FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

Offices: 386 Fourth Avenue
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1948
OBJECTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The objects of this corporation shall be, to prevent the infraction of the civil and religious rights of Jews, in any part of the world; to render all lawful assistance and to take appropriate remedial action in the event of threatened or actual invasion or restriction of such rights, or of unfavorable discrimination with respect thereto; to secure for Jews equality of economic, social and educational opportunity; to alleviate the consequences of persecution and to afford relief from calamities affecting Jews, wherever they may occur; and to compass these ends to administer any relief fund which shall come into its possession or which may be received by it, in trust or otherwise, for any of the aforesaid objects or for purposes comprehended therein.

—Extract from the Charter
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INTRODUCTION. Nineteen forty-six began, and our last Annual Meeting concluded, the fortieth anniversary of the American Jewish Committee. For four decades we had pursued consistently and with a measurable degree of success the aims of our Charter: "to prevent the infraction of the civil and religious rights of Jews, in any part of the world."

We, of course, have no intention of resting on any laurels or subsiding into mere vainglorious reminiscence; and, indeed, the year 1947 did not permit it. The state of the world made our job no easy one; yet there were some things in our favor. We had long reached the conclusion that the eventual fate of the Jew is inextricably interwoven with the fate of true democracy—that both must survive together—or fall together. And for some time now, we have been making that fundamental thesis clear to men of good will everywhere—Christian as well as Jew—and we have gained numerous and powerful allies. We have also established ourselves more firmly in the consciousness of the Jews of America and elsewhere; and we have disseminated a better and truer perspective of our aims, our philosophy and our immediate work.

THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE. With this preamble, your Executive Committee wishes to report specifically upon the work done by the Committee during nineteen forty-seven. Let us first turn our attention to the international scene, always bearing in mind that the international scene and the domestic front are mutually interdependent; and that any concern with Jews as Jews must necessarily disregard frontiers completely.

PALESTINE. The major event of this year, and perhaps of many years, was the momentous decision of the United Nations to partition Palestine. We recognize the supreme importance of this political solution of a problem that has so long agitated the world, and we know that far-reaching and decisive consequences will eventually
flow therefrom. It is necessary, therefore, briefly to review the role played by the American Jewish Committee in the reaching of that final decision on Palestine.

1946 BACKGROUND. As you are aware, until May 1946 when it was made definitely clear that the British Government would hold fast to its insistence that a solution of the political problem of Palestine was a condition precedent to any relaxation of its current immigration and land purchase policies, the American Jewish Committee urged that controversy over political ultimates be subordinated to the immediate humanitarian necessities of the remnant of European Jewry.

Thereafter, in 1946, as you are also aware, your Committee was informed that certain members of the Jewish Agency were prepared to propose a plan calling for the partition of Palestine into two sections, in one of which there is a Jewish majority of population and in the other an Arab majority. Both sections would enjoy autonomy, including control of immigration; and full democratic rights—civil and religious—would be guaranteed to all inhabitants, Arabs, Jews and Christians.

It was decided by our Committee that such a solution, though far from ideal, would in no way contravene the democratic principles for which the American Jewish Committee has always stood. This Partition Plan is a far departure from the Biltmore Resolution Plan, which would have meant a Jewish state comprising the whole of Palestine, with a Jewish minority ruling the Arab majority. Under the Partition Plan, the Jewish section already has a preponderance of Jewish population and when thought of in terms of a Jewish state, it would be a Jewish state only in the same sense that the United States, with a preponderance of Christian population, might be termed a Christian state.

There appeared no other solution which would assure a haven in Palestine for the displaced Jews, whose numbers were rapidly mounting and whose morale was rapidly falling. Our Executive Committee agreed that, with so many human lives at stake, a quick practical compromise was preferable to continued search for ideal solutions.

RESOLUTION OF 1947 ANNUAL MEETING. At our last annual meeting, on January 26, 1947, we adopted a resolution expressing the hope
that the British government would take prompt steps to solve satisfactorily the ultimate problem of government in Palestine and demanding that in the meantime it abrogate the White Paper and fulfill its Mandatory obligation "to facilitate Jewish immigration into Palestine."

BRITAIN REFERS PROBLEM TO UNITED NATIONS. The British government continued to turn a deaf ear to all pleas. This obduracy provoked violent reactions in Palestine, and that troubled land was thrown into a state of turmoil. As conditions grew more exacerbated, the British government on April 2, 1947, placed the problem into the hands of the United Nations Assembly. The Assembly accepted the responsibility and on May 15 set up a United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP). Thereupon the American Jewish Committee asked leave to appear before this Committee and submit argument and a brief.

BRIEF SUBMITTED TO UNSCOP. On June 1, Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, your President, and Mr. Jacob Blaustein, Chairman of your Executive Committee, presented a brief to the UNSCOP, as authorized by the Executive Committee on May 11, which affirmed the right of Jews to emigrate to and settle in Palestine as conferred on them by the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate, urged the establishment of a United Nations trusteeship and declared that the British White Paper of 1939 was a "breach of trust" which "must be struck down." The Committee also submitted a carefully worked out program designed to have an ameliorative effect pending determination of a final political solution for Palestine. We recommended, among other things, an immediate grant of 100,000 immigration certificates during 1947 to Jews in the Displaced Persons' camps, a subsequent facilitation of maximum Jewish immigration and a guarantee of Jewish land purchase rights, and the immediate placement of Jews and Arabs in positions of political and economic responsibility as a step toward ultimate complete self-government for Palestine, with full equality for all its citizens.

In the event, however, that an immediate political solution would be considered preferable by the Assembly to a United Nations Trusteeship, we urged, in accordance with the consensus of the Executive Committee at its meeting on September 15, 1946, that Palestine be partitioned along the lines suggested by members of the Jewish Agency in the summer of that year.
TENSION IN PALESTINE. While UNSCOP was studying the situation and the various proposals, tension in Palestine mounted to a new high. The extremist Irgun and Stern groups embarked on a campaign of terrorism which led to equally violent reprisals by the British.

