, which is headed by Susan Sterling, will be introduced in council by Councilman Stephen E. Craig.

This action was prompted by Craig today after Mayor Burton informed Rabbi Armond E. Cohen of the Jewish Center that the city administration was powerless to make any investigation, but that he would ask Council President DeMaiores whether council wanted to conduct an inquiry.

Craig asks for help

"Craig asked Assistant Law Director Crowley to draw the appropriate resolution. Crowley, however, recalled council's futile effort to investigate the Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Secret Seven in 1935. Craig then asked for a resolution to memorialize federal authorities."

The first demand for an investigation came from Rabbi Cohen, who called on council to look into the source of income of the association, expose its membership and reveal its methods of disseminating alleged propaganda.

Harry Becker, secretary of the Cleveland branch of the American League Against War and Fascism, mailed copies of two letters he alleged were written by Spencer J. Warwick, organizer for the Silver Shirts, to the civil liberties committee of the United States Senate. He asked that the organization's activities here be investigated.

Labor Board Gets Copies

Copies of the letters also were sent to the national labor relations board because one of the purported letters expressed a hope a conference could be arranged with Republic Steel corporation officials.

Craig declared he had information that activities of the Association of Leagues are "anti-Negro as well as anti-Semitic."

"The American Jew and no American Christian can feel safe and secure if he knows that such secret conspirators, strengthened by supposedly leading citizens, meet regularly to plot a racial upheaval in this community," Rabbi Cohen stated in his letter to council.

CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER

CLEVELAND, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1937

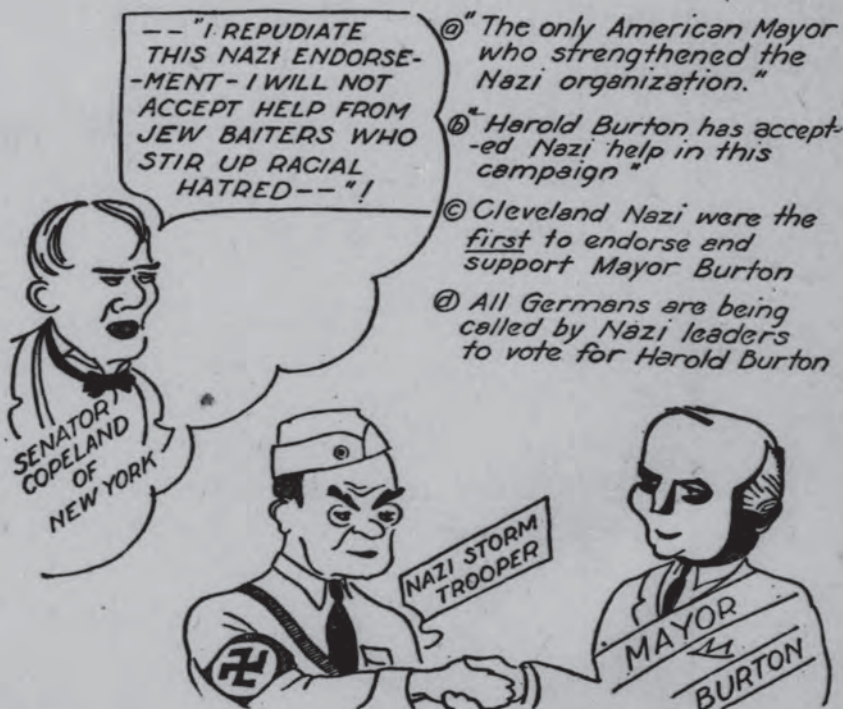
LEGION HEAD ASKS  
PROBE OF NAZIS

Colmery Raps Hitlerism;  
Tear Gas Routs Vets

UNTERMYER CALLS  
HULL "SPINELESS"

Lashes "Open Challenge"  
of Nazi Work in U. S.

JULY 4, 1937 - DIRECTOR WALLENE APPLAUDING  
ANTI-SEMITIC SPEECHES MADE AT GERMAN  
CENTRALE FARM, PARMA, OHIO





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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

[1937?]

**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

**צו מעמבער ארגאניזאציעס:**

איהר וועט איין דערמאנען, אז איינע פון די ערשטע מעטיגקייטען פון אידישען קאמיוניטי קאונסיל איז געווען די פארדאמונג פון אריינשלעפען פיקטיוע אידישע פראגען אין א פאליטישען קאמפיין. מיט ארום אנדער-האלב יאהר צוריק האט דער קאמיוניטי קאונסיל באשטימט א קאמיטע אונטער דער פיהרערשאפט פון ראביי סילווער מיט דעם צוועק ניט צו דערלאזען אז אזעלכע פראגען זאלען ווידער אריינגעצויגען ווערען אין אונזערע לאקאלע קאמפיינס. דער קאמיטע איז געלונגען כמעט אין גאנצען צו באזייטיגען אזעלכע האנדלונגען אין די וואהלען פון לעצטען נאוועמבער.

אן אנדער עלעקשאן דארף פארקומען אין הערבסט. די קאמיטע האט שוין אפגעהאלטען א מיטונג און באשלאסען אנצונעמען אזעלכע שריט וואס וועלען זיין נויטיג ניט צוצולאזען פיקטיוע ראסען פראגען אין דעם קאמפיין.

אויב איהר האט וועלכע אינפארמאציע, אז אזעלכע פראגען ווערען געשאפען און אויסגענוצט, זענט איהר געבעטען דאס צו באריכטען צו מר. בערנשטיין, סעקרעטאר פון קאונסיל.

די קאמיטע איז אין דער לאגע צו ארבייטען ערפאלגרייך האנט זיין האנט מיט די פיהרער פון ביידע פאליטישע פארטייען, כדי אפצושטעלען אזעלכע האנדלונגען.

די ארבייט פון דער קאמיטע קאן אבער האבען נאר דאן דעם געוויינטלעך ערפאלג, ווען איהר וועט אויף דעם דערמאנען אופן מיט איהר קאאפערירען, כדי ניט צוצולאזען דאס אריינ-שלעפען פון פאלטע אידישע אישוס, וואס זענען שעדליך פאר דעם וואוילזיין פון דער גאנצער אידישער קהלה.

אויפריכטיג אייערער,

מאקס סימאן

פרעזידענט



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*President*  
Max Simon

*First Vice-President*  
Edward M. Baker

*Second Vice-President*  
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Meyer Weintraub  
Sidney N. Weitz  
Albert A. Woldman

# The Jewish Community Council

## Cleveland

1001 Huron Road - CHerry 8176

Re: Cleveland Zionist Society

To the President:

We have not as yet received word from your organization as to who will represent it in the Jewish Community Council for the current year, 1938.

It is necessary that we have this information promptly inasmuch as the new representatives will take office at the next meeting of the Council. It is also essential, because the Nominating Committee will meet very soon, and must have the names of the 1938 representatives in order to make recommendations for the election of the Officers and Executive Committee of the Council.

As you know, your organization was represented last year by Messrs Jerome N Curtis, Saul S Danaceau and Dr F M Falkman.

Will you please return the enclosed blank soon?

Sincerely yours,

*Philip Bernstein*  
Secretary.

January 7, 1938.



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Sidney N. Weitz  
Albert A. Woldman

# The Jewish Community Council

## Cleveland

1001 Huron Road - CHerry 8176

Re: Cleveland Zionist Society

### TO THE PRESIDENTS OF MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

You will recall that at the last meeting of the Jewish Community Council, the representatives unanimously approved the Council's cooperation in making a census of the Jewish population of greater Cleveland. In taking this action, the delegates likewise approved the use of the membership lists of the various organizations, as a basic source of information.

We are now beginning active work on the census, and we are therefore asking each organization to send us the names and addresses of its members. It is of the utmost importance that we have this information immediately, inasmuch as the study is made possible by the fact that W.P.A. workers are doing the clerical work, and the time in which they are available for this project is limited. Will you please arrange to have this information sent to us within the next day or two, if at all possible -- and not later than next week?

I need not explain the importance of the census. For the first time we shall know accurately how many Jews live in Cleveland, where they live, and related to other facts, will provide a basis for the sound planning and distribution of our Jewish activities and services. It will have great practical value for the improvement of our Jewish community life, and your prompt cooperation will be a real service.

Sincerely yours,

*Max Simon*

Max Simon,  
President.

January 20, 1938.

P.S. The information which you send will be confidential and will not be made public in any way; it will merely be joined statistically and geographically with all other information which we are securing.



