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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, 1938-1939.



THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting Held Monday, July 18, 1938, 8:15 p.m., at the  
Temple on the Heights

1. Minutes Copies having been mailed to all members, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.
2. Population Survey Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal, chairman of the Population Survey Committee, reported that practically all of the necessary basic information had been secured, from the Jewish Welfare Fund files, the membership lists of Jewish organizations, and the names and addresses of Jewish children attending the public schools. He stated that the schools had been visited by a special committee of carefully selected Jewish women, and that they had obtained the record of students absent on Yom Kippur from the files in the school offices. The principals had been most cordial and cooperative, and there had been no contact with the teachers or children. The Committee had refrained from doing anything which would endanger the principle of separation of church and state or would embarrass the Jewish children.

The information was being tabulated by the W.P.A. clerical workers, and when completed would serve as a foundation for planning intelligently the recreational, educational, and religious activities of the community, particularly for Jewish youth. He pointed to the value of the school experience to erase the unnecessary fears which some persons had held with regard to this project, and said that there were indications that the study in Cleveland would be helpful to other cities which were inquiring concerning the procedure being used. All of the schools in Cleveland and the major suburbs had been covered, with the exception of Shaker Heights. Information for the latter was quite complete, however, without the school material.

A further report would be made to the Council after the data had been tabulated, he said.

3. Committees The Chairman reported that the Jewish Arbitration Court recently had settled two additional cases successfully, and a third was pending. They involved questions of Jewish religion, ritual, and Jewish institutions, and had been kept out of the public courts. He paid tribute to the effective service of Philmore Haber as chairman of the Court.

The Committee on Discrimination in Employment had investigated several complaints recently, and had taken them up with the management. Further complaints were to be sent to the Secretary of the Council.

A new Kashruth Committee had been appointed upon authorization by the Executive Committee. Persons who had accepted places on the Committee were Rabbi Israel Porath, chairman; Henry A. Rocker, A. Brofman, Julius Schweid, Max Kohrman, and Charles Goldman. The previous Committee had gone as far as it could within the limits of its fact-finding purpose, and it would be the function of the new Committee to advise the Council as to procedure, particularly with regard to the enforcement of the State Kashruth law.

4. Anti-Nazi Activities I. R. Morris, reporting for the League for Human Rights informed the Council that the following organizations were selling German Made merchandise: Kresge, Woolworth, Sears-Roebuck, Dodd & Co, and Barkers. Investigation had revealed that reports concerning Nazi support or sympathy from the Damon Restaurant, manufacturers of Chesterfield cigarettes, and Clark Restaurant were false, and the delegates were asked to spread this information in fairness to these companies.

Several speakers had been brought to Cleveland and had addressed large mixed and non-Jewish audiences, with as many as 1,200 persons in attendance drawn from various elements of the city. The speakers apparently had been successful in explaining the state of affairs in Nazi Germany and in building anti-Nazi sentiment.

Literature available for distribution was displayed, and Mr Morris read an article on Germany by Oswald Garrison Villard from the "Nation" of May 28, 1938. (Copies were given the delegates.)



5. Catholic Universe Bulletin It was recalled by the Chairman that about a year ago the Community Council had appointed a special Committee to meet with the editor of the local Catholic Universe Bulletin, to seek the elimination of editorials which were harmful to Jews. The editor had disclaimed any harmful intent, and had promised not only to discontinue the objectionable practices, but to print an article favorable to Jews. Recently another such editorial had appeared, however, even more objectionable than the others.

Upon authorization of the Executive Committee, the matter had been taken up with Bishop Schrenks, who expressed surprise and referred it to the Auxiliary Bishop in charge of the publication and the editor for explanation. A conference had been held with these two persons, the Council being represented by the Chairman, Edward M Baker, Nathan Loeser, and Alfred Benesch. The Catholic representatives thought that their criticisms of Jewish sympathy for Loyalist Spain and Communist affiliations were justified, but stated that they were anxious to correct their views if their impressions were wrong and asked for specific information to support the statements which the Council Committee made. This was being gathered, and another conference would be held soon.

It was the belief of the Chairman that the friendly discussion and exchange of views had already had some constructive value in dealing with this very serious situation, and he was hopeful that the Council would be able to lessen the tensions and to dissipate the misapprehensions which the Catholic group had concerning the Jews.

In the discussion of the report, Rabbi Rosenthal urged that the Council take a firm position and make a strong statement to the Catholic group. He believed that the repeated charges of Communism leveled against the Jews and criticism of their sympathy for Loyalist Spain, was an affront which should be properly resented. Mr Woldman suggested the addition of a representative of the American Jewish Congress to the Council Committee, since the Congress' position had been questioned by the Catholics. The Council was informed by Rabbi Brickner that the Central Conference of American Rabbis had issued a statement of sympathy for Catholics who were being persecuted in Mexico, contrary to the claims by Catholics that such support had not been forthcoming. In connection with the problem, Mr Wiesenfeld pointed to the strongly anti-Semitic editorial which Father Coughlin had printed in the last issue of the "Social Justice", and asked that consideration be given to the advisability of the Council's issuing a statement opposing it. There was some question, however, as to whether this might not defeat its purpose by giving the editorial further publicity.

The Chairman stated that the Committee would be guided by the Council's wishes, and had contacted the national Jewish defense organizations to secure their advice and to learn what they were doing with regard to the national problem, of which the local situation was but a part. A report would be made at a later meeting on the outcome of the further conferences.

6. Anti-Nazi Protest Representatives of the Jewish People's Committee Against Fascism and Anti-Semitism, with Mr Aleph as spokesman, asked the Council to join with them in a mass meeting to protest the recent atrocities in Germany and Austria. He stated that the voice of the Jewish people of Cleveland, with the exception of his Committee, had not been heard in protest, and that such action should be taken without fear of what the non-Jewish reaction might be. He pointed to the petition which his Committee (nationally) had sent to President Roosevelt, asking that the doors of the United States be opened to all Jewish refugees, removing immigration restrictions. He stated specifically that a mass meeting had been planned for July 27, but that preparation had been delayed pending the efforts to secure the participation of the Community Council.

In the discussion of the proposal, the Jewish People's Committee was criticized as having come to the Council with plans already made, seeking the participation of the Council rather than its approval for proposed action, thus duplicating its procedure in the past when it had come to the Council for participation in a mass meeting and tag day only after these events already had been definitely scheduled. It was said that the immigration petitions were opposed by all responsible Jewish leaders in the country as endangering the efforts of President Roosevelt to facilitate the entry of German refugees; that



the Jewish People's Committee had interfered with and harmed the work of the American Jewish Congress nationally and the League for Human Rights locally in their efforts to fight Nazism and anti-Semitism; that the Committee was an instrument of Communists and that until they retracted their support of anti-Jewish violence in Palestine, Jews could not join with them in defending Jews in Germany and elsewhere; that the People's Committee was not affiliated with the Jewish Labor Committee and had not been included in the union of national defense organizations at Pittsburgh -- in general, that it was disrupting Jewish unity instead of fostering it.

Upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, it was then voted that the Community Council should not participate in the mass meeting on July 27, that it must reserve to itself the right to speak for the Jewish community of Cleveland, and that it should continue its policy of consulting regularly with the national defense organizations and to be guided by them in matters of that kind.

8. Membership The Council accepted for membership the Young Men's & Young Women's Hebrew Association, and rejected the International Workers Order, Branch 188, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, and upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried. The latter was excluded because it is a non-sectarian organization without a Jewish purpose and program, whereas the membership of the Council is limited by the constitution to specifically Jewish groups. Precedent for the action was found in the exclusion of a Knights of Pythias Lodge, which despite its Jewish membership was a non-sectarian organization.

9. Jewish Unity The attention of the Council was called to the agreement recently made by the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith, and Jewish Labor Committee, to coordinate their efforts in the defense of Jewish rights through the formation of a joint body. Action already had been taken by the Detroit and Cincinnati Jewish Community Councils urging such unity, and it was believed that the voice of Cleveland Jewry should be added to this movement.

The Chairman and Secretary had prepared a resolution for this purpose which was read to the membership. It commended the organizations upon their agreement, pointed to the crisis in Jewish life and the vital need for their union of forces in combatting anti-Semitism, and urged that the groups exercise the fullest measure of mutual understanding, cooperation and foresight, in order to strengthen the new joint body and to achieve their common central purpose, the salvation of Jewry. Upon motion made, duly seconded and carried, the resolution was adopted and the Secretary was directed to send copies to the four organizations involved.

10. Jewish Youth Samuel B Weiss informed the Council of Meetings which had been held informally among representatives of several groups with regard to the need for a Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association center in Cleveland. He pointed to the fact that other cities had centers for the cultural, social, and physical development of Jewish youth, whereas Cleveland lacked such an institution. There had been some question, however, concerning the feasibility of inaugurating a movement to build a YMHA at this time, and the interested groups requested the advice of the Jewish Community Council. Mr Mayer amplified these remarks, stating that the recreational problem of Jewish youth was a serious one, and required study and analysis. He moved that the Council appoint a Committee to survey the situation and report its findings and recommendations at a future date. The motion was duly seconded and carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary.



September 14, 1938

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

My dear Phil:

The enclosed letter again brings to mind the problem which has been up before the Jewish Community Council for some time. You may wish to communicate with the writer.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK



September 14, 1938

Mr. Frank Sokolsky  
12004 Kinsman Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Sokolsky:

Let me thank you for your kind letter of September 12. The problem which you bring to my attention is one with which I have been acquainted for some time. In fact, I brought it to the attention of the Jewish Community Council of Cleveland some two years ago. A committee was appointed which has been studying this situation rather carefully and doing something about it.

I have taken the liberty of sending your letter on to the secretary of the Jewish Community Council, Mr. Philip Bernstein, who will probably get in touch with you.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
Jewish Community Council

Minutes of a Meeting Thursday, October 6, 1938  
8:40 p.m., at the Jewish Center

1. Attendance There were present: Max Simon, Chairman; Milton P Altschul, Philip Bernstein, Rabbi Armond E Cohen, Jerome N Curtis, Mrs Sol Gitson, Mrs Joseph Goldhamer, Mrs Walter Goldsmith, Philmore J Haber, Rabbi Hugo Klein, Max Kohrman, Rabbi Israel Porath, Aaron Resnick, Oscar Steiner, and Albert A Woldman.

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

3. Schools The Committee was informed that Rabbi Brickner as Chairman of the Schools Committee had sent again a calendar of Jewish holidays to the local school and college authorities, requesting their continued assistance in avoiding examinations and other important work so that Jewish students would not be penalized by their absence. In addition, rabbis at the various temples and synagogues had been requested to secure the cooperation of the parents and children. As in the past, the school officials had pledged their cooperation.

In the discussion of the report, the Committee was informed that the Cleveland Heights Schools had been particularly careful not to schedule important work when the Jewish children were absent. Only one complaint had been received, concerning the comments of a teacher in a Cleveland high school, and the principal had taken immediate steps to correct the situation when it was brought to his attention. In response to a report of an apparent laxity in arrangements at the University of Wisconsin, Mr Haber agreed to check the matter with the Hillel Foundation there.

4. Catholic Bulletin Since the last meeting of the Community Council, the Committee which had conferred with local Catholic authorities concerning the harmful editorials in the Catholic Universe Bulletin had prepared a written statement aiming to correct the impressions which had been the basis of the objectionable editorials. The Auxiliary Bishop had acknowledged receipt of the statement and had said that he would be pleased to confer with the Committee further after gathering additional information.

To date, no other word had been received from him, but there had been no objectionable editorials since that time. It appeared inadvisable therefore, to press the matter, since the Council's purpose apparently had been accomplished. It was noted also that the newspaper had given prominence to the statements by the Pope condemning the racial policies of Italy, and also to a story of the financial aid given by a Jewish man to the Catholic priest in founding "Boystown".