STATEMENT CONDEMNING TERRORISM AND BRITISH PROVOCATION. In a vigorous statement issued on August 1, 1947, the American Jewish Committee condemned both the terrorist acts perpetrated by this small minority and the British provocation and retaliation against innocent Jews. It pointed out that the deplorable incidents emphasized "the absolute necessity for competent action by the United Nations, for, historically, these acts of violence have their origin in the violation by Great Britain of the Mandate by its issuance of the MacDonald White Paper."

UNSCOP REPORT. It was against a background of such events, on August 31, that UNSCOP finally issued its report. It unanimously recommended that the Mandate be ended as soon as possible and independence granted at the earliest practicable date, but split on the type of state to be erected in Palestine. The majority proposed a scheme of partition into an Arab state and a Jewish state, with the city of Jerusalem placed under an international trusteeship. The minority, on the other hand, called for a federal organization with subsidiary Arab and Jewish states which would possess only limited autonomy.

UNITED STATES FAVORS GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF UNSCOP MAJORITY REPORT. On September 11 the American Jewish Committee, over the signatures of Judge Proskauer and Mr. Blaustein with the concurrence of the Palestine subcommittee, urged on Secretary of State George C. Marshall that the United States Government "vigorously and speedily endorse the report of the majority group."

On October 11 Ambassador Herschel V. Johnson, on behalf of the United States, took a definite stand in favor of the general principles of the majority report. His position was promptly endorsed, likewise "in principle," by our Executive Committee meeting that same night, which also urged on the United States and other agencies of the United Nations a prompt agreement on detail and "a speedy effectuation of the basic plan approved by the delegation of the United States."
AJC CONTACTS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. From the time that the Palestine question was first thrown into the General Assembly until the historic vote was taken on November 29, 1947, your Committee was in almost daily communication with the high officials of our Government who, like President Truman, Secretary of State Marshall and his chief aides, including General John H. Hilldring, advisor on Palestine to the American delegation, were charged with formulating American official policy. Relations were uniformly cordial and much was done to clarify a very complex situation. The State Department asked the Committee to help interpret its policy on Palestine to the leadership of the Jewish Agency and to Jews generally, and explain to them the strategy of the United States Government. In other words, the Committee was asked to ensure that, at an exceedingly delicate stage of the negotiations, nothing should be done to upset the apple-cart.

WORKING RELATION WITH JEWISH AGENCY. The Committee assumed this responsibility, and established a very close working relation with the Jewish Agency during the proceedings in the Assembly. It was agreed that the Agency was to take no major steps without prior consultation with the American Jewish Committee and certain other non-Zionist organizations. The Committee succeeded to some extent in modifying certain extreme attitudes, and in turn was of material assistance in reinforcing the Agency's point of view with our Government.

UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY ADOPTS PLAN OF PARTITION. It is indeed difficult, within the confines of this Report, to give an adequate picture of the incessant day-by-day activities in this connection, the wealth of dramatic incidents involved and the piling up of crisis on crisis. Suffice it to say that, in spite of the violent opposition of the Arab bloc and obscure forces in the background, the plan of partition as finally developed was passed in the United Nations General Assembly on November 29, 1947, by a vote of thirty-three to thirteen.

PARTITION TO BE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 1948. October 1, 1948 is the day designated for partition to go into effect, and the only state in the world in which a majority of the population are Jews will be added to the family of nations.

BRITISH ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL. Meanwhile, the British have announced their intention to withdraw prior to May 1, 1948,
and there are forebodings as to what will happen in the interregnum. Even now, with British troops still on hand, acts of violence initiated by the Arabs are taking a shocking toll of human lives, and the United Nations has been appealed to for positive action to enforce its decision and safeguard lives.

**Partition poses new problems for AJC.** The work of the American Jewish Committee of course is not finished with respect to Palestine. We must see to it, among other things, that partition is carried out in accordance with the terms of the solemn agreement entered into by the United Nations, and that both the United Nations and the American Government will properly implement that agreement. We must also concern ourselves with the problems of possible future international loans to the infant state in Palestine and the possible necessity for the establishment of an international police force to insure a peaceful enforcement of the settlement. Further, the pending partition will pose grave problems within the Jewish community, which must be resolved, and the roles of the Jewish Agency and Zionist organizations both in America and abroad will have to be clearly defined. And, not least important, we must labor to establish a complete separation in the eyes of the world between the sovereign state of Palestine and the Jewish communities of other countries, in which Jews at present are, and intend to remain, loyal and faithful citizens free of any dual allegiance.

**Possible revision of AJC statement of views.** The current Statement of Views of the American Jewish Committee, adopted at its Annual Meeting in January, 1943, charted a sound course of action for the Committee for service to Jewry. Revisions, however, may now be desirable in order to bring our Statement of Views up to date in the light of the change in Palestine. Envisaging that possibility, the Steering Committee has appointed a committee to consider the question. This committee is composed of Alan M. Stroock, Chairman; Louis Caplan, Chairman of our Pittsburgh Chapter; Herbert B. Ehrmann, National Vice-President and Chairman of our Boston Chapter; Irving M. Engel, Chairman of our New York Chapter; Judge Phillip Forman, General Edward S. Greenbaum, Chairman of our new Domestic Affairs Committee; David Sher; and Judge Proskauer and Mr. Blaustein, ex officio. This matter is to be discussed further at the session tomorrow afternoon, at which Mr. Stroock will preside.
EurOPEAN SITUATION. In Europe, the situation this past year has been far from heartening. Many thousands of Jews are still in DP camps, still awaiting the day when they shall once again be given the opportunity to live in peace and dignity. Restitution and compensation for Nazi-looted property are still in the beginning stages. The Austrian and German peace treaties are seemingly as far from completion as ever; while all reports indicate a rising tide of anti-Semitism in Central Europe.