January 28, 1958

Mr. Philip Bernstein, Secretary,  
The Jewish Community Council,  
1001 Huron Road,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Bernstein:

I understand that the Jewish Community Council is cooperating in making a census of the Jewish population of greater Cleveland. What organization is actually making this census? Why is it being made? And what other facts besides names and addresses are being elicited? Generally, what is your method of procedure in making this census? I would deeply appreciate it if you would send me this information.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



January 28, 1938

Mr. Philip Bernstein, Secretary,  
The Jewish Community Council,  
1001 Huron Road,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Bernstein:

I understand that the Jewish Community Council is cooperating in making a census of the Jewish population of greater Cleveland. What organization is actually making this census? Why is it being made? And what other facts besides names and addresses are being elicited? Generally, what is the method of procedure in making this census? I would deeply appreciate it if you would send me this information.

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AHS:BK



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*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

1001 Huron Road • CHerry 8176

January 31, 1938.

Rabbi A H Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The census of the Jewish population of Greater Cleveland, about which you inquired, is being conducted under the auspices and direction of the Jewish Welfare Federation and the Jewish Community Council. The Board of Trustees of the Federation approved the cooperation of the Federation and authorized the expenditure of the modest sum necessary to meet incidental expenses of postage, etc. The Executive Committee of the Community Council and the entire Council at its last meeting likewise endorsed the participation of the Council and the use of the membership lists of the various organizations.

The clerical work is being done by a W.P.A. staff under the direction of Howard Whipple Green. These persons are part of the large staff which Mr Green has had for two years working on numerous population studies, and the expenses are being met through a federal grant made to him for a blanket project, the scope of which was broad enough to include this among several other surveys.

The Census was undertaken because no accurate study has been made for a number of years, and such facts as we have are out of date. It was motivated more directly by the needs of some of our agencies, such as the Council Educational Alliance which has been requested to offer extension services in various parts of the city now lacking such activity, among them the West Side and the Collinwood areas. The Alliance required accurate information as to the population distribution as a basis for any decision it might make. Other Jewish communal agencies likewise have expressed the need for such data as the basis for planning intelligently their service and activity.

You will be interested to know that several other cities are either planning or actually conducting Jewish population surveys at the present time, among them Los Angeles, Cincinnati, and Detroit. One of the national values of such studies will be to help determine the financial responsibilities of the various communities in meeting national and international Jewish needs.



-2-

The procedure in making the study was developed in consultation with Mr Green and The National Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds (Bureau of Jewish Social Research). Names and addresses are being secured from the following sources: (1) the 16,000 prospect cards of the Jewish Welfare Fund; (2) the membership lists of the Jewish organizations; (3) the Jewish children in the public schools of Greater Cleveland. After this has been compiled and duplications eliminated, a check will be made of sample streets in various parts of the city to determine how accurate and how complete these data are. We shall then know the total number of Jewish families.

It is also our plan to check a sample of every 20th family (alphabetically) to determine the average size of the Jewish household. With these facts in hand we believe we shall have as accurate a count of the Jewish population of Greater Cleveland as is possible to secure without a complete house to house census.

Mr Green's staff will make spot maps for us showing the distribution of the Jewish population. This can be related to other information which he already has for the various census tracts and will give us considerable data as to the composition of Cleveland Jewry. He will do as much of this as we desire.

I believe that the census will give us a solid body of information which should be very valuable in guiding the constructive development of our Jewish community. I shall be very happy to get any suggestions you may have and to discuss it with you at your convenience, if you desire.

Cordially yours,

*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

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Albert A. Woldman

The Jewish Community Council  
Cleveland

1001 Huron Road - CHerry 8176

To The Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee will meet Monday evening, February 21, 8:15 p.m., at the Temple on the Heights. In addition to the fact that there are several matters which require our consideration and action, the meeting will be of unusual significance because it will be the last session before the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held shortly thereafter.

Unless I hear from you to the contrary within the next day or two, I shall assume that you will be present.

Sincerely yours,

*Max Simon*

Max Simon  
President

February 11, 1938.

*Out / copy*



Jewish Community Council  
1001 Huron Road  
Cherry 8176

February 17, 1938

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following persons are recommended to serve as Officers and members of the Executive Committee of the Jewish Community Council for the year 1938:

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Milton P. Altschul  
Meyer Atkin  
Rabbi B.R. Brickner  
Rabbi Armond E. Cohen  
Jerome N. Curtis  
Isadore Finesilver  
A.H. Friedland  
Rabbi David Genuth  
Mrs. Sol Gitson  
Rabbi Harold Goldfarb  
Mrs. Joseph Goldhamer  
Mrs. Walter Goldsmith  
Philmore J. Haber  
Mrs. Siegmund Herzog  
George E. Kath

Rabbi Hugo Klein  
Abraham Kollin  
Mrs. Bernard Krangel  
I.R. Morris  
A.E. Persky  
Rabbi Israel Porath  
Aaron Resnick  
Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal  
Rabbi A.H. Silver  
Oscar H. Steiner  
Abraham Stern  
Mrs. Abraham Strauss  
Meyer Weintraub  
Sidney N. Weitz  
Albert A. Woldman

Respectfully submitted,

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

(Members: Eugene H. Freedheim, Mrs. D.R. Hertz, George E. Kath, Max Kohrman, George Mayer, Rabbi Israel Porath, Meyer Weintraub)

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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" Official petition blanks for written nominations may be secured from the Secretary of the Council.



## Officers

President  
Max Simon

First Vice-President  
Edward M. Baker

Second Vice-President  
Edward J. Schweid

Third Vice-President  
Mrs. Benjamin Levine

Treasurer  
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Secretary  
Philip Bernstein

# The Jewish Community Council

## Cleveland

1001 Huron Road - CHerry 8176

### Executive Committee

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Meyer Atkin  
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### To the Presidents and Representatives:

Our attention has been called by several members of the Community Council to the activities of the "People's Committee for United Action Against Fascism and Anti-Semitism". We are informed that member organizations of the Council have been contacted by mail and committees to send representatives to a local conference on March 1 which will then send delegates to a national conference in New York.

In view of the fact that this group is seeking to act for the Jewish community and is undertaking activities already sponsored by the Community Council, it was the unanimous belief of our Executive Committee that we are obligated to inform our member organizations of the character and composition of this "Committee".

The stationery of the "Committee" lists a number of "Sponsoring Organizations". Most prominent among them are several branches of the International Workers Order and their affiliates, and we are informed that these groups are the leaders of this movement. It has also been brought to our attention that the names of several other groups were used without their consent.

Recently a delegation of the "Committee" appeared before the Jewish Community Council asking cooperation in forming a united front to protest the persecution of Jews in Poland and to collect funds for their aid. The delegation was informed that the Jewish Community Council had already taken such action, having twice forwarded protest resolutions to officials in Washington, and having sent a delegation to join with Jews from other communities in meeting personally with Secretary of State Cordell Hull. Everything the "Peoples Committee" did only repeated and duplicated what the Council had already accomplished.

They were told that the Jewish Community Council acts in behalf of the Jews of Cleveland, and that if they were really interested in unity they could present their proposals to the representatives of the 135 member organizations of the Community Council and abide by the will of the majority in the democratic way.

This suggestion has been rejected by the "Peoples Committee". They prefer to continue their independent action, which they started and executed without contacting or consulting the Jewish Community Council. They did not inform the Council of their activities until after they had held two protest meetings and had sent a delegation to Washington. When they came to the Council meeting, their other plans were so far developed that they said they could not change them



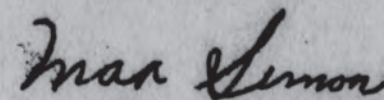
regardless of the opinion of the Council. They apparently wish united action only if the Council will aid them in carrying out their own program.

That is the situation locally. Nationally, there are two organizations, the American Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Committee, which effectively cover the field with regard to these questions. It appears, however, that the "Peoples Committee" is following the same tactics nationally as locally. They have injected themselves into the field of work amply covered by the two national organizations, and by their actions have weakened the effectiveness of these groups in their efforts to combat anti-Semitism here and abroad. For example, they scheduled a meeting in Washington a few days before the national conference of the American Jewish Congress last November, interfering with and preventing action which the Congress had already planned in dealing with the problem, by creating confusion in the minds of interested non-Jews in the authority of its spokesmen -- and yet they only attempted to duplicate what the Congress had already accomplished last summer.

A careful examination of all the circumstances justifies us in the conclusion that the "Committee" is acting independently of established organizations in Jewish life. Instead of strengthening unity it is following a course which is disruptive and inimical to Jewish welfare.

It is expected that member organizations of the Jewish Community Council are aware of the purposes which brought the Council into being, and will cooperate with the Council in its efforts to strengthen Jewish life, through the orderly processes of honest and intelligent cooperation on the part of those who are genuinely interested in fostering all that is best in Jewish life.

Sincerely yours,



Max Simon  
President

February 24, 1938.