In the discussion of the report, the Committee was commended for its work, and it was stated that a valuable service had been rendered by it to the community

5. Readers Digest Rabbi Porath called attention to an article on Tel Aviv in the current "Readers Digest". It was his opinion, and that of others, that the article was inaccurate and harmful to the Jewish cause, and he was under the impression that the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League had had some responsibility for the appearance of the article in the journal. The Secretary was asked to communicate with Mr Gudstadt to ascertain the facts concerning the publication of the article.

6. Father Coughlin The Committee was informed that the Chairman had been in constant communication with the Council for Jewish Rights concerning the reprinting of the "Protocols of Zion" in Father Coughlin's "Social Justice". The national defense organization had advised against any local action, preferring to handle it directly. Representations had been made the Bishop for the Detroit area, and an article had appeared in the official Catholic Diocese journal condemning in a thinly veiled way Father Coughlin's use of the "Protocols". A reply to his articles by Detroit Jewish leaders had been printed by him.



The Chairman called attention to the unity with which the national defense organizations had acted in the matter, conferring through the Council for Jewish Rights, agreeing upon joint policy, and finally delegating action to the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League. He believed that it marked a step forward in Jewish unity and effective action.

7. Negro Resolution Mr Woldman reported that a conference had been held with representatives of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to discuss the resolution which the Association had adopted and distributed, condemning Jewish individuals for alleged discrimination against negroes in the sale of property and loans for real estate purposes. Representing the Community Council had been Sidney Weitz, Simon Green, Mr Woldman, and the Secretary, and it had been learned that the Association's action had been based upon a court suit seeking to uphold an agreement among property owners in the East 98th Street-Westchester-South Blvd area not to sell property to persons not acceptable to the group.

It had been pointed out to the Association's representatives that this represented the action of individuals, and not Jewish organizations or the Jewish community, and that signers of the agreement included many non-Jews. They were assured that the Community Council condemned discrimination in every form, that every effort would be made to have the case withdrawn from court, and that the Executive Committee at its next meeting would be asked to state formally its position with regard to such discrimination.

Mr Woldman informed the Executive Committee that he had succeeded in arranging to have the case withdrawn from court, and suggested that the Committee pass a resolution informing the Association of its stand. The suggestion and the problem were discussed at length, and upon motion made, duly seconded, and unanimously carried, the President was instructed to write to the Association in behalf of the Executive Committee, expressing its condemnation of discrimination against any individual or group and its complete support of the doctrine of equal opportunity and equal rights.

It was pointed out in the discussion that an attempt was being made throughout the country to spread anti-Semitism among negroes, to the extent that the Central Conference of American Rabbis had taken formal cognizance of the growing danger of the propaganda, and that care should be taken to counteract it. The Committee was informed that an arrangement had been developed with the Association whereby all complaints involving Jews would be brought to the Community Council for investigation and consultation rather than immediately passing and distributing resolutions of condemnation.

8. Membership Mr Byer and Mr Duchin were present to seek reconsideration of the Council's rejection of the membership applications of the International Workers Order. Mr Byer stated that the organization nationally was non-sectarian, and that in Cleveland there were about forty branches, four of which were Jewish. The latter included about 600 members. The Order was a fraternal group, he said, with health and other benefits, was open to persons of all political creeds, was non-religious, and supported all progressive movements.

The Jewish sections were definitely Jewish, he said, with their own national convention, correspondence and literature in Yiddish, and Yiddish cultural and educational activities, including two schools in Cleveland. The groups participated in general Jewish activities, including aid to refugees through independent efforts and the League for Peace and Democracy, and support for the Yiddish World Schools of Poland. Their principal purpose in seeking membership in the Community Council was to join with other groups in the fight against fascism and anti-Semitism. He claimed the right to membership on the same basis as the Jewish Carpenters Union had been accepted, and asserted that exclusion would represent discrimination by Jews against Jews. In answer to a question, he said that his organization would not join in a condemnation of Communism, since it believed in uniting with all forces opposing fascism.



In the discussion of the matter, it was pointed out that the organization had been excluded because of its non-sectarian character, on the same basis as the applications of the Jewish lodges of the Knights of Pythias had not been accepted. Comparison with the Jewish Carpenters Union was questioned, and it was pointed out that the Jewish Carpenters Union had been one of the charter members of the Council. After further discussion, it was moved by Mr Steiner, seconded by Rabbi Cohen, and carried that a special Committee be appointed to secure the full facts concerning the character of the Order, and to report back to the Executive Committee.

Concerning the application of the Freiheit Gesang Verein, which had also applied for membership, the Secretary was instructed to secure additional information.

9. Kashruth Rabbi Porath reported that several meetings had been held by the Committee, including sessions with the Orthodox Rabbis. The latter had formed a united organization as a result of these conferences, to cooperate in Kashruth supervision, and had agreed to present a specific plan of Kashruth administration to the Committee. The City Health Commissioner likewise had pledged his cooperation in the enforcement of the State Kashruth Law, provided that he had the full assistance of the Jewish Community Council and would not have to contend with different factions of the Jewish community, and that funds would be provided to pay for the cost of administration. Further meetings would be held and a specific report would be made to the Executive Committee at a later date.

In the discussion of the report, it was said that the Committee already had made a very important achievement in the unification of the Orthodox Rabbis, and it was commended upon its progress to date.

10. Arbitration The Committee was informed that the Council was continuing to arbitrate Jewish disputes through its Arbitration and Conciliation Court. Three cases were pending and would be adjudicated soon.

11. Discrimination The Committee was informed also that reports of discrimination in employment were being investigated currently and conferences were being held with the companies involved.

12. Y.M.H.A. Committee Mr Curtis reported that a committee had been formed under the chairmanship of Eugene H Freedheim to investigate the need for and advisability of a Y.M. & Y.W.H.A. in Cleveland. The first meeting had developed clearly the need for a large body of facts as a basis for any conclusions the Committee might reach, and for this purpose the group had divided into four sub-Committees which were studying various aspects of the question and would report to the central Committee within a few weeks. On this basis a report would be drafted for the Community Council.

13. W.P.A. The Committee was reminded that in 1936 an attempt had been made to secure permission for Jewish persons employed by the W.P.A. to make up time lost through absence on Jewish holidays, on projects where such adjustment was physically possible. Negotiations with Washington, Columbus, and local authorities had been fruitless, the officials having ruled that absence on those occasions was voluntary and as such could not be made up.

The Community Council had not accepted the ruling as being a fair one, and had so informed the W.P.A. officials. When the matter arose with regard to the holidays during the past few weeks, an attempt had been made again to prevent the loss of one third or one-half of the salaries of the Jewish persons during the two week period involved, and this time the W.P.A. administrators had been quite cooperative. Wherever possible and when informed in time, they had rescheduled the entire project for another day, so that none of the workers would be compelled to work on the Jewish holidays, thereby avoiding the necessity for making up time by the Jewish workers through special dispensation. It was believed that next year satisfactory arrangements might be made on a broad scale, within the physical limitations of the specific projects.



14. Roumanian News      The attention of the Council had been called to viciously anti-Semitic articles appearing in the Roumanian Peoples News, one of the local Roumanian newspapers. A Committee composed of George Furth, Raymond Metzner, and the Secretary had investigated the situation, and had conferred with the editor in an attempt to secure a change in policy. It had learned, however, that the source of articles was not in Cleveland and that they were appearing in a chain of newspapers. To be dealt with effectively the situation would have to be handled at the source and on a national scale. For this reason the cooperation of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League had been secured, and the League was working actively in the matter.
15. Czech Meeting      Announcement was made by Mrs Goldhamer of the mass meeting to be held on October 9 at the Public Music Hall to be addressed by the brother of ex-President Benes of Czechoslovakia and several Cleveland leaders.
16. 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

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. 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

# The Jewish Community Council

## Cleveland

1001 Huron Road - CHerry 8176

To the Steering Committee:

Although we are still working actively on the Palestine emergency, I believe that you should have a report of what has been done to date.

A telegram was sent to Secretary of State Cordell Hull in behalf of the 140 member organizations of the Jewish Community Council and in the name of the Jewish community of Cleveland. A copy is enclosed.

Copies of the telegram were sent to the Senators from Ohio and the Congressmen representing this district, and they were contacted personally to communicate to Secretary Hall their support of our appeal. We have been informed that Congressmen Sweeney and Crosser and Senator Bulkley have sent such messages to Mr Hull. The others are being contacted to determine what action they have taken and to arrange for their support if they have not already made it clear to the State Department.

We are also attempting to have Senator Bulkley join with the Senatorial committee headed by Senator Wagner of New York to see the President personally.

We have called the presidents of organizations to have them contact their members and secure a mass of individual telegrams to the President and Secretary of State. Reports indicate that this is being done conscientiously throughout the community. The action was taken following the urgent request from New York leaders that we supplement our joint telegram with as many individual messages as could possibly be obtained.

The local newspapers, English, Anglo-Jewish, and Yiddish, have given publicity to the situation. You undoubtedly have seen accounts of local and national action. The Jewish newspapers have printed sample telegrams and have urged their readers to send such wires.

Reports from New York and London indicate that the situation is extremely serious, and that every possible effort must be made to prevent a catastrophic blow to Jewish settlement in Palestine. Every element in Jewish life is cooperating in complete unity, and we shall continue to work along the lines indicated. Should there be any developments which may involve a change in program or policy, the Steering Committee will be contacted immediately.

Sincerely yours,

*Max Simon*  
Max Simon,  
President.

October 14, 1938.



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

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Rabbi Israel Porath

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Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal

Rabbi A. H. Silver

Oscar H. Steiner

Abraham Stern

Mrs. Abraham Strauss

Meyer Weintraub

Sidney N. Weits

Albert A. Woldman

# The Jewish Community Council

## Cleveland

1001 Huron Road - CHerry 8176

copy

October 21, 1938.

U R G E N T

### To the Presidents of Jewish Organizations:

These are critical days, for Palestine, and for Jews throughout the world. Reports have come from London that the Balfour Declaration, which has made Jewish immigration and development of Palestine possible, may be repudiated. The threat that the doors of Palestine may be closed to Jewish immigration hangs like a pall over the heads of Jewish refugees.

Thousands of telegrams are pouring into Washington to seek the assistance of the United States in averting this disaster. There is no doubt but that they have been helpful.

On November 2 we have an opportunity to do more to aid the situation. That day is Balfour Day. It marks the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. Jews throughout the country will be holding large meetings to celebrate the event. Cleveland will participate with a large civic meeting in the Public Music Hall.

It will be more than just a celebration. It will be a demonstration of the support which the Balfour Declaration has behind it. There must be no mistake about the strength of that support. The response must be overwhelming.

Enclosed is a group of tickets for your organization. Will you please distribute them among your members immediately. Will you inform them that a distinguished group of Jewish and non-Jewish speakers will participate in the program, and will you see to it that one hundred per cent of your organization is present?

Sincerely yours,

*Abba Hillel Silver*

Chairman,  
United Palestine Appeal.

*Garrett B. Brickner*  
President,  
Cleveland Zionist District.

*Max Simon*

President.

*E. M. Baker*

Chairman,  
Balfour Day Committee.



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Third Vice-President  
Mrs. Benjamin Levine  
Treasurer  
Max Kohrman  
Secretary  
Philip Bernstein

# The Jewish Community Council

## Cleveland

1001 Huron Road - CHerry 8176

October 28, 1938.

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  
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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

To the Representatives:

Enclosed is a copy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Jewish Community Council. I trust that you will have an opportunity to review them so that we need not take time for this at the meeting Monday evening.

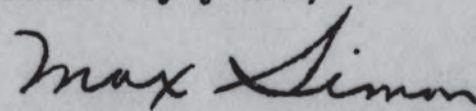
We shall have a full and important agenda, and it will be necessary to start promptly at 8:15 p.m. I hope that you can be present by that time.

The Council's committees have been unusually active since the last meeting in dealing with a wide variety of problems confronting the community. It will be necessary to consider and give further direction to this work, so that it may proceed in accordance with the community's policy.

Problems which have arisen since the Council last met likewise will require consideration, particularly the national emergency program with regard to the situation confronting Palestine. The Community Council has been extremely active in meeting the Cleveland responsibility in the program, and a full report will be made of the current Palestinian situation, what has been done in the last three weeks by the Council, and what is being planned nationally and locally.