AJC WORK IN EUROPE INTENSIFIED. Realizing the gravity of the situation and the dependence of the decimated and impoverished Jewish communities abroad upon American Jewry—made so clear to us when we attended the London Conference of Jewish Organizations, which we co-sponsored in 1946, and during subsequent visits by Dr. Slawson and others—we have greatly intensified our European operations. The program, under the guidance of the Foreign Affairs Committee, with Judge Phillip Forman as its chairman, has a four-fold objective: (1) aid in formulating policies on restitution and reparations; (2) protection of the civil, political and religious rights of Jews; (3) combatting of anti-Semitism in Europe through the Jewish communities themselves; (4) enrichment of Jewish cultural life on a communal basis. What is important and novel in this program is the shift in emphasis from mediation on behalf of the Jews of Europe to an intimate cooperation with the Jewish communities themselves in the achievement of their rights.

HEADQUARTERS OFFICE ESTABLISHED IN PARIS. To make possible a dynamic, on-the-spot program, Mr. Joel D. Wolfsohn, formerly with the United States Department of the Interior, was appointed director of these European operations. A headquarters office in Paris was established, in addition to the one already in existence in London. Dr. John Slawson, Executive Vice-President of the Committee, together with members of the staff, visited Europe during the summer to plan reconstructive aid through the new office.

Both Dr. Slawson and Mr. David Bernstein, who returned on June 30 last from a seven-month mission of investigation in our behalf, have reported to the Committee that the spirit of Hitler is not dead, and warned of disastrous consequences to the displaced Jews unless international action in their behalf is undertaken immediately.

AJC DEMANDS TRUSTEE BODY. The Committee, at its last Annual Meeting, insisted on the creation of a trustee body, representing
Jewish organizations of the world, to prosecute claims for and administer heirless and unclaimed property of Jews in Germany and Austria for the benefit of surviving Jews, and asked for immediate and full restitution of all property rights of Nazi victims in former Axis countries.

**Joint proposals for Austrian and German peace treaties.** Since these objectives, as well as those involving human rights, could best be effectuated through proper provisions in the proposed German and Austrian peace treaties, the Committee concentrated especially on this phase of the situation. In order to bring the full weight of world Jewry to bear upon those responsible for the drafting of these treaties, Judge Proskauer and Mr. Blaustein addressed an appeal to nine other representative Jewish organizations in this country and abroad to join us in common action, just as we had worked together at the Paris Peace Conference with respect to the former Axis-satellite countries. A working committee was set up, as a result of this appeal, to draft the necessary clauses. These followed in essentials those clauses which the Committee had submitted on February 19, 1947, to Acting Secretary of State Acheson and Assistant Secretary Hilldring through Mr. Blaustein and Dr. Slawson. Included in these were guarantees of human rights and provision for restitution of and reparations for Nazi-looted property. The peace treaties themselves, however, are at present in a state of stalemate. As you know, the last meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers in London adjourned on December 15 without taking any action.

**Jewish Restitution Commission.** All along we had urged on the American Military Government in Germany the necessity of coming to an agreement with the other occupying governments of the four zones on the question of restitution. After many delays such an attempt was in fact made; but no agreement could be reached. Whereupon, as requested by the Committee and the other cooperating organizations, General Lucius D. Clay announced on November 10, 1947, the enactment of restitution legislation for the American zone alone. Under this statute a Jewish Restitution Commission has been established for the purpose of claiming and administering Jewish heirless, unclaimed and communal property in the affected zone. The American Jewish Committee, represented by Messrs. Blaustein, Forman and Herman A. Gray, is a member of the Commission. This action by General Clay is a substantial step
forward on the road to that full measure of restitution and reparation for which we have been fighting. It is our hope that this action will set an example for the other zones.

**Spirit of Hitler not dead in Germany.** Germany, in spite of total defeat, in spite of two years of occupation by the armed forces of the conquerors, has done little to mend its ways. All competent observers agree, in the words of a resolution of the Executive Committee at its meeting on October 11 and 12, 1947, that “little progress has been made in eradicating Nazi ideology among the German people, and that, specifically, racism and anti-Semitism are rife among them.”

**Call for German re-education.** Since such stubborn and resistant attitudes pose a serious future threat to the peace of the world as well as to the Jews, the Executive Committee adopted a resolution on October 11 urging our Government to conduct a major campaign of German re-education to eliminate these foci of hate and anti-democratic feeling, and has offered the full support and resources of the American Jewish Committee toward that end. Our offer has been accepted and members of our staff are now consulting with the Army and a group of social scientists to formulate a program of effective re-education. Carefully selected pro-democratic materials have been furnished to the Army for translation, adaptation and wide-scale use in Germany. Increasing attention is also being paid to the real danger of the inoculation of American troops with the Nazi brand of anti-Semitism.

**International anti-Semitism.** But anti-Semitism is not restricted to Germany alone. Even democratic Sweden has its anti-Semite and would-be Fuehrer—one Einar Aberg—whose vicious pamphlets and propaganda are being mailed all over the world. But protests from the American Jewish Committee and a visit by our European representative, Mr. David Bernstein, to the Swedish Ministry of Justice, have caused criminal charges to be filed against Aberg.

**English anti-Semitism.** Far more important, however, and creating the greatest concern, is the present situation in England. There is no question that anti-Semitism is alarmingly on the increase in that traditional seat of all human liberties. What is even more alarming is the general permeation of that anti-Semitism through widespread sections of English society hitherto singularly immune to that deadly disease. Many reasons may be adduced for this significant reversal
of sentiment—postwar letdown, disrupted economy, terrorism in Palestine—the fact nevertheless remains and must be taken into account.