March 3, 1938

Mr. Philip Bernstein, Secretary,  
Jewish Community Council,  
1001 Huron Road,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Philip:

The complaint raised by the writer of the enclosed letter is not an isolated one. I have heard it frequently. I don't know what can be done about it but an effort should be made to do something. I think you ought to bring it to the attention of the Executive Committee.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Enc.



Annual Meeting  
Jewish Community Council  
March 7, 1938

### REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The Jewish Community Council this evening officially comes to the end of the first two years of its existence as the formal expression of Cleveland Jewry's desire for a united Jewish community. As we embark upon the third chapter, it is fitting that we should pause for a moment to look back at the objectives and purposes which brought the Council into being, and to examine the manner in which the Council has begun to fulfill those hopes, in order that we may gain a fresh perspective and may use our experience as a basis for progress in the next year and in the years to come.

The Jewish Community Council was created in a very real sense by all elements of Cleveland Jewry, following a series of conferences in which every shade of opinion was represented, to bring order out of the chaos which had characterized Jewish life here as elsewhere. Though we had been accustomed to speak of ourselves as a Jewish community, we were in reality divided into a number of communities, each going its own way with little knowledge or regard for what the others were doing.

Despite the fact that Jewish problems today directly and vitally affect all Jews, there was no machinery for the joint consideration of these problems, and no means for common thought and common action. With an urgent need for mutual understanding, Jewish life had provided ample means for misunderstanding.

There was no responsible community voice to represent the will of the entire Jewish community, and self-appointed spokesmen undertook to give expression to their versions of the attitudes and feelings of Jewry on the various issues of the day.

Although the problems confronting Jewry require the best thought that can be given them, there was no machinery for bringing together and utilizing fully the leadership of the various elements which comprise Cleveland's Jewish population.

To bring together all points of view and to make possible the joint consideration of our common problems, to develop a greater mutual understanding among ourselves, to utilize fully the resources and leadership of Cleveland Jewry, to create a responsible community voice -- all so that we might deal intelligently and effectively with our Jewish problems and build a richer and better Jewish life -- those were the purposes and aims which brought the Council into being.

To what extent has the Council fulfilled those hopes? In what measure has it begun to attain those objectives? Perhaps a brief recital of the activity of the Council during the past two years will indicate the answer to the question.

Those of you who were present at the first meeting of the Council will remember that at the initial session the attention of the representatives was brought to the problem of fictitious Jewish issues in our local political campaigns. For years the community had witnessed in every campaign the practice of injecting false charges of anti-Semitism against opposing candidates for the purpose of securing the so-called "Jewish vote". The result was columns of front page publicity in the daily newspapers, accompanied by editorials deploring the fact that racial antagonisms had been stirred up. No one benefitted by these charges, and the Jewish community suffered.



The Council soon made it clear that it condemned the use of such tactics, and that they would serve as a boomerang to the party which injected them. A committee under the chairmanship of Rabbi Silver has been working closely with the political leaders to eliminate such issues. The cooperation and community sentiment which has been built up has seen its results in the almost complete absence of such publicity in the last two campaigns.

The problem of discrimination against Jews in employment is one which strikes at the roots and the vitality of the Jewish community. For no people can progress and develop whose youth find the doors of vocational opportunity closed to them because of their race or religion. The effect of such discrimination has been a shattering of the morale which has led to embitterment with their people and with the social order.

A survey of the employment agencies revealed that this condition was much more widespread than many of us had believed, and a committee has been giving its serious attention to the situation. Composed of several leading business and professional men, and headed by Milton Altschul, the committee has undertaken to secure the cooperation of the employment agencies and the placement departments of the schools and colleges, has inaugurated a series of conferences with large Jewish employers to obtain their assistance, has taken steps to secure the aid of the Catholic group in jointly working with the newspapers to eliminate discriminatory advertisements, and is contacting those employers individually about whom apparently authentic reports are received that they are discriminating, in the attempt to get them to change their policies. The committee also is cooperating with individual agencies in the development of a sound vocational guidance program for our Jewish youth.

Only a beginning has been made, and the problem is a vast one. We are dealing with an attitude and a social condition, and it is our task to make it unfashionable, rather than fashionable, to refuse employment to Jews as Jews. Already, however, there are indications that this is filtering through the community.

One of the saddest spectacles in the past has been the parading of Jewish controversies through the public courts, where they were the subject of ridicule and were a discredit to the entire Jewish community. In the preliminary conferences which were held before the Council was formed, the elimination of this practice was mentioned again and again as one of the basic reasons for organizing a Community Council.

Soon after the Council was created, individuals and groups voluntarily came to the president and secretary, seeking their services in adjudicating disputes. The result has been the formation of the Jewish Arbitration and Conciliation Court, which has arbitrated successfully a number of controversies. Functioning in accordance with the statutes of Ohio, with its decisions binding upon the parties involved, the Court is attempting to settle disputes in a manner which will conciliate the opposing individuals and organizations, will render substantial justice, and will protect the good name of the Jewish community. A representative committee composed of prominent Jewish lawyers, judges, rabbis, and business men, headed by Philmore Haber, is responsible for the administration of the Court.

The Council has served as the spokesman for the Jewish community in matters requiring formal expression. This has been true particularly with regard to national and international problems. Twice it has voiced the resentment of Cleveland Jewry against the persecution of the Jews in Poland, and



has sought the assistance of the United States government on the basis of Poland's minority treaty obligations.

It is important to note that this has been done after careful consideration and on the basis of advice from both of the national defense organizations, so that the action taken locally would strengthen rather than weaken the work of the American Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Committee.

It is a tribute to the mutual good will and broad understanding of Cleveland Jewry that on all occasions which required united expression, groups and individuals with divergent views have found a common meeting ground, and action has been virtually unanimous on these measures.

In keeping with its policy of assisting rather than attempting to supersede existing organizations that were capable of meeting specific problems, the Council has worked closely with the League for Human Rights Against Nazism in strengthening the anti-Nazi boycott and in combatting Nazi propaganda. The reports of the League have been a regular part of every Community Council meeting, and the machinery and resources of the Council have been used to spread this information and to secure the support of the Jewish community. The Council acted in cooperation with the League in the protest meeting held a year and a half ago, assisted in counteracting the Fritz Kuhn meeting last Fall, and gave formal expression to its support of the federal investigation of the activities of Nazi and other groups spreading racial and religious hatred here and elsewhere.

One of the most serious problems which the Jewish community faces is that of Kashruth administration. Nothing which has appeared in the newspapers of local significance has done so much to discredit Cleveland Jewry as has the periodic difficulties in this field. A complicated mixture of economic and religious factors, the problem has troubled the community for many years, without improvement or solution.

Two years ago the Council appointed a Committee to give concentrated attention to the matter, and as a result of its preliminary work it brought back a factual report. Since that time, due to the pressure of other activity and the nature of conditions, and particularly after an unsuccessful attempt had been made to secure the assistance of several Orthodox leaders, action with regard to the situation has been in the background. But the problem remains, as must the Council's concern with it. And at the moment certain elements are present which give some measure of hope for progress. The Council has not forgotten the matter, and a more specific report will be made at a later date.

I shall not attempt to review in detail the other activities which the Council has undertaken. Many of you are already familiar with the work which the Committee headed by Rabbi Brickner has done in securing the cooperation of the public school authorities, particularly in Cleveland and Cleveland Heights, in eliminating objectionable Christmas and Easter programs. You know too, that conferences are now in progress with regard to the Shaker Heights Schools, and the Committee is planning to confer soon with the East Cleveland authorities.

Another responsibility which this Committee has undertaken has been to notify the schools and colleges of the dates of Jewish holidays, and to secure their consent to avoid examinations and other important work on those occasions, so that Jewish students may be absent without suffering any penalty.



It is significant that before the Committee undertook this task several organizations thought that others were doing it, and apparently it was not being done systematically at all. And the approach now is being made in behalf of the entire Jewish community, rather than any individual or group. Last Fall the Council sponsored the community observance of the 100th anniversary of Jewish settlement in Cleveland. Under the direction of a committee headed by Leo Weidenthal, the celebration was a dignified event, conducted on a high plane, and served to give Cleveland Jewry a greater sense of unity and cooperation, a broader perspective of local Jewish development, a stimulus to Jewish cultural interest and achievement, while at the same time cementing the position of Jewry in the general community life.

I need only touch upon some of the other activities of the Council. All of you are familiar with the community calendar which the Council operates, by which organizations clear dates and avoid duplication and conflict in programs. You know of the census of Jewish population which is now being made in cooperation with the Jewish Welfare Federation and with the assistance of the W.P.A., giving the Jewish community a solid body of facts as a basis for planning intelligently our Jewish activities and services.

