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Jewish Community Council, Cleveland, Ohio, 1939-1940.

Will you please try to review these minutes
before the meeting of the Executive Committee
Monday evening?

JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF MEETING WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1939, at 8:30 P.M. AT THE HEIGHTS TEMPLE

Mr Max Simon, Chairman, reviewed briefly the major action which had been taken since the last meeting:

State Cooperation -- At the direction of the Executive Committee, the Secretary had sent letters to Jewish leaders and Community Councils in other Ohio cities to arrange for cooperation in matters of concern to Jews throughout the state. The first replies had been favorable, agreeing to work together and to clear with one another, instead of each city taking independent and sometimes ill-advised and ineffective action. Cooperation had already been achieved informally through a group which had functioned successfully in matters in the State Legislature of direct and particular concern to Jews.

Wagner-Rogers Bill -- The Council twice had written to presidents and representatives of Jewish organizations, asking them to have their members urge local Congressmen and Senators to support the Wagner-Rogers Bill, which would admit 10,000 German refugee children to the United States in 1939, and 10,000 in 1940. A large number of such messages had been sent. Steps were also taken to make sure that a local station would carry the special Katherine Hepburn - Burgess Meredith broadcast in support of the Bill, and the local newspapers had carried favorable editorials.

Mr. Bender and Mr. Sweeney said that they would support the Bill, and Mr. Taft stated that he would vote against it. An effort had been made to change Mr. Taft's position, without success. The other local Congressmen would not commit themselves. The Bill had been reported out in an unsatisfactory form by the Senate Committee, and an attempt was being made by a national non-sectarian Committee to secure reconsideration and passage in a more favorable form. If the effort failed, a more intensive drive would be made at the next session of Congress to pass the Bill.

Refugee Plans -- Mr. Simon read a letter from the Joint Distribution Committee, in response to an inquiry from the Council, which stated definitely that there would be no "ransoming" of Jews in Germany in the new plans of the Intergovernmental Committee, and that nothing would be done which would in the slightest way strengthen the German economy. There would be no commercial transfer of German merchandise, and emigrants would remove only their own personal property. A new Coordinating Foundation had been established to facilitate the emigration and resettlement of refugees, and there was some encouragement in the recognition and proposal that governments should help to finance this resettlement instead of depending entirely upon private funds which had proved inadequate.

Discrimination, Employment, Youth -- It was announced that as a result of two recommendations by the Council and a third in which it had participated, three new projects were being established and financed by the Jewish Welfare Fund. A new agency was being set up to combat discrimination in employment, carrying forward on an intensive scale the work which had been done by a Committee of the Council during the past three years. A second agency would give vocational guidance and help find employment, merging and expanding work which had been done to date by several agencies. The third project would involve the employment of a coordinator to guide the recreational and cultural activities of Jewish youth, and to help them find adequate facilities. It was said that the establishment of the three projects was one of the most important actions taken by the Jewish community in many years, being of tremendous importance particularly to Jewish youth, and that the Community Council could take pride in having helped to bring them about.

Bishop Schrembs Letter -- The Chairman read a letter from Archbishop Joseph Schrembs, written in reply to a letter from the president of the Council, stating that "Through all my life I have endeavored honestly and fearlessly to fight against racial and religious hatred. I deprecate with all my heart the inhuman campaign that is being waged against your people because of your race

and because of your religion.....Let us unite our prayers that our Merciful Father in heaven may bring back to a distracted world the sentiments of real brotherhood."

Jewish Population Survey -- It was announced that the Jewish population survey which had been begun a year and a half ago under the joint auspices of the Council and the Jewish Welfare Federation had been completed, and would be off the press within a week. It contained 123 pages of detailed information, and was the most intensive study of its kind ever made locally. The facts were expected to be very valuable in guiding future recreational, cultural, and other Jewish services. The final form had been edited by a special Committee of the Council.

National Conference of Jews & Christians -- A Cleveland branch of the National Conference of Jews and Christians was being organized to build understanding among Catholics, Protestants, and Jews, and to fight propaganda which sought to develop racial and religious hatred. Philmore Haber, second vice-president of the Council, had been named one of the three Co-Chairmen, and Mrs. Siegmund Herzog, a member of the Council's Executive Committee, had been chosen one of the three Vice-Chairmen. Dr. Arthur Culler was Executive Chairman, and Rev. Robert C. Grady, who recently had vigorously denounced anti-Semitism and Father Coughlin, was Executive Secretary. Various Committees were being formed, and the Officers of the Community Council were giving their full assistance to help the organization become a vigorous and effective influence in the community.

Palestine -- An overflow attendance of more than 4,000 people had attended the mass meeting arranged by the Council on May 21 to voice the protest of the Cleveland Jewish Community against the British White Paper. The Council was continuing its policy of following the directions of the National Emergency Committee for Palestine, and its special Committee was ready to meet on call.

Arbitration -- The Jewish Arbitration Court was continuing quietly to serve the community. One of its recent successful cases had involved a Jewish divorce which was beyond the jurisdiction of the civil courts and which two Rabbis had been unable to handle alone.

Community Calendar -- The Community Calendar had been used more frequently during the past year than ever before by organizations to clear dates. As a result there had been practically no conflicts in programs. Letters would be sent again soon to the organizations to secure the necessary information for the coming season.

Constitutional Amendment The Council adopted the following amendment to the Constitution recommended by the Executive Committee, replacing Article IV, Section 1: "Any Jewish organization of Metropolitan Cleveland whose primary purpose and function is to further Jewish communal, cultural, fraternal, or religious life, provided it has been in existence for at least one year prior to application for admission to the Council, shall be eligible for membership in the Council."

Anti-Nazi Activity Miss Grace Meyette, reporting for the League for Human Rights Against Nazism, informed the members that reliable information revealed that the Czechs whose territory had been absorbed by Germany were continuing and fostering resistance to the Nazis; within Germany itself there was increasing evidence of anti-Nazi activity among non-Jews; the League was cooperating closely with the Volunteer Christian Committee to Boycott Nazi Germany, which had recently secured pledges from 5,000 prominent Christians not to use German merchandise; travel of Americans in Germany had dropped 50% this summer as compared with last summer; locally the Czechs and the Polish groups were becoming more active in the support of the boycott; the League had distributed thousands of pieces of anti-Nazi and anti-Coughlin literature during the past few weeks in Christian neighborhoods and to Christian and church groups. Samples of this literature were displayed.

The current local activities of Nazi groups in Cleveland were described, and the extent and nature of anti-Semitism in Cleveland were analyzed and discussed. Miss Meyette urged the representatives to write to local Congressmen in support of the Celler Bill, H.R. 3286, which aimed to reduce unfair Nazi business competition and to aid American industries, and H R 5986 which would make it necessary to mark more clearly merchandise imported from other countries.

Father Coughlin The Executive Committee recently had devoted a special meeting to the Coughlin problem, attended by Mr. Simon Shetzer, president of the Detroit Jewish Community Council. It had been agreed that local communities should bring pressure upon the General Jewish Council to inaugurate a more aggressive national policy, and that the summer months should be used for preparation of local programs should the General Jewish Council still refrain from a national program.

Since that meeting the Council had been informed by the General Jewish Council, in a letter which Mr. Simon read, that at the present time it did not think a national radio program wise, and that if the situation in some cities made local programs advisable, it would be glad to assist. The Council also had been informed by Detroit that a mass meeting had been held, addressed by Rev. Walton E. Cole of Toledo, under the auspices of the Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice, in which Hitler propagandists and Father Coughlin in particular were blasted. Additional information was expected soon, and the Executive Committee at its last meeting had authorized the appointment of a special Committee to give concentrated attention to the Coughlin problem in Cleveland and to recommend a local course of action, in cooperation with the League for Human Rights. Following discussion of the matter, the Council voted to approve the recommendation of the Executive Committee in authorizing the appointment of such a special Committee.

Kashruth Mr. Max Kohrman read the report of Kashruth Committee, which had been appointed a year ago at the request of some of the Orthodox Rabbis because of the chaotic situation resulting from the complete lack of supervision of the retail meat markets and because the Rabbis themselves had been unable to solve the problem. The Committee had held about twenty meetings and conferences, to consult all parties involved before making any recommendations.

After meeting with the City Health Commissioner concerning the possible enforcement of the State Kashruth Law, with the Orthodox Rabbis to have them unite, with the wholesale meat packers and the retail butchers to see in what manner they would cooperate, the Committee had become convinced that a thorough, fundamental solution was necessary. It was agreed that it was just as unsound for the packers to select and pay their own supervisors as it would be for the butchers to control and pay for their own inspection, and therefore proposed the following plan:

1. Administration of Kashruth should be under the direction of a Board of Kashruth, representing the Jewish community and giving due place to the Orthodox Rabbis;
2. Rabbis, schochtim, and inspectors for both retail and wholesale meat establishments should be employed and paid directly by the Board of Kashruth and not by private individuals;
3. The Board of Kashruth would supply meat packers with schochtim and Rabbis, charging a uniform fee for each unit of meat slaughtered and supervised, so that the cost would be proportionate to the service;
4. The fee would be large enough to cover the cost of both retail and wholesale supervision, but would not be a burden to the packers inasmuch as the cost would be absorbed in the price to the consumer as it has been in the past and as it would be under any system of supervision.

This plan had been presented to the Orthodox Rabbis at two meetings, and they were asked to join with the Community Council and the schochtim in going to the packers to propose the plan. The Rabbis found no fault with the plan at the first meeting, but wanted the assurance that their livelihood would

not be threatened if they were compelled to lose a period of employment in putting the plan into operation, a request which they were told they had a right to make of the community.

At the second meeting, the Rabbis said that they had appointed one of their members as their spokesman, a Rabbi employed by the largest packer, without having arrived at any decision as to what he was to say. This Rabbi then rejected the plan, refusing to give any reason why it would not work and why it was not acceptable. He did not think it necessary to divulge any alternative plans to the Community Council, and said that the Rabbis would not work with the Council in the matter -- despite the fact that it was the Rabbis themselves who had requested the Council to go into the matter, and despite the repeated assurance by the Council that it would in no way interfere with the religious authority of the Rabbis. The other Rabbis present at the meeting had said nothing. Having studied the problem for a year and having proposed a solution which it believed to be thorough and practical, and with which no fault had been found, the Committee had carried out its instructions and the matter now rested with the Community, whose problem and responsibility the matter was.

In the long and active discussion which followed the report, there was no criticism of the plan proposed by the Committee. It was felt by some, however, that the Committee should be discharged with thanks, because they believed that the problem had not been solved by other cities and could not be solved here, and there could be no solution unless the Rabbis were united and that this could not be achieved, that the problem was a religious one and therefore outside the scope of the Council, that enforcement would require the help of the city and that it would be highly inadvisable to bring the government into any religious matter, and that those who really wanted kosher meat would know how to get it and the others didn't care.

On the other hand, many persons rose to say that the problem was deep rooted and serious, that it affected not only the Orthodox Jews but the entire community, comparing it to one part of a body which when diseased help to destroy the remainder, that it was more than a religious question since it involved misrepresentation and corruption in Jewish life and public scandal, and that even as a religious question the Conservative laymen and Rabbis were also directly concerned and that the great majority of Jews of the world still observed Kashruth as a matter of Jewish law, that the community had been "let down" by the Orthodox Rabbis, the group from whom it had a right to expect the greatest interest and cooperation, that their action constituted a "slap in the face" to the Jewish community to whom they were really responsible and that the community and Orthodox synagogues and organizations should make clear that responsibility, that the Jewish community had looked to the Council for a solution of the problem and that the Council could not withdraw.

It was said further that actually most of the Orthodox Rabbis were in agreement with the plan proposed by the Committee of the Council but were being dominated by one of the Rabbis and that if any individual attempted such domination his authority should be challenged and his position ignored, that it was an internal problem in Jewish life which was a direct responsibility of the Council and that if the Council did not do so others would attempt it on their own initiative complicating the matter further, and that Jews were paying for kosher meat and had a right to get it.

In explanation of the Orthodox Rabbi's position, it was said that the responsibility lay partly with the Orthodox synagogues which paid the Rabbis so poorly that they were compelled to depend upon income from Kashruth for a livelihood, and it was suggested that if the inauguration of a new plan of Kashruth supervision caused them to lose their income, provision should be made by the Jewish community for a loan to tide them over such a period. In reply, it was stated that the Rabbis had been assured that the elimination of misrepresentation would increase their income by substituting meat actually kosher for non-kosher meat being sold now as kosher, thereby increasing the number of supervisors necessary in the production and sale of kosher meat, and that they would not be expected to sacrifice their livelihood.

It was suggested that the report of the Committee should be mailed to the Rabbis and to the presidents of all Jewish organizations, and published in the Jewish newspapers, so that the Jewish community and particularly the consumers would know the actual situation. The Council was informed, however, that the Rabbis had held a long meeting that afternoon and had come to the conclusion that the matter should be given further consideration, and wished the Community Council to continue its efforts and to cooperate with it.

In view of this information it was agreed that the report of the Committee should not be sent to the member organizations at the present time, and it was therefore moved, duly seconded, and carried that the matter should be referred back to the Committee for further consideration and action, and that the Chairman should have the power to augment the Committee.

Membership The Council approved the membership application of the Alpha Epsilon Pi Cleveland Alumni Club.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) Philip Bernstein
Secretary



Officers

President
Max Simon

First Vice-President
Edward M. Baker

Second Vice-President
Philmore J. Haber

Third Vice-President
Mrs. Moses Garber

Treasurer
Max Kohrman

Secretary
Philip Bernstein

Executive
Committee

Milton P. Altschul
Rabbi B. R. Brickner
Rabbi Armond E. Cohen
Jerome N. Curtis
Isadore 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

The Jewish Community Council

Cleveland

Chester-Twelfth Bldg. - CHerry 8176

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

During the past several weeks the Committee on Personnel of our new Bureau on Jewish Employment Problems has been securing applications for the position of Executive Director of the new agency. Practically all of the applicants, however, reside in other cities, and while our Committee would not be adverse to the employment of such a person, it sees definite advantages in having the Director already familiar with Cleveland.

We are wondering therefore whether you might know anyone in your congregation or local acquaintance who might be qualified for the position. As you know, the agency, which will have the responsibility of combatting discrimination against Jews in employment, will require a Director of unusual maturity and poise, well balanced judgment, a large degree of tact, and an engaging personality.