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS.** A promising step forward in fighting anti-Semitism on a world-wide scale was taken in Switzerland last August when sixty delegates of Christian and Jewish organizations from the United States, Australia and European countries met to formulate plans for an International Conference of Christians and Jews. Dr. Samuel H. Flowerman, of our staff, represented the Committee at the meeting. The conference unanimously agreed on the necessity for a permanent organization and on a proposal to revise Christian religious teaching, particularly the story of the crucifixion, in such a manner as to reduce the danger of implanting anti-Semitism in the minds of the young.

**AJC SPONSORS UJECO.** In order to restore as much as possible and at the same time to deepen and enrich the cultural life of the Jews in Europe, we have sponsored and helped organize the United Jewish Educational and Cultural Organization, composed of representatives of the various European Jewish communities. UJECO was set in operation last summer in Paris and has already commenced large-scale activities for providing and training Jewish teachers, establishing courses and providing educational materials to the devastated Jewish communities all over Europe.

**DP SITUATION NOT IMPROVED.** The situation of the Jews in the Displaced Persons camps in Europe has certainly not improved. More than two and a half years after their liberation from Nazi domination, over two hundred thousand are still huddled together in restricted areas under inadequate living conditions, rootless, with their future still in doubt. The American Jewish Committee has worked unceasingly to solve this problem once and for all.

**EFFORTS TOWARD IMMIGRATION TO PALESTINE, UNITED STATES AND ELSEWHERE.** In doing so, it has followed two lines of approach: (1) by reiterating its demand that the gates of Palestine be opened to all Jews who wish to go there, to the limits of its actual absorptive capacity; (2) by pressing for the opening of the doors of other countries, especially the United States, to DP immigration.

**UNITED STATES.** It is to Palestine, according to most qualified observers, that the eyes of a very large proportion of Jewish DPs are
turned. Yet thousands among them continue to hope for asylum elsewhere, preferably in the United States. Your Committee, therefore, while assiduously exploring possibilities of entry into various countries, continued through 1947 the concentrated effort begun the year before to effect a liberalization of American immigration laws to meet the DP emergency. Inasmuch as the Christians in that category far outnumber the Jews, our efforts in this direction have been carefully coordinated with those of other groups and individuals representing the Catholic and Protestant faiths.

**National Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons.** Together with the National Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons, in the organization of which, late in 1946, we played a significant part, we were able to appeal both to the humanitarian instincts and the self-interest of the American public. Realizing at the outset that the country, for the most part, was apathetic, if not hostile, to the entry of DPs, the National Citizens Committee launched a many-pronged drive to educate the American people and mobilize their representatives in both Houses of Congress. Aided by the press, radio and films, and with the active cooperation of affiliated local Citizens Committees and scores of national organizations, a truly stupendous job of public enlightenment has been achieved.

**Stratton Bill.** But public enlightenment alone was not enough, and the Citizens Committee and its supporters throughout the land exerted direct influence on members of Congress. On April 1, 1947, Congressman Stratton introduced the bill which bears his name in the House of Representatives. Just before the summer recess, an inferior measure, from our point of view, though still holding out hope for a substantial number of DPs, was put into the Senatorial hopper by nine Senators of both political parties.

**Support of Bill by Other Groups.** Meanwhile, extensive hearings have been held on the Stratton Bill. Your Honorary Vice-President, Governor Herbert H. Lehman, representing the united Jewish community of America, was one of an impressive array of witnesses appearing for the bill. Notable by their presence were the spokesmen for the two giant labor organizations, the AFL and the CIO, who, without abandoning their traditional stand against immigration, nevertheless were willing to waive it on behalf of the DPs. In fact, the only important opposition at the hearings came from the two largest veterans' organizations. But even this was eventually broken
down. In a dramatic reversal of its former position, the American Legion, at its national convention in October, announced its qualified support for DP legislation. The Veterans of Foreign Wars, hitherto similarly opposed, has withdrawn active opposition and evinced a willingness to consider the problem afresh.

AJC CONTRIBUTIONS. To these developments, as indeed to the entire program of the Citizens Committee, the American Jewish Committee has made invaluable contributions. Some of our members are on the important policymaking sub-committee of the Citizens Committee, and the chairman of our own Immigration Committee, Mr. Irving Engel, is the chairman of that sub-committee. In many cities our chapters have done yeoman work at the grass-roots level. Some of our ablest staff members have contributed their skills to the total picture, notably Mr. George Hexter. With unremitting energy we are striving to bring the whole matter to what we hope will be a successful conclusion within the next few months.

Our support of DP legislation is a perfect illustration of the point that the Committee’s manifold activities cannot be contained in separate, airtight compartments. Here was a large-scale domestic operation undertaken for the sake of our fellow Jews abroad. And similarly incapable of precise compartmentation is the context of our work with the various subdivisions of the United Nations.

AJC ACTIVITIES WITH UNITED NATIONS. During the past year, we have persevered in the implementation of the human rights provisions of the United Nations Charter. On March 29, 1947, the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations, consisting of the American Jewish Committee, the Alliance Israelite Universelle of France and the Anglo-Jewish Association of Great Britain, was formally accepted for consultant status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Thus officially welcomed, the Consultative Council decided to allocate among its constituent members specific subjects on the agenda of the United Nations body. The American Jewish Committee assumed primary responsibility for work on the subjects of genocide and—naturally, in view of the role played at the San Francisco Conference by your President and the Chairman of the Executive Committee—of human rights.

GENOCIDE. Genocide, as you know, is the intentional destruction of a group of human beings on religious, racial, political or any other grounds. The concept of genocide as a punishable crime was first
formulated by Professor Raphael Lemkin, well-known authority on international law. Both the concept and its criminal status were proposed by the Consultative Council for adoption by the United Nations.

Proposals relative to human rights. The Council has also been extremely active in urging on the Commission on Human Rights a series of proposals covering facilitation of immigration and various specific guarantees for the free exercise of religious worship and practices.

