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Jewish Community Council, Cleveland, Ohio, 1948-1949.

EXCERPTS FROM MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
March 17, 1949

Introduction of Hebrew in Cleveland Heights High School

Jerome N Curtis, chairman, indicated that the Bureau of Jewish Education was planning to request the Cleveland Heights Board of Education to introduce the study of Hebrew into Heights High School. The matter has been considered by a subcommittee of the Community Relations Committee and by the Community Relations Committee itself whose recommendations are to be presented to the Executive Committee. The Bureau of Jewish Education was advised that the matter would be taken up at this meeting, but the Bureau did not send any representatives to present its position.

Arnold Edelman, chairman of the subcommittee which studied the matter reported for the Community Relations Committee. He indicated that this was the fourth meeting in the last nine days on this subject. The first meeting was held with representatives of the Bureau, including Rabbi Nodel, Rabbi Rosenthal, Gabriel Leeb and Nathan Brilliant. The Bureau originally proposed that Hebrew be offered in certain Cleveland High Schools, as well as in Cleveland Heights. They have since dropped the idea of introducing it into Cleveland schools. Cleveland College has agreed to offer a course next year. In reference to the Heights School system, the Bureau reasons that since about 50% of the Heights population is Jewish, it is a logical request to be made of the High School; that the teaching of Hebrew in Heights High School will give the language a prestige comparable to that of other languages; and that there is good precedent for this proposed action in the experience of New York and St Louis where Hebrew has been part of the curriculum for a number of years.

The Community Relations Committee considered the matter solely from the community relations standpoint and not from an evaluation of the cultural aspects. An examination of the experience in New York City and St Louis reveals that the preponderant enrollment is Jewish. The predominance of Jewish enrollment in these classes tends to heighten separation and segregation, and while the subject is taught as objectively as any language might be taught, there are those who invest it with religious connotations and in the minds of non-Jews may raise some of the same objections as are present in released time.

In the High School program, students are confined to three compulsory subjects and only one elective. For a student to get college credit, he must have two years of a language. Thus, a student who elects a language and who plans to go to college, must commit himself for a two-year period. The introduction of Hebrew may make it difficult to provide classes in other languages since language enrollment in the high schools has declined and the draining off of Jewish students for Hebrew may leave an insufficient number for other language classes. The matter of securing a properly qualified person to teach Hebrew would be a problem since there is at present no one employed by the Heights system who could teach Hebrew.

Since experience tends to show that the subject is chosen almost exclusively by Jews and that non-Jewish pupils avoid it, it would mean that the Jews would be asking the taxpayers and the schools to handle something which the Jewish group more properly should take care of itself. The committee felt that there was no

real demand from the community for the language because so many youngsters are now able to have knowledge of the subject through Hebrew School and Sunday School. Moreover, the Bureau had failed to present any evidence of such a community demand or interest. It would certainly be embarrassing to clamor for the introduction of the language and then find an insufficient enrollment.

The Community Relations Committee further took into consideration the many recent irritations and problems in the Heights growing out of the rapid influx of Jews into the area. As examples Mr Edelman cited the sorority and fraternity issue; the incidents associated with the Park Synagogue building permit; the Sunday closing of stores; the Heights High Band tour during the Passover holidays, etc. In view of these and other considerations, the Community Relations Committee recommended that the proposed plan to request for the introduction of Hebrew into Heights High School be deferred for the present. Mr Edelman moved the adoption of this recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr Benjamin.

Mrs Halperin raised the question whether it was necessary for the Bureau of Jewish Education to bring this matter to the Jewish Community Council, to which Mr. Edelman responded that while it was not incumbent on the Bureau to do so, the Community Relations Committee has been set up to offer community relations counsel and judgment -- and in the best judgment of the Community Relations Committee, there was the feeling that the introduction of Hebrew should not be requested for at this time. Mr Resnick questioned the matter of timeliness, for ten years ago the Council made the same decision on the basis of "timeliness". Mr Curtis pointed out that ten or eleven years ago the Bureau of Jewish Education requested advice from the Community Council about introducing Hebrew into Glenville and John Adams High Schools. At that time, it was the unanimous decision of the Executive Committee that the introduction of Hebrew should not be requested of the Cleveland Board of Education.

Rabbi Porath questioned the matter of acting upon the motion without having representation from the Bureau present. He felt that the matter ought to be postponed. Those objecting to postponement pointed out that the Bureau of Jewish Education itself requested immediate action since plans for the fall were already being made by the Heights school officials. It was pointed out that the decision by the Community Relations Committee had been made after full discussion, deliberation and study, and that members of the Bureau of Jewish Education had presented their viewpoints comprehensively. Mrs Halperin voiced the opinion that the Community Relations Committee decision is in opposition to the desire of the community. Rabbi Porath stated that the Bureau of Jewish Education is an autonomous body and came to the Council merely for counsel and opinion.