We should appreciate it greatly if you could give the matter some thought and would give me any suggestions you may have within a week or so, in order that our Committee may proceed with the evaluation of applications and the selection of a Director.

Sincerely yours,

M. P. Altschul

Milton P. Altschul, Chairman
Bureau on Jewish Employment Problems

September 21, 1939

C O P Y

September 25, 1939

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

My dear Archbishop Schrembs:

The Jewish people of Cleveland have noted with chagrin and disappointment the newspaper and radio announcements that you are to preside over the meeting Thursday evening sponsored by the Social Justice Clubs and at which Father Coughlin will be the chief speaker.

From our previous expressions you already know that the Jewish community of this city has always had the highest regard for your fairmindedness. They have always had the deepest respect for your spiritual integrity and basic good will. They appreciate fully your desire for peace and do not for a moment question your right to the position you have taken with reference to the embargo. Every Jew joins in fervently hoping and praying that this country may be spared the horror and tragedy of war, and that peace may soon return to the world. We understand, too, that men in all walks of life may honestly differ as to the best means of keeping the United States out of war.

Our chagrin lies rather in the fact that your presence at the meeting will serve to enhance the prestige and strength of Father Coughlin. While you doubtless intend that your participation should only be regarded as an appeal for peace, the likely interpretation will be that you are in sympathy with the attitude and methods of Father Coughlin. The Jewish people, together with large numbers of Catholics and Protestants, feel very deeply that Father Coughlin has done more than any single individual in this country to stir up anti-Semitism in America, through his open and implied attacks on Jews, through his direct use of Nazi propaganda, and through his subtle support and defense of the Nazi regime. The Jewish people, sharing with all fairminded American citizens the earnest desire that democracy may be strengthened, in these times of all times, have viewed also with serious alarm his attacks on democracy.

If the reports of your participation in the meeting are inaccurate, will you please inform us accordingly? We are well aware of your frequent pleas for tolerance, good will, and religious freedom, and you may be sure that this expression of the feeling of the Jewish community is prompted by the warm friendship that has existed in the past.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Max Simon

President

Dear Arch-Bishop Schrembs:

The Jewish people of Cleveland have noted with chagrin and disappointment the newspaper and radio announcements that you are to preside over the meeting Thursday evening sponsored by the Social Justice Clubs and at which Father Coughlin will be the chief speaker.

From our previous expressions, you already know that the Jewish Community of this city has always had the highest regard for your fair-mindedness. They have always had the deepest respect for your spiritual integrity and basic good will. We do not now for a moment question your desire for peace nor your right to the position you have taken with reference to the Embargo. Every Jew joins in fervently hoping and praying that this country may be spared the horror and tragedy of war, and that peace may soon return to the world. We understand fully, too, that men of equal sincerity in all walks of life may honestly differ as to the best means of keeping the United States out of war.

Our chagrin lies rather in the fact that your presence at the meeting will serve to enhance the prestige and strength of Father Coughlin. While you doubtless intend that your participation should only be regarded as an appeal for peace, the likely interpretation will be that you are in sympathy with the attitude and methods of Father Coughlin. The Jewish people together with large numbers of Catholics and Protestants feel deeply that Father Coughlin has done more than any single individual in this country to stir up anti-Semitism in America, through his open and implied attacks on Jews, through his direct use of propaganda and through his subtle support and defense of the Nazi Regime. The Jewish people have viewed with sharp alarm his attacks on and deprecations of democracy, sharing with all fair-minded American citizens the earnest desire that democracy may be strengthened, in these times of all times. If the reports of your participation are inaccurate, will you please inform us accordingly? We are well aware of your frequent pleas for tolerance, good will and religious freedom, and you may be sure that this expression of the feeling of the Jewish community is prompted by the warm friendship that has existed in the past.

Respectfully yours,

Max Simon, President
Jewish Community Council

Dictated by Philip Bernstein - September 25

This letter was authorized by a special committee which met this afternoon. Mr. E. M. Baker has already seen and approved this letter.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Jewish Community CouncilMinutes of a Meeting Monday, October 2, 1939, at 8:30 p.m., at the Jewish Center

1. Attendance There were present: Philmore J. Haber, Chairman; Milton P. Altschul, Philip Bernstein, Rabbi B. R. Brickner, Jerome N. Curtis, I. Finesilver, George W. Furth, Mrs. Moses Garber, Mrs. Jos. Goldhamer, Mrs. Jos. Gross, A.I. Hausman, D.R. Hertz, Rabbi Hugo Klein, Max Kohrman, Mrs. Benjamin Levine, A.E. Persky, Aaron Resnick, Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal, Edward J. Schweid, Oscar Steiner, Abraham Stern.
2. Minutes Copies having been mailed to all members, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.
3. New Agencies The Chairman reported that establishment of the three new agencies projected by the Jewish Community Council and the Jewish Welfare Fund had been progressing during the past few weeks. A. L. Sudran, director of the Bureau on Jewish Employment Problems in Chicago, had been selected to head the new Jewish Vocational and Employment Service. The remainder of the staff was being employed, and the agency would begin to function about October 15, merging the vocational guidance work conducted to date by the Jewish Social Service Bureau and the Council Educational Alliance, and the placement of refugees administered in the past by the local Coordinating Committee.

The new recreational and cultural project for Jewish youth, which planned to utilize existing facilities and which would be under the general jurisdiction of the Council Educational Alliance, had employed Harry Rosen of the Columbus Council of Social Agencies as director. Mr Rosen already had undertaken his work, under an Administrative Committee which included representatives of the Alliance and of the young adult organizations participating in the program.

The Bureau on Jewish Employment Problems, to combat discrimination, was considering a number of applicants for the position of director, and was expected to make its choice within the next two weeks. In the meantime the Committee of the Community Council was continuing to function in this field, and two recent cases were described.

There was considerable discussion of the three developments. It was reported that some fear had been expressed that the Alliance would exercise undue control over the recreational project. In response it was stated that there was no basis for this fear, inasmuch as the Administrative Committee from the very beginning included a substantial representation of the various young adult organizations, and the Alliance repeatedly had emphasized that it had no desire to perpetuate its name or organization if some other arrangement were needed. In response to a question, the group was informed that the League of Jewish Youth was represented and was participating in the project.

A question was raised concerning the relationship of the new agencies to the Jewish Welfare Federation. In reply it was said that while the constitutions had not been finally formulated, it was expected that the organizations would have the same relationship as other local autonomous agencies receiving their financial support from the Federation or Jewish Welfare Fund.

With reference to the new agency on employment problems, it was suggested that a central discrimination agency or committee should be formed to coordinate the program against discrimination being conducted by that organization, the League for Human Rights, and the Anti-Defamation League, with the three organizations serving perhaps as departments of the central body. In response, it was explained that there was no need for such a superstructure, since there already was complete coordination through overlapping membership in the three boards and through regular clearing by the directors of the three organizations. No instances had arisen involving any conflict or duplication, and the present arrangement was working smoothly.

4. National Conference of Christians and Jews The Committee was informed that progress was being made in the formation of the local chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

The officers and the Executive Committee had been chosen, representing the three major faiths, and other Committees were being completed to secure a large local membership and to promote a positive and energetic program of better inter-group understanding in the near future. The officers of the Community Council had been cooperating actively.

5. Loyalty Days It was reported that some concern had been expressed concerning the presentation of a Church Flag to the city by the Cleveland Church Federation on the occasion of Loyalty Days, and there had been some consultation concerning what attitude or action should be taken. In view of the fact that the Loyalty Days had been established by a national non-sectarian group, that the publicity had consistently stressed attendance at temples and synagogues as well as churches, that the action of the Church Federation was unquestionably well intentioned, and that more harm than good would probably be done by intervening, it had been agreed that no steps should be taken to interfere with the presentation of the flag. If the flag were used officially in the future by the city, proper action could then be considered.

6. Letter to Family of A. H. Friedland A letter had been sent to the family of the late A. H. Friedland by Max Simon as president of the Community Council, expressing the great loss to the entire community in Mr. Friedland's passing. The letter had been published in the Jewish newspapers.

7. Arbitration The Committee was informed that the Jewish Arbitration Court was quietly continuing with the settlement of Jewish disputes. Three recent cases involved a financial difference between a Catholic and Jewish organization, a claim of a former employee against a Jewish communal institution for back salary, and a rental dispute between two Jewish families in which the Jewish holidays were involved. Most of the cases coming to the Court were settled without formal arbitration. The Arbitration Committee was commended for the service being rendered.

8. American Jewish Committee Institute It was reported that due to a change in dates, the Secretary had been unable to attend the institute of the American Jewish Committee. His participation in the institute had previously been authorized by the Executive Committee.

9. Jewish Holidays and School Attendance Following the precedent of the past few years, Rabbi Brickner as Chairman of the Schools Committee had written to the deans and superintendents of the local colleges and schools, asking them to permit Jewish students to be absent on the Jewish holidays without scholastic penalty. As in the past, they had pledged their cooperation, and it was reported by one of the members that in the school attended by her children the Committee's work had been very beneficial and the teachers had assured the children that they could be absent and that no important work would be given while they were out.

Difficulty had been experienced however, in the practice of some Jewish children playing in the school yards on the holidays or even visiting classes, creating a problem for the principals and teachers involved. It was recognized that the Jewish community should try to prevent that practice, and a number of suggestions were made, among them the utilization of temples and synagogues, Jewish newspapers, and perhaps direct mail to reach the parents, and the possibility of the schools' refusing to excuse the absence of such children, acting as a deterrent to them. The suggestions were referred to the Schools Committee for consideration and action.

10. Cardinal Mundelein Attention was called to the death of Cardinal Mundelein, outspoken critic of Nazism and of Father Coughlin, and progressive leader of the Catholic Church. Upon motion made, duly seconded, and unanimously carried, the President and Secretary were instructed to send proper expression of the sorrow of the Jewish people to the Catholic Diocese of Chicago and to Archbishop Schrembs.

11. Population Survey The Secretary reported that the Jewish Population Survey, "Jewish Families in Greater Cleveland", had been completed and that the presidents and representatives had been informed by mail of its availability for distribution. Copies were distributed to the members of the Committee, and the Secretary reviewed some of the major findings.

All of the data had been checked by the Council's special Committee prior to publication, and the distribution and publicity were being centralized through the Community Council office, so that there would be complete control.

Among the principal items were the following findings: 24,663 Jewish families in Cuyahoga County, or 7.7% of the total population; 91,073 Jewish people in the County; Jewish people comprised 7% of the population of Cleveland, 29% of Cleveland Heights, 15% of Shaker Heights, 10% of East Cleveland, and 1% of Lakewood; 19% of the Jewish families were not affiliated with any of the 146 Jewish organizations included in the study; 37% of the families belonged to one group, 17% to two groups, 10% to three groups; 6% to four groups, and 11% to five or more groups.

Also reviewed and discussed by the Committee were the types of dwellings occupied by the Jewish people as compared with the rest of the community, their economic status, the distribution of school children, the distribution of Jewish Welfare Fund contributors and membership of various organizations. It was pointed out likewise that data had been collected in other studies that would indicate the prevalence of various illnesses and the extent of child and family dependency in the census tracts having a large majority of Jewish residents.

It was believed that the study would be more meaningful and helpful if the statistical tables and charts could be interpreted in narrative form and if a base street map could be included. Upon motion made duly seconded, and unanimously carried, the Committee expressed its thanks to Mr. Howard Whipple Green, his staff, to the special Committee of the Council, and all others responsible for the study, for their accomplishment, and referred these suggestions to the special Committee. It was agreed further that the real value of the study would lie in the use made of it, and some of the avenues in which this could be done and already had been started were pointed out.

12. Father Coughlin Rabbi Rosenthal reported for the Committee which had been authorized by the Community Council at its last meeting to give special attention to the Coughlin problem, and which included in addition to Rabbi Rosenthal of the American Jewish Congress, Edward M. Baker of the American Jewish Committee, George W. Furth of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, Meyer Weintraub of the Jewish Labor Committee, and Dr. Abraham Strauss of the League for Human Rights.

He recalled that after several months of correspondence the General Jewish Council had referred the Coughlin problem back to the individual communities for decision concerning local action. The Committee had met with Simon Shetzer, president of the Detroit Jewish Community Council, who had reported tremendous success of an anti-Coughlin mass meeting in Detroit sponsored by the Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice and addressed by Rev. Walton Cole. Mr. Shetzer had proposed that Cleveland and other cities give the Unitarian Fellowship their full cooperation in carrying Rev. Cole's message over a radio network to reach the areas carrying Coughlin's broadcasts. Such cooperation had been given, with very favorable results, as indicated by Rev. Cole's mail and voluntary contributions from people in more than 300 cities.

The Committee had met also with reference to the Coughlin meeting in Cleveland, to see what steps could be taken to minimize its effect, since the meeting itself could not be prevented in accordance with the principle of free speech. After very careful consideration it had been agreed that a letter should be sent to Archbishop Schrembs, expressing the disappointment and chagrin of the Jewish people because of his participation in the meeting and pointing out that it would be interpreted by many people as an endorsement of Father Coughlin's policies and doctrines. The Archbishop, apparently as a result of this and other action, had then withdrawn from the meeting. Copies of the letter had been sent to the Presidents and representatives of Jewish organizations.

Other steps taken had been the contacting of Public Auditoriam and City Hall officials to prevent the distribution of the Protocols of Zion and similar literature in the Auditorium, after it had been learned that such distribution had taken place in St. Louis at a similar meeting; and circulation of anti-Coughlin literature outside of the meeting by the League for Human Rights. The latter had been stopped by the police, in what was reported to be a flagrant violation of civil rights and open discrimination by the police who permitted the Coughlin followers to continue the distribution of "Social Justice" and despite the fact that a check had previously been made to determine whether permits would be necessary, with city officials. It was reported further that the police had been giving out tickets for the Coughlin meeting.

There was prolonged discussion of the police action, and there was agreement that the League had taken proper action in giving the case to the Civil Liberties Union to bring about the discipline of the police-ment involved and to prevent such discrimination in the future. It was agreed further that the case should be vigorously pressed, and the special Committee was asked to keep close contact with the League concerning it.

There was also considerable discussion concerning the wisdom or right of the Council in seeking to prevent the distribution of the Protocols and other similar literature in the Public Auditorium. It was stated on the one hand that this might represent an abridgement of the right of free speech and expression which could have dangerous fundamental implications and which might be twisted to serious harmful effect. On the other hand, it was pointed out that civil liberties had always been interpreted as operating within certain limits such as incitement of riot, and that the morality and decency of distributing in a municipal hall defamatory literature and spurious forgeries legally recognized as such also was pertinent.