If it is impossible for you to attend, will you be sure to have a substitute present from your organization. It is essential that we should have all points of view on the matters to be acted upon by the Council.

Sincerely yours,



Max Simon,  
President.

P.S. As you know, the meeting will be held at The Temple (in the Assembly Hall -- Ansel Road Entrance).



## JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting Monday, October 31, 1938, 8:30 p.m., at The Temple

1. Minutes Copies having been mailed to all members, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.
2. Catholic Universe Bulletin The Council was informed that the special Committee, concerned with the harmful editorials in the Catholic Universe Bulletin, had prepared a written statement seeking to correct the impressions which had been the basis of the editorials. The Auxiliary Bishop had acknowledged receipt of the statement, and since that time no such editorials had appeared. It was also noted that the newspaper had given prominence to statements of the Pope condemning the racial policies of Italy, and had featured in an article the assistance given by a Jewish man in the founding of "Boystown" by a Catholic priest. Inasmuch as the Committee's purpose apparently had been achieved, it had not deemed it advisable to press for another conference with the Catholic authorities.
3. Public Schools It was reported that the Committee headed by Rabbi B R Brickner had again sent letters to the local school and college authorities, informing them of the dates of the Jewish holidays and asking them to avoid examinations and other important work on those occasions, so that Jewish students would not be penalized by their absence. As in the past, they had promised their cooperation. Only two complaints had been received and the situations had been quickly corrected by the principal of the school involved.

Letters also had been sent by the Committee to the Rabbis of the various temples and synagogues, to secure the cooperation of the Jewish parents and children.

4. Father Coughlin The Chairman, Mr Max Simon, reviewed the correspondence with the Council for Jewish Rights concerning the "Protocols of Zion" being reprinted by Father Coughlin in his "Social Justice" weekly. The national organization had advised the Community Council not to take any local action, preferring to handle it directly on a national scale.

The official Catholic journal in Father Coughlin's diocese had printed a thinly veiled attack on Father Coughlin's use of the "Protocols", and a statement prepared by Detroit Jewish leaders had been printed by Father Coughlin. The Community Council was being informed of all developments.

5. Arbitration The Jewish Arbitration Court was continuing to settle disputes between Jewish individuals and organizations, it was reported. One of the three cases before it currently involved a commercial organization and a Rabbi and congregation, and it was hoped that this would be kept out of the public courts. It was noted that since the Jewish Arbitration Court had been established, the public courts and newspapers had been virtually free from such disputes as had formerly brought discredit to the Jewish Community.

6. Discrimination The problem of discrimination against Jews in employment was discussed at length, following the report that the Committee headed by Milton Altschul was continuing to investigate complaints and was conferring with the management of the companies involved in the attempt to bring about a change in policy where such discrimination was practiced. The Committee also had conferred with the directors of employment agencies and the placement bureaus of commercial schools and colleges, to help determine the extent of discrimination and to secure their cooperation in avoiding policies and practices which might stimulate discrimination.

The Committee emphasized the need for specific information, giving the names of companies discriminating and exact evidence of discrimination. Relatively few such reports had been made, and general charges were not sufficient as a basis for effective action.



The importance of eliminating discrimination against Jews by Jewish employers was stressed, and the Council was informed that the Committee had held conferences with large Jewish employers. It was suggested that Jewish employers and Jewish organizations should give more attention to the possibilities of employing Jews. It was recognized, however, that discrimination by Jewish employers against Gentiles should be avoided.

The question was raised as to the advisability of expanding the work of the Committee, so that it might take the initiative in determining where discrimination was being practiced, instead of waiting for individual complaints to be brought to it. With additional personnel the Committee also might more actively conduct an educational campaign throughout the Jewish community. It was suggested that the Secretary communicate with other cities which had full-time bureaus to combat discrimination, to learn what their experience had been. The Committee also was meeting with representatives of the Jewish Social Service Bureau, Council Educational Alliance, and other agencies concerned with the vocational problems of Jewish youth to give serious consideration to the entire matter, one aspect of which was the feasibility of a full-time anti-discrimination bureau.

7. Population Survey The Council was informed that the Jewish Population Survey was being completed. More than 50,000 names had been classified and zoned geographically, including about 13,000 school children. In answer to questions, it was stated that there had been no difficulty or embarrassment in securing the information from the public schools; also, that the data already had been of practical value to Jewish recreational and educational institutions, in planning their programs and in recruiting students and participants.

8. Fictitious Issues The Council was reminded of the existence of the Committee headed by Rabbi A H Silver whose purpose it was to eliminate false racial and religious issues from political campaigns. Persons knowing of such issues being injected into the current campaign were asked to report them immediately to the Committee or to the Secretary.

9. Y.M.H.A. Study Eugene H Freedheim reported that the special Committee studying the need for a Y.M.H.A. in Cleveland was making a detailed investigation of the question. Four sub-Committees had been created, to determine (1) what was desired by the groups fostering the Y.M.H.A. movement, (2) the history of previous Y.M.H.A.'s in Cleveland, (3) existing recreational facilities and needs, and (4) what has been the experience of other cities. On the basis of these facts, a report would be drafted for the Community Council.

10. Kashruth Max Kohrman, reporting in the absence of Rabbi Israel Porath from the city, informed the Council that several conferences had been held by the Kashruth Committee with the Orthodox Rabbis. As a result, the Orthodox Rabbis had formed a united organization to work together for adequate Kashruth administration. The Committee also had consulted with the City Health Commissioner concerning the possible enforcement of the State Kashruth Law, which made it mandatory for local Boards of Health to inspect stores purporting to sell Kosher food products and to prosecute those misrepresenting such food.

The question was raised as to the advisability of using government officers to enforce a religious law. It was pointed out in reply that the Committee only had consulted with the health officers, that no definite arrangement had been sought or made, and that nothing would be done pending further conference.

The suggestion was made that in addition to the inspection of meats the Committee also should concern itself with foods specially prepared for Passover, it being alleged that there was considerable misrepresentation in the sale of such products.



The Committee was continuing its conferences with the Orthodox Rabbis, looking toward agreement on a concrete program for achieving proper Kashruth supervision. Before any action were taken plans would be submitted to the Community Council for consideration and approval.

11. Palestine The Chairman reviewed the emergency action which already had been taken and other steps being planned locally in behalf of Palestine. He stated that reports from London had indicated that the British government was considering closing Palestine to Jewish immigration and repudiating the Balfour Declaration and Palestine Mandate, and a representative National Emergency Committee had been formed to deal with the situation. Communities had been requested to form local Committees to include both Zionist and non-Zionist elements, and the Community Council had been given the responsibility for creating such a Committee in Cleveland.

The following action had been taken by the local Steering Committee: (1) a telegram had been sent to Secretary of State Cordell Hull in behalf of the Cleveland Jewish community, urging him to use the influence of the United States government in keeping open the doors of Palestine to Jewish refugees and in preventing the repudiation of the Balfour Declaration and Palestine Mandate; (2) the presidents of Jewish organizations had been telephoned to arrange for a mass of individual telegrams to Secretary Hull and President Roosevelt, making similar appeals; (3) the Senators from Ohio, and Representatives from the Cleveland district and the state-at-large, had been contacted and had likewise communicated with Secretary Hull; (4) a civic demonstration had been arranged for November 2, at Public Music Hall, to honor the twenty-first anniversary of the Balfour Declaration and to demonstrate the complete support among all elements, both Jewish and non-Jewish, in behalf of its complete fulfillment.

Speakers at the Balfour meeting would include Joseph B Keenan, assistant United States attorney general and prominent Catholic leader; Rev. Robert B Whyte, president of the Cleveland Church Federation; Senator Robert J Bulkley, City Welfare Director Fred W Ramsey, Rabbi A H Silver, Rabbi B R Brickner. The Jewish Singing Society would provide a musical program, Rabbi Israel Porath would deliver the invocation, and Rabbi Armond E Cohen would present resolutions. Edward M Baker would preside.

It was believed that the action already taken had been definitely helpful in its influence on the British government, and a full attendance was urged for the Balfour meeting.

12. Negro Resolution Mr Albert Woldman read a resolution which had been adopted and distributed by the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, condemning alleged discrimination by Jews against negroes in the sale of property. A special Committee of the Community Council had met with representatives of the negro group, and had assured them that any discrimination was the action of individuals and not the Jewish community. The Community had succeeded in having the lawsuit which had been the basis of the charges withdrawn from court, and the Executive Committee of the Council had informed the negro organization that it condemned discrimination in every form against any group.

An agreement had been reached with representatives of the negro association to refer all complaints involving Jews directly to the Jewish Community Council for investigation before adopting and distributing resolutions of condemnation. In this way it was hoped that unnecessary ill-will and misunderstanding might be avoided. It was pointed out also that an effort was being made to stimulate anti-Semitism among the negro population throughout the country, and that the work of the Council's Committee was directed at counteracting such propaganda in Cleveland.

The work of the Committee was lauded by the Council. It was agreed that as an additional step the negro association should be asked to communicate again with the organizations to which it had sent its resolution, to inform them of the action taken by the Community Council.



13. Anti-Nazi Activity Dr Abraham Strauss, reporting for the League for Human Rights, informed the Council that Levers Brother Company in America was not guilty of the charges that had been made against it in Ken magazine; the local branch of Sears Roebuck Company no longer had any Nazi merchandise; further investigation had resulted in no change in the decision concerning the Herman Pirchner restaurant; the League was cooperating with the Czech group, who were boycotting German made goods; the League was continuing to bring anti-Nazi speakers to Cleveland, to address non-Jewish organizations; Thomas Lenahan, president of the Cleveland Federation of Labor, had endorsed the League in a radio broadcast and had pledged the cooperation of the Federation in the boycott. A meeting of the Boycott Chairmen was announced for November 1.

14. Announcements Citizenship classes and individual assistance for those desiring to become American citizens were announced by Mrs Sam Wolff of the Council of Jewish Women. An inter-city boxing show was announced by the Jewish Recreation Council, scheduled for November 15 at the Public Auditorium.

15. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Philip Bernstein

Secretary.





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# JEWISH COMMUNITY

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## COUNCIL-1001 HURON ROAD

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### SUMMARY OF MEETING MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1938, AT THE TEMPLE

Catholic Universe Bulletin -- The Council was informed that its special Committee had sent a written statement to the local Catholic authorities, to correct the impressions which had been the basis for editorials in the Catholic Universe Bulletin critical of Jews. Since that time, no further harmful editorials had been printed.

Public Schools -- The Committee headed by Rabbi Brickner had again sent letters to the local school and college authorities, informing them of the dates of the Jewish holidays and asking them to avoid examinations and other important work on those occasions, so that Jewish students would not be penalized by their absence. As in the past, they had promised their cooperation. Only two complaints had been received, and these had been quickly corrected by the principal of the school involved.

Father Coughlin -- The Council had been advised by the national Jewish defense organizations not to take any local action concerning Father Coughlin's printing the "Protocols of Zion" in his "Social Justice" magazine. They preferred to deal with the problem directly, on a national scale, through the new Council for Jewish rights

Arbitration -- The Jewish Arbitration Court was continuing its work of settling disputes. One of the three cases before it currently involved a commercial organization and a Rabbi and congregation, and it was hoped that this would be kept out of the public courts. It was noted that since the Jewish Arbitration Court had been established, the public courts and newspapers had been virtually free from such disputes as had formerly brought discredit to the Jewish community.

Discrimination -- The Council discussed at length the problem of discrimination against Jews in employment. The Committee dealing with the problem, headed by Milton Altschul, reported that it had been investigating complaints against specific companies and had conferred with the management of those firms to attempt to secure a change in policy. The Committee also had sought the cooperation of the employment agencies and the placement departments of commercial schools. It was emphasized that in order to work effectively the Committee would require accurate information and the names of the companies involved. Relatively few such reports had been received. General and vague information was not sufficient.