Mrs Kates pointed out that there is no question that Hebrew is a subject worthy to be taught, but at the present time the Heights High School cannot support additional languages, that even enrollment for Latin is dwindling. At the same time, the Heights Board of Education is being constantly approached by a variety of Jewish agencies for some purpose: The Jewish Vocational Service, the Jewish Family Service, the Jewish Community Council, etc. These requests on the Board of Education ultimately begin to have the effect of defeating our own purposes. To the argument that prestige would be added to the Hebrew language by being taught in the High schools, the committee considered the fact that there might be considerable damage for it would be important that at least 60 to 70 pupils undertake the course for at least a two-year period and there is no guarantee that

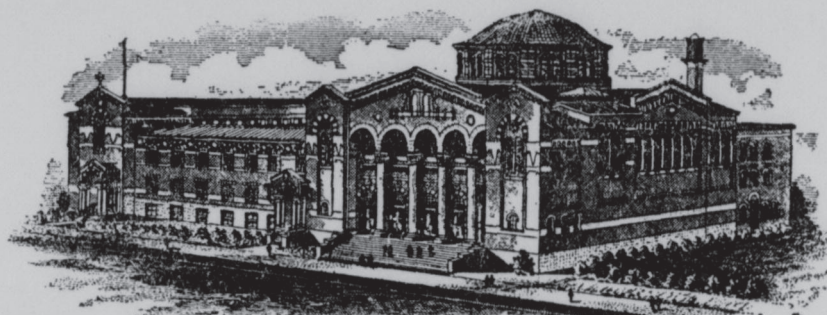
that number can be obtained. This recalled the situation eleven years ago. Mrs Halperin remembered that at that time her son wanted a course in Hebrew and the principal of the schools said that if ten children would be willing to take the course, Hebrew would be introduced. It was impossible at that time to get ten pupils to enroll and the course was not offered.

Mrs Stashower understood that Dr DeSauze, head of Languages for the Cleveland School system, favors the teaching of Hebrew. Mr Vincent pointed out that Dr De Sauze recognizes the difficulties in teaching Hebrew, that all he has offered is to help to provide for the teaching of Hebrew as a tuition course during the summer at Western Reserve University. If the course is accepted by Reserve, it will require registration of thirty pupils. Dr De Sauze indicated that he would release a Cleveland school teacher if an adequate enrollment could be obtained.

The Executive Committee voted 10 to 4 to accept the recommendations of the Community Relations Committee, that the present time was inopportune to introduce Hebrew in Heights High School and that the Bureau of Jewish Education be asked not to request the Cleveland Heights Board of Education to offer the study of Hebrew at this time.

The question was raised as to whether or not this issue should come before the delegate body of the Council. The chairman suggested that only if the Bureau of Jewish Education does not accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee, will it be necessary to bring the matter before the delegate body.





The Temple on the Heights

Bnai Jeshurun Congregation

MAYFIELD AT LEE ROAD

RUDOLPH M. ROSENTHAL
RABBI

Cleveland Heights, Ohio

April 7, 1949.

Rabbi Abba H. Silver,
% The Temple,
Ansel Rd. & E. 105th St.,
Cleveland 6, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

We are enclosing herewith copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of The Temple on the Heights at a meeting held on April 5th, regarding the teaching of Hebrew in the Cleveland Heights High School.

Sincerely yours,

THE TEMPLE ON THE HEIGHTS

Max J. Greenwald
President

MJG/MR.

April 5, 1949

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, the government of Israel has been recognized by the nations of the earth, and Hebrew acknowledged as the official language,

WHEREAS, many colleges and public school systems allow credit for Hebrew taken as a regular High School subject, with the same status as other languages,

WHEREAS, the teaching of Hebrew in the schools would stimulate pride and interest in our Jewish heritage and intensify appreciation of the Hebrew language,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Temple on the Heights and its Rabbis favor the efforts of the Bureau of Jewish Education to introduce the teaching of Hebrew into the Heights Public School System.

Board of Trustees

THE TEMPLE ON THE HEIGHTS

Max J. Greenwald
President



THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

237 CHESTER-TWELFTH BLDG. -- CLEVELAND 14, OHIO -- MAIN 5406

To members of the Executive Committee:

A meeting of the Executive Committee will be held Thursday evening, April 21, at 8:15 p.m. at the Temple on the Heights. The major item to be considered at this meeting will be the request of the Bureau of Jewish Education for a reconsideration of the matter of the introduction of Hebrew into the curriculum of the Cleveland Heights High School. Enclosed are excerpts relating to the discussion of this matter from the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of March 17. It is hoped that you will acquaint yourself with this material in advance of the meeting on April 21.