13.
meeting was adjourned.

No further business coming before the Committee, the

Respectfully submitted,

(signed)

Philip Bernstein
Secretary

Officers

President
Max Simon

First Vice-President
Edward M. Baker

Second Vice-President
Philmore J. Haber

Third Vice-President
Mrs. Moses Garber

Treasurer
Max Kohrman

Secretary
Philip Bernstein

Executive
Committee

Milton P. Altschul
Rabbi B. R. Brickner
Rabbi Armond E. Cohen
Jerome N. Curtis
Isadore Finesilver
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
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Mrs. A. F. Mellman
A. E. Persky
Rabbi Israel Porath
Aaron Resnick
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Edward J. Schweid
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The Jewish Community Council

Cleveland

Chester-Twelfth Bldg. - CHerry 8176

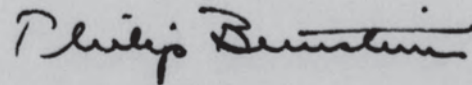
Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple,
Ansel Rd. & E. 105th St.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I don't know whether you have seen the enclosed article - it appeared on the front page of the Press yesterday (Tuesday). It marks the revival of the practice which your Committee on Fictitious Political Jewish Issues has been trying to eliminate.

Inasmuch as Mr. O'Donnell was nominated, there is a strong possibility that this practice may be revived before the election in November, and I am wondering whether it would not be advisable for your Committee to meet soon, well in advance of the election, to take whatever action it thinks necessary to prevent the injection of such "issues".

Very cordially yours,



Secretary

October 4, 1939

October 6, 1939

Mr. Philip Bernstein, Secretary
The Jewish Community Council
Chester-Twelfth Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Philip:

If you think that a meeting of the
Committee on Fictitious Political Jewish Issues
is necessary, please arrange to have one called
within the next week or ten days. The most
convenient date for me would be Friday noon,
October 13.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

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Chester-Twelfth Bldg. - CHerry 8176

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I spoke to Sol Danaceau and Jack Persky about the necessity of having a meeting of the Committee on Fictitious Jewish Political Issues. Both thought that it might be well to investigate first the source of the leaflet that was distributed in the primary campaign, and that if we could make reasonably sure that there would be no recurrence, we would not have to take the time for a meeting.

Jack Persky said that he knew some of the leaders of the O'Donnell campaign very well (he himself is very active in Republican politics) and that he would be glad to take the matter up with them and to impress upon them the feeling of the Jewish community with reference to this problem. He will contact me to report on his findings.

Under the circumstances I think that we can avoid a meeting of the Committee and I shall keep you informed of further developments.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Philip Bernstein
Secretary

October 9, 1939

JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Summary of Meeting Tuesday, October 17, 1939, 8:15 p.m., at
The Temple

1. Minutes Copies having been mailed to all members, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.
2. Activity Mr. Philmore Haber, presiding in the absence of Mr. Max Simon due to illness in the family, reviewed briefly the following activity:

Mr. Friedland and Cardinal Mundelein -- Letters had been sent by Mr. Simon in behalf of the Community Council to the family of the late Mr. A. H. Friedland, and to Archbishop Joseph Schrembs and Bishop Bernard J. Sheil of Chicago following the death of Cardinal Mundelein, to express the loss of the Jewish people in their passing.

Jewish Holidays and the Public Schools -- As in previous years, letters were sent by Rabbi Brickner as chairman of the Schools Committee of the Council to the superintendents and deans of the local schools and colleges, asking them to permit Jewish students to be absent on the Jewish holidays without scholastic penalty. Their response was favorable, and their cooperation, to the knowledge of the Committee, was splendid.

There had been difficulty, however, in the practice of some Jewish children playing in the school yards or even visiting classes on the holidays, when they were officially absent. One of the superintendents had asked the Council to give some thought to the problem, and had discussed the matter at its last meeting. After offering several suggestions as to methods of reaching the parents of such children in order to prevent the practice in the future, the question was referred to Rabbi Brickner's Committee for further thought and action.

National Conference of Jews and Christians -- Action was going forward in the formation of the Cleveland Chapter of the National Conference of Jews and Christians to promote a positive program of better understanding and intergroup relations. The officers and various committees had been chosen, representing equally Protestants, Jews, and Catholics, and plans were underway to secure a large local membership and to promote a program that would not confine itself to meaningless generalities, but would deal with real issues. It was expected that the first major meeting would be held early in November, with Dr. Everett Clinchy, national secretary of the organization, as speaker. The officers of the Community Council were participating actively in the movement.

In this connection, it was announced by Mr. Furth that the National Conference was distributing League for Tolerance buttons, pledging the wearers to combat bigotry. He urged member organizations to distribute the buttons locally, and it was agreed that the matter should be referred to the next meeting of the Cleveland Chapter of the Conference. Organizations desiring the buttons were instructed to contact the Secretary of the Community Council.

Arbitration Court -- The Jewish Arbitration Court was continuing to function quietly in the settlement of Jewish disputes. Three recent cases before the Court involved a financial dispute between a Catholic institution and a Jewish organization; a claim of a former employee of a Jewish communal organization for back salary; and a rental dispute between two Jewish families in which the Jewish holidays were involved. Most of the cases coming to the Arbitration Court were settled without the necessity of formal arbitration.

Fictitious Political Issues -- The Council was reminded of the action it had taken at its first meetings in condemning the injection of false racial or religious issues by any party or candidate into

political campaigns. A special Committee headed by Rabbi Silver had been established to eliminate such issues, and was prepared to take any action necessary if they were again injected into the forthcoming local campaign. Persons learning of such issues or tactics were urged to notify Rabbi Silver or the Secretary immediately.

3. Jewish Youth It was reported by Mr. George Mayer that organization of the Jewish Young Adult Bureau, established as a result of the action of the Community Council and the Jewish Welfare Fund, was progressing. The Administrative Committee and other Committee had been appointed, representing the Council Educational Alliance, the young adult groups participating in the program, and the Jewish community in general. Provision had been made for automatic representation of the young people's groups which would join in the project later.

Mr. Harry Rosen, formerly of Cleveland and more recently of Columbus, had been appointed director of the agency, which was intended to aid young people's organizations in developing constructive recreational and cultural programs, in finding proper facilities, and in building intergroup activities. Care was being taken to guide the program along lines desired by the young adults to meet their needs.

A question was raised as to whether the Alliance was not unduly dominating the project, and whether the new agency was being sufficiently aggressive. In reply, it was pointed out that the Alliance had only a minority in the policy-making Administrative Committee, being outweighed by representatives of the young adult groups and of the community at large. It was agreed that there should be a positive rather than a passive approach to the problem which the agency was to meet, and the Council was assured that an aggressive program was being contemplated.

4. Vocational Guidance Mr. A. L. Sudran, recently appointed director of the Jewish Vocational and Placement Service, explained that this new agency would merge the vocational guidance and employment service previously conducted by the Jewish Social Service Bureau, Council Educational Alliance, and Cleveland Coordinating Committee for Refugees. The agency would seek to give educational counselling to Jewish children still in school, vocational guidance to Jewish youth, and would attempt to find employment for Jews.

The latter phase particularly would be expanded, to meet the immediate problem and to provide a practical conclusion to vocational guidance. It would attempt to dispel false notions about the employability of Jews in certain fields and to overcome occupational maldistribution. It was expected that the agency would begin operation early in November.

5. Discrimination The Council was informed further that progress was being made in the establishment of the Bureau on Jewish Employment Problems, to expand the work done to date by the Council's Committee in combatting discrimination against Jews. The Board of the new agency included practically the entire Committee of the Council.

A number of candidates had been interviewed for the position of director, and it was expected that the selection would be made within the next ten days and that the agency would begin to function early in November. It was intended that with full time personnel and with the agency working closely with the vocational guidance and placement organization, a much more thorough and effective attack could be made on this problem. In the meantime the Council's Committee was continuing to investigate complaints, and two recent cases were described to the Council.

6. Father Coughlin Mr. George Furth, reporting for the Committee authorized by the Council at its last meeting to give full attention to the Coughlin problem, stated that in recent weeks there had been the following important developments:

Rev. Walton E. Cole of Toledo, under the sponsorship of the Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice, had inaugurated a series of vigorous radio broadcasts, exposing the Nazi sympathies of Father Coughlin and promoting a program of unity and good will to counteract Coughlin's programs. The response from listeners was excellent, it had been learned.

The new radio code barring paid controversial broadcasts and compelling stations to give equal opportunity to both sides to be heard without charge, might seriously affect Father Coughlin, possibly removing his paid programs or causing him to change the nature of his addresses. While the effect of the code was not yet known, it was believed that Rev. Cole's activity was serving as a helpful influence in the enforcement of the code.

Several national magazines recently had carried anti-Coughlin articles, including the Nation, American Mercury, Look, Catholic Voice, and Equality. Reprints of some of these articles had been distributed widely in Cleveland, in addition to the normal sale of these journals.

Efforts had been made to counteract the effect of the Coughlin meeting recently held in Cleveland. The Committee had informed Archbishop Schronks that his participation in the meeting, as announced in the newspapers, would give the effect of official Catholic sanction and would be interpreted as an endorsement of Father Coughlin's policies, and had resulted in deep chagrin and disappointment among the Jewish people. The Bishop's withdrawal from the meeting two days later had removed what was perhaps the most harmful aspect of the problem. Steps had also been taken to make certain that the Protocols of Zion and other anti-Semitic literature would not be sold in the Public Auditorium, and anti-Coughlin literature had been distributed outside of the hall by the League for Human Rights.

In general, the Committee reported, there had begun a vigorous attack on Father Coughlin's anti-Semitic and anti-democratic propaganda. From all indications his influence was still great, and the program against him would have to be carried forward. The Committee would continue to give the matter its full attention.

7. Anti-Nazi League The Council was informed of the recent activities of the League for Human Rights by Miss Grace Meyette, director. She reported that considerable effort had been made to counteract the Nazi propaganda concerning the employment of refugees, stating that investigation had proved that reports concerning their displacing American workers were false, and urging that the members of the Council do their utmost to correct these rumors. She told of anti-Nazi and anti-Coughlin literature circulated during the past two months, and she explained the situation involving the arrest of her brother for distributing such literature outside of the Coughlin meeting. His arrest had been an open case of discrimination, since the police had permitted the Coughlinites to distribute copies of Social Justice magazine without interference. A protest had been lodged by the Civil Liberties Union against the police action as a clear violation of civil rights, and an investigation was under way by the city administration.

She warned the representatives against believing that the anti-Hitler feeling in the country would wipe out anti-Semitism or that the English blockade would stop all shipments of Nazi merchandise to this country. On the contrary, she said, the Nazis would intensify their propaganda and the experience of the last war and of the last few weeks indicated clearly that Nazi merchandise would still be shipped to the United States, probably in Dutch, Portuguese, Italian and other boats. Only within the past few days there had arrived in a Dutch boat a shipment of 1,200 tons of German Christmas toys and decorations to the United States, and the Nazis were forcing Czechs and Poles to operate German mills and machines to produce articles for export while the men normally employed were at the war front. Every organization should continue to enforce the anti-Nazi boycott and not let themselves become victims of false propaganda to the contrary, she emphasized.

8. Population Survey Copies of the survey of Jewish population, "Jewish Families in Greater Cleveland", were distributed among the representatives for review at the meeting, and the Secretary analyzed some of the major findings. The data had been checked by the Council's special Committee prior to publication, and distribution and publicity were being centralized through the Community Council office.

Among the principal findings of the study were the following: 24,663 Jewish families in Cuyahoga County, or 7.7% of the total population; 91,073 Jewish people in the County; Jewish people comprised 7% of the population of Cleveland, 29% of Cleveland Heights, 15% of Shaker Heights, 10% of East Cleveland, and 1% of Lakewood; 19% of the Jewish families were not affiliated with any of the 146 Jewish organizations included in the study; 37% of the families belonged to one Jewish organization, 17% to two groups, 10% to three groups, 6% to four groups, and 11% to five or more groups.

Also reviewed and discussed were the types of dwellings occupied by the Jewish people compared with the rest of the population, their economic status, the distribution of Jewish school children, the distribution of Jewish Welfare Fund contributors, and membership in various organizations. It was pointed out likewise that other facts had been collected in previous studies which would be valuable when related to the Jewish survey, and that the information would have practical value for Jewish recreational and educational work with children, to Jewish organizations of various types in analyzing their membership and service, and to the Jewish community as a whole in planning its progressive development.

9. Conference An invitation was extended to the members to attend the East Central States Regional conference in Akron on Saturday night and Sunday, October 21 and 22, to discuss Jewish Community and Welfare needs and services.

10. Message Upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried, the Secretary was instructed to inform Mr Max Simon of the Council's regret in his absence, and to send Mrs. Simon flowers and express the wishes of the Council for a speedy recovery from her illness.

11. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed)

Philip Bernstein
Secretary

November 21, 1939

Mr. Philip Bernstein, Secretary
Jewish Community Council
Chester-twelfth Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Phil:

Miss Meyette tells me that "Social Justice" has practically reprinted the minutes of a meeting of the Jewish Community Council. I have not seen the particular issue in question, but if it is true, and if what was printed in the magazine was not a copy of what previously appeared in the local Jewish press, then certainly we ought to see to it that the minutes do not get out of your hands by having them circularized among the members of the Committee, and secondly, that those who attend the meetings of the Council be carefully checked up as to their right to be at the meeting. Coughlin has his spies in the city.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

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The Jewish Community Council

Cleveland

Chester-Twelfth Bldg. - CHerry 8176

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

There has developed in the community a serious situation with regard to the practice of ritual circumcision by Mohelim in St Lukes Hospital and possibly other local hospitals. This has also been a problem generally among the Mohelim.

In discussing the situation, Max Simon, Rabbi Cohen, Rabbi Rosenthal, Rabbi Porath and others who have considered it, have come to the conclusion that the problem is serious enough to warrant immediate attention. We are therefore arranging a meeting for Wednesday morning, November 29, at 10:00 a.m. at the Jewish Center, of the Mohelim with a number of rabbis to see whether some solution can be found and a bad situation prevented from becoming worse.

It was the opinion of these rabbis that it would be extremely helpful if you could be present. I know how busy you are, but if you could arrange to attend, your participation undoubtedly will aid greatly in developing a constructive solution.