The primary importance of eliminating discrimination against Jews by Jewish employers was stressed. The possibility of expanding the work of the Committee and the personnel for it was discussed, and it was suggested that the Secretary secure more information on the Chicago and New York activity, where full-time bureaus had been established to investigate and combat discrimination. The Committee also was consulting with other local organizations concerned with Jewish vocational problems, of which the feasibility of establishing a full-time anti-discrimination bureau in Cleveland was one aspect.

Population Survey -- The Council was informed that the population survey was being completed. More than 50,000 names had been classified and zoned geographically, including about 13,000 school children. The information already had been of practical value to Jewish recreational and educational institutions.

Fictitious Political Issues -- The Council was reminded of the existence of the Committee headed by Rabbi Silver whose purpose it was to eliminate false racial and religious issues from political campaigns. Persons knowing of such issues being injected into the current campaign were asked to report them immediately to the Committee or to the Secretary.



Y.M.H.A. Study -- Eugene H Freedheim reported that the special Committee studying the need for a Y.M.H.A. in Cleveland was making a detailed investigation of the matter. Four sub-Committees had been established, to determine (1) what was desired by the groups fostering the Y.M.H.A. movement, (2) the history of previous Y.M.H.A.'s in Cleveland, (3) existing recreational facilities and needs, and (4) what has been the experience of other cities. On the basis of these facts, a report would be drafted for the Council.

Kashruth -- Max Kohrman, reporting in the absence of Rabbi Porath, informed the Council that several conferences had been held by the Kashruth Committee with the Orthodox Rabbis. As a result of these meetings the Orthodox Rabbis had formally organized into a united organization to work together for adequate Kashruth administration. Other steps were being planned, and concrete recommendations would be made to the Council at a future date.

Palestine -- As a result of reports from London that the British government was considering closing the doors of Palestine to Jewish immigration and repudiating the Balfour Declaration and Palestine Mandate, a National Emergency Committee had been formed to deal with the situation, and at its request a local representative committee was appointed by the Community Council to act immediately as required.

The following steps had been taken: (1) a telegram had been sent to Secretary Hull in behalf of the Cleveland Jewish community, urging him to use the influence of this government in keeping open the doors of Palestine to Jewish refugees and to prevent the repudiation of the Balfour Declaration and Palestine Mandate; (2) the presidents of Jewish organizations had been phoned to arrange for a mass of individual telegrams to Secretary Hull and President Roosevelt, making similar appeals; (3) the senators from Ohio and local representatives had been contacted and had communicated with Secretary Hull; (4) a civic demonstration had been arranged for November 2, at Public Music Hall, to honor the twenty-first anniversary of the Balfour Declaration and demonstrate the support among all elements, Jewish and non-Jewish, behind its complete fulfillment. It was felt that the action already taken had been definitely helpful in its influence on the British government.

Negro Resolution -- Albert Woldman read a resolution which had been adopted and distributed by the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, condemning alleged discrimination by Jews against negroes in the sale of property. A special Committee of the Community Council had met with the representatives of the negro group, had assured them that any discrimination was the act of individuals and not the Jewish community, and had arranged to have a law suit which had been the basis of the charge withdrawn from court. The Executive Committee likewise had informed the negro organization that it condemned discrimination in every form against any group.

It was pointed out that anti-Semitic propaganda was being spread among negroes throughout the country, and an agreement had been reached by the Council's committee with the Association for handling all complaints involving Jews, so that such resolutions might be avoided and ill-will could be prevented. It was agreed that the negro group should be asked to inform the organizations to which it had sent the resolution of the action taken by the Community Council.

Anti-Nazi Activity -- Dr Abraham Strauss, reporting for the League for Human Rights, informed the Council that Lever Brothers Co in America was not guilty of the charges that had been made against it in Ken magazine; the local branch of Sears Roebuck Company no longer had any Nazi merchandise; further investigation had resulted in no change in the decision concerning Herman Pirschner; the League was co-operating with the Czech group, who were boycotting German-made goods; the League was continuing to bring anti-Nazi speakers to Cleveland, to address non-Jewish organizations; Thomas Lenahan had endorsed the League in a radio broadcast and had pledged the cooperation of the Cleveland Federation of Labor in the boycott.

*Max Simon*  
President.



November 29, 1938

Mr. Philip Bernstein  
Jewish Community Council  
1061 Huron Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Phil:

I wonder whether we couldn't persuade some of the local orthodox congregations who have no rabbis of their own to elect one of the German rabbis at a modest salary and thereby enable those poor unfortunate men, many of whom are now in concentration camps, to come over to the United States. Can you canvass the situation and let me know.

With all good wishes, I remain

As ever yours,

AHS:BK



FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE





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First Vice-President

Edward M. Baker

Second Vice-President

Edward J. Schweid

Third Vice-President

Mrs. Benjamin Levine

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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

December 5, 1938.

### To the Members:

We have been in constant communication with the national Jewish organizations and leaders concerning the broadcasts by Father Coughlin. They have assured us repeatedly that they are working on the matter actively and have asked that we take no local action until they advise accordingly.

You undoubtedly have seen the reports in the newspapers by Kuhn, Loeb, and Co., Kerensky, The United States Secret Service, and others denying the truth of the statements made by Father Coughlin. Other steps are being taken by the national organizations to expose the inaccuracy of his charges, some of which must remain confidential for the time being.

The policy which we have been following in Cleveland has been the same as that in Detroit and other cities. The community is to be commended upon the restraint exercised in the situation, when the natural tendency is to reply at once individually; yet it is just such statements that Father Coughlin has selected and turned to his own uses.

You may be sure that we are fully alive to the widespread concern caused by his remarks, the full implications of them, and the necessity of doing something that will meet the situation. The problem is a national one, however, and therefore a responsibility of the national organizations; and we have sought to impress upon them the necessity of prompt and adequate action on a national scale.

They have assured us that this is being done, and as soon as further details are available you will be notified immediately.

Sincerely yours,

*Max Simon*

Max Simon,  
President.



# The Jewish Welfare Federation

and

## The Jewish Welfare Fund

of Cleveland

### Officers

#### The Jewish Welfare Federation

##### Honorary President

Edward M. Baker

##### President

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Henry X. Kutash

L. W. Neumark

Max Simon

Eugene E. Wolf

Community Service Building  
Room 1015 - 1001 Huron Road

Telephones: CHerry { 8176  
8177  
8178

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I have checked with several Orthodox Congregations to see whether they might possibly employ German Rabbis. Mrs Miriam Jacobs, secretary of the Local Refugee Committee, is contacting the others who have no Rabbis at the present time and who might possibly be able to afford even a very modest salary. She will inform me of her results.

The Chebas Jerusalem Congregation already has contracted to employ a German Rabbi, and the Oheb Zedek is arranging to employ a German refugee as assistant Cantor.

Some negotiations have been begun with the Painesville Jewish community to employ a German Rabbi, and a letter from you to Mr Nate Leavitt might be helpful in bringing them to an affirmative decision.

I shall inform you if any other openings are found.

Cordially yours,

*Philip Bernstein*

December 9, 1938.



CONFIDENTIAL

February 1, 1939

Committee on Employment  
Jewish Community Council

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES <sup>since</sup> ~~IN~~ SEPTEMBER, 1937

Previous Action

No summary has been prepared of the activity of the Committee in combatting discrimination in employment since September, 1937. It will be recalled that prior to that time the work of the Committee had involved largely:

1. Interviews with the placement directors of six employment agencies, to learn the extent and nature of discrimination and to secure their cooperation in combatting it.
2. Interviews with the business agents of two unions, to determine the extent of discrimination in their respective fields.
3. Conferences with large Jewish employers, to secure such information as they had on the problem and to obtain their advice as to methods of meeting it.
4. Investigation of complaints concerning specific companies in private industry and several involving the W.P.A.

Since that time, the following has been done:

Investigation of Complaints

Engel-Fetzer Co --- A placement bureau stated that it had received a request for applicants to fill a secretarial position specifying that no Jew or Protestant need apply. The president of the company when interviewed stated emphatically that the employment policy of the company involved no discrimination, named several Jewish employees and invited the representative of the Community Council to speak with them personally concerning the company's policies, pointed out that his business was predominantly Jewish, many of his customers Jewish, and that the company could not afford to have such a policy. He was "amazed and disturbed" by the report and regretted greatly that the representative could not divulge the source of information.

He said that he would call in the persons responsible for employment to check the matter thoroughly. He later wrote that such a conference had been held, and although both denied the charges, he had taken the occasion to stress to all persons in positions of responsibility that the company would not tolerate discrimination. He also requested the Council to send some Jewish applicants for a prospective opening.

Root-McBride Co --- A placement bureau stated that the company had requested that no Jewish applicants should be sent. A Jewish individual who had applied for a position likewise had been told by another employee that the company did not employ Jews. The president of the company denied that there was any prejudice, but when confronted with the facts admitted that such an order had been given to employment agencies and that the company did not have any Jewish employees. He said that Jewish employees were too ambitious, that most of his competition was Jewish, and that Jewish holidays would involve difficulty. When all of his questions were answered, so that they apparently



were invalid, he terminated the interview abruptly and said that he did not wish to discuss the matter further.

Best & Co -- A report had come from a prospective Jewish applicant, who had been told by an employment agency that she need not apply for a position at this company because it did not employ Jewish salesgirls. The resident manager alleged to have given the order had recently been replaced, and the new man stated that the store had several Jewish salesgirls, and that if discrimination had been shown, it had been by the employment agency. When it was pointed out that the application form asked for the religion of the person, he said that the form was set up in New York. He stated that the employment of Jewish persons refuted the charges, and if for no other reason, the nature of the business would make discrimination impossible. If an employment agency were used in the future, he would make certain that it did not discriminate.

Shapiro Drug Co -- A newspaper advertisement had specified "gentile preferred". The local manager, a non-Jew, was interviewed and stated that he had placed the ad on his own responsibility. The matter was called to the attention of Mr Shapiro in Detroit, owner of the company, by the Secretary of the Jewish Community Council there, and by Mr Adolph Weinberger, at our request. Mr Shapiro promptly discharged the local manager.

Tremco Co -- A Jewish student at Fenn College reported that a letter had been circulated in one of the classes announcing that a position was open in "a Jewish firm which does not wish to employ any more Jews -- therefore Jews need not apply". One of the gentile boys learned from the Dean's office that it was the Tremco Co. The matter was called to the attention of Mr Treuhart, who stated that neither he nor his employment manager knew of such a letter. He also checked with the dean of the college, who likewise said that he knew of no such letter.

Martin Co -- A report was received from a man in the retail branch of the same business as this manufacturing company, that this company did not employ Jews. One of the officers of the company, a Jew, was interviewed. He stated that the company had employed Jews in the past but had none at present, largely because Jews did not apply for such factory positions. He stated that no questions were raised as to religion, and that in view of the world situation he would be ashamed to practice any discrimination. He was greatly disturbed by the report and said that he wanted to check thoroughly into its source.

David's -- An applicant for an office position stated that the office manager had said no Jews would be employed because all girls were needed on Jewish holidays. She signed an affidavit to that effect. The head of the store called in the office manager, when given the report, and although she vigorously denied it, he took the occasion to emphasize that he would permit no discrimination.

Weinberger Drug Co -- A former employee had reported to the League for Human Rights that the Jewish employees were not permitted time off for the Jewish holidays. The report was promptly checked with Mr Weinberger, who revealed that the company permitted employees who wished to observe the holidays to do so. He was disturbed by the rumors to the contrary and was anxious that there be a full investigation so that the false impressions would be corrected.



Cowell-Hubbard Co -- An applicant for a watch repair position had been told by the employment manager that he could not be employed because he was Jewish. The report was discussed with the manager, who admitted the truth of the statement, and said that the store had not employed a Jewish person in 23 years. When the attempt was made to point out the dangers and unfairness of such a policy, he acknowledged them but did not think that the policy would be changed. He said that he would be pleased to employ Jews of the type of one or two outstanding customers, persons of such standing that they would attract other customers, but did not think the employment of other Jews would permit harmony in the store.