Please indicate on the enclosed card whether you plan to attend the meeting.

Sincerely,

Jerome N. Curtis
Jerome N Curtis
President

April 12, 1949

JEROME N. CURTIS
President

IRVING KANE
Vice President

MAX I. KOHRMAN
Vice President

PHILLIP L. STEINBERG
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Maurice Bernon
Nathan Brilliant
Sam H. Bonchek
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Sigmund Braverman

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Rabbi Armond E. Cohen
Saul S. Danaceau
Judge Lewis Drucker
Arnold M. Edelman

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Rabbi Louis Engelberg
S. A. Finesilver
Nathan I. Gordon
Myron Guren

Philmore J. Haber
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Dr. Oscar Halpern
Mrs. Irving Kane
Mrs. S. S. Kates
George Kath

Rabbi Enoch H. Kronheim
George B. Mayer
James H. Miller
Rabbi I. Porath
Aaron Resnick
Herbert A. Rosenthal

Rabbi Rudolph M. Rosenthal
Edward J. Schweid
Ezra Z. Shapiro
Mrs. Lewis M. Sharp
Rabbi A. H. Silver
Max Simon
Mrs. Joseph G. Stashower

HARRY I. BARRON, Executive Director

SIDNEY Z. VINCENT, Assistant Director



THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

237 CHESTER-TWELFTH BLDG. -- CLEVELAND 14, OHIO -- MAIN 5406

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER
THE TEMPLE
ANSEL ROAD & E. 105TH ST.
CLEVELAND 6, OHIO

DEAR RABBI:

THE CLEVELAND JEWISH COMMUNITY WILL JOIN WITH JEWRY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD ON MAY 4TH TO SALUTE ISRAEL ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE NEW STATE.

UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL, ONE LARGE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION IS BEING PLANNED TO BE HELD AT THE MASONIC AUDITORIUM ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 4TH. ALL OF US WANT TO MAKE THIS EVENT A HEART-WARMING DEMONSTRATION OF CLEVELAND JEWRY'S PRIDE IN THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE GALLANT PEOPLE OF ISRAEL.

WE HOPE YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF ANNOUNCING THIS EVENT FROM YOUR PULPIT AND THROUGH YOUR CONGREGATIONAL MAILINGS TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP, BETWEEN NOW AND MAY 4TH. IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IF YOU COULD MAKE THE FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AT PASSOVER YIZKOR SERVICES.

THE PROGRAM CONTEMPLATES COMMUNITY SINGING, GREETINGS FROM THE ISRAELI PEOPLE, THE PREMIERE OF A NEW FILM ON ISRAEL AND AN OUTSTANDING SPEAKER. THE PROGRAM IS BEING KEYED TO A JOYOUS PITCH WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE AN INSPIRATION TO ALL OF US.

WITH YOUR COOPERATION WE ARE SURE THE SALUTE TO ISRAEL PROGRAM ON MAY 4TH WILL BE A MEMORABLE COMMUNITY EVENT.

SINCERELY YOURS,

Max Simon

MAX SIMON, CHAIRMAN
THE SALUTE TO ISRAEL EVENING

APRIL 18, 1949

JEROME N. CURTIS
President

IRVING KANE
Vice President

MAX L. KOHRMAN
Vice President

PHILLIP L. STEINBERG
Vice President

GABRIEL LEEB
Treasurer

MRS. JACOB STACEL
Secretary

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Mrs. Moses P. Halperin
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Mrs. Irving Kane
Mrs. S. S. Kates
George Kath

Rabbi Enoch H. Kronheim
George B. Mayer
James H. Miller
Rabbi I. Porath
Aaron Resnick
Herbert A. Rosenthal

Rabbi Rudolph M. Rosenthal
Edward J. Schweid
Ezra Z. Shapiro
Mrs. Lewis M. Sharp
Rabbi A. H. Silver
Max Simon
Mrs. Joseph G. Stashower