Sincerely yours,

Philip Bernstein
Secretary

November 22, 1939

not free

Officers

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Max Simon

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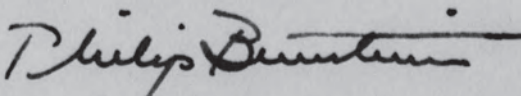
Rabbi A H Silver
The Temple
E 105th & Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi:

Following the report in Social Justice magazine that Mr Furth had headed a Community Council Committee which went to Bishop Schrembs to ask him to refrain from presiding in the local Coughlin meeting, Mr Furth wrote to the Bishop calling his attention to the article, stating that he had never had the pleasure of meeting the Archbishop and asking for a note from him confirming that statement of fact. A reply from the Archbishop was received by Mr Furth today, in which he emphatically repudiates the Coughlin report and encloses a letter which he sent to Father Coughlin asking him to rectify the misstatement.

I thought that you would be interested in having copies of these letters.

Very cordially yours,


Secretary

November 27, 1939

COPY

DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND
815 Superior Ave. N.E.
Cleveland

November 24, 1939

George W Furth
1387 East Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr Furth:

I thank you for calling my attention to the statement in the November 20th issue of Father Coughlin's magazine "Social Justice". As you well know, the statement is absolutely false.

I am sending you a copy of the letter I have just directed to Father Coughlin.

My relations with the Jewish people in the City of Cleveland, and for that matter of any city, have always been the most kindly and agreeable and I for one resent any aspersion cast upon your people.

With kindest good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Joseph Schrembs
Archbishop-Bishop of Cleveland.

C
O
P
Y

GENERAL JEWISH COUNCIL
295 Madison Avenue
New York

December 8, 1939

Mr Max Simon
President
Jewish Community Council
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr Simon:

I shall be very glad to give you the information you ask for regarding the Madison Square Garden meeting scheduled for December 13th.

The General Jewish Council itself is not sponsoring this meeting but two of the constituent organizations of the Council are on the list of sponsors, namely the American Jewish Congress and the Jewish Labor Committee. The additional sponsors are as follows:

American Committee on Religious Rights and Minorities
American Federation of Labor
American Newspaper Guild
Church Peace Union
League for Human Rights, Freedom and Democracy
League of Nations Association
Protestant Teachers Association
George Gordon Battle
Senator W Warren Barbour
Dr W Russell Bowie
Dr Leroy E Bowman
Carrie Chapman Catt
Dr Harry Emerson Fosdick
James W Gerard
Dr Alice Hamilton
John Haynes Holmes
R V Ingersoll
Stanley M Isaacs
Bishop William T Manning
Dr John Howland Lathrop
Guy Emery Sipler
Alfred E Smith
Senator Wagner
Matthew Woll

Mr Simon

-2-

We are happy that this list includes non-Jewish organizations and individuals as well as Jewish, as it is of course important that any protest of this sort should have the combined backing of all enlightened public opinion and not be a strictly sectarian protest. Perhaps the position of the General Jewish Council in the matter could be stated as follows: That the Council is not sponsoring the meeting but is sympathetic with its objectives.

It is, of course, impossible at this date to say what the exact effect of this meeting will be. It is not impossible, however, that presenting to the American people the truth about the Polish atrocities will arouse public opinion against so flagrant an example of injustice and oppression, and that such an aroused public opinion will clarify for millions of Americans the direction in which anti-Semitism can lead.

Just as the list of sponsors of the Madison Square Garden meeting is not entirely Jewish, so it has been thought desirable to have a large number of non-Jewish speakers on the program. The list at present is as follows: William Green, Dr Samuel McCrea Cavert, and four others pending arrangements.

The sponsors of the meeting understand fully that the Jews are not the only oppressed people today. At the present moment, for instance, the inhabitants of Finland are also feeling the lash of tyranny and accordingly the meeting will quite logically include expressions of sympathy for those and all other oppressed groups throughout the world.

So far as we know, no cities other than New York have planned meetings of this sort. Personally I am not sure that it would be advisable, at least at the present moment. In this I cannot, of course, speak for the Council as a whole, as the question of having meetings in other cities has not been discussed by our Executive Committee. On the other hand I feel that the majority of that Committee would, if presented with the problem, be opposed to a number of such meetings throughout the country until the effect of the Garden meeting is known.

If there is any further information you would like, please don't hesitate to ask me for it.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) ARTHUR S. MEYER
Chairman
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

asn/aes

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

George Furth told me of his conversation with you concerning the correspondence with Mr J L Lincoln and suggested that I send you the most recent exchange of letters between him and Arthur Cohn, Local Commander of the Jewish War Veterans. You will remember that in his reply to Mr Cohn's first letter, Mr Lincoln disregarded completely the evidence that when the citizens of this country have been called upon to defend the United States, Jews have played a prominent part and have not remained at home at their desks. You will remember too that Mr Lincoln stated that it still was true that Jews were more enthusiastic about getting the United States into the war, than the rest of the population. The enclosed correspondence gives Mr Cohn's reply and Mr Lincoln's last letter.

You will also be interested in knowing that the last issue of Social Justice magazine carried a retraction of the story which it had printed on the Jewish Community Council of Cleveland, stating that the Bishop failed to attend the Cleveland meeting of his own volition and that the report to the contrary was due to an error by a member of the editorial staff of Social Justice magazine.

With all best wishes, I am

Very cordially yours,

Philip Bernstein
Secretary

December 11, 1939

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON KASHRUTH

The last report made by the Kashruth Committee was presented to the Executive Committee and to the Jewish Community Council at their meeting in July of this year. It might be well, therefore, before making our present recommendations, to review briefly the background contained in our previous statement.

You will remember that the appointment of the Committee on Kashruth was authorized by the Executive Committee on July, 1938, upon the request of a number of Orthodox Rabbis because of the complete lack of any supervision in the retail sale of kosher meats. The personnel of the Committee which was appointed had the approval of those Rabbis.

Your Committee agreed at the very beginning that it should consult with all parties involved in Kashruth before making any recommendations. To that end we met with the city Health commissioner, who informed us that the State Kashruth Law had never been enforced locally because of the lack of funds; with the Orthodox Rabbis who agreed to meet our basic stipulation that we could not go into the situation unless we had their united cooperation, since we could not become involved in any such situation as has existed in the past when one Rabbi would testify that a certain product was kosher and another that it was not, and inasmuch as the religious authority and responsibility for Kashruth rested primarily with the Rabbis -- and for that purpose the Rabbis organized the Merkaz Harabbonim and appointed a Committee of our members to cooperate with our Committee; we met with the wholesale meat packers, who refused to cooperate in bringing about supervision of the retail sale of kosher meats; and with the retail butchers who proposed a plan which could not be accepted because of its impracticality, its questionable legality, and because the under-lying principle of having the persons being supervised pay for their own inspection was unsound.

We could not accept either the proposal of the Rabbis that we should secure for them the official authority to enter voluntarily the meat markets to inspect them, because it was not intended that this would be a regular and complete inspection, with the result that while some offenders might be caught others would not, and the community would be given the false impression that there was adequate supervision when actually much misrepresentation would probably continue without detection.

After a year of study and about 20 meetings and conferences we were convinced that the only sound solution lay in a thorough and complete program which would include also the wholesale meat packers, since there was no more justification for the packers' selecting and paying their own inspectors than there would be for a similar arrangement in the retail meat markets. We therefore proposed the establishment of a community Board of Kashruth which would give due place to the Orthodox Rabbis and which would employ directly the Schochtim, Rabbis, and meat market inspectors for Kashruth, instead of leaving

on the basis of a uniform fee per unit of meat slaughtered and supervised, and the fee would be large enough to enable the Board of Kashruth to pay also for retail inspection. It would not, however, be an unfair burden upon the packers since this charge would be passed on to the consumers, who ultimately must pay for any plan of Kashruth supervision.

You will remember that this proposal was presented to the Orthodox Rabbis at two meetings. At the last meeting the Rabbis said that they had given the authority to speak for them to a Rabbi who is employed by the largest meat packer, without themselves having arrived at any decision. This Rabbi rejected our recommendation, refusing to give any reasons, although he admitted that the plan was logical. The other Rabbis said nothing.

When this was reported to the Council at its last meeting, the Rabbis sent Rabbi Genuth as their representative to inform the Council that they had just had a long meeting, that they wished the matter to be given further consideration, and asked the Committee to continue its efforts. The Committee was then given such authorization.

The following has taken place since that time. We wrote to Rabbi Philip Rosenberg, who at that time presided over the meetings of the Merkaz Harabbonim, on August 1 to inform him of the sentiment of the Council as expressed at its meeting and to ask what steps the Rabbis proposed, inasmuch as our Committee had presented a plan which we believed would solve the problem but which had been rejected by them without suggesting an alternative. To this we received a reply on August 9 which merely quoted the following resolution, adopted by the Merkaz Harabbonim at the meeting held just prior to the Council meeting and of which the Council already had been informed by Rabbi Genuth, to wit: "Be it resolved that the Merkaz Harabbonim continue to perfect its plans which are in the process of completion, and decides to do everything in its power to enforce Kashruth in this community. Be it further resolved that the Merkaz Harabbonim gratefully acknowledges the Cleveland Community Council's willingness to cooperate in this important problem. It therefore assures the Council that the Merkaz Harabbonim will be happy to call upon the Community Council for any assistance it may need and which the Council may be in a position to offer."

When no other word was received in the next two months, a letter was sent to Rabbi Jacob Berger as secretary of the Merkaz Harabbonim to inform the organization of the desire that there should be no further delay and asking what plans the group had with reference to the problem. The letter was sent on October 13, and no reply has been received to date.

We are informed that the Merkaz Harabbonim has held no meeting for this purpose for several months, and there is also evidence of differences among some of the members, such as to raise serious question as to the prospect for any unified action by them in the immediate future. An important element also is the fact that several of the Rabbis who at present are not employed by the packing houses and derive no income from Kashruth supervision, while privately expressing disagreement with their colleagues and a desire to cooperate with the Council have made it clear that they do not wish or intend to enter openly into any opposition to them.

Another factor which must be taken into account is the resolution adopted nationally by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada at a recent convention, forbidding the members to join with Jewish Community Councils in the administration of Kashruth. While it is known that the resolution was inspired directly by a situation in another city, it is said that Cleveland's representation aided in its passage and it is known that the Union sent letters to Cleveland Rabbis instructing them to abide by the resolution.

In reviewing these developments, the following points stand out:

1. The actual Kashruth situation remains the same as before, with no supervision of the retail meat markets, leaving the way open to misrepresentation and fraud.
2. The primary religious authority and responsibility for Kashruth rests with the Rabbis.
3. Although your Committee was established at the request of the Orthodox Rabbis, who pledged their cooperation and who were repeatedly assured that the Council had no desire to invade in any way their religious authority, it is now clear that the Orthodox Rabbis as a group are not seeking the assistance or cooperation of the Council and that some of them in fact are opposing it.
4. The situation of the Rabbis has been complicated further by the resolution of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis. In all fairness, we believe that the Union should have a full picture of the situation here and should know where the responsibility lies, and have directed the Chairman to so inform the Union.
5. The primary condition set forth by your Committee as a basis for participation by the Council, namely unity among the Orthodox Rabbis, apparently has been breaking down.
6. Should the Council attempt to push through a fundamental solution such as your Committee has recommended, it would create dissension and disruption in the community of the very type that the Council and your Committee has sought to avoid. The Council would also be confronted with a condition in which even those Rabbis who agree with the Council are unwilling to enter into any open opposition to their colleagues.
7. The constructive good that might possibly result must be weighed against the harm done by the unfavorable publicity, disruption, and conflict that probably would be involved, particularly in view of present conditions.
8. Another element that must be considered is that under the present circumstances the attempt to carry out a thorough program would involve a very large part of the time and effort of the Council to the exclusion of other problems.

The final evaluation of these factors must rest with the Council. And reflecting, as the Council does, the will of a cross section of the Jewish community, the ultimate answer will be determined by the degree of indifference or concern of the community.

For itself, your Committee was established to study the problem of Kashruth and to bring back its facts and recommendations. This we have done. We believe, therefore, that we should and hereby do, tender our resignation.

COMMITTEE ON KASHRUTH

(The Committee on Kashruth established by the Council includes the following persons: Rabbi Israel Porath, Chairman; Abraham Brofman, Max Kohrman, Henry A. Rucker, Julius Schweid, and Abraham Stern).



Officers

President
Max Simon

First Vice-President
Edward M. Baker

Second Vice-President
Philmore J. Haber

Third Vice-President
Mrs. Moses Garber

Treasurer
Max Kohrman

Secretary
Philip Bernstein

The Jewish Community Council

Cleveland

Chester-Twelfth Bldg. - CHerry 8176

**Executive
Committee**

Milton P. Altschul
Rabbi B. R. Brickner
Rabbi Armond E. Cohen
Jerome N. Curtis
Isadore Finesilver
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

December 29, 1939

SPECIAL MEETING

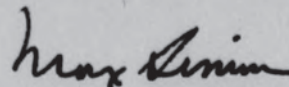
To the Executive Committee:

We have just been informed that Dr. Chaim Weizmann will be in Cleveland definitely on January 25, and the Jewish Community Council is being asked to sponsor and arrange a large community meeting which he will address that evening.

Comment upon the importance of this event would be superfluous and it is imperative that we lose no time in undertaking the arrangements. We are therefore calling a special meeting of the Executive Committee for Tuesday afternoon, January 2, at 4:00 p.m., at the Community Council office --- Chester-Twelfth Bldg., Room 312. This will be the only business of the meeting, so that members will be able to be home in ample time for dinner.

I am counting upon your attendance.

Sincerely yours,



Max Simon
President

P.S. Enclosed is a copy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Executive Committee. In view of the nature of the contents, members are asked to exercise due care in the handling of these documents.

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The Jewish Community Council

Cleveland

Chester-Twelfth Bldg. - CHerry 8176

Rabbi A H Silver

The Temple

E 105th St & Ansel Road

Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

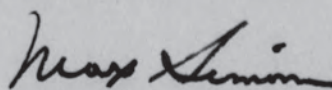
Under separate cover I am sending you a quantity of free tickets for the community meeting which will honor and hear Dr Chaim Weizmann on Thursday evening, January 25, at the Public Music Hall. Will you please arrange to have the tickets distributed to the members of your Congregation, Sisterhood, Men's Club, Alumni Association and the Cleveland Zionist Society as soon as possible?