Commission on Human Rights adopts "Declaration of Rights." On December 16, 1947, the Commission, meeting at Geneva, adopted a draft "Declaration of Rights" which incorporated many of our proposals, especially one which called on governments to ease immigration controls in the interest of stateless persons. Mr. Milton Winn, of our Foreign Affairs Committee, was one of the representatives of the Consultative Council at Geneva. This was the first time in history that an international body had not only formulated a declaration of human rights but had earnestly discussed the means of its implementation.

Domestic scene. Let us now turn to the domestic scene and the work designed to strengthen and protect the position of American Jews. Every so often it is essential to restudy and re-evaluate what we are doing and to determine if we are on the right track and what, if anything, can be done to improve it.

Domestic Affairs Committee. In respect to committees in the domestic area, the Steering Committee was guided by the recommendations of an ad hoc committee, headed by Gen. Edward S. Greenbaum, which had made a searching analysis of our entire program of domestic defense. The Steering Committee was unwilling to permit this ad hoc committee to disband. Instead, it created a permanent Domestic Affairs Committee, which operates under the rotating chairmanship of Gen. Greenbaum and Messrs. Carl J. Austrian, Harold K. Guinzburg and Walter Mendelsohn. This committee supervises, directs and correlates all those committees and departments of the American Jewish Committee which relate to the domestic scene by way of defense. Already the cooperation and efficiency engendered by this new grouping have become plainly visible.
SHIFTS OF EMPHASIS BY LEGAL AND INVESTIGATIVE DEPARTMENT—NAME CHANGED. The past year has witnessed a definite shift in emphasis on the part of our Legal and Investigative Department. While continuing to investigate subversive activities and organized manifestations of anti-Semitism with the same thoroughness and intensity as before, the Department is now devoting more and more attention to legal, legislative and social action. To conform with these new directions, its name has been changed to the Legal and Civic Affairs Committee and it has been placed under the chairmanship of Ben Herzberg.

DECLINE OF OVERT, ORGANIZED ANTI-SEMITISM IN UNITED STATES. Due primarily to economic conditions unfavorable to agitators, but also in part to the growing acceptance by the Jewish community of the strategy originated by the American Jewish Committee for handling rabble-rousers, overt, organized anti-Semitism in the United States continues to decline.

CONTINUED VIGILANCE. Our Legal Department maintains its constant watch on existing and new anti-Semitic organizations with the vigilance and skill developed during the years of Nazi infiltration. That the Department's work during that period gained appreciative recognition in official Government circles is evidenced by the award on October 15 last of the U.S. Army Certificate of Merit to our counsel, Mr. George Mintzer, for meritorious aid in exposing Nazi and other subversive activities during the war.

DANGER OF LATENT ANTI-SEMITISM. Yet the mere subsidence of organized anti-Semitism in this country must not lull us into a false sense of security. A disturbingly large proportion of our fellow Americans is latently anti-Semitic, as polls and common knowledge bring sharply to our attention, and we must continue to exercise vigilance and all our skills to keep this prejudice from flaring up dangerously when and if the current economic situation changes.

CIVIC AFFAIRS. In the area of civic affairs our operations have been greatly extended during the past year. Mr. Herzberg testified on June 13 before a subcommittee of the U.S. Senate in support of a Federal Fair Employment Practices Bill. Through our New York State chapters and our staff we have continued to press for elimination of discrimination in higher education in this key state. Our efforts were concentrated in two fields: support of Fair Educational Practices
legislation, and a State University. A bill to outlaw discriminatory admissions practices in private colleges failed last year to reach the floor of the Legislature because of injudicious strategy over which we had no control. But this year, determined that such a fiasco must not be repeated, we took a hand and succeeded in obtaining agreement on the part of the educational institutions and community agencies concerned on the principles of a measure which we confidently expect to be enacted into law at the current sessions.

New York State University. Governor Lehman was our spokesman before Governor Dewey's Temporary Commission on the Need for a State University and urged that the State of New York create not merely a group of junior colleges, but a central senior institution complete with graduate and professional schools.

College Admission on National Level. On the national level, a group of our representatives, including Mr. James Marshall, Governor Lehman, Judge Charles E. Wyzanski and Mr. David Sher, have secured the promise of leaders of the Association of American College and University Presidents to submit recommendations on college admissions to their organization at its next meeting.

Restrictive Covenants. We have also intervened, either alone or with other organizations, amicus curiae, in hearings before the U.S. Supreme Court and the Appellate Division of the New York court in suits contesting the enforceability of restrictive covenants on real estate.

Broad Mandate Relative to Legislative and Judicial Situations. The mandate for all these activities had been given by our Executive Committee in May, 1946, when it declared that we should take appropriate action in legislative and judicial situations involving either the rights of Jews alone, or of Jews along with other minority groups. In a momentous extension of this policy, our Executive Committee, meeting in Chicago on October 12 last, formally recognized that there "is the closest relation between the protection of the civil rights of all citizens and the protection of the civil rights of the members of particular groups" and that it is therefore "proper for the American Jewish Committee to join with other groups in the protection of the civil rights of the members of all groups irrespective of race, religion, color or national origin." In another resolution adopted at the same meeting, the Executive Committee approved support of Federal anti-lynching legislation.
REPORT OF PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S COMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS. These policy determinations were made prior to publication of one of the important public documents of our times—the Report of President Truman's Committee on Civil Rights. We had been asked by the Committee to assist in its deliberations several months before, and on May 1, Dr. Slawson presented to it a series of far-reaching proposals for the affirmation and safeguarding of civil rights, and the combatting of group dissensions and racial and religious discriminations.