HARRY I. BARRON, Executive Director

SIDNEY Z. VINCENT, Assistant Director

Members of The Jewish Community Council of Cleveland

Achyos Jerusalem Mizrahi
 Alliance Alumni Association
 Alliance Mothers Club (Mt. Pleasant)
 Alliance Mothers Club (E. 105th St.)
 Alpha Epsilon Phi Alumni Club
 Alpha Epsilon Phi Alumni Club Sorority
 American Hebrew Benevolent Association
 American Jewish Committee
 American Jewish Congress, Women's Division
 Anshe Galicia Sisterhood
 Anshe Grodno Congregation
 Anshe Marmarish Congregation
 Beechmont Club
 Bellefaire Regional Child Care Service
 Beth Hamidrosch Anshe Galicia Congregation
 Beth Zion & Cleveland Ladies Aid Society
 Bikur Cholim (Daughters Group)
 Bikur Cholim (Men's Group)
 Bikur Cholim (Mothers Group)
 B'nai B'rith (Balfour Lodge)
 B'nai B'rith (Balfour Chapter)
 B'nai B'rith (Cleveland Lodge)
 B'nai B'rith (Cleveland Chapter)
 B'nai B'rith (Euclid Chapter)
 B'nai B'rith (Forest Hill Lodge)
 B'nai B'rith (Forest Hill Chapter)
 B'nai B'rith (Glenville Lodge)
 B'nai B'rith (Glenville Chapter)
 B'nai B'rith (Heights Lodge)
 B'nai B'rith (Heights Chapter)
 B'nai B'rith Interlodge Council
 B'nai B'rith (Kinsman-Shaker Lodge)
 B'nai B'rith (Kinsman-Shaker Chapter)
 B'nai B'rith (University Heights Lodge)
 B'nai B'rith (University Heights Chapter)
 B'nai B'rith Women's Council
 Brisker & Grodner Benevolent Society
 Bureau of Jewish Education
 Business & Professional Hadassah
 Camp Wise Association
 Camp Wise Crew
 Chevas Jerusalem Congregation
 Child Care Association
 Cleveland Hebrew Benevolent Association
 Cleveland Hebrew School & Institute
 Cleveland Vilner Jewish Progressive Society
 Cleveland Jewish Singing Society
 Cleveland Jewish Youth Council
 Cleveland Zionist District
 Cleveland Zionist Society
 Community Temple Congregation
 Community Temple Men's Club
 Community Temple Women
 Council Educational Alliance
 Council Educational Alliance Leaders Group
 C. E. A. Superior Through Parents' Organization
 Council of Jewish Women
 Divinsker Sisterhood Aid Society
 Eddy Road Jewish Center
 Eddy Road Jewish Center Sisterhood
 Euclid Ave. Temple Alumni Association
 Euclid Ave. Temple Congregation
 Euclid Ave. Temple Men's Club
 Euclid Ave. Temple Sisterhood
 Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations
 Forest City Hebrew Benevolent Association
 Gates of Hope Congregation
 Hadassah
 H. B. S. U.
 Hapoel Hamizrachi
 Hebrew Academy of Cleveland
 Hebrew Cultural Garden Association
 Hebrew Free Loan Association
 Heights Jewish Center
 Heights Jewish Center Sisterhood
 Heights Temple Congregation
 Heights Temple Men's Club
 Heights Temple Sisterhood
 Heights Temple Zionist District
 Histadruth Ivrit
 Immediate Aid Society
 Independent Mezricher Association
 Jewish Big Brother Association
 Jewish Big Sister Association

Jewish Carpenters Union L. 1750
 Jewish Children's Bureau
 Jewish Consumptive Relief Society
 Jewish Day Nursery, Aux. of Jewish Children's Bureau
 Jewish Family Service Association
 Jewish National Fund Council
 Jewish National Fund Council, Women's Division
 Jewish National Workers Alliance No. 45
 Jewish National Workers Alliance No. 504
 Jewish People's Fraternal Order, Lodge No. 124
 Jewish People's Fraternal Order, Lodge No. 148
 Jewish People's Fraternal Order, Lodge No. 805
 Jewish Progressive Association
 Jewish Recreation Council
 Jewish Vocational Service
 Jewish War Veterans—Hyman Kessler Post No. 248
 Jewish War Veterans—JRC-YMHA Post No. 46
 Jewish War Veterans—Post No. 14
 Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary—Post No. 14
 Jewish Welfare Federation
 Jewish Young Adult Bureau
 Judea Ladies Auxiliary
 Junior Hadassah
 Keren Hayesod Women's Club
 Kiever Hebrew Aid Society
 Kiever Progressive Aid Society
 Kinsman Jewish Center
 Knesseth Israel Congregation
 Ladies Free Loan Association
 Marmorisher B'nai Jacob Sisterhood
 Marmorisher Young Men's Benevolent Association
 Migdal Zion Society
 Mizrahi
 Montefiore Home
 Mount Pleasant Consumptive Aid Society
 Mount Sinai Hospital
 AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES
 National Home for Jewish Children Auxiliary
 Niv'el Zedek Congregation
 Oer Chodesh Anshe Sfard Congregation
 Oer Chodesh Sisterhood
 Oer Zedek Congregation
 Oer Zedek Sisterhood
 Ohel Jacob Congregation
 Ohel Yehyne Congregation
 Orthodox Jewish Children's Bureau
 Orthodox Jewish Orphan Home—E. 105 Auxiliary
 Orthodox Jewish Orphan Home—Kinsman Auxiliary
 Orthodox Old Home
 Orthodox Old Home Auxiliary
 Park Synagogue
 Park Synagogue Men's Club
 Park Synagogue Sisterhood
 Phi Lambda Kappa
 Phi Sigma Delta Graduate Club
 Pioneer Women's Council
 Pioneer Women—Chapter No. 1
 Pioneer Women—Chapter No. 3
 Pioneer Women—Chapter No. 4
 Pioneer Women—Chapter No. 8
 Pioneer Women—Kinsman-Shaker 2
 Pliskover Landsleit Society
 Poale Zion—Zeire Zion
 Poltaver Aid Society
 Rabbinical College of Telshe
 Shomrei Hadath Congregation
 Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity
 Tau Epsilon Rho
 Temple Alumni Association
 Temple Congregation
 Temple Men's Club
 Temple Women's Association
 Tetiever Social and Benefit Society
 United Order of True Sisters
 Women's Auxiliary of Mt. Sinai Hospital
 Workmen's Circle Branch 79
 Workmen's Circle Branch 430
 Workmen's Circle Branch 559
 Workmen's Circle Chorus and Orchestra
 Workmen's Circle District Committee
 Yeshiva Adath B'nai Israel
 Yiddish Culture Society
 Young Israel



Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting held Monday, June 13, 1949
8:30 P.M. at the Community Temple

ATTENDANCE Present were: Jerome N Curtis, president; Stanley L Adelstein, Leo Ascherman, Charles Auerbach, Sam Bonchek, Abraham Braun, Edward Braverman, Joseph Conway, Saul Danaceau, Mrs Harry K Dworkin, Arnold Edelman, Paul L Eden, Gilbert Eisenberg, Rabbi David Genuth, Nathan I Gordon, Myron Guren, Dr Oscar Halpern, Rabbi Jack Herman, Irving Kane, Mrs S S Kates, George Kath, Mrs Louis Kaufman, Eugene M Klein, Max Kohrman, Rabbi Enoch Kronheim, Gabriel Leeb, George B Mayer, Mrs Alexander Mintz, Ezra Z Shapiro, Mrs Uriah Shapiro, Louis Skolnik, and Nathan Brilliant and Mrs Willard Frankel.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 p.m. by the chairman who announced that the next meeting of the Delegate Assembly would be held on Tuesday, June 28 at the Temple on the Heights. He then welcomed the new members of the Executive Committee who were attending their first committee meeting.

KASHRUTH BOARD Mr Gabriel Leeb, chairman of the Kashruth Board, reported that the problem of combatting the use of the term "Kosher style" has been a perplexing one for a long time. The Board has attempted to get proprietors to drop the use of the term by calling their attention to the appropriate provision of the state law and the municipal ordinance on Kashruth. Although the policy has produced some good results, the Board has decided to make a test case of one of the non-cooperating shops by determining through investigation whether non-kosher food has been sold. If necessary, the help of the City Prosecutor's office will be sought in persuading the owner to desist from use of the misleading term. If this type of cooperation is not secured from the Prosecutor's office, the Kashruth Board will make a further study of the problem and will report back to the Executive Committee before taking further action.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE Paul Eden reported that the Membership Committee had recommended the following applications for favorable action: Temple Emanu El, Ahavath Zion Congregation, Sereni Branch Labor Zionist Organization. Some question was raised as to the membership status of groups which are constituted as a result of the division of parent organizations into smaller groups. Mr Shapiro and Mr Guren called attention to the fact that a committee is now studying this problem, as well as the entire question of membership in the Council. The three applications were thereupon unanimously approved.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS The Chairman announced that a report of the first year's work of the Adult Services Division of the Jewish Community Centers will be presented at the Delegate Assembly meeting. He also stated that a committee would be appointed to study the operations of the Division. It is planned to appoint this evaluation committee jointly with the Jewish Welfare Federation as outlined in the memorandum drawn up at the time of establishing the Jewish Community Centers.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE The chairman announced the list of nominees for representation on the Community Relations Committee from the community-at-large. The list unanimously approved by the Executive Committee consisted of the following names: Mrs Harry Dworkin, A I Cornsweet and Louis Skolnik. The chairman then called on Mr Kane for a report of the Community Relations Committee and in so doing announced that Mr Kane had been elected chairman of the National Community Relations Advisory Council. He expressed the pride Cleveland took in the election of Mr Kane. Mr Kane then announced Mr. Barron's reelection as chairman of the Community Relations Council, the national professional organization, which puts Cleveland in a leadership position in both lay and professional community relations work.