We are sending you a poster announcing the meeting which we would ask you to post on your bulletin board.

It will also be very helpful if you could announce the meeting from your pulpit.

Your assistance in this manner will help to guarantee a capacity attendance at the meeting and you may be sure that it will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



Max Simon
President

January 11, 1940

JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting Monday, January 15, 1940, 8:30 p.m., at the Jewish Center

1. Minutes Copies having been mailed to all members, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.
2. Review The Chairman, Philmore J. Haber, presiding in the absence of Max Simon due to illness, briefly reviewed the following activities: the work of the Committee on Fictitious Jewish Political Issues in helping to minimize such issues in the last local campaign and thereby keeping related harmful publicity out of the newspapers; the continued service of the Jewish Arbitration Court; and the increased use and value of the Community Calendar in avoiding conflicts in dates of programs being planned by various organizations.

3. Conference of Jews and Christians The Council was informed that local Round Table of the National Conference of Christians and Jews would sponsor a civic luncheon to be addressed by Archbishop Joseph Schrembs Monday, January 29, at the Cleveland Hotel. The general theme of the address would be goodwill and cooperation among the various religious groups. Tickets could be obtained at the office of the Community Council, and members were urged to attend.

The Conference was planning also an elaborate program of activities for Brotherhood Week, which is observed nationally February 18 to 24. Included would be radio addresses, an essay contest in the high schools, special interfaith programs by various organizations, etc. The officers of the Community Council were cooperating actively to help make the program of the Conference successful in Cleveland.

4. Dr. Weizmann Members already had been informed by mail that the Executive Committee had accepted an invitation to sponsor a Community Meeting in honor of Dr. Chaim Weizmann to be held Thursday evening, January 25, at the Public Music Hall, and presidents had received free tickets for distribution. It was announced that a Sub-Committee consisting of Max Simon, Chairman, Suggs Garber, David Ralph Hertz, Philmore J. Haber, Rabbi Israel Porath, Aaron Resnick, Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal, Mrs Abraham Strauss, and Meyer Weintraub had been appointed to plan the details of the event, after the general outline of the program had been considered by the Executive Committee.

In order to give Dr. Weizmann the maximum time for his message, a simple program had been arranged consisting of a message of welcome for the Jewish community from Mr. Simon, greetings in behalf of the city from Mayor Burton, and the introduction of Dr. Weizmann by Rabbi A. H. Silver, national chairman of the United Palestine Appeal. In addition to the evening meeting, there would also be a luncheon in honor of Dr. Weizmann under the auspices of The Jewish Welfare Fund, with Rabbi B. R. Brickner, the Fund's Co-chairman, presiding.

The plans for the Community Meeting were then discussed, and the representatives were urged to make sure that the members of their groups knew about the event and received tickets for it.

5. Father Coughlin George Furth, reporting for the Coughlin Committee, informed the Council that Father Coughlin had announced the renewal of his radio contract with 47 of the 49 stations which had been carrying his program; that the contracts had been made on a commercial basis, that the programs would be controversial in nature according to Coughlin's statement, and that the radio code requiring free time for both sides to be heard in such matters apparently was being ignored by the stations; that the 18 members of the Christian Front arrested for plotting the overthrow of the government and destruction of key government buildings looked upon Father Coughlin as their leader; that Father Coughlin's magazine, Social Justice, had retracted distorted and false charges which it had previously printed involving the Cleveland Jewish Community Council and Archbishop Schrembs' failure to participate in Coughlin's Cleveland "peace rally", after Archbishop Schrembs had written Coughlin and demanded a retraction.

The attention of the Council was also called to national and regional activities by Christian groups to counteract Father Coughlin's anti-democratic propaganda. Among them were the radio addresses by Father Lennan and Rev. Cole, articles in such journals as the Protestant Digest, the Catholic Voice, the Christian Century, and others. Opposition likewise had been voiced by groups recently attacked by Coughlin, including labor organizations, the Masons, and bodies of educators.

Other developments in the situation were discussed.

6. New Agencies The Council was informed of the activities of the three new agencies which it had helped to establish:

Jewish Young Adult Bureau -- Harry Rosen, director, stated that the purpose of the Bureau was to meet the recreational and cultural needs of Jewish youth through service to individual groups and through aiding in joint efforts by the organizations. Forty groups already had been contacted, with a total membership of about 8,000 persons; 31 of the groups had been given concrete service; 8 organizations had formally affiliated with the Bureau to date and 12 others had indicated the definite intention to do so.

The office of the Bureau was at 9801 Euclid Ave. Arrangements had been made with the Community Temple at the same address for the use of 10 meeting rooms and two auditoriums every Tuesday night, and 1,600 persons persons already had made use of these facilities. Plans for similar arrangements with other institutions were going forward. Special dramatics and choral groups and an officers' seminar had been started in response to an expressed need, without duplicating any existing activities. Advice to the individual groups to help them meet their problems had been prominent in the Bureau's activity. Direction to unaffiliated youth was another important service, 92 such individuals having come to the Bureau to date. One-fourth of them had been directed to specific organizations thus far. The policies of the Bureau were being determined to a large extent by a body of delegates from the various organizations.

Jewish Vocational Service -- A.L. Sudran, director, stated that 800 persons had applied for service. Of these, 669 were applicants for positions. The others desired vocational counseling. The applicants for positions were being interviewed carefully to determine their qualifications and desires, references were being thoroughly checked, and inexperienced people were being tested for their ability, so that the employers would be assured that the applicants sent to them were really qualified.

In the first few weeks of the agency's existence thirty-three persons had been placed, and in the month of December 56 additional people had been placed in a wide variety of positions. This was regarded as an unusually good record for a new agency.

The cooperation of the members was asked in meeting the special employment needs of refugees. In addition to the placement work, Mr. Sudran described the vocational counseling being given to individuals and groups of young people who were seeking help in their choice of a vocation.

Bureau on Employment Problems -- George Segal, director, reviewed briefly the experience of the Council's Committee which had been concerned with the problem of discrimination against Jews in employment, and out of which his agency had been formed. The program of the organization was to investigate complaints of discrimination against specific companies in order to try to correct any injustice that may have been done, to bring about a fair employment policy in such firms as were found to discriminate and to protect fair employers from false rumors; and to make surveys of entire fields of business and industry to determine the feeling and practice concerning the employment of Jews. The advice and cooperation of experts in these fields would be sought.

The harmful effects of employment discrimination upon the economic situation and the morale of Jews, particularly Jewish youth, were pointed out. It was the purpose of the Bureau to seek not a preference for Jewish applicants, but acceptance of them purely on their merits without regard to race or religion. It would work closely with the Jewish Vocational Service so that employers opening positions to Jews would be supplied with qualified applicants. The members of the Council were asked to refer all complaints to the Bureau, so that they could be promptly investigated without duplication of effort.

7. Anti-Nazi League Miss Grace Meyette, reporting for the League for Human Rights, warned the delegates against acceptance of the fallacies that the increase of anti-Hitler feeling since the beginning of the current war automatically would decrease anti-Semitism in the United States, and that no German goods would enter the United States because of the British blockade. Actual experience had shown that these assumptions were unwarranted.

She described the very active work of a group of Christian women in recent months in diminishing the sale of German merchandise, and urged the organizations to appoint their new boycott chairmen promptly, to make sure that they were competent and active, and to give them full opportunity to make their reports at major meetings.

8. Nominating Committee Upon recommendation of the president and the Executive Committee, and upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following Nominating Committee was elected: Milton P. Altschul, Chairman; Jerome N. Curtis, Mrs. David Glasser, A. I. Hausman, George Klein, A. E. Persky, and Aaron Resnick.

9. Kashruth The report of the Kashruth Committee was read by Rabbi Israel Porath, Chairman. After reviewing the activity of the Committee up to the July meeting of the Council, he informed the Council that two letters had been sent to the Merkaz Harabbonim to learn what plans the Orthodox Rabbis had for the solution of the problem, inasmuch as the Rabbis had first rejected the proposal of the Committee for community control of Kashruth supervision without giving any reasons, and had then reconsidered and asked the Council's continued cooperation. No information had been received in response to these letters.

The Committee had then reviewed the entire situation, with the following points standing out: (1) there was still no supervision of the retail meat markets, leaving the way open to misrepresentation and fraud; (2) the primary religious authority and responsibility for Kashruth rested with the Orthodox Rabbis; (3) although the Committee had been established at the request of some of the Orthodox Rabbis, it was clear that as a group they no longer wanted the assistance of the Council; (4) the situation had been complicated by a national resolution of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, instructing its members not to cooperate with Community Councils in the administration of Kashruth (a letter had been sent by the Chairman to the Union to point out the facts in the local situation and a reply was expected soon); (5) the essential basis for cooperation by the Council, namely unity among the Orthodox Rabbis, was breaking down; (6) even those Rabbis who agreed with the Council were unwilling to openly oppose their colleagues; (7) should the Council attempt to push through a fundamental solution, it would involve the community in the very dissension and disruption it had tried to avoid; (8) the constructive good that might result would have to be weighed against the harm done by unfavorable publicity and conflict, particularly under the present circumstances; (9) to deal with the matter in this way would require a great deal of time and effort that might be devoted to other problems in the community, raising the question as to the relative value in view of the probable results. The final judgment of these factors rested with the Council and the community, the Committee said. For itself, having carried out its purpose of studying the Kashruth problem and bringing back its facts and recommendations, the Committee tendered its resignation.

There was prolonged discussion of the report. A number of persons stated that the resignation could not be accepted, that the problem was too important and too much effort had been given it to stop at that point, that the matter concerned the entire community and not just the Orthodox Rabbis, and that the Council owed it to its membership to continue. On the other hand it was stated that primary responsibility rested with the Orthodox synagogues, and unless they were sufficiently concerned to make their influence felt little result could be expected. It was also pointed out that inasmuch as the Council had entered into the situation at the request of Orthodox Rabbis who apparently no longer wished the Council's cooperation, the matter should be left with them.

After further discussion, it was said that the first obligation was to inform the member organizations of what had actually been done by

the Council, so that there would be no misunderstanding in this regard, and so that there would be an opportunity for discussion and instruction of their representatives to the Council concerning their interest and wishes in the matter. It was therefore moved, duly seconded, and unanimously carried that copies of the Committee's report should be mailed to all of the member organizations and to any synagogues and Rabbis who were not members of the Council. Action on the Committee's resignation was deferred.

10. Membership Upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, and upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the membership application of the Jewish National Workers Alliance, Branch 504, was approved.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) Philip Bernstein
Secretary

Officers

President

Max Simon

First Vice-President

Edward M. Baker

Second Vice-President

Philmore J. Haber

Third Vice-President

Mrs. Moses Garber

Treasurer

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Cleveland

Chester-Twelfth Bldg. - CHerry 8176

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Edward J. Schweid
Rabbi A. H. Silver
Oscar H. Steiner
Abraham Stern
Dr. Abraham Strauss
Meyer Weintraub
Sidney N. Weits

Dear Rabbi Silver:

We have not yet been informed by your organization as to who will represent it in the Jewish Community Council for the current year, 1940.

It is very important that we have this information as soon as possible, inasmuch as the new representatives will take office at the next meeting of the Council. It is necessary, too, because the Nominating Committee will meet shortly to recommend a slate of Officers and Executive Committee for election by the Council, and it must have the names of the 1940 representatives in order to choose the nominees.

Will you please return the enclosed blank as soon as possible?

Sincerely yours,

Philip Bernstein
Secretary

January 16, 1940

P.S. As you know, your present representatives are Jerome N. Curtis, Saul S. Danaceau, and Dr. F.M. Falkman.

1940 Saul Danaceau

C
O
P
Y

BOZELL & JACOBS, INC.

Electric Building Omaha, Nebr.

February 14, 1940

McNUTT AND THE JEWS

I think you will be vitally interested in the attached statement giving the views of Paul V. McNutt on the Jewish question. You will be especially interested in that part which begins on Page 2 and which tells what has been done for the refugee.

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

If you feel as I do after reading this statement, I hope that you will pass it on to friends or read it to some group.

Naturally, I would be pleased to receive your reaction if you desire to write to me.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Morris E. Jacobs

GOVERNOR McNUTT ON THE JEWISH QUESTION

The followers of Paul V. McNutt may "point with pride" to his achievements. His antagonists may "view with alarm." But either side has yet to mention Paul McNutt's views on religion -- on Judaism, on Catholicism, on paganism, on any form of faith. It isn't surprising. For Paul McNutt is so completely devoid of any form of religious or racial intolerance that it never occurs to anyone to even think about it.

Many of McNutt's supporters are devout Catholics. Many are Jews. Jews of every description -- orthodox, conservative, reform. It is odd in only one way: McNutt is no more "pro-Catholic," "pro-Protestant" or "pre-Jewish" than he is pro-Republican."

The Indiana Presidential candidate may have shortcomings, but his great, shining virtue is his attitude toward men. To McNutt a man is never a person with a religion. He is a man. This, of course, accounts for his amazing success as high commissioner of the Philippines.

The Filipinos were prepared to dislike McNutt. His statement that he was not going to stay in Manila for an extended period did him no great good across the Pacific. But the Filipinos found in him a man who thought nothing of their brown skin, of their racial differences, or their customs.

McNutt was just being himself. He like the Filipinos for themselves. They knew it. He could have been a bad administrator and they would have fought for him.

McNutt's record as Governor of Indiana was precisely the same way. One of his first acts was to name Moie Cook of Logansport to the Indiana Public Service Commission. Cook is a Jew. Some politicians murmured. McNutt looked surprised. "He can handle the job, can't he?" he said truculently. The murmuring stopped.

Jacob Weiss was floor leader of the Indiana Senate. Some of his friends wanted Weiss to be president pro tem of the senate.

Weiss stuck his head in McNutt's door.

"How do I stand on president of the senate?" he said.

"If you can make it, take it," retorted the Governor.

Democrats from the Klan-ridden sections of southern Indiana rushed to the Governor. McNutt looked at them blandly.

"Can he do the job?" he asked.

They turned and walked out. They elected Weiss.