Many of you will recall the work done by a special public relations committee to check on the accuracy of newspaper reports of individual incidents which reflected poorly upon the Jewish community, particularly stories of alleged bootlegging by persons represented as being Jewish rabbis. You will remember too, the investigation made by a committee under the chairmanship of Rabbi Cohen, as a basis for dealing intelligently with the problem of the numerous solicitors who came to Cleveland to obtain funds for European and Palestinian institutions.

To protect the community from impostors, and to assure worthy institutions of a stable income, the committee recommended that the Jewish Welfare Fund establish a special fund for such support. This recommendation was accepted, and in its first year the new fund has made grants to more than thirty legitimate organizations, and has refused support to a few which formerly raised funds here but whose standards or service are such that they do not merit contributions.

In addition to these more or less formal activities, there have been numerous miscellaneous problems which the Council has been dealing with, but which have received little or no publicity. A man comes to the office and says that he is not being permitted to sell lunches to W.P.A. workers on a certain project because he is Jewish. The complaint is brought to the attention of the proper authorities, and a few days later the man returns to say that he is permitted to sell. To us, one individual and a petty incident. To him, a livelihood.

A congregation receives notice that it must leave the synagogue building it had rented, because the owners wish to use the property for another purpose. The congregation has virtually no funds and no place to go. The owners are contacted, and the congregation is permitted to remain indefinitely until it raises money and secures other quarters.

These are but two of the miscellaneous activities which occur frequently, but which receive little notice.



This brief summary, then, is the tangible record of the Council's achievement during the first two years of its existence. That there has been no lack of activity is evident. And it bespeaks the wisdom of those who established the Council as a simple and flexible framework which would grow and develop as the community wished it to develop. No elaborate super-structure was set up at the start, and no impressive list of committees was created. Rather, the Council has assumed those functions which the community has given it, and has created the machinery in response to the need. As such, the Council has been a vital, living organism, reflecting the needs and desires of the Jewish community.

Creditable as this review may be, I believe that these activities in themselves do not represent the major achievement of the Council. Much more important, I think, are those intangible gains which have taken place almost imperceptibly and which by their very nature must be gradual, because a community does not change overnight.

I believe that as we look at ourselves today, and compare the picture with that of three or four years ago, we will agree that a beginning, at least, has been made in the attainment of the broad objectives of the Council. I see a better understanding among the divergent elements which comprise our community, a greater trust and respect for the other fellow and his point of view, which is dissolving the suspicions and dissensions that have existed in the past.

I see a more widespread interest and knowledge of our mutual problems and a more intelligent understanding of them. I see a broader perspective that is substituting a concern with the totality of Jewish life for the fragmentary interests which have prevailed.

I see developing a discipline in our Jewish community which is diminishing the self-willed acts of individuals, and is replacing them with a sense of responsibility borne of the realization that the acts of the individual often reflect upon the welfare of the group.

I see a growing democracy in our Jewish community, its decisions reflecting the will of the substantial majority as determined after joint consultation of all elements through their self-chosen representatives. And may I say that this has been practiced conscientiously in the Community Council, where no major decision has been made, no basic policy has been determined, no important activity has been undertaken without the authorization of the entire Council.

I see the utilization of a broader leadership, representing groups which in the past have not found a channel for full expression. The composition of the Executive Committee, elected this evening, is as representative of the community as a body of that size can be.

And I think I see the development of a greater pride, a greater self-respect, a greater faith in the integrity of the Jewish people which must be the foundation for any real community progress.

I believe it is important to point out that whatever the Community Council may have accomplished has been achieved without any attempt to dictate or compel action. Its method has been that of consultation and persuasion. It has never assumed nor tried to exercise police power. It has recognized from the beginning that a body truly representative of a cross-section of the community,



democratically reflecting the will of the community, would have what must be the ultimate power of any public body -- the power of public opinion.

Neither has the Council attempted to suppress differences. It has sought unity, not uniformity, and it has recognized that an individual or a group has a right to differ with the opinion of others. But if differences exist, they should be with a full knowledge and understanding of other points of view, not in ignorance of them.

The Council has never represented itself as being a panacea for all Jewish problems, and I am aware that we have made only a beginning in the specific activities which we have undertaken and in the attainment of our basic objectives. The major part of the road remains to be traveled. We are still a very young organization, with a great responsibility and a great task. Every act sets a precedent for the future and requires careful thought and intelligent foresight.

How far we shall go in the next year and in the years to come, you will determine. For the Community Council has been and will be only what you, as representatives of the Jewish community, make it.

The Council needs your active interest and assistance. Only if every representative feels a personal obligation for its success, will the Council continue to make progress. Your suggestions, your comments, your initiative, and your assistance when you are asked to serve in a particular capacity, are essential if we are to forge ahead.

As we approach the future, we must keep our attention focussed upon the positive elements of Jewish life, and not be absorbed solely by negative, defensive requirements. We must seek to strengthen the inner forces of Jewish life, sustaining the spirit and refreshing our courage and fortitude, so that we may approach our problems with a confidence and energy that have their roots in a deep and abiding faith in our destiny. Ours is the task of building a better, a richer, a more meaningful Jewish life in which all of us and our children may share.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Simon

President.



Officers

*President*  
Max Simon

*First Vice-President*  
Edward M. Baker

*Second Vice-President*  
Edward J. Schweid

*Third Vice-President*  
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Albert A. Woldman

# The Jewish Community Council

## Cleveland

1001 Huron Road - CHerry 8176

March 9, 1938

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I have discussed with Mr. Simon, the problem of business practices engaged in by various Jewish individuals, which you brought to our attention. While we are agreed that it is an extremely difficult situation to deal with, we feel that it should receive the full consideration of the Executive Committee, and it will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Very cordially yours,

*Philip Bernstein*  
Secretary.

PB\*SED



Officers

President

Max Simon

First Vice-President

Edward M. Baker

Second Vice-President

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Mrs. Benjamin Levine

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Abraham Stern  
Mrs. Abraham Strauss  
Meyer Weintraub  
Sidney N. Weitz  
Albert A. Woldman

# The Jewish Community Council

## Cleveland

1001 Huron Road - CHerry 8176

To the Representatives:

I thought you would want to have a report at this time of some of the activities of the Jewish Community Council. The following is a brief summary of special items.

Last week the Council wrote to Secretary of State Hull, expressing the support and gratitude of the Jewish community of Cleveland for his proposal to twenty-eight other nations, to make it possible for greater numbers of Jews and other people to leave the countries where they are being persecuted. A reply has just been received, which states that it is the hope of the United States government to call attention and emphasize the humanitarian aspects of the entire problem, as well as to bring definite aid to the unfortunate victims.

Cases are being submitted regularly to the Jewish Arbitration Court. There are now four controversies under consideration, involving Jewish institutions and organizations. Three of the disputes are over financial claims, and the other involves a problem of Jewish ritual. The Jewish Arbitration Court is acting to settle the cases in a friendly way, and to keep them out of the public courts.

The population census is proceeding steadily, and the names of about 20,000 Jewish families already have been tabulated and cleared for duplications. A committee was recently appointed to supervise the census. It is composed of Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal, chairman; Samuel Levine, Mrs. A.F. Mellman, Abraham Stern, and Leo Weidenthal.

The Council is compiling information for the Community Calendar for the months of April, May, and June. If your organization is planning any important programs, will you please see that the dates of these events are sent promptly to the Secretary, so that there may be no conflict with other groups.

A further summary will be sent to you soon of other action being taken. In the meantime, I trust that you will report the above activities at your next meeting.

Sincerely yours,

*Max Simon*  
Max Simon  
President

April 4, 1938.



Minutes of a Meeting of the  
JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
Thursday, April 28, 1938 at the Jewish Center

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

2. Jewish Population Census

The Chairman explained that the meeting had been called by the Executive Committee for the special purpose of reconsidering the Jewish population census. He reviewed briefly the background of the census, pointing out that it originated at the suggestion of Mr. Goldhamer of the Jewish Welfare Federation to Mr. Howard Whipple Green, who stated that W.P.A. funds and staff could be made available for the clerical work; the project was then approved by the Federation board of trustees, which asked the cooperation of the Jewish Community Council; the Council's executive committee and the entire Council had approved it and had agreed to cooperate.

It had been anticipated that the information would be gathered from three sources; (1) the data in the files of the Jewish Welfare Federation; (2) the membership lists of Jewish organizations; (3) the Jewish children attending the public schools. Some question had arisen concerning the latter phase, and the committee which had been appointed to supervise the project gave special consideration to this aspect. It reported to the Executive Committee that such information could be secured without danger to the Jewish children or Jewish community, and had recommended that it should be secured. The Executive Committee, in discussing the question, voted to resubmit the entire matter to the Council at a special meeting for this purpose.

It was reported that the first body of information had been tabulated, and the second was partly completed. About 20,000 Jewish families had been listed to date.