AJC RECOMMENDATIONS. The specific recommendations, presented in oral testimony and in three prepared memoranda, called for (1) expansion of the Civil Rights Section of the Department of Justice; (2) enactment of a Federal anti-poll tax bill; (3) enactment of a Federal anti-lynching bill; (4) enactment of the pending Ives-Norton bill to curb discrimination in employment; (5) Federal and State legislation barring discrimination because of race, creed or color in educational institutions which receive public funds; (6) enactment of State civil rights, fair employment and fair educational practices bills; (7) State legislation outlawing restrictive real estate covenants; (8) a Civil Rights Act for the District of Columbia; (9) a permanent Federal Commission on Civil Rights to serve in an advisory capacity to the President and other Government officials; and (10) a Government education program to promote civil rights and combat prejudice through the various Federal agencies.

ALL RECOMMENDATIONS EMBODIED IN REPORT. All of these recommendations were embodied in the Report of the President's Committee issued October 29, 1947. Your President immediately issued a statement hailing it as "a major contribution to the strengthening of American unity and the preservation of democratic rights."

REPORT OF PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION. Hard on the heels of the Report on Civil Rights, and devoted to consideration of a particular segment of the larger field, came the almost equally significant Report of President Truman's Commission on Higher Education, issued on December 15 last. The vigor of its findings and its plain-spoken declaration that "the time has come to make public education at all levels equally accessible to all, without regard to race, creed, sex or national origin," evoked an immediate statement from your President praising the entire Report as "a courageous and forthright appraisal of some of the weaknesses in
higher education.” Empowered by the directives already given by our Executive Committee, we propose to exert our every effort toward the realization of the noble aims contained in both these Reports.

RELIGION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS. During the past year, the concern long felt in the Jewish community over the encroachment of religion in the public schools came to a peak. This knotty problem has been extensively discussed not only in our own Committee, but in the National Community Relations Advisory Council, the coordinating group for national and local Jewish defense agencies, and jointly between that organization and the Synagogue Council of America. Initial consideration was confined to one phase of the problem: the released time plan whereby children, with the consent of their parents are excused from public school classes to receive religious instruction from teachers of their own faiths outside the school.

It can be contended that such an arrangement, carefully administered, need not be unacceptable to the Jewish community. Indeed, in New York City, the Jewish group actively participates in released time. Experience has shown, however, that all too often the plan is modified in a number of objectionable ways, in some cases leading to actual religious instruction in the public school classrooms on public school time.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE JUSTIFIES OBJECTIONS TO RELEASED TIME. Your Executive Committee on May 11, 1947, therefore adopted a resolution: that the “utilization in any manner of the time, facilities, personnel, or funds of the public school system for purposes of religious instruction should not be permitted. We therefore believe that Jewish communities are justified in objecting to released-time or dismissed-time programs.”

VASHTI MCCOLLUM CASE. Moreover, it joined with the other constituents of the National Community Relations Advisory Council on an amicus curiae brief submitted to the United States Supreme Court on an appeal heard December 8 from the Vashti McCollum case which originated in Champaign, Illinois. In this brief, a strong plea was made to the Court to ban religious instruction in public-school classrooms.

OTHER PROBLEMS IN RELIGIOUS AREAS. Other specific problems in this area involve such matters as Bible reading in the schools, recitation of the Lord’s Prayer, Christmas celebrations, public aid to
sectarian schools, etc. These subjects, having been earlier considered by our Interfaith and Administration Committees, were intensively debated yesterday by a panel of our members from various parts of the country, and its views will be laid before you.

In this matter of the relations of church and schools we must keep in mind the invaluable cooperation extended to us by our Christian friends in the elimination of anti-Jewish prejudice. Among the most fruitful forms of this cooperation have been studies of Christian Sunday School lesson materials.

**Improvement of Religious Texts.** The Division of Religious Education of Drew University has completed a new study of such materials in use in Protestant schools, which can be expected to lead to the elimination of objectionable items. Considerable progress has been made along similar lines with respect to Catholic teaching materials. Effective use is being made of the Religious Press Committee, a syndicated religious news service which distributes appropriate material to the religious press of over fifty denominations.

**Department of Public Information and Education.** The Department of Public Information and Education continues its essential work of presenting a positive picture of the Jew to American Christians and combating old misconceptions and "stereotypes."

**Mass Approach Fully Utilized.** The "mass" approach through the radio, press, magazines, pulp and comic books, motion pictures and similar media is utilized in every possible manner and from every possible angle. Editors of all sorts, radio commentators and program directors continue to cooperate generously in the preparation and dissemination of material suggested by us. We ourselves sponsored during 1947 several outstanding radio network programs: for Passover, a dramatization starring Raymond Massey, accompanied by a talk by former Governor Lehman, and for the Day of Atonement two programs, one featuring an address by Rabbi Joshua Loth Lieberman, the other a dramatization of the founding of Touro Synagogue.

**Dedication of Touro Synagogue.** The dedication of the Touro Synagogue of Newport, Rhode Island, as a national shrine was made the subject of an intensive campaign that embraced every field of communication.
FREEDOM TRAIN. So too was the Freedom Train with its precious freight of great libertarian documents now touring the country.

PUBLICIZING REPORT OF PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS. An even more elaborate program is now in process for disseminating the text and recommendations of the Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights. This technique of tying in our efforts with contemporaneous events of general public interest and concentrating the resources of all departments in a major campaign based on those events is proving more and more effective.

PROBLEMS REGARDING MOTION PICTURE MEDIUM. The foregoing activities, of the volume of which it is difficult to give you an adequate idea, have proceeded along lines successfully evolved in earlier years. In only one medium for reaching the public—namely, the all-important medium of the motion picture—have we felt that the machinery for conveying our themes was still lacking. This concern was shared by the National Community Relations Advisory Council, which sent a committee, on which we were represented by Mr. David Sher, to Los Angeles to work out with the Jewish Community Relations Council there a constructive understanding. An early solution of this problem is anticipated, which will insure the elimination of objectionable material in films, and even more important, the production of scripts establishing a positive image of the Jew.