In March, 1933, at the height of the anti-Semitic outrages in Germany, Rabbi Solomon Goldman of Chicago telephoned Weiss. He wanted McNutt to address the giant demonstration in Chicago. Weiss went to McNutt. He was expecting a flat refusal. Banks all over the nation were closed. The Governor was working eighteen hours a day. He was reorganizing Indiana's government. McNutt did not refuse. He said simply that the President of the United States was to call him thenext afternoon at 3 o'clock in regards to the banking crisis. If McNutt had to go to Washington, he would have to refuse. If not --

At 3 o'clock the next afternoon, McNutt talked to Washington. He begged the President of give him 48 hours leeway. Then he walked out of the office.

"Make the arrangements, Jake," he said.

The greatest orators in the nation thrilled 100,000 persons in and outside the great Auditorium Theater in Chicago that Monday night. People were weeping as President Hutchins of Chicago finished his speech. When McNutt was called upon, it was anti-climactic.

McNutt stood before the audience a full minute in silence, the lights glaring down on him. Then he raised his fist.

"For the second time in my life," he cried, "I am raising my voice to protest against the actions of the German government. Indiana has sent me here to protest. We do protest!"

The passion that shook McNutt shook the audience. When he finished his speech fifteen minutes later there were people in the aisles, standing on seats, waving their arms and screaming the applause.

But it was not McNutt the orator. It was McNutt the man. McNutt spoke that way because he felt that way.

He feels strongly about the persecution of the Jews by the Nazi government. How strongly is illustrated by another episode which involves Weiss.

It was at the time refugee Jews were being refused sanctuary all over the world. Senator Weiss wrote a letter to High Commissioner McNutt asking simply what McNutt thought of the possibilities of refuge in the Philippines.

By return mail came a letter from McNutt. He said he's talk to Weiss in a few weeks when he returned to the United States.

He did return amid crowds and cheers and the stares of the curious who wanted to see a presidential candidate.

There was no opportunity for the two to talk in Indianapolis. In Washington there was a reception. The line looked a mile long. Thousands were grouped around and in front of McNutt. When Weiss came into view, McNutt stopped him. They talked there in full view of thousands for 10 minutes. McNutt was oblivious of the line waiting to shake his hand.

McNutt explained that he had to visit the President, the secretary of State, and a dozen other important government officials. Would Weiss stay in Washington for breakfast two days hence? The Indiana senator did.

Two morning hence he pulled McNutt from bed for breakfast.

"Jake," said McNutt, "it's all arranged. The visas will be okayed by me and won't have to clear through the State Department. When I get back to Manila I'm going to arrange for the proper reception of these refugees. We ought to be able to take care of at least five thousand. We've got to. Some one has to."

McNutt flew back to the Philippines by clipper plane. By return airmail came a detailed letter to Weiss. McNutt said he had organized the Jewish community in Manila. He said that the first boatload of refugees should include so many lawyers, so many doctors, so many artisans, etc.

The upshot was that through the efforts of the Refugee Economic Corporation in New York -- and with McNutt in the background -- 5,000 Jewish refugees were settled in the Philippines.

McNutt urged the Philippine commonwealth to spend \$12,000,000 in preparing the Island of Mindanao for the settling of refugees. President Quezon of the Philippines backed this suggestion to the hilt.

The job was done. The \$12,000,000 is being spent now. Plans are being made for the settling of 10,000 families in Mindanao, a Pacific paradise twice the size of the state of Ohio.

McNutt takes no credit for this job. He never even mentions it. He thinks it was his job to do it.

It is typical. Whatever else one may say about Paul V. McNutt, he must admit that there are few persons alive with his detached tolerance, his affection for persons he likes regardless of creed, color or faith.

Perhaps it's the reason he may be this country's next president.

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The Jewish Community Council

Cleveland

Chester-Twelfth Bldg. • CHerry 8176

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter received by Mr. Simon as President of the Jewish Community Council concerning the candidacy of Mr McNutt. You will note that the letter attempts to win sympathy for Mr McNutt on the basis of his alleged friendship for Jews - the very type of appeal that we have tried to minimize locally.

In discussing the letter with Mr. Simon it seemed to us that it might be wise to write the sender of the letter to express our feeling that such religious issues should not be injected into the campaign, and that the effect upon numerous persons in positions of Jewish communal leadership is the very opposite one from that intended. We thought also that it might be advisable to ask other Community Councils, such as those in Detroit and Cincinnati to take similar action to help strengthen the impression that the injection of religious issues is unwise, and that perhaps the attention of the General Jewish Council might be called to the possibility of conferring with the leaders of both major political parties nationally to avoid playing upon religious prejudices.

I shall be happy to get your reaction to the letter and to the suggestions.

Very cordially yours,

Philip Bernstein
Secretary

February 21, 1940

Minutes of a Meeting Tuesday, February 27, 1940, at 8:30 p.m., at the Euclid
Avenue Temple

1. Attendance There were present: Max Simon, Chairman; Milton P. Altschul, Philip Bernstein, Jerome N. Curtis, George W. Furth, Mrs Moses Garber, Mrs Joseph Goldhamer, A. I. Hausman, David Ralph Hertz, Rabbi Hugo Klein, Max Kohrman, Mrs Benjamin Levine, Leonard Levy, A. E. Persky, Rabbi Israel Porath, Aaron Resnick, Abraham Stern, Dr. Abraham Strauss, Meyer Weintraub, Sidney N. Weitz.
2. Minutes Copies having been mailed to all members, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.
3. Conference of
Jews & Christians The Chairman reported that the Local Round Table of the Conference of Jews and Christians had been very active in recent weeks. The luncheon addressed by Archbishop Schrembs had attracted an audience of more than 500 persons and had received extensive front-page publicity, with one of the papers reprinting his entire address on tolerance and good will. Brotherhood Week had included two major radio programs, several interfaith church programs and interfaith youth forums. It was felt that commendable progress was being made in this constructive movement and the officers of the Council were cooperating actively in its development.
4. Jewish People's
Committee The Chairman read a recent letter from the General Jewish Council, in response to an inquiry, stating that definite provision had been made for informing the country concerning the identity and nature of the Jewish People's Committee. Question had arisen concerning this following the nation-wide publicity which this organization recently had received. Attention was also called to the fact that the national commander of the Jewish War Veterans had issued a statement condemning the organization which had been widely publicized. It was agreed that the matter was one which required national, rather than local attention.
5. Mass Meeting The question of the advisability of a mass meeting concerning the treatment of Jews in the areas conquered by Nazi Germany had been tabled by the Executive Committee at a recent session until other developments had taken place. The matter was now reconsidered, and the Committee was informed that the meeting in honor of Dr. Chaim Weizmann had attracted an over-flow audience of 4,000 persons and had received newspaper reviews and photographs. A large meeting had also been held recently by the American Jewish Congress, with Dr. Maurice Perlzweig of London as guest speaker. In view of these developments it was asked whether or not another mass meeting in the near future would be advisable or effective.

It was the opinion of Mr. Weintraub that such a meeting should be held to give expression to the feelings of many Jews and to stir up public sentiment against the Nazi persecution. He believed that the daily newspapers had printed very little information concerning the situation and that the general public was largely uninformed and unconcerned as to what was taking place. Such a meeting with nationally known speakers would result in considerable publicity, and would be particularly timely because of the presence of Sumner Welles in Europe. He had spoken informally with leaders of the Polish and Czech groups who had stated that they would be willing to cooperate with the Jewish community in such a meeting.

Several members, on the other hand, questioned the advisability of another mass meeting in the immediate future. They believed that the time was not good psychologically following the other two meetings and in the absence of a special dramatic occasion for it. Previous efforts to have the Poles and Czechs work together in arranging such a meeting had not been successful and the Poles themselves would have a musical program in the large Public Auditorium within the next month to raise money for Polish relief. The Committee was informed also that the Jewish Welfare Fund planned to open its campaign early in May with a mass meeting at the Music Hall which

would deal mainly with the overseas situation of Jews and would largely be of the very type which Mr. Weintraub recommended. The ability of any mass meeting to open newspaper columns to such publicity over a period of time, was questioned, it being believed that the relative lack of news was due to an inability of the newspapers to get authentic information from the conquered areas rather than reluctance to print such facts.

There was no second to Mr. Weintraub's motion that a mass meeting should be held in the immediate future, and the Secretary was instructed to secure additional information from the League for Human Rights concerning the plans which it had had for a meeting sponsored by the Finnish, Polish, Jewish and other groups.

6. Ritual Circumcision The members were informed of the work being done by the special Committee appointed by the Chairman to deal with the problem which threatened the elimination of ritual circumcision from a non-sectarian hospital unless the standards and relationship among the Mohelim improved. It was pointed out that the problem was one of continuing a good relationship between the Jewish community and this hospital, as well as that of placing the practice of ritual circumcision on a plane befitting its religious character and dignity.

The Committee had been seeking to enforce the code of ethics to which the Mohelim had agreed, and was now exploring the possibilities of setting up a Board of License composed of rabbis and physicians who would examine Mohelim to determine their religious and medical qualifications and would issue licenses to those meeting the minimum requirements. This plan had been agreed upon after communicating with several other cities and learning that a similar program had operated successfully in New York for several years. It was hoped that this arrangement would raise the standards of practice, improve the relationship among Mohelim, protect the community from incompetent persons, and assist the hospitals in maintaining the necessary control.

The work of this Committee was discussed, and its objectives were commended. It was therefore moved, duly seconded and carried that the Committee should continue its efforts to work out a plan which would stabilize and dignify the practice, and that it should bring back its program for approval as soon as the details had been sufficiently developed.

7. Kashruth At its last meeting the Community Council had deferred action on the report of the Kashruth Committee until the organizations had received the report and had had an opportunity to discuss it and make their reactions known, and pending a reply from the Union of Orthodox Rabbis to a letter which had been sent informing it of the local problem. It was reported that the Jewish Center Congregation Board had passed a resolution urging the Council to continue its efforts to bring about a solution of the problem; that the Agudas Israel was going into the matter; that there had been an important revision of the personnel of the Merkaz Harabbonim, the local organization of Orthodox Rabbis; that the Orthodox Congregations were organizing themselves to make their influence felt in this problem and others of direct mutual concern to them; and that a reply had not yet been received from the Union of Orthodox Rabbis.

After some discussion it was agreed that no action should be taken until the next meeting of the Community Council, when there would be an opportunity to gauge the sentiment of the community.

8. Jewish Population Survey The Secretary reviewed some of the major findings in the digest of the population survey which the Executive Committee had requested. Among the elements discussed were the differences in the density of Jewish population in the areas of major concentration; the trends in these areas, it being noted that in some there was a decline, with deaths exceeding births, and in others the reverse was true; the scattering of Jewish population in 190 of the 206 census tracts in the city; the implications of the large proportion of Jewish families living in apartment houses; the number of families not affiliated with major Jewish organizations; the fact that one-third of the Jewish families had membership in synagogues and temples,

with the proportion varying from about 60 percent in one major area to about 20 percent in another; the fact that about one-half of the Jewish children of school age were receiving a formal Jewish education at any one time; etc. The characteristics of each of the major "Jewish" areas were discussed, revealing several facts previously unknown, for example the Jewish population of the West Side as being 2665, much larger than had been believed.

The findings were considered and it was agreed that the real value of the survey would lie in the practical use made of the facts. Such use already had been made by some organizations and institutions. The Council Educational Alliance had used the information as a basis for planning its service in the E. 55th Street neighborhood, the Superior-Thru area, and its afternoon program for children. The Jewish Young Adult Bureau had utilized the study as a foundation for planning its activity from the very beginning. Several other possibilities were suggested and it was then moved, duly seconded and carried that the Population Survey Committee should send a copy of the digest to each Jewish organization, pointing out those elements of specific concern to it.

9. Membership

Upon motions made, duly seconded and carried it was voted to recommend approval of the membership applications of the Ohel Jacob Congregation, Heights Zionist District and Glenville Lodge B'nai B'rith, the latter upon meeting the technical requirement of one year's existence; and to recommend that the Migdol Zion Society's application should not be approved in view of the fact that it lacked the minimum membership and that some of its members undoubtedly were already represented by other organizations.

10. Annual Meeting

The date of the annual meeting of the Council was tentatively set for Monday, March 18.

No further business coming before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) Philip Bernstein
Secretary

Officers

President
Max Simon

First Vice-President
Edward M. Baker

Second Vice-President
Philmore J. Haber

Third Vice-President
Mrs. Moses Garber

Treasurer
Max Kohnman

Secretary
Philip Bernstein

Executive
Committee

Milton P. Altschul
Rabbi B. R. Brickner
Rabbi Armond E. Cohen
Jerome N. Curtis
Isadore Finesilver
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. Melman
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

The Jewish Community Council

Cleveland

Chester-Twelfth Bldg. - CHerry 8176

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am very happy to note that you have been appointed as a representative to the Jewish Community Council for the current year. We shall need your active participation in dealing with the many important problems that confront us in these critical times, and you may be sure that your suggestions, opinions, and assistance will be most welcome.

I hope therefore that you will be able to attend the meetings of the Council regularly. Because it is only through such attendance that the Council can have the benefit of your experience and judgment in determining its policies and action.

The next meeting of the Council will be the Annual Meeting, and will be held Monday, March 18, at 8:00 p.m., at The Temple (Assembly Hall, Ansel Road entrance). The officers and Executive Committee will be elected, the development of the Council, its activities and problems, will be reviewed, and important reports and recommendations of committees will be considered and acted upon.

I am looking forward to seeing you at that time.