Mr Kane then reported briefly on the Plenary Session of the NCRAC, stressing two important developments which he felt strengthened the development of that agency.

1. The previous "unanimity rule" has been replaced by a majority vote procedure which allows the NCRAC to make decisions and assign work

in a field without waiting for unanimous agreement. In matters involving public statements or public action, if the vote is not unanimous, however, subsequent action will only be made in the name of national organizations and local communities which have approved the step.

2. Every national and local agency is to clear with the NCRAC before taking new action on matters involving broad community relations questions on which policy has not yet been established. The importance of member organizations of the Cleveland Jewish Community Council in turn obtaining clearance from the Council before taking stands on matters involving public action was then set forth by Mr Kane. After a short discussion the chairman was authorized to appoint a subcommittee to make recommendations on this subject.

Mr Kane reported requests from the Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations for representation on the Community Relations Committee. Similar requests had previously been received from the Jewish War Veterans and the Young Adult Council. Since the present formula for representation on the Community Relations Committee was adopted by the Jewish Welfare Federation, it was suggested that a subcommittee be appointed by the chairman to analyze and review the composition of the Community Relations Committee and to bring in recommendations concerning changes in representation. The suggestion was unanimously adopted.

HEBREW IN HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL Mr Kane reported that following a number of meetings representatives of the Bureau of Jewish Education, the Community Relations Committee had decided by unanimous vote that the time was not propitious for the introduction of the study of Hebrew at Cleveland Heights High School. The basis of the committee's action, he stated, was exclusively a matter of community relations consideration and at no time was any objection raised to the teaching of Hebrew on cultural grounds. The prime considerations motivating the committee's action, he stated, were the following:

1. There was no evidence of a positive demand for the study of Hebrew on the part of students or parents. It would be unwise to make a request of such magnitude only to have no class materialize.
2. Tensions in the Heights area as between Jews and non-Jews were high as a result of the recent and dramatic shift of Jewish population into the Heights. Evidence of such tensions could be found in the community concern over the Park Synagogue application for a building permit, the issue raised over scheduling of a Heights High school band trip during Passover, as well as in many other instances.

The Executive Committee, he concluded, had approved the action of the Community Relations Committee by a vote of 10 - 4 at a meeting devoted to a debate of the matter.

Upon motion by Mr Eden the Executive Committee then voted to reconsider the question. Gabriel Leeb, chairman of the Jewish Education Committee of the Bureau of Jewish Education then made a statement for his group in which he began by emphasizing the right of the Bureau to act autonomously in the matter of introducing Hebrew study into the public schools. He further stated that the arguments presented by Mr Kane and the Community Relations Committee were not "temporal", but rather were permanent objections that could be raised at any time. He stated that the emergence of the State of Israel made its national language as worthy of study as any other language, that the potential number of students is greatest at Heights High, that circulating petitions to determine student interest is an unsatisfactory method of determining the facts of the case, and that the Bureau's proposal is to teach a language without any reference to religion. He concluded by observing that the Bureau was fully aware of the community relations implications of the issue, and that it could be trusted to proceed with caution and with responsibility. Mr Kohrman commented upon his daughter's experience at the University of Wisconsin where she had succeeded in having a course in Hebrew inaugurated which increased from five members to 38, of whom four were non-Jews. He reported good results from the standpoint of interfaith understanding. Mr Brilliant stated that in St Louis enrollment in Hebrew classes had dropped, but only proportionately to the drop in other languages. In New York City, on the other hand, he reported that

3,000 students were now studying Hebrew, an increase over the previous year. Boston is introducing Hebrew this fall, as are Pittsburgh and Buffalo. Chelsea and Fall River have had courses for several years, all indicating that no new or original departure would be made in Cleveland Heights. In addition, he concluded, over 600 colleges now accept Hebrew credits for admission, the list including Western Reserve, as well as institutions of higher learning all over the country.

Mr Vincent then supplied some further data indicating a drop in enrollment in St Louis from 150 to 50 students. New York City reported that only Jewish students were enrolled in classes and that the increase in numbers was due to the activities of a representative of the Jewish Education Committee who actively works for increasing enrollment. He then stated that college enrollment credit constitutes no problem, and that furthermore Hebrew text books are carefully designed to eliminate the religious issue completely. He did however, raise two issues: 1) the divisiveness of Jewish and non-Jewish students. On the basis of the New York enrollment, Hebrew would be the only subject in the curriculum to divide students on religious lines; 2) Tensions. He referred to a long list of tensions among PTA groups on the Heights. As to the problem of time, he concluded, the experience in the E 105th St area indicates that a neighborhood does pass through a period of transition into one of crystallization. The Heights area, he stated, had not yet reached the second stage and he hoped that the resolution of this matter would take into account the question of timeliness and tension, rather than limit itself to purely cultural questions.