Central Brass Co -- An applicant for an office position had been told by the office manager, who is non-Jewish although the ownership of the company is Jewish, that Jews were not accepted for office positions. When questioned by the president of the company, the man vigorously denied the charge. The president made it clear to him, however, that discrimination would not be tolerated, and asked the J.C.C. to send a Jewish applicant in the near future to check on his attitude.

Sinclair Oil Co -- It had been reported by a Jewish man prominent in the oil business that this and other oil companies did not employ Jews. The manager of the company vigorously denied the charges, pointing out that several Jewish persons were employed in the office, the company had a Jewish salesman, and leased a number of stations to Jews.

Socony Vacuum Co -- The local manager stated that not only did the company not discriminate against Jews, but had gone to considerable expense and trouble to protect the interests of its Jewish employees in Europe. He produced a copy of the company's industrial relations policy, which states that the company should "make no discrimination against any employee on account of membership or non-membership in any church . . . . ."

Sun Oil Co -- A report had been made to the League for Human Rights that the company was discharging its Jewish employees. This was denied by the manager, who named a Jewish truck driver and stated that some of the stations were leased to Jewish men.

U.S. Post Office -- A former employee complained that he was not being reemployed because of discrimination, after his voluntary resignation. The matter was referred to Mr Newman of the J.S.S.B. vocational adjustment department, who checked the civil service laws and contacted the postmaster. After interviewing the man and examining the facts in the case, it was evident that the man's personality difficulties and work record were largely responsible for the action of the postal authorities and there was no violation of the civil service rules.

Richman Bros Co -- Several reports had come that the company refused to employ Jews in the factory. The reports were discussed with the plant superintendent, who stated that Jews were employed in all branches of the business except the factory. The basis of the policy, he said, was the fear that Jews would not mix well with the Bohemians and other nationalities who were working in the factory.



### Employment Agencies

Interviews were held with several agencies and employment departments of schools that had not been contacted previously. Among them were the following:

Fenn College -- The college stated that considerable difficulty had been encountered in attempting to place Jewish students in positions under their cooperative plan, and permanently after graduation, despite the fact that some of the students had exceptional ability. The Council was asked to cooperate in finding positions.

The assistance of the Council was offered in breaking down discrimination, and it was pointed out that the solution for the problem would lie in this direction rather than in channeling Jewish applicants to Jewish employers. It was also clear that the college had an unusual opportunity to assist in the matter, because of its religious basis, and the representatives of the institution agreed to use their influence in a positive way for the purpose.

East Technical High School -- The placement director of the school stated that discrimination was a serious problem and that it was cracking the morale of some of the Jewish boys who were finding the doors of industry repeatedly closed to them. About 50 Jewish boys were graduated from the school, some of whom were the best in their classes. The worst fields of discrimination were the electrical and chemical. On the other hand, printing, commercial art, cabinet making, sheet metal and allied trades were relatively open.

Some companies would employ Jews for the less desirable jobs, but refused to hire them for better positions. Such companies were the Ohio Bell Telephone Co., Western Electric Co. and General Electric Co. He said that he was doing everything he could to place Jewish graduates.

State-City Employment Bureau -- The heads of the white collar and technical divisions were interviewed. They stated that relatively few Jews applied for engineering and technical positions. Most of them were highly educated and could be placed, particularly in mechanical engineering. It was difficult to find openings for them in the civil and chemical fields, however. Although there was some resistance on account of prejudice, the proportion in the technical field was only about one-tenth of that for clerical positions.

About 50% of the employers with clerical openings specified no Jews should be sent. Included have been a large number of Jewish employers who gave as the reason difficulties concerning the Jewish holidays. Some companies had a definite policy in employing no Jews whatsoever, including a large utility.

One of the men no longer raised the question but merely sent applicants regardless of religion. The other had been asking employers whether they had any racial or religious prejudice. The disadvantage of this was pointed out and he was requested not to continue the practice. Both men said they would cooperate in trying to overcome prejudice wherever possible.

John Hay High School -- A complaint had been received that the placement director was raising the question of religious preference with prospective employers. In an interview, the harmful effects of this policy were pointed out to her and she agreed to discontinue it. She stated that discrimination was evident against Catholics as well as Jews, and the cooperation of Jewish



employers and a change in the personal behavior in many of the Jewish students would be required to solve the problem.

Wilson Employment Service -- The secretary of the organization stated that discrimination was a serious problem and mentioned particularly the policy of some Jewish companies in this regard. He said that he had formerly been employed by a paint company and after hiring two Jews he had been called into the office of the vice-president, who was Jewish, and was told that Jews were not to be employed because that merely meant training competition. He said that other Jewish concerns had a similar policy.

He stated further that few Jews were placed in technical positions because large companies usually did not hire Jews for such openings. The rubber concerns of Akron, for example, restrict such employment, he said. He stated that he himself does not raise the question of religious preference with employers.

Bell Vocational Service -- A complaint had been received that the organization did not accept Jewish applicants. The person interviewed was greatly disturbed by the report, saying that she had at least 10 Jewish organizations with whom she placed applicants and suggested that these companies could be contacted to check on the accuracy of her statement. She said that the only possible basis for the rumor was that the organization was very selective in applications and did not accept one unless it was felt that the person could be placed.

#### Newspapers

Two attempts have been made separately by Mr Furth and Judge Hertz to secure the cooperation of Catholics in working with the daily newspapers to eliminate discriminatory want ads. The Catholic leaders who were contacted would give no definite reply to the suggestion and postponed action indefinitely. It was felt, therefore, that the only alternative was to proceed without their assistance, and a conference has been arranged with one of the newspapers to discuss the problem and to seek the elimination of such advertisement.

#### Vocational Guidance

A meeting was held with representatives of the various agencies directly concerned with the vocational guidance of Jewish youth. As a result, an intensive survey was made of the problem and the work being done to meet it by Dr Susanne Schulze. The group, which voted to continue in existence as a joint committee, will meet again soon to consider the report and recommendations.

#### Summary

From all the information which has been secured, it appears to be clear that the problem is widespread and very serious. All of the employment agencies and schools which have been contacted have found it to be a barrier, and most of them have said that 50% of the employers specify that Jewish applicants should not be sent.

The practice of some Jewish employers in this regard makes the problem particularly difficult. Employment managers constantly refer to it, both with individual applicants and with the representative of the Council, asking how non-Jewish employers can be expected to employ Jews when Jewish employers themselves refuse to do so.



In contacting the individual companies about which complaints are received, the individual involved almost invariably, of course, has denied the charges. This was to be expected. From the evidence, however, it was quite certain that many of the reports were accurate; and the head of the company has used the occasion to emphasize to the personnel manager that discrimination will not be tolerated. Always, the representative of the Council has pointed out the serious social and individual effects of unfair discrimination.

Where the report apparently was not accurate we have assured the organization that one of the Council's purposes is to check false rumors and to protect companies that are being unjustly accused of discrimination.

It is clear that only the surface has been scratched. Only a small number of complaints has been received, and there is a serious question as to whether any considerable progress can be made on this basis, since few companies will give concrete evidence to applicants which is sufficient to use as a basis for investigation. Employment agencies are unable to divulge the names of the companies which ask them not to send Jews.

The question was raised at a recent meeting of the Jewish Community Council as to the desirability and feasibility of inaugurating a full-time bureau, such as operate in Chicago and New York, and the Committee was asked to give serious consideration to the proposal. The bureaus in those cities do not confine themselves to waiting for individuals to make complaints. Rather, they have been conducting surveys of various industries and professions to determine the extent of discrimination and where it apparently is being practiced.

The New York agency has an annual budget of \$21,000, and a staff consisting of a director, executive secretary, chief field workers, four field workers, and stenographic assistants. Volunteers aid in specific tasks. The Chicago bureau started a year ago with a budget of \$8,900 and a staff which included a director and a secretary. The budget originally provided for an assistant director. During the first year this office was not filled and the full \$8,900 therefore was not used.

The question also has been raised as to the advisability of establishing a Jewish employment bureau such as exist in other cities. Persons close to the employment problems of Jewish youth in Cleveland have suggested that the proposal should be given serious consideration, and the feasibility of such an agency likewise was discussed at one of the conferences which the Committee held with large Jewish employers.



Copy

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CLEVELAND

1001 Huron Road - CHerry 8176

February 10, 1939.

Rt. Rev. Bishop Joseph Schrembs  
N.B.C. Bldg.  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Bishop Schrembs:

The death of Pope Pius XI comes to a stricken world that can ill afford his passing. While the blow falls heaviest upon the Catholic Church, of which he was the distinguished and beloved leader, its grief is shared by men of good will everywhere.

A great and courageous champion of human brotherhood goes to his lasting reward. And in this day, when the forces of greed, hatred, and persecution threaten to overwhelm civilization, his, the most powerful spiritual voice of our day, was heard time and again courageously spreading those everlasting spiritual truths that make life decent and worthwhile for men and nations.

The Jews of today and the Jews of tomorrow will ever gratefully remember his action, when in linking the lately developed Italian doctrines with the German racial policy, he said, "We do not want to separate anything in the human family, because it is clear that racialism and exaggerated nationalism as commonly spoken of, mean barriers erected between men and men, between folk and other folk."

A defender of the Church, a champion of human rights, a believer in the essential unity of the family of men, a friend of the Jews, is no more. We, the Jewish community of Cleveland, with our Catholic friends and good men everywhere, are bowed in grief.

Very truly yours,

The Jewish Community Council

Edward M. Baker  
First Vice-President

(Letter read by Bishop Schrembs over Station W H K )



JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
1001 HURON ROAD  
CH 8176

February 23, 1939.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

After very careful consideration, the Nominating Committee submits its recommendations for the officers and members of the Executive Committee of the Jewish Community Council for the year 1939.

In making its selection, the Committee was guided by the principle that the officers and Executive Committee should represent a cross section of the Jewish community, in so far as that is possible within the limitations of the size of the group to be elected.

It was also guided by the conviction that it is to the best interests of the Council and the community and consistent with the Council's democratic basis, that there should be a rotation in officers and membership of the executive committee. Not only is such a policy generally desirable, so that an organization may utilize fully the abilities of its membership and may give an opportunity to as many members as possible to participate in guiding its work, but it is particularly true of the Jewish Community Council whose membership includes many persons who can make a distinct and valuable contribution to the development of the Council and to the progress of the Jewish community.

The changes recommended by the Nominating Committee, therefore, do not reflect adversely upon the persons who are not being proposed for re-election. On the contrary, the Nominating Committee wishes to make clear that they have been unusually faithful to their responsibility and have rendered very valuable service to the Council. It is hoped and expected that they will continue to render such service through their membership in the Council and through participation in the Council's various committees.

With so many qualified persons available, it was extremely difficult to make the selection. After very careful consideration, however, the Nominating Committee recommends the election of the following persons on the basis of the principles set forth above:

Max Simon	- President
Edward M Baker	- First Vice-President
Philmore J Haber	- Second Vice-President
Mrs Moses Garber	- Third Vice-President
Max Kohrman	- Treasurer
Philip Bernstein	- Secretary.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Milton P Altschul  
Rabbi B R Brickner  
Rabbi Armond E Cohen  
Jerome N Curtis  
I Finesilver  
A H Friedland  
George W Furth  
Rabbi David Genuth  
Rabbi Harold Goldfarb  
Mrs Joseph Goldhamer  
Mrs Joseph H Gross  
A I Hausman  
David Ralph Hertz  
Mrs Siegmund Herzog  
Rabbi Hugo Klein

Mrs Bernard Krangel  
Mrs Benjamin Levine  
Leonard S Levy  
Mrs A F Mellman  
A E Persky  
Rabbi Israel Porath  
Aaron Resnick  
Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal  
Edward J Schweid  
Rabbi A H Silver  
Oscar H Steiner  
Abraham Stern  
Dr Abraham Strauss  
Meyer Weintraub  
Sidney N Weitz

Respectfully submitted,

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

WRHS  
AMERICAN JEWISH  
Leo Weidenthal  
Abraham Brofman  
\*Mrs Moses Garber  
Simon J Green  
Myron Guren  
George Mayer  
Dr I Milcoff

\*Mrs Garber was not present at the meeting at which the above selections were made.

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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.