Sincerely yours,

Max Simon
Max Simon
President

March 1, 1940

JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting Monday, March 18, 1940, 8:15 p.m., at The Temple

1. Minutes Copies having been mailed to all members, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.
2. Election The report of the Nominating Committee was presented by Milton Altschul, chairman. There being no other nominations by petition, it was moved, duly seconded, and carried that the Secretary should cast the unanimous ballot for the election of the following persons: Max Simon, president; Philmore J. Haber, first vice-president; Ezra Z. Shapiro, second vice-president; Mrs Clarence Weidenthal, third vice-president; Max Kohrman, treasurer; Philip Bernstein, secretary; and Milton P. Altschul, Edward M Baker, Rabbi B R Brickner, Rabbi Armond E Cohen, Jerome N Curtis, Isadore Finesilver, Eugene H Freedheim, George W. Furth, Rabbi David Genuth, Rabbi Harold Goldfarb, Mrs Joseph Goldhamer, Mrs Joseph Gross, Myron Guren, A I Hausman, David Ralph Hertz, Mrs Siegmund Herzog, Dr. S.F.M. Hirsch, Rabbi Hugo Klein, Milton J Lapine, Mrs A H Levine, Mrs Benjamin Levine, Mrs A F Mellman, A E Persky, Rabbi Israel Porath, Aaron Resnick, Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal, Rabbi A H Silver, Abraham Stern, Meyer Weintraub, and Sidney N Weitz, members of the Executive Committee.
3. President's Report Mr Simon reviewed the activities and achievements of the Council in the four years of its existence; and analyzed the principles which he believed should be the foundation of the Council's activity and development. At the request of the members, it was agreed that copies of the report should be mailed promptly to all member organizations.
4. Kashruth Rabbi Israel Porath, chairman of the Kashruth Committee reported the following developments since the last meeting of the Council: (a) the Merkaz Harabbonim had been reorganized and included all but one Orthodox Rabbi, who had agreed to abide by any rules the group would set up even though he had withdrawn as a member; (b) the Rabbis had begun to inspect the retail meat markets on a regular assignment basis, and their experience had convinced them more than ever that full-time paid supervisors were necessary to assure adherence to Kashruth regulations by the retail butchers; (c) a reply had been received from the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada to the letter which had been sent by Rabbi Porath to inform the union of the local situation, following the Union's resolution that its members throughout the country were not to cooperate with the Community Councils in dealing with Kashruth. The Union suggested that in view of the complicated situation, a Committee of three Rabbis selected jointly by it, the Merkaz Harabbonim, and the Community Council should come to Cleveland to investigate the matter. It was Rabbi Porath's belief that as a result of these developments the local Orthodox Rabbis might be more willing to cooperate with the Council if the latter would restrict itself to assistance in finding funds to pay inspectors for the retail markets, rather than include also provision for supervising.

There was long and active discussion of the question, with several of the representatives reporting the formal action taken by their respective organizations after consideration of the Kashruth report which the Council had sent them. A few individuals suggested that the Council should drop the matter, stating that the problem had not been solved for 35 years and that it could not be solved now. On the other hand, a number of representatives vigorously advised the Council to proceed in the development of a solution, declaring that the problem of fraud, misrepresentation, and intimidation in any branch of Jewish life was of deep concern to the entire Jewish community; that it was not to be expected that a situation of such long standing could be solved overnight; that definite progress had been made in getting the facts, in informing the community of where the responsibility lay, in beginning at least to arouse public opinion, and in bringing about the inauguration of some retail supervision; that the Council had the power and influence to make further progress; that no group or individual should be permitted to block community action; and that the community had a responsibility in the matter which it could not ignore.

The proposal that a delegation of Rabbis should visit Cleveland to examine the situation was discussed but found no favorable support, it being recalled that such a delegation had once made such a visit without bringing about a solution, that the facts were already known, and that the forces existed locally capable of dealing with the matter. Other possibilities, such as the enforcement of the state Kashruth law, were also considered.

It was then moved, duly seconded, and carried that the Committee of the Council should continue its efforts to bring about an adequate solution for the Kashruth problem.

5. Anti-Nazi League Irving Hexter, newly-elected president of the League for Human Rights, asked the members to make full use of the League's office, in securing authentic information, in strengthening the boycott of Nazi goods and services, and in cooperating to overcome anti-Semitic propaganda. He emphasized the need for coordinated action in order to achieve successful results.

6. Father Coughlin The report of the Coughlin Committee, presented by George Furth, called the attention of the Council to the following recent developments: (a) for the past few weeks, Coughlin's broadcasts had omitted mention or advertising of Social Justice Magazine and other Coughlin literature, which had depended upon the radio programs for circulation and income and which were more anti-Semitic than his broadcasts; (b) Rev. Cole, in the middle west, and Rev. Kernan, in the east, had been continuing their vigorous radio programs; (c) at least three anti-Coughlin books had been published; (d) the following magazines had published anti-Coughlin articles: Colliers, Life, Look, Equality, the Commonwealth, the Nation, and Forum; (e) several newspapers in a number of cities had printed anti-Coughlin editorials; (f) the Friends of Democracy, a national organization with offices in Kansas City and New York, was launching a nation wide program to expose Coughlin's "forgeries, fabrications, and plagiarisms"; (g) an attack upon Jews in the Lincoln Birthday issue of Social Justice had been nationally exposed as an outright falsehood; (h) the source of much of Father Coughlin's material had likewise been exposed as a viciously anti-Semitic and anti-Catholic French journal. In general, the movement to counteract Coughlin's anti-Semitic and anti-democratic propaganda has become much more vigorous and wide-spread since the arrest of the 17 Christian Front leaders. Other aspects of this situation were discussed.

7. Membership Upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, and upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the Council approved the membership applications of the Glenville Lodge B'nai B'rith, the Heights Temple Zionist District, and Ohel Jacob Congregation; and did not accept the application of the Migdol Zion Society because it lacked the minimum membership, and inasmuch as a number of its members already had representation through their affiliation with other organizations.

8. National Conference of Christians and Jews Philmore J Haber announced that the Cleveland Round Table of the National Conference of Christians and Jews would sponsor a civic luncheon on Thursday, March 28, at the Carter Hotel, to be addressed by Dr. Arthur J. Culler, executive chairman of the Round Table, on "The Church's Message in the Present Crisis". Mr Haber called attention to the outstanding success of the previous luncheons, addressed by Dr Clinchy and Archbishop Schrembs, and the almost unprecedented newspaper response to the work of the Conference. He urged a maximum attendance to hear Dr Culler as a tribute to his energetic leadership of the Conference. Tickets would be available at the Community Council office.

9. Mass Meeting It was proposed by Meyer Weintraub that the Council should sponsor a mass meeting in the very near future to protest against the Nazi treatment of Jews in Poland. The purpose of such a meeting would be to arouse Jewish sentiment, which he said was becoming hardened and immune, to stir up public opinion, and to inform the community directly and through the newspapers of what was really happening. He believed that the Poles and Czechs should be invited to join in the meeting, and his conversations with them indicated that they would be willing to participate although other activities would prevent them from taking an active part in building the meeting.

In the discussion, it was suggested that it would be a poor time to hold such an event in view of the fact that two large Jewish meetings had recently been held to hear Dr. Chaim Weizmann and Dr Maurice Perlzweig, and that a third mass meeting was being planned to open the Jewish Welfare Fund campaign; that such a meeting should occur at the same time as similar events throughout the country in order to be effective; that it would require some special dramatic happening to provide the proper spark; that Jewish suffering was part of a world-wide situation which would have to be considered in weighing the advisability and value of a mass meeting; and that if held now it would weaken the effect of any other meeting which might be advisable in the near future. The Council was informed that the Executive Committee had considered the matter at two recent meetings and had come to the conclusion that the time was not opportune for such a meeting.

After further discussion, it was moved, duly seconded, and carried that the proposal should be referred back to the Executive Committee for further consideration.

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

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) Philip Bernstein
Secretary



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Jewish Community Council

Minutes of a Meeting Wednesday, June 5, 1940, at 8:15 p.m., at the Jewish Center

1. Attendance There were present Philmore J Haber, Chairman; Milton P. Altschul, Philip Bernstein, Jerome N Curtis, George W. Furth, Rabbi David Genuth, Mrs Joseph Goldhamer, Myron Guren, A I Hausman, Mrs Siegmund Herzog, Milton Lapine, Mrs A H Levine, Mrs Benjamin Levine, Mrs A. F. Mellman, A. E. Persky, Rabbi Israel Porath, Abraham Stern, Mrs Clarence Weidenthal, and Sidney N Weitz.

2. Executive Committee The Chairman welcomed the new members of the Executive Committee, and invited their active participation. To the entire Committee he pointed out the grave responsibility which the Council as the central body of Cleveland Jewry had in meeting the current critical problems, and emphasized that all of the members of the Committee shared with the officers responsibility for guiding the policies of the Council. He urged every member to take the initiative in calling to the attention of the officers between meetings any matters which required consideration and action.

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

4. Miscellaneous Activities The Chairman briefly reported upon the following:

Music Festival -- The approval of the Executive Committee had been secured by mail for the Community Council's co-sponsorship with a number of other civic organizations of the Cleveland Plain Dealer Music Festival to be held June 14. No financial or other active responsibility was involved.

Schools -- The Schools Committee under the chairmanship of Rabbi Brickner again had cooperated with the public schools in the absence of Jewish students on the Passover holidays without penalty and in the avoidance of examinations on these days. Several special situations had been handled without difficulty. Through the religious schools, Jewish newspapers, and rabbis the Committee also had undertaken to avoid a repetition of visiting of playgrounds and classes by children officially absent, a practice which had brought a complaint from one of the superintendents on the High Holidays. To date, no similar complaint had been received concerning Passover.

The Committee had communicated with President Leutner of Western Reserve University concerning the fact that commencement exercises occurred on the first day of Shevuoth and at the same time as confirmation services. Dr Leutner explained that for more than fifty years this occasion took place on the first Wednesday after June 10, and that while it was too late to make any change this year, the deans would be asked to make any necessary adjustments for Jewish students and the possibility of similar conflicts in future years would be explored.

In general, school authorities had been very cordial in handling these matters, but a problem still remained with some Jewish children and parents who informed teachers and principals that they had no objection to attendance on Jewish holidays.

Father Coughlin -- The attention of the Committee was called to the fact that Father Coughlin no longer was broadcasting. His own announcement had been that he was leaving the radio for the summer. His Social Justice magazine was considerably reduced in size. Other related facts were given.

Ritual Circumcision -- The Committee on Ritual Circumcision was continuing its efforts to institute a system of licensing for Mohalem. Assurance already had been received from St. Lukes Hospital of its readiness to cooperate in the plan, and the Hospital had revoked its previous rule banning the practice by Mohalem.

Arbitration -- The Jewish Arbitration and Conciliation Court was continuing its service, a case having been settled during the past week by Judge Mary Grossman as arbitrator, with another scheduled for the current week with Judge David Ralph Hertz as arbitrator. A review of the cases brought to the Arbitration Court and kept out of the public courts revealed: 2 suits by rabbis against congregations for back salary; 5 other suits against congregations, involving claims for cemetery plots, construction work, and legal services; 2 claims against educational institutions by former teachers; 2 claims involving Jewish philanthropic agencies; 2 disputes within Jewish organizations involving an election and the authority of an officer; a complaint by two rabbis against a manufacturing concern for the unauthorized use of Passover labels, a dispute between two charitable organizations which had split, concerning the division of funds and the confusion of names; 4 claims involving non-Jewish organizations and individuals, to prevent bad feeling and misunderstanding which had been developing; and several personal matters such as a Jewish divorce and a rental dispute involving the Jewish holidays.

The Jewish attorneys who had referred some of the cases were enthusiastic about the Court and had suggested that the Council should publicize it more widely through the Jewish community and particularly among the Jewish lawyers. This suggestion was discussed by the Committee, and following consideration of alternative plans it was moved, duly seconded, and carried that a letter should be sent to the Jewish attorneys informing them of the purpose, procedure, and activities of the Jewish Arbitration Court. It was agreed that the Jewish organizations likewise should be reminded of the Court.

The Committee was informed that since the establishment of the Arbitration Court, not a single Jewish dispute of the type which formerly had cast discredit upon the Jewish community had gone to the public courts or had been publicized in the newspapers, to the knowledge of the Arbitration Committee.

5. Amendment Upon motion made, duly seconded, and carried it was voted to recommend to the Council adoption of amendments which would revise Article IV, Section 4 of the Constitution, to base the representation of organizations upon the size of the membership on November 1, rather than on May 1 preceding the selection of representatives; and which would revise Article VIII, Section 4, to have the call for the selection of representatives go out within ten days after November 15 instead of October 1. The changes had been suggested on the basis of experience to date as a more practical arrangement.

6. Mass Meeting The Council at its last meeting had referred back to the Executive Committee the question of the advisability of a mass meeting concerning the treatment of Jews in Nazi held territory. It was the judgment of the Committee, and it was moved, duly seconded, and unanimously carried, that the time was inappropriate to consider a separate Jewish mass meeting, because the war had changed the problem to a general one by making millions of other people victims of Nazi destruction.

7. Membership The Committee deferred action on the membership application of the Workmen's Circle Chorus and Orchestra, pending clarification of the question as to whether its membership already was represented through the three Workmen's Circle branches which were members of the Council.

8. Kashruth Rabbi Israel Porath reported that marked progress had been made in taking initial steps to bring about Kashruth supervision of the retail food stores. The united body of Orthodox Rabbis had been reorganized to include about 13 rabbis, with only 2 not members. These 2 were not, however, obstructing the work of the group. The rabbis had divided the city into sections, had assigned a district to each, and they were visiting the retail meat markets to check upon them. They had experienced practically no difficulty in gaining access to the shops.

Already a number of cases of misrepresentation had been discovered and had been corrected. A few retail butchers had paid self imposed fines, which had been turned over to charities by the rabbis, and one wholesaler guilty of forging kashruth seals had agreed to leave the kosher meat business entirely. A sausage manufacturer had stated publicly through advertisements in the Jewish newspapers that his company did not manufacture kosher foods and that the word "kosher" would be removed from the company's name. A few delicatessans and restaurants likewise had removed the word "kosher" from their windows.

While the situation had been improved greatly, Rabbi Porath stated that the present method of inspection was only a temporary one, and that a permanent arrangement would have to be developed. The first steps toward this, he believed, would be the recognition and moral support of the rabbinical group by the Community Council, and a minimum annual budget of about \$5,000 to pay several full time inspectors and to meet modest administrative expense. He believed that the problem was not insoluble, and that with such financial resources and supervision the situation could be well controlled within a year.

Rabbi Porath was commended for the progress made to date. Following discussion of his report by the Committee, he agreed to submit in writing a definite program and a budget of contemplated expenses and alternative possibilities of raising the necessary funds, to be mailed to the Executive Committee for consideration prior to its next meeting.

9. "Fifth Column" Miss Grace Meyette, director of the League for Human Rights, described recent and current activities of various subversive groups and their leaders in Cleveland.
10. Next Meeting It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council should be held during the week of June 17 or of June 24.

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

Respectfully submitted,

(signed)

Philip Bernstein

Secretary



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON KASHRUTH

The last report made by the Kashruth Committee was presented to the Executive Committee and to the Jewish Community Council at their meeting in July of this year. It might be well, therefore, before making our present recommendations, to review briefly the background contained in our previous statement.