There was then prolonged discussion as to whether the project should be continued or stopped. Mrs. Goldsmith, Mr. Auerbach, Dr. Falkman, Mr. Schweid, Rabbi Klein, Mrs. Goldhamer, and Mr. Morris were among those whose expressed opposition to the census or believed that it should be curtailed. Favoring the continuation of the census or expressing the belief that there was no reason for fearing it were Mr. Kollin, Mr. Mayer, Mr. Stern, Mr. Wiesenfeld, Mrs. Schwarzenfeld, Mr. Resnick, Mr. Levine, Mr. Altshuld, Mr. Finesilver, Mr. Wasserman.

Reasons for opposition were: it would give a powerful instrument to those who sought the destruction of the Jews; it was a project designed primarily to aid clerks rather than help the Jewish community; it had no real value; contact with the Jewish children and the teachers in the public schools should be avoided; the federal census did not include any religious count, and the Jewish people should be the last to have a federal agency engage in a religious census; if the project did have merit, the Jewish community should find the funds for it and not depend upon a public agency to help; if done at all, facts should be secured for those neighborhoods which needed Jewish services and assistance; information already in the files of the Jewish Welfare Federation was adequate; newspapers might give publicity to the report and this would be harmful; the fact that the report would be in the Congressional library and the Cleveland Public library would be harmful; no other religious body was having a census by the W.P.A.; it could not be accurate.

Reasons for support were: the census would bring up to date the information which had been secured in 1924 and which was still being used even though inaccurate; there was no reason to fear such a census; several other cities had made such a count or were planning to do so, including Cincinnati, likewise with W.P.A. funds, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Detroit, Toledo, and others; the federal census listed Jews as Russians, Poles, and other nationalities inaccurately; the census was almost two-thirds complete, and no valid reason could be given the W.P.A. for stopping it; it would provide a body of information that would be helpful particularly in aiding Jewish youth with educational and recreational services; the value of such data was evident from the fact that a national committee had been formed to deal with the subject, including representatives of the major national Jewish organizations; there would be no publicity of individual names, but merely statistical summaries; it would help the Jews of the west side, for example, in developing Jewish activity; there would be no contact with the teachers and children



in the public schools, but merely with the principals, in a manner that would not be harmful, and Mr. Lake, superintendent of Cleveland schools, already had expressed approval of this; the Jewish community could not possibly find funds to finance the project itself at the present time; the census would be reasonably accurate; material of questionable accuracy concerning Jewish population was already in the libraries for public consumption, through the American Jewish Year Book and other publications, and the accurate census would not be giving any new ammunition to anti-Semites.

Upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried by a vote of 24 to 19, it was decided to continue with the census. Several persons present did not vote.

### 3. Membership

Upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council voted to grant membership to the Tetiever Social and Benefit Society; the Leaders Board of the Council Educational Alliance; and the Graduate Group of the Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity, the latter being given special representation. The Cleveland Independent Aid Society automatically had qualified for membership since the last meeting.

### 4. Anti-Nazi Activity

It was reported by Mr. Wiesenfeld that an organization had been formed in Ohio to boycott Jewish merchants and to refuse employment to Jews. The council was informed that the League for Human Rights already had taken steps in opposition to this group.

The League also reported that it had taken steps to secure the co-operation of daily newspapers in not giving undue prominence to anti-Jewish news. The Newspapers had been requested to give only such space as the items merited as news, and not overstress it consciously.

The Council was informed that a community meeting had been held in Painesville with representatives of various civic organizations, and had passed a resolution opposing the establishment of a Nazi camp in that district.

Dr. Ernest Meyer, formerly associated with the German diplomatic staff at Washington and who had resigned because he was opposed to Nazi action, had spoken to a large non-Jewish audience of several hundred persons, recently, with a splendid response.

On Sunday evening, May 1, Dr. Thomas Mann would speak at the Public Music Hall under the auspices of the League for Human Rights. The large advance ticket sale assured a capacity audience, a large proportion of which would not be Jewish. The sale of the tickets had brought many non-Jews to the League office, and while there they had inquired concerning the activity of the League and had taken anti-Nazi literature. The Newspapers had given the event much favorable publicity. Council members were urged to be present with other members of their organizations.

### 5. H.R. 8099

The Council was informed that there was danger of passage by the Congress of H.R. 8099, which would permit goods to be imported without showing clearly the country of origin. This would make it virtually impossible to prosecute the anti-Nazi boycott, and members were urged to notify Congressmen to vote against the bill. Upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, the Chairman was instructed to wire local Congressmen to oppose the bill.

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

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) Philip Bernstein

Secretary



May 20, 1938

Mr. Philip Bernstein, Secretary,  
Jewish Community Council,  
1001 Huron Road,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Bernstein:

Rabbi Silver has asked me to send you  
the enclosed letter from the Cleveland Branch of  
the National Association for the Advancement of  
Colored People and a copy of his answer.

Very cordially yours,

BJK

Secretary to Rabbi Silver



Officers

**President**  
Max Simon

**First Vice-President**  
Edward M. Baker

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

**Third Vice-President**  
Mrs. Benjamin Levine

**Treasurer**  
Max Kohrman

**Secretary**  
Philip Bernstein

**Executive  
Committee**

Milton P. Altschul  
Meyer Atkin  
Rabbi B. R. Brickner  
Rabbi Armond E. Cohen  
Jerome N. Curtis  
Isadore Finesilver  
A. H. Friedland  
Rabbi David Genuth  
Mrs. Sol Gitson  
Rabbi Harold Goldfarb  
Mrs. Joseph Goldhamer  
Mrs. Walter Goldsmith  
Philmore J. Haber  
Mrs. Siegmund Herzog  
George E. Kath  
Rabbi Hugo Klein  
Abraham Kollin  
Mrs. Bernard Krangel  
I. R. Morris  
A. E. Peresky  
Rabbi Israel Porath  
Aaron Resnick  
Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal  
Rabbi A. H. Silver  
Oscar H. Steiner  
Abraham Stern  
Mrs. Abraham Strauss  
Meyer Weintraub  
Sidney N. Weitz  
Albert A. Woldman

**The Jewish Community Council**  
**Cleveland**

1001 Huron Road - CHerry 8176

**TO THE MEMBERSHIP:**

Although the Community Council will hold its next meeting within a short time, I am sending a brief summary of recent activities so that you and the members of your organization may know what the Council is doing.

Will you please have a full report of these activities made to your group at its next meeting. It has been brought to our attention that in several organizations the president has failed to call for Community Council reports. The Executive Committee asks that you make these reports a regular part of the agenda. Only in this way will the community know what the Council is and does, and will the Council have the community's interest and suggestions.

H.R. 8099 -- In accordance with the action taken at the last Council meeting, telegrams were sent to local Congressman in Washington urging them to oppose H.R. 8099. This bill would make it possible to import merchandise without showing clearly the country of origin, and would be very harmful to the anti-Nazi boycott. Replies indicate that two of the Congressman took direct action immediately.

Catholic Universe Bulletin -- The local Catholic newspaper has published several editorials containing statements unfavorable to Jews. Upon authority of the Executive Committee, the Chairman has taken steps to deal with the situation. It is hoped that the action will prove effective. The Council also has written to the national Jewish defense organizations -- the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, and the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League -- in connection with the similar national problem.

Arbitration -- The Jewish Arbitration Court is continuing to function quietly but effectively. It recently settled successfully the claim of two rabbis against a wine manufacturing company, involving the charge that their names were being used without authority on special Passover labels. Agreement was reached on both sides, and a suit in public court was avoided.



Another case which will be heard soon is the suit by an individual against a congregation for construction work. Arbitrators will be Judge Samuel H. Silbert, Ben D. Gordon, and Max Kohrman.

Holiday-- The schools Committee has communicated with Western Reserve University to arrange for the postponement of examinations for Jewish students who wished to be absent on the second day of Shabuoth, which occurs on a Monday during the final examination period.

Dies Bill H.R. 6381 -- Upon authority of the Executive Committee, letters have been sent to local Senators urging passage of the Dies Bill. The bill would liberalize the deportation laws, and was recommended by the National Council of Jewish Women, the American Jewish Congress, and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.

Population Survey -- The collection of the basic information for the Jewish population survey is almost completed. A group of about thirty-five carefully selected Jewish women have visited the public schools to secure the last section of the desired information, in the manner approved by the Council at the last meeting. They have reported a most cordial reception by the principals, who have readily made available the office records. The facts have been secured without contacting the teachers or children.

Investigation -- The Council has been investigating reports of anti-Jewish activities and groups, in cooperation with the League for Human Rights. This work is now under way.

These and other activities will be reported on more fully at the next meeting of the Council. In the meantime, will you please be sure to have a Community Council report at the next meeting of your organization.

*Max Simon*  
President

June 3, 1938.