## Report of the Sub-Committee on Employment Problems

Problem

The Committee on Employment was established by the Jewish Community Council in 1936 following a visit to the Jewish Welfare Federation by a representative of one of the large local colleges to seek assistance in the problem of placing Jewish graduates. He had stated that the college had found it extremely difficult to find positions for their Jewish students because of the prejudice among many employers against Jews.

Since that time the Committee has visited most of the large private employment agencies in the city, has conferred with the directors of placement in the local universities and commercial schools, has investigated complaints against specific companies and has discussed the reports with the employers of the organizations involved, has conferred with large Jewish employers and with the business agents of two unions in which a number of Jews are employed--all with the purpose of determining the extent of the problem and of attempting to meet it.

From that experience two things are clear -- firstly, that the problem is widespread and extremely serious; secondly, that the committee has hardly scratched the surface. Virtually all of the employment agencies and schools stated that at least 50% of the employers specify that no Jewish applicants should be sent. They pointed out particularly that a similar proportion of Jewish employers made the same restriction and had repeatedly used it as an excuse in explaining to Jewish applicants that the probability of securing a position was very small. Incidentally, there has been a similar restriction on Catholics although not so large.

From the employment directors and from the Jewish young people themselves the Committee has been impressed with the serious effect upon the morale of Jewish youth. The Committee has been told that the applicants have been sadly discouraged when in making applications for positions for which they were qualified they found themselves being repeatedly rejected because they were Jewish. Not only has this resulted in personality problems but it should give serious concern to the Jewish community as a cause for Jewish youths' turning to radicalism and away from Judaism when they come to the conclusion that the latter is responsible for their difficulties, believe that the Jewish community is doing nothing about it, and see no hope other than radicalism.

One of the results has been that Jewish graduates after failing to find employment in the fields for which they have prepared and in which they have ranked very high scholastically, have left these professions to enter others, particularly after the discouragement of seeing persons less qualified receive positions. It is this fact and the inability of colleges to place their Jewish graduates that has made at least one of the local colleges consider seriously and regretfully the necessity of restricting Jewish entrants.

Expanded Program Necessary

It seems clear to the Committee that the activity to date in meeting the problem has not been adequate and cannot be effective on the present plane. The secretary of the Jewish Community Council has been able to give only part-time attention, on a scattered basis, and laymen cannot give sufficient effort to the matter. The Committee was convinced that a full-time bureau is necessary and should be established; and a study of similar bureaus in Chicago and New York indicates that such an organization can do a constructive and effective



piece of work. The Chicago Committee has been in existence for more than a year, after several years of part-time experimental activity, under the sponsorship of the B'nai B'rith, American Jewish Congress and Jewish Welfare Federation. The New York Bureau, under the direction of the American Jewish Congress, has functioned for several years and has a staff which includes a director, executive secretary, chief of field workers, four field workers, and stenographic assistants.

#### Proposed Program

The program which your Committee proposes is based upon the experience of Chicago and New York and the activities conducted locally during the past two years. The outline is in no sense complete and obviously will depend for its direction upon further experience.

It seems clear that there should be two basic approaches: Firstly, a positive one to build up a public sentiment unfavorable to discrimination; and secondly, activity to combat discrimination where it already exists. Both of these, of course, are intertwined.

It is expected that the Bureau will include the following activities:

1. Investigate specific complaints, check them carefully, contact the employers involved, and attempt to correct the policy where the reports prove to be accurate and to protect fair employers from false rumors where the charges are groundless. It should be pointed out that the latter would be an important function of the Bureau.
2. Make a study of the occupational distribution of Jews in various industries similar to that in New York, to determine where there appears to have been discrimination and to conduct an educational program in such fields looking toward the possibility of greater employment of Jews. This would be particularly true in the public utilities where it has been reported that a relatively small proportion of Jews have been employed. It is important to note that such an approach is essential if an effective program is to be carried out. To merely wait for individual complaints is not sufficient. Few employers will give definite evidence to individuals, and employment agencies cannot violate the confidence of their relationship with employers who specify that Jews should not be sent by them.
3. The cooperation of the employment agencies should be secured in avoiding any practices wittingly or unwittingly which aid in promoting discrimination. The Committee during the past two years has attempted to gain such cooperation and has received the assurance from agencies that this would be done. It is important, however, that there be periodic follow-up to check on the policies of the agencies, and such follow-up has not been possible with the limited staff to date.
4. The cooperation of schools and colleges should likewise be secured. This is especially important so that they do not feel themselves compelled to restrict the number of students due to the difficulty in placing them because of discrimination by employers.
5. It is highly essential that an intensive program be undertaken with regard to the Jewish employers so that they do not discriminate or permit discrimination in their companies. Repeatedly, employment agencies have told your Committee that a very large proportion of Jewish employers practice such discrimination and that non-Jewish employers find comfort and an excuse



in their example. The employment agencies, according to applicants often mention this to them in explaining the difficulty of placement. It is a situation which your Committee believes can be remedied and should be overcome not only because it is inexcusable in itself but because of the example which it sets for others and because of the demoralizing effect upon Jewish youth.

6. An educational program should be conducted with non-Jewish employers, so that they may gain a better understanding of such problems as Jewish holidays, traits of Jewish workers, as being "too ambitious", "clannish", "too aggressive", and similar characteristics which they have often offered as excuses for not employing Jews.

7. An educational program likewise should be conducted with Jewish youth to school them in the proper approach to employers and to avoid unjustifiable practices which have formed an obstacle in the path of their employment. It is not expected that the Committee would do this directly but would contact such agencies as the Council Educational Alliance, the Temples, and such agencies that already contact and work with Jewish youth.

8. The cooperation of the newspapers should be secured in avoiding any advertisement which carry discriminatory phrases and which serve as a stimulus to other employers to do likewise. Conferences have been in progress with the advertising managers of the newspapers for this purpose and it is hoped that these will have the desired result. Even if this is achieved, it will be necessary to keep a careful check to see that the policy will be maintained. Past experience has demonstrated that such follow-up is essential.

9. There shall be a cooperative relationship with the national agencies which are working on the problem on a national scale and in other cities, particularly B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Congress. This is important in view of the fact that national agencies with headquarters in New York and Chicago frequently are involved.

10. Your Committee does not believe that a Jewish employment agency is necessary or would be advisable at the present time, and does not propose that the new Bureau would do placement work. There are possible dangers in the establishment of such an agency, in the probability that some employment agencies would resent its establishment and would use it as its excuse to throw the burden of Jewish employment upon it. It is the purpose of the Committee, where requests are received for applicants, to utilize the agencies which have demonstrated their fairness, for such a purpose.

11. The Bureau would also cooperate closely with the agencies giving vocational guidance to Jewish youth, namely, the Jewish Social Service Bureau and the Council Educational Alliance, so that there would be a complete coordination of activity and a sharing of information mutually helpful. Your Committee has considered the relationship of the proposed Bureau to these agencies, and not only sees no duplication among them, but believes that they supplement each other and will be mutually helpful. The Bureau would do no vocational guidance work. That would be the task of the other agencies. The work of the Bureau, actually, appears to be necessary if the vocational guidance agencies are to be effective. For there seems little point in advising a person to prepare for chemical engineering, for example, even though he may have natural qualities for that profession, when the field is severely restricted to Jews because of discrimination. It would be the purpose of the Bureau to prevent frustration and discouragement after such preparation, and to make unnecessary redirection to other fields less satisfactory and less adapted to the individual's abilities merely because fields are virtually closed by anti-Jewish discrimination.



It is clear that the problem is an extremely delicate one and that it would have to be handled with the utmost tact and diplomacy. Harmful publicity must be avoided and care must be taken that the activity of the Bureau would not be misinterpreted. The experience in Chicago and New York and the local activity indicate that this can be done.

### Sponsorship

The Bureau would be most effective if acting in behalf of the entire Jewish community rather than individual organizations. It is expected and advised that a lay committee would define and guide the policies of the Bureau and would supervise the work of a paid professional staff. While locally autonomous the Bureau would work in close cooperation with national agencies, as noted above.

### Cost

The expense of the Bureau would not be great and would probably be far overbalanced by its service to the Jewish community and particularly to Jewish youth, and by its possible saving in unemployment and social problems. It is expected that during the first year the Bureau would have a total expense of \$6,400, as follows:

Executive Director	\$ 3,600	
Secretary	1,200	
Rent	600	
Printing	200	
Equipment	250	
Telephone	150	
Postage	100	
Incidental Expenses	300	\$ 6,400

Your Committee believes that the proper source of support should be the Jewish Welfare Fund, representing as it does the contributions of the Jewish community for needs which are peculiarly Jewish and which do not come within the scope of the Community Fund. It is therefore recommended that application be made to the Jewish Welfare Fund for the sum of \$6,400. If any measure of financial support can be secured from the B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Congress, as in Chicago, the amount of this request to the Jewish Welfare Fund would be reduced accordingly.

### Timeliness

Your Committee believes that it is particularly timely to establish such a Bureau. On the one hand, recent events in Germany have created a swell of public sentiment among large number of persons in opposition to religious discrimination. Likewise large numbers of persons are becoming aware of the dangers of un-American activities of which discrimination against Jews in employment is but one phase. Such persons might be unusually receptive to an educational program at the present time. On the other hand, there can be no doubt but that subversive forces are actively working to promote anti-Semitism in all forms, among them and viciously in the employment of Jews. It is essential that this should not go unchallenged and that a counter-effort be made to prevent that program from taking effect.



In conclusion, your Committee wishes to stress that the problem is an extremely serious one not only for those directly effected but for the entire Jewish community. It believes that the experience already on record indicates that the problem can be attacked and that the cost would be far overbalanced by the gain in the morale of Jewish youth, the decrease in Jewish unemployment, the prevention of individual personality problems and dependency, and the retention of Jewish youth within the framework of Jewry rather than turning to radicalism and other "isms" as the answer to their problems. It believes further that the Jewish community cannot afford to delay action. It therefore recommends that in the very near future a full-time Bureau should be established to combat discrimination against Jews in employment.

Respectfully submitted,

David Ralph Hertz, Chairman

George W Furth  
Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal

Milton P Altschul, ex-officio





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. 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

# The Jewish Community Council

## Cleveland

1001 Huron Road - CHerry 8176

### VERY URGENT

#### To the Presidents of Jewish Organizations:

Reports from London indicate that there is serious danger that the Palestine Mandate and the Balfour Declaration may be repudiated, and the doors of hope thereby closed to hundreds of thousands of our oppressed fellow Jews who desperately need Palestine.

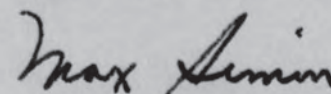
Our national Jewish leaders have wired us and other cities to cable Prime Minister Chamberlain in London immediately, appealing to the British government to carry out its pledges to the Jewish people. An emergency meeting of the special Palestine Steering Committee was called last night and a cable has been sent to the Prime Minister in the name of the 140 organizations of the Jewish Community Council.

It is of the utmost importance that as many individuals as possible should send similar cables at once. The cables should state "Appeal uphold Balfour Declaration save Jewish hopes British integrity"; or "Greatly disturbed proposed repudiation Balfour Declaration Appeal keep British pledges for Jewish homeland"; or "Behalf oppressed Jews beg uphold Palestine Mandate". It is important that this wording should be varied, so that every cable will not be the same. It is also important that the tone of the cables should be that of appeal to British honor, and not condemnation or animosity.

Cables should be addressed to: Hon Neville Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street, London, England. You may specify a "deferred rate" for 14 cents per word; such cables will reach London in 2 to 4 hours.

Will you please contact your members at once, so that a mass of such cables may be sent immediately. It is very urgent.

Sincerely yours,



Max Simon  
President

March 3, 1939





## The Temple on the Heights

*B'nai Jeshurun Congregation*  
MAYFIELD AT LEE ROAD

RUDOLPH M. ROSENTHAL, *Rabbi*

ESTHER GREITZER  
[REDACTED], *Executive Secretary*

Cleveland Heights, Ohio

March 8, 1939

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
Ansel Road & E. 105th St.,  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the B'nai Jeshurun Congregation, held on Tuesday evening, March 7th, a Resolution, a copy of which is enclosed herewith, was unanimously adopted.