You will remember that the appointment of the Committee on Kashruth was authorized by the Executive Committee in July, 1938, upon the request of a number of Orthodox Rabbis because of the complete lack of any supervision in the retail sale of kosher meats. The personnel of the Committee which was appointed had the approval of those Rabbis.

Your Committee agreed at the very beginning that it should consult with all parties involved in Kashruth before making any recommendations. To that end we met with the city Health commissioner, who informed us that the State Kashruth Law had never been enforced locally because of the lack of funds; with the Orthodox Rabbis who agreed to meet our basic stipulation that we could not go into the situation unless we had their united cooperation, since we could not become involved in any such situation as has existed in the past when one Rabbi would testify that a certain product was kosher and another that it was not, and inasmuch as the religious authority and responsibility for Kashruth rested primarily with the Rabbis -- and for that purpose the Rabbis organized the Merkaz Harabbonim and appointed a Committee of four members to cooperate with our Committee; we met with the wholesale meat packers, who refused to cooperate in bringing about supervision of the retail sale of kosher meats; and with the retail butchers who proposed a plan which could not be accepted because of its impracticality, its questionable legality, and because the underlying principle of having the persons being supervised pay for their own inspection was unsound.

We could not accept either the proposal of the Rabbis that we should secure for them the official authority to enter voluntarily the meat markets to inspect them, because it was not intended that this would be a regular and complete inspection, with the result that while some offenders might be caught others would not, and the community would be given the false impression that there was adequate supervision when actually much misrepresentation would probably continue without detection.

After a year of study and about 20 meetings and conferences we were convinced that the only sound solution lay in a thorough and complete program which would include also the wholesale meat packers, since there was no more justification for the packers' selecting and paying their own inspectors than there would be for a similar arrangement in the retail meat markets. We therefore proposed the establishment of a community Board of Kashruth which would give due place to the Orthodox Rabbis and which would employ directly the Schochtim, Rabbis, and meat market inspectors for Kashruth, instead of leaving this to private arrangement. Schochtim and Rabbis would be provided to packers

on the basis of a uniform fee per unit of meat slaughtered and supervised, and the fee would be large enough to enable the Board of Kashruth to pay also for retail inspection. It would not, however, be an unfair burden upon the packers since this charge would be passed on to the consumers, who ultimately must pay for any plan of Kashruth supervision.

You will remember that this proposal was presented to the Orthodox Rabbis at two meetings. At the last meeting the Rabbis said that they had given the authority to speak for them to a Rabbi who is employed by the largest meat packer, without themselves having arrived at any decision. This Rabbi rejected our recommendation, refusing to give any reasons, although he admitted that the plan was logical. The other Rabbis said nothing.

When this was reported to the Council at its last meeting, the Rabbis sent Rabbi Genuth as their representative to inform the Council that they had just had a long meeting, that they wished the matter to be given further consideration, and asked the Committee to continue its efforts. The Committee was then given such authorization.

The following has taken place since that time. We wrote to Rabbi Philip Rosenberg, who at that time presided over the meetings of the Merkaz Harabbonin, on August 1 to inform him of the sentiment of the Council as expressed at its meeting and to ask what steps the Rabbis proposed, inasmuch as our Committee had presented a plan which we believed would solve the problem but which had been rejected by them without suggesting an alternative. To this we received a reply on August 9 which merely quoted the following resolution, adopted by the Merkaz Harabbonin at the meeting held just prior to the Council meeting and of which the Council already had been informed by Rabbi Genuth, to wit: "Be it resolved that the Merkaz Harabbonin continue to perfect its plans which are in the process of completion, and decides to do everything in its power to enforce Kashruth in this community. Be it further resolved that the Merkaz Harabbonin gratefully acknowledges the Cleveland Community Council's willingness to cooperate in this important problem. It therefore assures the Council that the Merkaz Harabbonin will be happy to call upon the Community Council for any assistance it may need and which the Council may be in a position to offer."

When no other word was received in the next two months, a letter was sent to Rabbi Jacob Berger as secretary of the Merkaz Harabbonin to inform the organization of the desire that there should be no further delay and asking what plans the group had with reference to the problem. The letter was sent on October 13, and no reply has been received to date.

We are informed that the Merkaz Harabbonin has held no meeting for several months, and there is also evidence of differences among some of the members, such as to raise serious question as to the prospect for any unified action by them in the immediate future. An important element also is the fact that several of the Rabbis who at present are not employed by the packing houses and derive no income from Kashruth supervision, while privately expressing disagreement with their colleagues and a desire to cooperate with the Council have made it clear that they do not wish or intend to enter openly into any opposition to them.

Another factor which must be taken into account is the resolution adopted nationally by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada at a recent convention, forbidding the members to join with Jewish Community Council in the administration of Kashruth. While it is known that the resolution was inspired directly by a situation in another city, it is said that Cleveland's representation aided in its passage and it is known that the Union sent letters to Cleveland Rabbis instructing them to abide by the resolution.

In reviewing these developments, the following points stand out:

1. The actual Kashruth situation remains the same as before, with no supervision of the retail meat markets, leaving the way open to misrepresentation and fraud.
2. The primary religious authority and responsibility for Kashruth rests with the Rabbis.
3. Although your Committee was established at the request of the Orthodox Rabbis, who pledged their cooperation and who were repeatedly assured that the Council had no desire to invade in any way their religious authority, it is now clear that the Orthodox Rabbis as a group are not seeking the assistance or cooperation of the Council and that some of them in fact are opposing it.
4. The situation of the Rabbis has been complicated further by the resolution of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis. In all fairness, we believe that the Union should have a full picture of the situation here and should know where the responsibility lies, and have directed the Chairman to so inform the Union.
5. The primary condition set forth by your Committee as a basis for participation by the Council, namely unity among the Orthodox Rabbis, apparently has been breaking down.
6. Should the Council attempt to push through a fundamental solution such as your Committee has recommended, it would create dissension and disruption in the community of the very type that the Council and your Committee has sought to avoid. The Council would also be confronted with a condition in which even those Rabbis who agree with the Council are unwilling to enter into any open opposition to their colleagues.
7. The constructive good that might possibly result must be weighed against the harm done by the unfavorable publicity, disruption, and conflict that probably would be involved, particularly in view of present conditions.
8. Another element that must be considered is that under the present circumstances the attempt to carry out a thorough program would involve a very large part of the time and effort of the Council to the exclusion of other problems.

The final evaluation of these factors must rest with the Council. And reflecting, as the Council does, the will of a cross section of the Jewish community, the ultimate answer will be determined by the degree of indifference or concern of the community.

For itself, your Committee was established to study the problem of Kashruth and to bring back its facts and recommendations. This we have done. We believe, therefore, that we should and heroby do, tender our resignation.

COMMITTEE ON KASHRUTH

Israel Porath, Chairman



JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting Monday, March 18, 1940, 8:15 p.m., at The Temple

1. Minutes Copies having been mailed to all members, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.
2. Election The report of the Nominating Committee was presented by Milton Altschul, chairman. There being no other nominations by petition, it was moved, duly seconded, and carried that the Secretary should cast the unanimous ballot for the election of the following persons: Max Simon, president; Philmore J. Haber, first vice-president; Ezra Z. Shapiro, second vice-president; Mrs Clarence Weidenthal, third vice-president; Max Kohrman, treasurer; Philip Bernstein, secretary; and Milton P. Altschul, Edward M Baker, Rabbi B R Brickner, Rabbi Armond E Cohen, Jerome N Curtis, Isadore Finesilver, Eugene H Freedheim, George W. Furth, Rabbi David Genuth, Rabbi Harold Goldfarb, Mrs Joseph Goldhamer, Mrs Joseph Gross, Myron Guren, A I Hausman, David Ralph Hertz, Mrs Siegmund Herzog, Dr. S.F.M. Hirsch, Rabbi Hugo Klein, Milton J Lapine, Mrs A H Levine, Mrs Benjamin Levine, Mrs A F Mellman, A E Persky, Rabbi Israel Porath, Aaron Resnick, Rabbi Rudolph Rosenthal, Rabbi A H Silver, Abraham Storn, Meyer Weintraub, and Sidney N Weitz, members of the Executive Committee.
3. President's Report Mr Simon reviewed the activities and achievements of the Council in the four years of its existence; and analyzed the principles which he believed should be the foundation of the Council's activity and development. At the request of the members, it was agreed that copies of the report should be mailed promptly to all member organizations.
4. Kashruth Rabbi Israel Porath, chairman of the Kashruth Committee reported the following developments since the last meeting of the Council: (a) the Merkaz Harabbonim had been reorganized and included all but one Orthodox Rabbi, who had agreed to abide by any rules the group would set up even though he had withdrawn as a member; (b) the Rabbis had begun to inspect the retail meat markets on a regular assignment basis, and their experience had convinced them more than ever that full-time paid supervisors were necessary to assure adherence to Kashruth regulations by the retail butchers; (c) a reply had been received from the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada to the letter which had been sent by Rabbi Porath to inform the union of the local situation, following the Union's resolution that its members throughout the country were not to cooperate with the Community Councils in dealing with Kashruth. The Union suggested that in view of the complicated situation, a Committee of three Rabbis selected jointly by it, the Merkaz Harabbonim, and the Community Council should come to Cleveland to investigate the matter. It was Rabbi Porath's belief that as a result of these developments the local Orthodox Rabbis might be more willing to cooperate with the Council if the latter would restrict itself to assistance in finding funds to pay inspectors for the retail markets, rather than include also provision for supervising.

There was long and active discussion of the question, with several of the representatives reporting the formal action taken by their respective organizations after consideration of the Kashruth report which the Council had sent them. A few individuals suggested that the Council should drop the matter, stating that the problem had not been solved for 35 years and that it could not be solved now. On the other hand, a number of representatives vigorously advised the Council to proceed in the development of a solution, declaring that the problem of fraud, misrepresentation, and intimidation in any branch of Jewish life was of deep concern to the entire Jewish community; that it was not to be expected that a situation of such long standing could be solved overnight; that definite progress had been made in getting the facts, in informing the community of where the responsibility lay, in beginning at least to arouse public opinion, and in bringing about the inauguration of some retail supervision; that the Council had the power and influence to make further progress; that no group or individual should be permitted to block community action; and that the community had a responsibility in the matter which it could not ignore.

The proposal that a delegation of Rabbis should visit Cleveland to examine the situation was discussed but found no favorable support, it being recalled that such a delegation had once made such a visit without bringing about a solution, that the facts were already known, and that the forces existed locally capable of dealing with the matter. Other possibilities, such as the enforcement of the state Kashruth law, were also considered.

It was then moved, duly seconded, and carried that the Committee of the Council should continue its efforts to bring about an adequate solution for the Kashruth problem.

5. Anti-Nazi League Irving Hexter, newly-elected president of the League for Human Rights, asked the members to make full use of the League's office, in securing authentic information, in strengthening the boycott of Nazi goods and services, and in cooperating to overcome anti-Semitic propaganda. He emphasized the need for coordinated action in order to achieve successful results.

6. Father Coughlin The report of the Coughlin Committee, presented by George Furth, called the attention of the Council to the following recent developments: (a) for the past few weeks, Coughlin's broadcasts had omitted mention or advertising of Social Justice Magazine and other Coughlin literature, which had depended upon the radio programs for circulation and income and which were more anti-Semitic than his broadcasts; (b) Rev. Cole, in the middle west, and Rev. Kernan, in the east, had been continuing their vigorous radio programs; (c) at least three anti-Coughlin books had been published; (d) the following magazines had published anti-Coughlin articles: Colliers, Life, Look, Equality, the Commonwealth, the Nation, and Forum; (e) several newspapers in a number of cities had printed anti-Coughlin editorials; (f) the Friends of Democracy, a national organization with offices in Kansas City and New York, was launching a nation wide program to expose Coughlin's "forgeries, fabrications, and plagiarisms"; (g) an attack upon Jews in the Lincoln Birthday issue of Social Justice had been nationally exposed as an outright falsehood; (h) the source of much of Father Coughlin's material had likewise been exposed as a viciously anti-Semitic and anti-Catholic French journal. In general, the movement to counteract Coughlin's anti-Semitic and anti-democratic propaganda has become much more vigorous and wide-spread since the arrest of the 17 Christian Front leaders. Other aspects of this situation were discussed.

7. Membership Upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, and upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the Council approved the membership applications of the Glenville Lodge B'nai B'rith, the Heights Temple Zionist District, and Ohel Jacob Congregation; and did not accept the application of the Migdol Zion Society because it lacked the minimum membership, and inasmuch as a number of its members already had representation through their affiliation with other organizations.

8. National Conference of Christians and Jews Philmore J Haber announced that the Cleveland Round Table of the National Conference of Christians and Jews would sponsor a civic luncheon on Thursday, March 28, at the Carter Hotel, to be addressed by Dr. Arthur J. Culler, executive chairman of the Round Table, on "The Church's Message in the Present Crisis". Mr Haber called attention to the outstanding success of the previous luncheons, addressed by Dr Clinchy and Archbishop Schrembs, and the almost unprecedented newspaper response to the work of the Conference. He urged a maximum attendance to hear Dr Culler as a tribute to his energetic leadership of the Conference. Tickets would be available at the Community Council office.

9. Mass Meeting It was proposed by Meyer Weintraub that the Council should sponsor a mass meeting in the very near future to protest against the Nazi treatment of Jews in Poland. The purpose of such a meeting would be to arouse Jewish sentiment, which he said was becoming hardened and immune, to stir up public opinion, and to inform the community directly and through the newspapers of what was really happening. He believed that the Poles and Czechs should be invited to join in the meeting, and his conversations with them indicated that they would be willing to participate although other activities would prevent them from taking an active part in building the meeting.

In the discussion, it was suggested that it would be a poor time to hold such an event in view of the fact that two large Jewish meetings had recently been held to hear Dr. Chaim Weizmann and Dr Maurice Perlzweig, and that a third mass meeting was being planned to open the Jewish Welfare Fund campaign; that such a meeting should occur at the same time as similar events throughout the country in order to be effective; that it would require some special dramatic happening to provide the proper spark; that Jewish suffering was part of a world-wide situation which would have to be considered in weighing the advisability and value of a mass meeting; and that if held now it would weaken the effect of any other meeting which might be advisable in the near future. The Council was informed that the Executive Committee had considered the matter at two recent meetings and had come to the conclusion that the time was not opportune for such a meeting.

After further discussion, it was moved, duly seconded, and carried that the proposal should be referred back to the Executive Committee for further consideration.

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

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) Philip Bernstein
Secretary