Minutes of a Meeting of the  
JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, December 14, 1937, 8:30 p.m., at the Euclid Avenue Temple

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

2. Review of Activity The Chairman reviewed briefly the following action:

Masaryk Memorial - As directed by the Council, a special Committee had drafted a resolution expressing the regret of the Jewish community of Cleveland in the passing of the late Thomas G Masaryk. The resolution was read at a memorial meeting by Rabbi Silver, and a copy had been sent to the Czechoslovakian minister at Washington.

Nazi Investigation - Copies of the Council's resolution endorsing the Federal investigation of the activities of Nazi and other groups spreading racial and religious animosity had been sent to the designated Federal officials. Several replies had been received, some pledging vigorous support to the inquiry.

Fictitious Political Issues - The effect of the work which the Council and its special Committee had been doing during the past two years to eliminate fictitious Jewish issues from political campaigns was evident in the last campaign. Whereas in previous years there had been columns of front page publicity and editorials concerning such issues, there was very little mention of them in the last campaign, and this was almost entirely buried in other general stories. One circular had been issued in the East 105th Street neighborhood, but indications were that it did more harm than good to the group which issued it.

Past Noble Grands Club - The application for membership of this group had not been approved by the Executive Committee, because of its sub-minimum membership of twenty-five, its affiliation with a larger non-sectarian body which itself had not applied for membership, and its inclusion of several persons who were members of groups already in the Council.

3. Christmas Programs in Public Schools The Secretary reported that conferences were in progress with the authorities of the Shaker Heights schools, to seek the elimination of objectionable Christmas and Easter practices. It was recalled that similar conferences had been held with the Superintendents of the Cleveland and Cleveland Heights Schools, in which they had pledged their cooperation, and that since that time only one complaint had been received with regard to these schools. The work of the Committee had been made difficult, however, because Jewish parents had permitted the practice to grow in the schools without objection, and even when asked by school officials, had indicated approval. The necessity of full cooperation from the parents was stressed, and representatives of the various organizations and particularly of the temples and synagogues were asked to emphasize this to their memberships.

In this connection, Julius Schweid urged that temple leaders give similar concern to the practice of some Jewish families in having Christmas trees and exchanging Christmas gifts. It was also reported that during the past two years the opening day of Freshman Week at Western Reserve University had fallen on Yom Kippur. Although the university had written the Council that Jewish students would be excused without penalty, the Council was asked to see whether the conflict could not be avoided entirely in the future.

4. Arbitration It was reported by Philmore Haber that since the Jewish Arbitration and Conciliation Court had been established by the Council last Spring, about ten cases had been brought to it, and that most of them had been settled without resorting to formal arbitration. An example was the collection of back salary for a person who had been a teacher at a Jewish school which was no longer in existence. A case requiring formal arbitration had been an election dispute in a congregation.

The Court also was attempting to settle controversies between Jewish individuals and Christian or public institutions, where the good name of the Jewish community was affected. Such a case had just been handled, involving a Jewish man and the Parent Teachers Association of a public school, and an open split in the community had been prevented.



It sometimes had required a long period of negotiation before some of the parties in disputes had consented to arbitration, Mr Haber stated, and it was hoped that one of the by-products of the Court would be to create a widespread sense of responsibility among Jewish individuals and groups for the welfare of the entire Jewish community, and that they would guide their actions accordingly. In reviewing the situation as a whole, however, it was his belief that since the Court was organized there had been far less unfavorable publicity concerning Jewish disputes than in many years.

5. Centennial The Centennial Observance which had been planned and sponsored by the Jewish Community Council, was reviewed and evaluated by Leo Weidenthal. He stated that the various events had been on a high standard and had attracted large audiences. Included had been special sermons in the synagogues and temples; a tree planting ceremony in the Hebrew Cultural Gardens; a music concert attended by an overflow throng of 1,400; an art exhibit of works by more than 45 past and contemporary Cleveland Jewish artists; an historical exhibit at the Public Library which was on display for more than three weeks; and a community meeting attended by 1,500. The response to the sessions had been enthusiastic, and the event had been recognized nationally by a message from President Roosevelt, and civically by the naming of a new parkway for the first Jewish settler.

While the project had been limited by finances and staff, the Centennial appeared to have achieved the following results: (1) it had given the Jewish community a perspective of its past development, which should serve as an impetus to further progress; (2) had centered attention upon a constructive joint effort, instead of the defensive measures which had been almost the sole means of achieving any Jewish unity; (3) had highlighted cultural activities of which many persons had not been aware, stimulating further interest and attainment in these fields; (4) had brought together persons of similar skills to work together for the first time in joint Committees, contributing concretely to community unity; (5) had strengthened the Council's position in the community; (6) had brought very favorable publicity and editorials in the daily newspapers, serving to cement the place of Jewry in general civic life.

6. Nazi Activities Summarizing the recent anti-Nazi activities, I R Morris reported the following:

Six-Day Bicycle Race - The League for Human Rights was agreed that persons opposed to Nazism should not attend the races, since the German riders undoubtedly would carry away a substantial part of the ticket money in prizes, and a portion of their tax payment to the German government would then be used for Nazi propaganda in this country. There would be no widely publicized boycott of the races, however.

Boycott - All of the large local stores were cooperating completely in the boycott of German goods, with the exception of one which had some German toys. Sears-Roebuck was still selling German merchandise, however, as were all the Five and Ten Cent Stores, except Neisners.

Nazi Convention - Numerous letters and telephone calls had come from both Jews and non-Jews to the Mayor and Safety Department, asking that no permit be issued for a Nazi parade in conjunction with the regional convention of the German American Bund which was held in Cleveland on November 13. The Community Council was among those who had sent such a message, and no permit had been issued and no parade was held. The City Council had passed a resolution unanimously stating that the convention was not welcome in Cleveland, and the C.I.O. had picketed the meeting as a measure of protest. A successful anti-Nazi meeting had been arranged on the following evening under the auspices of the German American Cultural League.

Professor Polt - The "Union Leader", labor newspaper, had published an article concerning the Nazi salute given by Professor Polt of Western Reserve University at the convention, and reprints had been distributed widely. A letter concerning his action had been sent by the League for Human Rights to President Leutner.

Newspapers - The daily newspapers recently had taken a much more aggressive stand in opposition to Nazi activities, particularly after it had been learned that the local Nazi membership was smaller than had been believed.

German Films - The Associated Theaters had broken the lease which had been made innocently with a group intending to show German-made films at the Gordon Square Theater, and at considerable financial sacrifice had leased the theater to another group showing Austrian and Hungarian pictures. While these were in the German language, they were not sympathetic to the Nazi regime.



Literature - The League for Human Rights had distributed considerable quantities of reprints of anti-Nazi articles. Organizations desiring such material for their membership were asked to call the League office.

In the discussion of the report by Mr Wiesenfeld, Mr Schoenfeld, and others, it was stated that the local Staatsverband was composed of forty important German organizations and that it was controlled by the Cleveland Nazi leaders. A large number of German groups were being subjected to Nazi propaganda, by Nazis who were working within their membership. It was stated also that the German Round Table was more dangerous than the German American Bund. The activities of some Western Reserve University professors said to be leaders of the local pro-Nazi and pro-Fascist groups were discussed, as was the necessity of preventing another German student exchange. These matters were referred to the Anti-Nazi League for further attention. It was stated that in general, however, there appeared to be developing a stronger anti-Fascist sentiment in the community, and that the primary task was to strengthen and spread this attitude.

7. Discrimination in Employment The Committee dealing with the problem of discrimination in employment, headed by Milton Altschul, reported the following activity; it was contacting individual employers about whom apparently authentic reports had been received that they were discriminating; had taken steps to secure the cooperation of prominent Catholics in contacting the newspapers to have them discontinue publishing advertisements of "Gentile Preferred" and "Protestant Preferred"; had held conferences with placement directors of three more colleges and employment agencies, to secure valuable information and to get their consent to refrain from any practices which might suggest discrimination to employers; and was planning additional conferences with groups of large Jewish employers.

A meeting also had been held recently with representatives of the various Jewish organizations directly concerned with the problem of vocational guidance and placement. The group had recommended that the Jewish Welfare Federation and the Cleveland Welfare Federation jointly should take steps to bring about an expanded program of vocational guidance in the public schools, and would continue to meet to give further attention to the special Jewish aspects of the problem.

8. American Jewish Congress Abraham Kollin reviewed briefly the recent conference of the American Jewish Congress held in Washington, stating that among the matters considered were discrimination in employment, the possibility of suits for criminal libel against individuals who slander the Jewish people, and the situation of world Jewry. The conference had approved plans whereby two-thirds of the delegates to its conference in June, 1938, would be chosen by direct election, and the other third by national Jewish organizations.