Mr Edelman also stressed the possibility of segregation between the Jewish and non-Jewish children and the public relations aspect of a tax supported course when our own Jewish facilities should be adequate for this type of training. Rabbi Genuth felt that the stress on tensions had been over-emphasized and that the Community Relations Committee was prone to be too concerned with non-Jewish attitudes. He also alluded to the inadequacies of our local Hebrew instruction system and felt that the contemplated course would improve the situation. Rabbi Herman disputed the religious connotations he felt had been stressed by Rabbi Genuth, stating that the introduction of Hebrew was not meant to make up for any inadequacies in religious training. He also felt on the basis of his experience in New York the divisiveness issue had been overstressed. Dr Halpern stated that he had been instructed by the Yiddish Culture Society to support the introduction of Hebrew as a significant step in Jewish cultural life in Cleveland.

Mr Kane responded to Rabbi Genuth's charge of undue concern with non-Jewish attitudes, citing many examples where the Community Relations Committee locally and nationally had taken stands in the full knowledge that they were unpopular with non-Jews. These, however, he said were matters of fundamental issues such as released time. Mrs Kates expressed her opposition to the proposal, disagreeing with Mr Leeb's assertion that the Bureau could appropriately act independently in this matter. Mr Shapiro expressed his confidence in the Bureau's ability to proceed cautiously and stated that in his judgment no difficulties would eventuate as a result of the introduction of the course. Mr Brilliant concluded the discussion by citing a number of statements from New York educators expressing their satisfaction with the operation of the course there.

After some discussion as to procedure, the original motion of the Community Relations Committee was again put before the Executive Committee. The motion, expressing the feeling that it was inopportune to introduce Hebrew into the Cleveland Heights High School at this time, was then defeated by a vote of 20-9.

Mr Shapiro moved that the Executive Committee recommend to the Delegates Assembly that it look with favor upon the effort of the Bureau of Jewish Education to institute the teaching of Hebrew in Cleveland Heights High School. Mr Auerbach seconded the motion stating that the action taken by the Executive Committee up to this point was purely negative in that it was limited to a defeat of the community relations recommendations but expressed no positive attitude toward the Bureau's proposal.

Considerable discussion then followed during which it was pointed out that a floor debate in the delegates assembly might serve no useful purpose and could well lead to acrimonious debate. It was further pointed out that the way had now been cleared for action by the Bureau and no delegates assembly action was required. Mr Shapiro then asked to withdraw his motion, but Mr Auerbach refused to withdraw his second stating that the matter should legitimately come up for action by the delegates assembly. Mr Shapiro's motion was then put to a vote with a resulting 13 - 13 vote. Mr Auerbach then withdrew his second and Mr Shapiro withdrew his original motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley Adelstein
Secretary



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March 17, 1949

Introduction of Hebrew in Cleveland Heights High School

Jerome N Curtis, chairman, indicated that the Bureau of Jewish Education was planning to request the Cleveland Heights Board of Education to introduce the study of Hebrew into Heights High School. The matter has been considered by a subcommittee of the Community Relations Committee and by the Community Relations Committee itself whose recommendations are to be presented to the Executive Committee. The Bureau of Jewish Education was advised that the matter would be taken up at this meeting, but the Bureau did not send any representatives to present its position.

Arnold Edelman, chairman of the subcommittee which studied the matter reported for the Community Relations Committee. He indicated that this was the fourth meeting in the last nine days on this subject. The first meeting was held with representatives of the Bureau, including Rabbi Nodel, Rabbi Rosenthal, Gabriel Leeb and Nathan Brilliant. The Bureau originally proposed that Hebrew be offered in certain Cleveland High Schools, as well as in Cleveland Heights. They have since dropped the idea of introducing it into Cleveland schools. Cleveland College has agreed to offer a course next year. In reference to the Heights School system, the Bureau reasons that since about 50% of the Heights population is Jewish, it is a logical request to be made of the High School; that the teaching of Hebrew in Heights High School will give the language a prestige comparable to that of other languages; and that there is good precedent for this proposed action in the experience of New York and St Louis where Hebrew has been part of the curriculum for a number of years.

The Community Relations Committee considered the matter solely from the community relations standpoint and not from an evaluation of the cultural aspects. An examination of the experience in New York City and St Louis reveals that the preponderant enrollment is Jewish. The predominance of Jewish enrollment in these classes tends to heighten separation and segregation, and while the subject is taught as objectively as any language might be taught, there are those who invest it with religious connotations and in the minds of non-Jews may raise some of the same objections as are present in released time.