FILMS FOR USE IN SCHOOLS, CHURCH GROUPS, ETC. Meanwhile, we have been giving increased attention to the educational, 16-millimeter film, designed for use among church groups, schools, labor unions, youth organizations and for general public showing. The American Jewish Committee, in conjunction with the National Social Welfare Assembly, comprising all of the major youth organizations in the country, sponsored and produced a film entitled "Make Way for Youth."

"CLASS" APPROACH ALSO ESSENTIAL. We turn now to a consideration of the so-called "class" approach which, addressed to the particular interests of specified segments of the American people, has been stressed more and more as a means of breaking down prejudices and enlisting the support of powerful groups.

YOUTH GROUPS. One example of such "class" approach is our work with youth organizations and our membership in the National Social
Welfare Assembly, whereby we became associated with the policy determinations of its twenty constituent youth agencies. Such, too, is our interfaith work, which has been described earlier in this report.

Cooperation with veterans' organizations. We have also cooperated actively with the major veterans' organizations in the country, and in particular in connection with their current stand on the problems of immigration and the DPs, of which you have already been informed.

National Labor Service. Our National Labor Service has been in constant communication with organized labor, placing cartoons, comic strips, editorials and articles in the labor press, and making our material available to union members. As a part of our policy of evolving with labor leaders themselves a program for fighting discrimination, we organized a conference on the proper techniques to be employed, which was attended by more than fifty top-ranking labor educators.

Business and industry. After the preliminary stages had been laid in 1946, a new Division under the chairmanship of Mr. Benjamin J. Buttenwieser was established in 1947, whose activities thus far have been directed toward laying the essential foundation for the formation of an independent, non-sectarian businessmen's organization for combatting group tensions and encouraging pro-democratic ideals and practices in the field of business and industry. Such an organization has already advanced beyond the blueprint stage and the search for an outstanding non-Jewish leader to head it is now under way.

National Institute of Social Relations. The National Institute of Social Relations, under the presidency of Mr. Frank Weil, is carrying out its group discussion program in six key cities, in which adult groups discuss frankly and objectively vital questions of contemporary importance. The Institute furnishes informative background material and trained discussion leaders. In addition, its materials are being used by other local and national organizations on a wide scale. When this project was sponsored by us a few years ago, it was contemplated that it would attract support from many groups and individuals of all creeds and walks of life. It is believed that time is now approaching.
COMMUNITY SERVICE DEPARTMENT. The Community Service Department, with a lay committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Jerome J. Rothschild, continues its highly essential function of conveying our views and materials with the same efficiency as heretofore.

"QUARANTINE" TREATMENT. In particular, during 1947, it successfully developed and propagated to the organized local Jewish communities a new technique for dealing with rabble-rousers, known as the "quarantine" treatment, which consists in enveloping the heralded descent of a rabble-rouser upon a given community with the oblivion of silence. The method has been endorsed by the National Community Relations Council. As a result rabble-rousing meetings, such as those of Gerald L. K. Smith, lacking the stimulation of vociferous opposition and consequent publicity, have generally languished.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT. The Department of Scientific Research is concluding a series of long-range investigations in the field of anti-Semitism, the results of which are expected to be published within the course of the year. It is hoped that some important conclusions will be arrived at on the psychological make-up of the individual anti-Semite and the nature of anti-Semitism itself. This Department also enables us to evaluate and improve our techniques and materials by subjecting them to scientific tests. It has evolved an improved and more intensive method of poll-taking to determine the extent of anti-Semitism, and is at present conducting such polls in selected communities.

CHAPTER PROGRAM. Our Chapter program, under the Communities Activities Committee (Mr. Joseph Willen, Chairman), has proceeded at an accelerated pace during the past year, with the number of chapters increasing to thirty-three and our total membership to over 9,000. But more important than mere numbers is the general sense of a growing momentum, an intensification of feeling that this is now truly a national movement involving the participation of American Jewish Committee members throughout the country.

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. On an increasing scale, the chapters are participating in the practical programs of the Committee—immigration, civil and economic rights of Jews, Jewish cultural life and prejudice on the local level—and in policy determinations like the recent question as to whether the American Jewish Committee should join the proposed permanent
American Jewish Conference. The role of the chapters was highlighted at the meeting of the national Executive Committee held in Chicago on October 11 and 12 last, at which their spokesmen made most important contributions to the deliberations.

First Executive Committee meeting out of New York. The October 11-12, 1947, Executive Committee meeting in Chicago was the first in the entire 41-year history of the American Jewish Committee held outside of New York. This innovation was in keeping with our ever-growing realization that, for the American Jewish Committee to be most effective, it must have active participation in its work and in the setting of its policies by its Executive Committee members living in all parts of the country.

"Commentary". In the field of cultural activities Commentary has made a niche for itself in the contemporary Jewish scene and has won critical praise from Jews and Christians alike. More and more it is becoming recognized as a legitimate molder of leadership opinion. Mr. Ralph E. Samuel is chairman of the Publication Committee.

"Committee Reporter". The Committee Reporter, too, with a current circulation of over 41,000, helps shape and clarify Jewish public opinion on the important issues of the day, and keeps our membership and others regularly informed of our activities.

"American Jewish Year Book". Our Library of Jewish Information brought to completion Volume 49 of the American Jewish Year Book, representing forty years of editing. This volume has been revised and expanded along new lines. It contains scholarly, yet readable, articles on major problems confronting the American Jewish community today; sketches of the lives of great American Jews; detailed, authoritative reporting of events affecting Jews the world over, and handy reference features.

Library of Jewish Information. The Library, under a lay committee headed by Professor Salo W. Baron, has also sponsored a series of conferences for the purpose of collecting statistical and sociological data on the Jews in America.