9. Polish Jewry A delegation was present from the Jewish People's Committee for United Action Against Fascism and Anti-Semitism, with Mr Eleph and Mr Laidman as spokesmen. They reported that a conference called by their group had sent a delegation to Washington which joined with one thousand other delegates from various cities to meet with the Secretary to the President, with Secretary of State Hull, and with some Congressmen, to seek aid for the Jews of Poland. They announced that they were planning a Tag Day to raise funds for Polish Jewry, and that there would be a mass meeting on Thursday, December 16, to hear the report of the Washington delegates. They asked the Community Council to take a positive stand in the matter and to call a conference of all Jewish organizations to take appropriate protest action. If a united front of all Jewish organizations were achieved and such a conference were called, the Jewish People's Committee would give up their independent action.

The request was discussed at length with Messrs Wiesenfeld, Woldman, Altshuld, Curtis, Atkin, Adelstein, Rabbi Cohen, and others participating. It was stated in the discussion that most of the thirty-six groups said to be included in the People's Committee were really branches of the Communist organization, and that the Council should not unite with a group which condemned the pogroms in Poland while supporting them in Palestine; that the Committee had never contacted the Council before taking independent action; that it had merely repeated what had been done by the American Jewish Congress during the past summer, and had so timed its work as to harm in part the Congress' last conference in Washington; that



reports from Poland indicated a change of attitude toward the Jews by the Polish government, that nothing should be done which would turn the government back to anti-Semitism, and that action should be guided by the advice of Polish Jewish leaders; that the Council already had done what the Committee was requesting, since it had taken a positive stand in the matter and in effect was in itself a conference of the Jewish organizations of the city; and it was proposed that the Council should vote a censure of the mass meeting and the Tag Day. An alternate proposal was that the Council should appoint a Committee to confer with the People's Committee further in the matter if the latter would agree to give up its own plans for the time being, but the representatives stated that they had no authority to do this. Instead they extended an invitation to send a speaker to the mass meeting, which found no expression of acceptance. It was stated finally that the fundamental basis for the Council's existence was that it represented the Jewish community of the city, and that any proposals should be brought to the Council for action, abiding by its decision. The floor of the Council was open to all groups.

10. Nominating Committee The Council elected the following persons to constitute a Nominating Committee: Eugene H Freedheim, Chairman; Mrs David Ralph Hertz, Rabbi Israel Porath, George Mayer, Meyer Weintraub, Max Kohrman, and George Kath.

11. Jewish Population Study The Council approved a motion to cooperate in a proposed survey of the Jewish population of the city, to be conducted under the direction of Howard W Green with W.P.A. funds and staff, with proper guidance. Organizations would be expected to supply the names and addresses of their members. The information would be helpful in planning various Jewish educational, recreational, and other facilities and services.

12. Membership Upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council granted membership to the Kiever Hebrew Aid Society and the Alpha Omega Fraternity, and special representation to the Montefiore Old Home.

13. Announcements Announcements were made of the dramatic production by the Ohio State Hillel Players to be given at Severance Hall Sunday evening, December 26, under the auspices of the B'nai B'rith Cleveland Auxiliary; and of the several citizenship classes being offered without charge by the B'nai B'rith and Council of Jewish Women in various parts of the city. Application for the latter could be made to the Council Educational Alliance of the Council of Jewish Women office.

14. New Years Eve Celebrations Rabbi Cohen called attention to the fact that some Jewish organizations were planning celebrations on New Years Eve, which fell on a Friday. He said that Rabbi Silver and Rabbi Brickner concurred with him in the belief that every effort should be made to cancel or postpone these events, and that if this were impossible in some cases, at least no general publicity should be given to them. This conflict had been avoided by the social clubs in Chicago, and similar action had been urged by the rabbis in Buffalo.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Philip Bernstein

Secretary.



Minutes of a Meeting of the  
JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
Thursday, September 16, 1937, 8:30 p.m., at the Jewish Center.

1. Minutes

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

2. Summary of Council Activities

The Chairman reviewed briefly several of the activities which had taken place since the last Community Council meeting. Included were the following:

Polish Situation -- A Committee had gone to Washington to confer with Secretary State Hull as part of a national delegation seeking the friendly intervention of the United States in halting the pogroms in Poland, on the basis of the latter's treaty obligations to minorities. Resolutions were also sent by the Council to Washington. The action had been authorized by the Executive Committee, as directed by the Council, on the basis of advice from the American Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Committee. Although the administration refused to change its non-intervention policy, the conference demonstrated that the State Department was fully informed of the Polish situation, and remarks in Congress and newspaper publicity following the meeting indicated a strong stir of public sentiment against the pogroms. Cleveland delegates were Abraham Kollin, Philmore J Haber, and Albert Woldman.

Helmuth Hirsch -- Both national organizations had stated that they had already undertaken all that could be done to prevent and protest the execution of Helmuth Hirsch by the Nazi government, and advised against local action here. This advice was accepted.

Arbitration -- The Arbitration Committee had been successful recently in bringing together disputing parties in three cases. These involved a suit by an individual against a Jewish institution for work which he claimed to have done; a suit by a rabbi against a congregation for back salary; and a suit by a Jewish individual against a Christian charitable organization, which was having unfortunate repercussions because of the tactics used.

Fictitious Political Issues -- A letter had been sent to all Council members by the Committee on Fictitious Jewish Political Issues, asking them to report to the Committee any such false issues as came to their attention in the current campaign. The Committee planned to hold a meeting very soon.

Schools and Colleges -- As in the past, letters had been sent to the authorities of all local schools and colleges, informing them of the dates of Jewish holidays, and requesting that examinations and other important work be avoided on those occasions, so that Jewish students would not be penalized by their absence from classes. The replies received assured the Council of their continued cooperation.

3. Centennial

Mr Woldman reported that preparation had been going on actively for the Centennial Week October 24-31, marking the 100th anniversary of Jewish settlement in Cleveland. Several Committees had been appointed to direct the various projects, and these events were now taking definite shape. Chairmen of the Committees were: Mrs Emil Brudno, music program; David Warshawsky, art exhibit, Leo Weidenthal, library historical exhibit; Leonard Levy, essay contests; Mrs Sig Braverman, children's programs; Edward M Baker, civic meeting; Albert A Woldman and Mrs A F Mellman, compilation of the history of the local Jewish Community.

It was emphasized that the participation of the entire Jewish Community was sought for the Centennial Week programs, and presidents of member organizations had been requested to avoid scheduling special events during that week, so that their membership would be free to participate in the Centennial. It was also pointed out that the primary purpose of the Centennial was not a demonstration of Jewish achievement for the general community, but rather to serve as an



integrating, constructive force for the Jewish community and to bring about within it a better understanding and appreciation of local Jewish history and development and Jewish values.

#### 4. Discrimination in Employment

Milton Altschul reported that the Committee on Employment had been investigating complaints which had come to it concerning anti-Semitic discrimination in the W.P.A. general layoffs which had taken place when Cleveland's quota had been cut. It was found that the proportion of Jews discharged was approximately the same as the general proportion laid off, and investigation of the individual cases brought no evidence of discrimination. The Committee had conferred with high W.P.A. officials and had their full cooperation in tracking down any indication of anti-Semitism.

A second conference had been held with large Jewish employers to secure their advice and assistance in dealing with the problem of discrimination, and had received valuable information and suggestions. Another conference was planned soon with representatives of several agencies directly concerned with Jewish vocational guidance and placement, which was related to the problem of discrimination, and it was hoped that from such a session would come at least the beginning of a broad, coordinated program.

#### 5. Relationship to League for Human Rights

A special Committee had been appointed following the last meeting of the Community Council to clarify the relationship of the Council and the League for Human Rights Against Nazism, and to advise concerning further action with regard to the German student exchange. The Committee's report, which had been accepted by the Executive Committee, was presented by Sidney N Weitz.

The Committee pointed out that the League was an autonomous body, on the general principle of Article IX, Section 2, of the Constitution; and that it was a basic principle of the Council to assist rather than supersede organizations already in existence which were handling specific problems effectively, as noted by the Executive Committee on June 11, 1936. It urged that the League strengthen its non-Sectarian character, rather than become a strictly Jewish organization, but pointed out the necessity of having a close working relationship between the League and the Council, so that the community might be fully informed of the League's activities, and the League would have a ready channel for securing community sentiment and support, which was essential for the effectiveness of its work. That there was already a close affiliation was indicated by the fact that half of the League's executive committee were members of the Community Council, representing various organizations. It was suggested, however, that it would be helpful to have a wider representation on the League executive committee than at present, by adding persons who would reflect views of elements in the community which currently did not appear to have adequate representation.