In the High School program, students are confined to three compulsory subjects and only one elective. For a student to get college credit, he must have two years of a language. Thus, a student who elects a language and who plans to go to college, must commit himself for a two-year period. The introduction of Hebrew may make it difficult to provide classes in other languages since language enrollment in the high schools has declined and the draining off of Jewish students for Hebrew may leave an insufficient number for other language classes. The matter of securing a properly qualified person to teach Hebrew would be a problem since there is at present no one employed by the Heights system who could teach Hebrew.

Since experience tends to show that the subject is chosen almost exclusively by Jews and that non-Jewish pupils avoid it, it would mean that the Jews would be asking the taxpayers and the schools to handle something which the Jewish group more properly should take care of itself. The committee felt that there was no

real demand from the community for the language because so many youngsters are now able to have knowledge of the subject through Hebrew School and Sunday School. Moreover, the Bureau had failed to present any evidence of such a community demand or interest. It would certainly be embarrassing to clamor for the introduction of the language and then find an insufficient enrollment.

The Community Relations Committee further took into consideration the many recent irritations and problems in the Heights growing out of the rapid influx of Jews into the area. As examples Mr Edelman cited the sorority and fraternity issue; the incidents associated with the Park Synagogue building permit; the Sunday closing of stores; the Heights High Band tour during the Passover holidays, etc. In view of these and other considerations, the Community Relations Committee recommended that the proposed plan to request for the introduction of Hebrew into Heights High School be deferred for the present. Mr Edelman moved the adoption of this recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr Benjamin.

Mrs Halperin raised the question whether it was necessary for the Bureau of Jewish Education to bring this matter to the Jewish Community Council, to which Mr. Edelman responded that while it was not incumbent on the Bureau to do so, the Community Relations Committee has been set up to offer community relations counsel and judgment — and in the best judgment of the Community Relations Committee, there was the feeling that the introduction of Hebrew should not be requested for at this time. Mr Resnick questioned the matter of timeliness, for ten years ago the Council made the same decision on the basis of "timeliness". Mr Curtis pointed out that ten or eleven years ago the Bureau of Jewish Education requested advice from the Community Council about introducing Hebrew into Glenville and John Adams High Schools. At that time, it was the unanimous decision of the Executive Committee that the introduction of Hebrew should not be requested of the Cleveland Board of Education.

Rabbi Porath questioned the matter of acting upon the motion without having representation from the Bureau present. He felt that the matter ought to be postponed. Those objecting to postponement pointed out that the Bureau of Jewish Education itself requested immediate action since plans for the fall were already being made by the Heights school officials. It was pointed out that the decision by the Community Relations Committee had been made after full discussion, deliberation and study, and that members of the Bureau of Jewish Education had presented their viewpoints comprehensively. Mrs Halperin voiced the opinion that the Community Relations Committee decision is in opposition to the desire of the community. Rabbi Porath stated that the Bureau of Jewish Education is an autonomous body and came to the council merely for counsel and opinion.

Mrs Kates pointed out that there is no question that Hebrew is a subject worthy to be taught, but at the present time the Heights High School cannot support additional languages, that even enrollment for Latin is dwindling. At the same time, the Heights Board of Education is being constantly approached by a variety of Jewish agencies for some purpose: The Jewish Vocational Service, the Jewish Family Service, The Jewish Community Council, etc. These requests on the Board of Education ultimately begin to have the effect of defeating our own purposes. To the argument that prestige would be added to the Hebrew language by being taught in the High schools, the committee considered the fact that there might be considerable damage for it would be important that at least 60 to 70 pupils undertake the course for at least a two-year period and there is no guarantee that

that number can be obtained. This recalled the situation eleven years ago. Mrs Halperin remembered that at that time her son wanted a course in Hebrew and the principal of the school said that if ten children would be willing to take the course, Hebrew would be introduced. It was impossible at that time to get ten pupils to enroll and the course was not offered.

Mrs Stashower understood that Dr De Sauze, head of Languages for the Cleveland School system, favors the teaching of Hebrew. Mr Vincent pointed out that Dr De Sauze recognizes the difficulties in teaching Hebrew, that all he has offered is to help to provide for the teaching of Hebrew as a tuition course during the summer at Western Reserve University. If the course is accepted by Reserve, it will require registration of thirty pupils. Dr De Sauze indicated that he would release a Cleveland school teacher if an adequate enrollment could be obtained.

The Executive Committee voted 10 to 4 to accept the recommendations of the Community Relations Committee, that the present time was inopportune to introduce Hebrew in Heights High School and that the Bureau of Jewish Education be asked not to request the Cleveland Heights Board of Education to offer the study of Hebrew at this time.

The question was raised as to whether or not this issue should come before the delegate body of the Council. The chairman suggested that only if the Bureau of Jewish Education does not accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee, will it be necessary to bring the matter before the delegate body.