I have been instructed to advise you that our Trustees await with interest, a prompt response, in order that their future deliberations in connection with this matter, may be guided accordingly.

Very truly yours,  
THE TEMPLE ON THE HEIGHTS

*Henry S. Goufried*

Secretary

HSG:EG  
Encl.





## The Temple on the Heights

*B'nai Jeshurun Congregation*

MAYFIELD AT LEE ROAD

ESTHER GREITZER

ERWIN HECHT, *Executive Secretary*

RUDOLPH M. ROSENTHAL, *Rabbi*

Cleveland Heights, Ohio

### R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, the Jewish Welfare Fund of Cleveland is a democratic community agency, organized for the purpose of raising voluntary contributions for Jewish Religious, Educational and Philanthropic institutions; for foreign relief and for the tasks in the upbuilding of Palestine as a Jewish National Home, and

WHEREAS, in constituting the administrative personnel and the Board of Officers in charge of the 1939 United Jewish Appeal and the current campaign of the Cleveland Jewish Welfare Fund, a certain autocratic and arrogant spirit has prevailed and has made possible the exclusion from such Board of Officers of the spiritual leadership of the B'nai Jeshurun Congregation (The Temple On The Heights) and of other leading representative and influential elements in this community, and

WHEREAS, such unwarranted discrimination in communal Jewish affairs, unprecedented in the life of the Cleveland Jewish Community, tends to divide and break up its life and to weaken its efforts, and casts a reflection of inadequate co-operation upon an entire congregation and a large segment of Cleveland Jewry, now

THEREFORE, the Board of Trustees of the B'nai Jeshurun Congregation (The Temple On The Heights) at its meeting duly convoked and after due deliberation in the matter, has

RESOLVED THAT, the Congregation B'nai Jeshurun (The Temple On The Heights) protests against, and condemns all undemocratic action in organizing the leadership and administrative Board of the 1939 Jewish Welfare Fund Campaign, and has further

RESOLVED THAT, the Executive Committee of the Jewish Welfare Fund is hereby called upon forthwith, to rescind its former action, to arrange for a public and representative reconsideration of the matter, and to right all wrongs heretofore perpetrated, and has further

RESOLVED THAT, the Officers and Executive Committee of the B'nai Jeshurun Congregation (The Temple On The Heights) are hereby instructed promptly to take all such steps as may be necessary to right the wrongs hereby protested against, and otherwise to take steps to bring about and assure a more democratic representation and leadership in the Cleveland Jewish Welfare Fund.



## JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### SUMMARY OF ANNUAL MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1939, 8:30 P.M., AT THE COMMUNITY TEMPLE

1. Chairman Due to the illness of Max Simon, president, the chairman of the meeting was Edward M. Baker, first vice-president. Upon motion made by Mr. Meisel, duly seconded, and unanimously carried, the secretary was instructed to convey to the president the good wishes of the Council for a speedy recovery.

2. Election The report of the Nominating Committee, presented by Simon J. Green, pointed out that the Committee had been guided by the principle that there should be a regular rotation in officers and membership of the Executive Committee, in keeping with the democratic character of the organization. The several changes which had been recommended, it was emphasized, did not reflect adversely upon those who had not been suggested for re-election. On the contrary, they included some of the most faithful and valuable members of the Council and it was expected that the Community Council would continue to have the benefit of their services through continued membership in the Council and its committees.

Mr. Woldman was asked to take the chair to conduct the election. There being only one person nominated for each office, upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, the secretary was instructed to cast the unanimous ballot for the following persons: Max Simon, president; Edward M. Baker, first vice-president; Philmore J. Haber, second vice-president; Mrs. Moses Garber, third vice-president; Max Kohrman, treasurer; Philip Bernstein, secretary.

Inasmuch as there had been one nomination by petition for membership in the Executive Committee, a formal secret ballot election was held for the 30 places, and the following were declared duly elected: Milton P. Altschul, Rabbi B. R. Brickner, Rabbi Armond E. Cohen, Jerome N. Curtis, I. Finesilver, A. H. Friedland, George W. Furth, Rabbi David Genuth, Rabbi Harold Goldfarb, Mrs. Joseph Goldhamer, Mrs. Joseph H. Gross, A. I. Hausman, David Ralph Hertz, Mrs. Siegmund Herzog, Rabbi Hugo Klein, Mrs. Bernard Krangel, Mrs. Benjamin Levine, Leonard S. Levy, Mrs. A. F. Mellman, A. E. Persky, Rabbi Israel Porath, Aaron Resnick, Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal, Edward J. Schweid, Rabbi A. H. Silver, Oscar H. Steiner, Abraham Stern, Dr. Abraham Strauss, Meyer Weintraub, and Sidney N. Weitz.

3. Youth The report of the special Committee on the need, desirability, and feasibility of a Y.M. & Y.W.H.A. in Cleveland was presented by Jerome N. Curtis. The Committee stated that its study had revealed that Cleveland does not have a well rounded recreational and cultural program for its Jewish youth, that the young adult groups had serious difficulty in securing adequate meeting places, gymnasium and auditorium facilities - large numbers of Jewish youth were unemployed at such a time when they had increased empty leisure hours, were confronted with serious economic and social problems, for which they were seeking the answers without mature guidance and direction.

A survey of Jewish institutions and public school community centers had indicated that there were facilities existing to meet present needs, but that the community lacked the machinery whereby these facilities might be made available to youth groups on some basis that would protect the property and investment of the institutions.

The Committee recommended, therefore, (1) that a well integrated, community recreational and cultural program should be started for the Jewish youth of Cleveland, and (2) that at the beginning an attempt be made to utilize more fully existing facilities rather than seek to build new ones. It recommended the employment of a trained and experienced group worker to serve as a coordinator in helping the various organizations find facilities for their activities, and to guide them in developing their programs.

It was expected that the total cost during the first year would be \$ 6,800, and that income from fees and activities would be \$ 1,800, leaving a deficit of \$ 5,000. The Committee recommended that application be made to the Jewish Welfare Fund for the money to meet the deficit.



It recommended further that administration of the project should be under the direction of a joint Committee of the Council Educational Alliance and representatives of the groups participating in the program.

Upon motion made, duly seconded, and unanimously carried, the report of the Committee was approved.

#### 4. Discrimination

The recommendations of the Committee on Discrimination in Employment, having been mailed to all members, were reviewed briefly by Judge David Ralph Hertz. The Committee reported that its contact with employment agencies, placement directors of schools and colleges, large employers, union officials, and investigation of specific complaints had revealed that the problem was much more serious and more widespread than had been believed at the start. It had been found that large numbers of employers specified that no Jewish persons need apply for positions, and the effect upon Jewish youth unable to find positions had been a shattering of their morale.

The problem could not be dealt with properly on a volunteer or part time basis and the Committee recommended therefore the establishment of a full time Bureau for the purpose. It was expected that the bureau would attempt to check specific complaints, study occupational distribution to determine where there has been apparent discrimination, secure the cooperation of employment agencies, prevent discrimination by Jewish employers, conduct an educational campaign with non-Jewish employers, secure the cooperation of newspapers in their advertising policies, and obtain the cooperation of Jewish institutions dealing with Jewish youth in an educational program.

The Bureau would cooperate closely with the Jewish agencies giving vocational guidance, so that there would be no overlapping or duplication. It was recognized that a well rounded program should include proper attention to vocational guidance, and the Council was informed that plans were being made also to expand that service. The cost of the Bureau was estimated at \$ 6,400, and the Committee advised that the amount should be sought from the Jewish Welfare Fund.

After discussion, and upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, the report of the Committee was unanimously approved.

#### 5. General Jewish Council

The members were informed that the Executive Committee unanimously had agreed that the Jewish Community Council should serve as the Cleveland arm of the General Jewish Council in matters affecting the defense of Jewish rights, since the Community Council already had been coordinating defense activities locally during the past three years.

#### 6. Father Coughlin

The Chairman reported that the Community Council had been in communication with the General Jewish Council concerning the anti-Semitic broadcasts of Father Coughlin. Together with the League for Human Rights the two organizations had distributed copies of the pamphlet, "Father Coughlin-His 'Facts' and Arguments", to Catholic priests, Catholic laymen, teachers and benevolent societies, Protestant ministers, American Legion posts, congressmen, university officials, newspaper editors, Y.M. & Y.W.C.A.'s, radio stations, state legislators, and others. The pamphlet gave photostatic evidence of the misquotations and falsehoods in Father Coughlin's broadcasts.

The Community Council had sought to make clear to national leaders the widespread concern caused by the radio addresses, and had been promised further information within the next few days concerning national and local activity.



#### 7. Palestine Emergency

The Council was informed by Philmore J. Haber that following the receipt of telegrams from New York Zionist and other national organizations, urging that cablegrams should be sent to Prime Minister Chamberlain, appealing for the fulfillment of the Balfour Declaration, an emergency meeting had been held of the Palestine Steering Committee to assure local cooperation. As a result, the following steps had been taken: (1) a cablegram had been sent in the name of the entire Jewish community; (2) fifteen leading Protestant ministers had sent a cable; (3) letters had been sent to all member Jewish organizations urging that individual cables should be sent, and during the first week more than 200 messages had been sent, many carrying several signatures; (4) the Cleveland City Council had passed a resolution asking the United States government to use its influence with Great Britain in keeping Palestine open to refugees; (5) others, such as the Women's Club, a non-Jewish organization, had sent cables.

It was stressed that the situation was very grave, and the representatives and members of their organizations were urged to send cablegrams at once if they had not already done so. Delegates were asked to avoid any tone of condemnation, but rather to appeal to British pledges and honor.

#### 8. Anti-Nazi League

Dr. Abraham Strauss, reporting for the League for Human Rights, stated that several additional companies recently had agreed not to sell Nazi merchandise; that a non-Jewish refugee had spoken to 24 meetings during the past six weeks, almost all of them being non-Jewish groups; that following a protest to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Wallace against a proposed Nazi barter arrangement, he had replied stating that the United States would not promote such a barter scheme; that the League had been clearing up false rumors that persons were being discharged by some companies in order to employ refugees, showing that these statements had no basis in fact; that the real nature of a new local "anti-Communist" magazine had been exposed. He distributed literature which was being made available by the League.

9. Membership The Council accepted the following organizations for membership, following recommendation by the Executive Committee: the Keren Hayesod Women's Group, and the Parents Association of the Superior Through Branch of the Council Educational Alliance.

#### 10. Announcements

Members were urged by the Chairman to secure a maximum attendance for the Benes-Masaryk meeting at Public Auditorium on Sunday afternoon, April 2, at 3:00 o'clock, as a demonstration in democracy to counteract the Bund meeting in New York; and the Mischa Ellman benefit concert for refugees on Tuesday evening, April 11, at Public Auditorium.



## JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Report of the Committee on Employment Problems

#### Problem

The Committee on Employment was established by the Jewish Community Council in 1936 following a visit to the Jewish Welfare Federation by a representative of one of the large local colleges to seek assistance in the problem of placing Jewish graduates. He had stated that the college had found it extremely difficult to find positions for their Jewish students because of the prejudice among many employers against Jews.

Since that time the Committee has visited most of the large private employment agencies in the city, has conferred with the directors of placement in the local universities and commercial schools, has investigated complaints against specific companies and has discussed the reports with the employers of the organizations involved, has conferred with large Jewish employers and with the business agents of two unions in which a number of Jews are employed--all with the purpose of determining the extent of the problem and of attempting to meet it.

From that experience two things are clear -- firstly, that the problem is widespread and extremely serious; secondly, that the committee has hardly scratched the surface. Virtually all of the employment agencies and schools stated that at least 50% of the employers specify that no Jewish applicants should be sent. They pointed out particularly that a similar proportion of Jewish employers made the same restriction and had repeatedly used it as an excuse in explaining to Jewish applicants that the probability of securing a position was very small. Incidentally, there has been a similar restriction on Catholics although not so large.