With regard to the German student exchange, the Committee proposed that the Council go on record clearly condemning the project on the ground that it was not a bona fide exchange but an attempt to develop acceptance of a regime that existed on hatred and persecution, and pledging the effort of the Council to prevent similar schemes in the future.

Upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, the Council endorsed the action of the Executive Committee in approving the report of the Committee.

#### 6. Anti-Nazi Activity in Cleveland

I R Morris, reporting for the League for Human Rights Against Nazism, presented the following information:

Investigation revealed that Sir Henry Deterding, who had just made another tremendous contribution to the Nazi party in Germany, still owned two-thirds of the stock of the Shell Oil Co.

Efforts thus far had been successful in keeping out of Cleveland German moving pictures which were spreading Nazi and anti-Semitic



propaganda. Two leases with Theaters, inadvertently made, had been broken.

The German American Cultural League, an anti-Nazi group, had recently been host to a national musical festival, which according to reports had been attended by 20,000 people. Songs sung were those which had been banned by the Nazi Government in Germany, and the audience was constantly reminded of this.

The Anti-Nazi League executive Committee had seen the evidence used by the Cleveland Press in the expose of the Association of Leagues as an anti-Semitic organization. A close tie-up with the Silver Shirts had been shown, the names of prominent Clevelanders alleged to have contributed to the Association were listed, and co-operation with local Nazis, was revealed. The evidence had been uncovered by the League Against War and Fascism, and the League for Human Rights while desiring that this group continue its investigation, had decided that it could not officially contribute to its financial support, or join with it to the extent of endorsing its mass meeting or its request for an investigation by the City Council.

Investigation of the Nazi Camp in Cleveland had revealed marching behind Nazi flags, Nazi salutes, and actions derogatory to the United States government and flag. The camp had been a failure, and had closed after ten days.

There was also evidence before the League that at least one of the professors at Western Reserve University was strongly pro-Fascist and anti-Semitic.

There was a long discussion of the evidence uncovered concerning the Association of Leagues, and the question of possible support and assistance by the Anti-Nazi League and Community Council to the League Against War and Fascism in this investigation. It was believed by some that such support should be given because of the service being rendered to the Jewish Community; others opposed any tie-up, while favoring a continuation of the investigation, because of some of the membership and other activities of the League Against War and Fascism, which were said to be connected with the investigation. They believed that each agency should continue its work in its own way.

It was explained that the Executive Committee of the Community Council at its last meeting had discussed the situation thoroughly and had decided not to join in a request for a Councilmanic investigation, as sought by the League Against War and Fascism, partly because the City Council had no power to subpoena witnesses and it was not believed that such an investigation could be effective. A Committee had been appointed, including Mrs Siegmund Herzog, Rabbi Armond E Cohen, and Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal, to meet with the League for Human Rights and advise the Community Council concerning further action.

Mrs Herzog reported for the Committee, and stated that the City Council had requested a federal investigation of activities and organizations in Cleveland which were spreading racial and religious hatred; and the Federal Department of Justice had undertaken a survey of Nazi activities throughout the country. The Committee recommended that the Council adopt the following resolution:

"The Jewish Community Council of Cleveland, including in its membership more than 130 organizations and representing the Jewish population of the city, strongly endorses the action of the Federal government in conducting an investigation of Nazi activities in the United States, through the Department of Justice, and urges that there be a full investigation and expose of the activities of Nazi and other organizations which are spreading racial and religious animosity in Cleveland and other parts of the United States".

It recommended that copies of the resolution be sent to President Roosevelt, Attorney General Cummings, J Edgar Hoover, and congressional leaders and local congressmen. Upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, the resolution and recommendation were adopted.



7. Membership

The Council accepted for membership the B'nai B'rith Balfour Auxiliary, and granted it representation. There was considerable discussion of the application of the Past Noble Grands Club, and upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, the matter was referred to the Executive Committee for further consideration and action. It was stated as a basic principle, that organizations having fewer than 75 members must have some activity or service which makes it peculiarly qualified for representation, in order to be granted special dispensation.

8. German Jewish Refugees

The assistance of Council representatives and their organizations' members was requested by Sidney Weitz, to aid German Jewish refugees who had come to Cleveland in finding employment. Persons knowing of available positions were asked to call Mrs Jacobs at the Jewish Social Service Bureau.

9. Masaryk Memorial

The Council was informed that Dr Thomas G Masaryk, founder and first president of Czechoslovakia and staunch friend of the Jews and all minorities, had recently died. A memorial meeting was being planned for an early date by the local Czechs, and it was believed that some expression from the local Jewish Community would be fitting. Several suggestions were made with regard to the form of such an expression, and upon motion made, duly seconded, and unanimously carried, the Chairman was authorized to appoint a special Committee to determine and take appropriate action.

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

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Philip Bernstein

Secretary.



RESOLUTION ON POLAND  
ADOPTED BY THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
OF CLEVELAND, OHIO  
AT A MEETING HELD MARCH 8, 1937

The Jewish Community Council of Cleveland, Ohio, comprising 126 organisations and in a large measure representing the approximately 85,000 Jewish citizens of this city, expresses its deep and abiding sympathy with the Jews of Poland and pledges itself to support their efforts to regain the fundamental human rights of which they have been deprived.

It is a matter of common knowledge that one million Jews in Poland are facing utter starvation, and that more than 100 have been killed, 1,300 injured, and 150 Jewish stores and homes have been bombed and burned recently through public violence and massacre. And although sporadic efforts have been made by governmental authorities to control the attacks, nevertheless the present tragic plight of the Jewish citizens of Poland is due in a large measure to the subtle restrictions imposed by the government upon the employment of Jews in many occupations; to a program of unequal and disproportionate taxes upon a part of the population suffering from discrimination and extreme poverty; and to the failure of the government to provide them with adequate protection.

The solution to this situation must be worked out in Poland, and not through mass emigration. Jews have formed an integral part of Poland for centuries and have contributed greatly to its well-being, laying down their lives when necessary to protect and preserve their fatherland. It is inconceivable that a nation which once welcomed the Jews and offered them a haven of refuge should now turn its back upon them, contrary to the dictates of humanity and civilisation.



We recall with pride the historic connection between the people of the United States, the American Government, and the Republic of Poland, and the fact that Poland was reconstituted through the effort, influence and support of our president, Woodrow Wilson, who believed that in liberated Poland the principles of civilized society would be observed and that the rights guaranteed to minorities would be preserved. The Jewish Community Council requests, therefore, that the United States Government use its friendly offices insofar as diplomatic usage permits, in behalf of the Jewish citizens of Poland in the light of the commitments of the Polish government under its treaty obligations and on the broad foundation of humanitarian justice, to the end that their critical plight may be alleviated, their lives and property protected, and the way opened to share equally with other citizens the opportunity to live and work in their fatherland.

The Jewish Community Council appeals, furthermore, directly to the Polish government to take immediate steps to safeguard the rights of its Jewish citizens and to remove the economic restrictions and discrimination from which they are suffering. In accordance with the obligations solemnly undertaken by the Republic of Poland in the treaty of 1919 and in the constitution based upon that treaty.

And we appeal, finally, to the millions of liberty loving Poles who have demonstrated their friendship and who have struggled for the same high ideals that actuate right thinking people throughout the world, to aid in relieving a situation that may cast discredit upon their government and their country.



C O P Y

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
1001 Huron Road  
Cleveland

November 6, 1937

Hon. Harold H. Burton  
City Hall  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mayor Burton:

The Press of yesterday, November 5, carried a report that a uniform parade in honor of Fritz Kuhn is being planned as a feature of the convention of the German American Bund to be held in this city on Saturday, November 13. Assuming that the report is correct, may we take the liberty of suggesting that the city should feel constrained to withhold a permit for such a parade.

There may be an honest difference of opinion on what constitutes reasonable limits of patience and tolerance with the overt and provocative acts of individuals and groups whose sole aim is to introduce into American life old-world hates and prejudices. We can even understand the reluctance of persons in authority to establish any restrictions of freedom of thought and action, out of fear of limiting those liberties which are sacred to democracy. However, to permit the use of our streets through the issuance of a permit, for a uniform parade of American Nazis, is an affront to the city and an insult to its citizens.

It is bad enough that Cleveland was selected as the convention city of the Nazi group. To abuse our fortuitous hospitality by strutting the streets of our city in a uniform suggestive of the contempt for American institutions and loyalty to a foreign government which blatantly preaches its hatred of democracy and openly advocates its overthrow -- to permit the use of our highways for such an exhibition of anti-Americanism, is not to honor the theories or principles of democracy, but to cheapen them and give courage to a movement which seeks their destruction.

We trust that this will receive your very serious consideration; and may we also express the hope, which represents the feeling of the entire Jewish community, that the Nazi convention will not be graced by the presence of representatives of the city government appearing in their official capacities.

Sincerely yours,

Max Simon  
President