From the employment directors and from the Jewish young people themselves the Committee has been impressed with the serious effect upon the morale of Jewish youth. The Committee has been told that the applicants have been sadly discouraged when in making applications for positions for which they were qualified they found themselves being repeatedly rejected because they were Jewish. Not only has this resulted in personality problems but it should give serious concern to the Jewish community as a cause for Jewish youths' turning to radicalism and away from Judaism when they come to the conclusion that the latter is responsible for their difficulties, believe that the Jewish community is doing nothing about it, and see no hope other than radicalism.

One of the results has been that Jewish graduates after failing to find employment in the fields for which they have prepared and in which they have ranked very high scholastically, have left these professions to enter others, particularly after the discouragement of seeing persons less qualified receive positions. It is this fact and the inability of colleges to place their Jewish graduates that has made at least one of the local colleges consider seriously and regretfully the necessity of restricting Jewish entrants.

#### Expanded Program Necessary

It seems clear to the Committee that the activity to date in meeting the problem has not been adequate and cannot be effective on the present plane. The secretary of the Jewish Community Council has been able to give only part-time attention, on a scattered basis, and laymen cannot give sufficient effort to the matter. The Committee was convinced that a full-time bureau is necessary and should be established; and a study of similar bureaus in Chicago and New York indicates that such an organization can do a constructive and effective



piece of work. The Chicago Committee has been in existence for more than a year, after several years of part-time experimental activity, under the sponsorship of the B'nai B'rith, American Jewish Congress and Jewish Welfare Federation. The New York Bureau, under the direction of the American Jewish Congress, has functioned for several years and has a staff which includes a director, executive secretary, chief of field workers, four field workers, and stenographic assistants.

#### Proposed Program

The program which your Committee proposes is based upon the experience of Chicago and New York and the activities conducted locally during the past two years. The outline is in no sense complete and obviously will depend for its direction upon further experience.

It seems clear that there should be two basic approaches: Firstly, a positive one to build up a public sentiment unfavorable to discrimination; and secondly, activity to combat discrimination where it already exists. Both of these, of course, are intertwined.

It is expected that the Bureau will include the following activities:

1. Investigate specific complaints, check them carefully, contact the employers involved, and attempt to correct the policy where the reports prove to be accurate and to protect fair employers from false rumors where the charges are groundless. It should be pointed out that the latter would be an important function of the Bureau.

2. Make a study of the occupational distribution of Jews in various industries similar to that in New York, to determine where there appears to have been discrimination and to conduct an educational program in such fields looking toward the possibility of greater employment of Jews. This would be particularly true in the public utilities where it has been reported that a relatively small proportion of Jews have been employed. It is important to note that such an approach is essential if an effective program is to be carried out. To merely wait for individual complaints is not sufficient. Few employers will give definite evidence to individuals, and employment agencies cannot violate the confidence of their relationship with employers who specify that Jews should not be sent by them.

3. The cooperation of the employment agencies should be secured in avoiding any practices wittingly or unwittingly which aid in promoting discrimination. The Committee during the past two years has attempted to gain such cooperation and has received the assurance from agencies that this would be done. It is important, however, that there be periodic follow-up to check on the policies of the agencies, and such follow-up has not been possible with the limited staff to date.

4. The cooperation of schools and colleges should likewise be secured. This is especially important so that they do not feel themselves compelled to restrict the number of students due to the difficulty in placing them because of discrimination by employers.

5. It is highly essential that an intensive program be undertaken with regard to the Jewish employers so that they do not discriminate or permit discrimination in their companies. Repeatedly, employment agencies have told your Committee that a very large proportion of Jewish employers practice such discrimination and that non-Jewish employers find comfort and an excuse



in their example. The employment agencies, according to applicants often mention this to them in explaining the difficulty of placement. It is a situation which your Committee believes can be remedied and should be overcome not only because it is inexcusable in itself but because of the example which it sets for others and because of the demoralizing effect upon Jewish youth.

6. An educational program should be conducted with non-Jewish employers, so that they may gain a better understanding of such problems as Jewish holidays, traits of Jewish workers, as being "too ambitious", "clannish", "too aggressive", and similar characteristics which they have often offered as excuses for not employing Jews.

7. An educational program likewise should be conducted with Jewish youth to school them in the proper approach to employers and to avoid unjustifiable practices which have formed an obstacle in the path of their employment. It is not expected that the Committee would do this directly but would contact such agencies as the Council Educational Alliance, the Temples, and such agencies that already contact and work with Jewish youth.

8. The cooperation of the newspapers should be secured in avoiding any advertisement which carry discriminatory phrases and which serve as a stimulus to other employers to do likewise. Conferences have been in progress with the advertising managers of the newspapers for this purpose and it is hoped that these will have the desired result. Even if this is achieved, it will be necessary to keep a careful check to see that the policy will be maintained. Past experience has demonstrated that such follow-up is essential.

9. There shall be a cooperative relationship with the national agencies which are working on the problem on a national scale and in other cities, particularly B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Congress. This is important in view of the fact that national agencies with headquarters in New York and Chicago frequently are involved.

10. Your Committee does not believe that a Jewish employment agency is necessary or would be advisable at the present time, and does not propose that the new Bureau would do placement work. There are possible dangers in the establishment of such an agency, in the probability that some employment agencies would resent its establishment and would use it as its excuse to throw the burden of Jewish employment upon it. It is the purpose of the Committee, where requests are received for applicants, to utilize the agencies which have demonstrated their fairness, for such a purpose.

11. The Bureau would also cooperate closely with the agencies giving vocational guidance to Jewish youth, namely, the Jewish Social Service Bureau and the Council Educational Alliance, so that there would be a complete coordination of activity and a sharing of information mutually helpful. Your Committee has considered the relationship of the proposed Bureau to these agencies, and not only sees no duplication among them, but believes that they supplement each other and will be mutually helpful. The Bureau would do no vocational guidance work. That would be the task of the other agencies. The work of the Bureau, actually, appears to be necessary if the vocational guidance agencies are to be effective. For there seems little point in advising a person to prepare for chemical engineering, for example, even though he may have natural qualities for that profession, when the field is severely restricted to Jews because of discrimination. It would be the purpose of the Bureau to prevent frustration and discouragement after such preparation, and to make unnecessary redirection to other fields less satisfactory and less adapted to the individual's abilities merely because fields are virtually closed by anti-Jewish discrimination.



It is clear that the problem is an extremely delicate one and that it would have to be handled with the utmost tact and diplomacy. Harmful publicity must be avoided and care must be taken that the activity of the Bureau would not be misinterpreted. The experience in Chicago and New York and the local activity indicate that this can be done.

### Sponsorship

The Bureau would be most effective if acting in behalf of the entire Jewish community rather than individual organizations. It is expected and advised that a lay committee would define and guide the policies of the Bureau and would supervise the work of a paid professional staff. While locally autonomous the Bureau would work in close cooperation with national agencies, as noted above.

### Cost

The expense of the Bureau would not be great and would probably be far overbalanced by its service to the Jewish community and particularly to Jewish youth, and by its possible saving in unemployment and social problems. It is expected that during the first year the Bureau would have a total expense of \$6,400, as follows:

Executive Director	\$ 3,600	
Secretary	1,200	
Rent	600	
Printing	200	
Equipment	250	
Telephone	150	
Postage	100	
Incidental Expenses	300	\$ 6,400

Your Committee believes that the proper source of support should be the Jewish Welfare Fund, representing as it does the contributions of the Jewish community for needs which are peculiarly Jewish and which do not come within the scope of the Community Fund. It is therefore recommended that application be made to the Jewish Welfare Fund for the sum of \$6,400. If any measure of financial support can be secured from the B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Congress, as in Chicago, the amount of this request to the Jewish Welfare Fund would be reduced accordingly.

### Timeliness

Your Committee believes that it is particularly timely to establish such a Bureau. On the one hand, recent events in Germany have created a swell of public sentiment among large number of persons in opposition to religious discrimination. Likewise large numbers of persons are becoming aware of the dangers of un-American activities of which discrimination against Jews in employment is but one phase. Such persons might be unusually receptive to an educational program at the present time. On the other hand, there can be no doubt but that subversive forces are actively working to promote anti-Semitism in all forms, among them and viciously in the employment of Jews. It is essential that this should not go unchallenged and that a counter-effort be made to prevent that program from taking effect.



In conclusion, your Committee wishes to stress that the problem is an extremely serious one not only for those directly affected but for the entire Jewish community. It believes that the experience already on record indicates that the problem can be attacked and that the cost would be far overbalanced by the gain in the morale of Jewish youth, the decrease in Jewish unemployment, the prevention of individual personality problems and dependency, and the retention of Jewish youth within the framework of Jewry rather than turning to radicalism and other "isms" as the answer to their problems. It believes further that the Jewish community cannot afford to delay action. It therefore recommends that in the very near future a full-time Bureau should be established to combat discrimination against Jews in employment.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT

Milton P Altschul, Chairman

George W Furth  
David Ralph Hertz  
Jay Iglauer  
Adolph Keller  
Raymond D Metzner  
I R Morris  
Jack Rosenthal  
Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal  
Rabbi A H Silver  
Adolph Weinberger

Max Simon (ex-officio)



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Max Simon

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Mrs. Moses Garber

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Max Kohrman

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Philip Bernstein

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Rabbi Armond E. Cohen  
Jerome N. Curtis  
Isadore Finesilver  
A. H. Friedland  
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Aaron Resnick  
Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal  
Edward J. Schweid  
Rabbi A. H. Silver  
Oscar H. Steiner  
Abraham Stern  
Dr. Abraham Strauss  
Meyer Weintraub  
Sidney N. Weitz

# The Jewish Community Council

## Cleveland

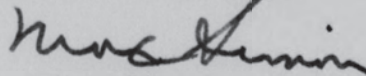
1001 Huron Road - CHerry 8176

To the Executive Committee:

We are calling a special meeting of the Executive Committee for Wednesday evening, May 17, at 8:15 p.m., at the Statler Hotel — Room 314. Mr. Simon Shetzer, president of the Detroit Jewish Community Council, is coming to Cleveland for the purpose of meeting with us to discuss plans which the Detroit Council has developed with regard to joint action concerning Father Coughlin.

Will you please be sure to be present, promptly?

Sincerely yours,



Max Simon  
President

May 12, 1939



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Edward M. Baker

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Edward J. Schweid

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

The Jewish Community Council  
Cleveland

1001 Huron Road - CHerry 8176

To the Presidents & Representatives:

Following the news reports of the latest atrocities in Germany, we wired the national defense organizations to ask if the Jewish Community Council should take any local protest action. Mr Max Simon, who is in New York, also has contacted them directly.

We have just received telegrams from Dr Stephen S Wise of the American Jewish Congress, Mr Harry Schneiderman of the American Jewish Committee, and from Mr Simon, and we have spoken by long distance telephone with Mr Edgar Kaufman, president of the Council for Jewish Rights. The latter includes the Congress, Committee, B'nai B'rith, and Jewish Labor Committee.

All agree that the Jewish Community Council should not hold a protest meeting or issue a formal protest statement at this time. They advise that all efforts should be concentrated on having as large a non-Jewish protest as possible, and that widespread publicity should be given to such Christian action. They point out that the world knows very well how the Jews feel, and that Christian protest at this time will be much more effective. When formal protest by the organized Jewish communities is desirable, they will advise us immediately.

The local action which they urge is being taken by the League for Human Rights Against Naziism. Within the past few days, scores of telegrams have been sent by local Christians to President Roosevelt and Secretary Hull, the newspapers have printed strong anti-Nazi editorials, the Cleveland Ministers Association adopted and publicized a strong protest resolution, statements and letters of protest by non-Jews are being printed in the newspapers, Christian ministers are giving anti-Nazi sermons and churches are offering prayers for the end of the anti-Semitic terrorism.

You may be sure that the League for Human Rights and the Jewish Community Council are keeping in constant touch with the situation, and should the national defense organization deem it advisable for us to take formal action, you will be notified immediately.

Sincerely yours,

*Phillip Bernstein*  
Secretary.

[Undated]