Relations with other Jewish organizations. We continue to cooperate in fund-raising with the Anti-Defamation League through the Joint Defense Appeal, a two-year renewal, effective March 1, 1948, having recently been entered into.
Joint Defense Appeal. Its Coordinating Committee meets regularly to devise ways and means to coordinate, and to eliminate unnecessary duplication in the programs of the two agencies in the educational defense field. Messrs. Donald Oberdorfer, Gustave M. Berne and Albert H. Lieberman, among other of our members, have been devoting much time and effort to JDA. JDA must have the support of the entire Jewish community, for upon the success or failure of JDA campaigns depends the wherewithal for the success or failure of our efforts to protect the position of the Jew here and over the world.

American Jewish Conference. Now as to the American Jewish Conference. As you know, it was originally set up as a temporary non-functioning organization. As you are also aware, it is now proposing to become a permanent, overall and partially functioning organization.

Very careful consideration was given by your Committee to the invitation of the American Jewish Conference to join with it in this permanent organization which, among other things, “in the field of international affairs shall act for American Jewry in all representations before the United States Government and its departments, inter-governmental agencies and the United Nations.”

Mr. Blaustein and Dr. Slawson had a long meeting with Mr. Louis Lipsky and some of his colleagues during which their plan and its corollaries were fully explored. Your Steering Committee reviewed the plan at three of its meetings. Your Administrative Committee reviewed it and the Executive Committee at its October 11-12, 1947, meeting passed the following resolution unanimously: “The American Jewish Committee declines the invitation to join in the plan recommended by the American Jewish Conference.”

You are familiar with the background of the previous relationship between the American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Conference. You know how the Conference “arranged” the election of its delegates in advance, so as to be assured of an overwhelming maximum political Zionist control. You know how the Conference violated the conditions on which our Committee went into that Conference. It definitely was to be a conference in fact for true consideration of various views, not an Assembly for imposed decisions.

You know how the Conference imposed the extreme maximum, political Biltmore Resolution regarding Palestine which, after due consideration, resulted in the American Jewish Committee’s with-
drawing from the American Jewish Conference. You will agree that that withdrawal at that time from the Conference was a highly desirable step from the standpoint not only of the American Jewish Committee but of world Jewry.

Since then—and particularly during the past two years—it has been possible for the American Jewish Committee—where no sacrifice of principle was involved—to join with the American Jewish Conference and other organizations in some unity of action, but as separate, unrelated organizations acting within the areas of their agreement. Examples of this were the joint proposals at the Paris Peace Conference on the Peace Treaties with the former Axis-satellite countries; the joint proposals recently formulated in connection with the treaties with Germany and Austria; and certain phases of the Palestine question.

But quite apart from our previous unpleasant experience with the Conference in 1943, we approached the present proposal objectively and considered it from the standpoint of American and world Jewry as a whole, and not from just that of the American Jewish Committee as an organization.

The unanimous vote of the Executive Committee that the American Jewish Committee not join the Conference was in response to an insistent demand springing from many of our local chapters. The reasons are set forth in Judge Proskauer’s November 29, 1947, letter to Mr. Lipsky.

There was a decided difference of opinion among the Executive Committee as to whether we should just decline to join or go out and publicly oppose the project. At the request of Judge Proskauer and Mr. Blaustein, among others, it was understood that the vote carried no mandate to your officers to do the latter at that time, although they were given discretion as to any additional procedures and the timing thereof. This is a matter which undoubtedly will be further discussed at later sessions of this Annual Meeting.

NCRAC. We have greatly contributed through lay and staff participation to the steady growth in achievement and cooperative endeavor of the National Community Relations Advisory Council. In this organization the fact is being clearly demonstrated that Jewish groups can cooperate and work together when the aims and powers of the correlating organizations are specifically limited to common areas of agreement, and a spirit of cordial good will prevails.
Criticisms. And now that we have reviewed the record of what might be termed accomplishments, we should touch briefly on the ill-founded and questionably motivated criticisms that now and then are leveled at the JDA agencies, including the American Jewish Committee.

We do not refer—and of course do not object—to legitimate, constructive criticism. We want that. Nor do we mean to infer that we are perfect and that there is no room for improvement. Of course, there is room for improvement—just as there is room for improvement in all organizations.

But we refer to the kind of criticism—abusive and venomous—of self-seeking critics that obviously can have as its objective only the desire to destroy. There was a time when our work was attacked on ideological grounds—the Zionist versus anti-Zionist controversy. We proved to our critics that ideology as such had nothing to do with the job we had on hand, i.e., the job of defending our civil rights.

Then we were attacked for our programs. Some said we did not know what we were doing—we just copied from the advertising people. We proved to those critics that we do know how to use the instruments of science, and how constantly to appraise ourselves as we busily go on in the work of securing our rights.

And now we are attacked for our costs. Here, as in other phases and in other organizations, there is room for improvement, but we do budget with care, and our budgeting procedures are becoming more and more effective and increasingly rigorous.

Something should be stated here which, it is hoped, will not be misunderstood. We must be economical and do our best to squeeze one hundred cents of good out of every dollar expended. We must constantly check expenditures and evaluate our work. But let us remember that we are dealing with a dangerous phenomenon 2,000 years old. This is serious business. If we fail, the outlook is pitch dark. Therefore, while insisting on the most rigorous economies possible, let us bear in mind that, after all, the most expendable item we have in our gigantic and momentous undertaking is money. You will recall that term "expendable" from the Army—where they often had to sacrifice something important for something more critical.

Conclusion. We need hardly say anything in behalf of Dr. Slawson and the others of our professional group and the consecrated and devoted work they are doing. They are a loyal, intelligent, hard-working group of fine men and women.
At the same time, your Executive Committee wishes to express deep appreciation to the members of the Administrative Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. David Sher, the Steering Committee, our Chapters, and the members of other lay committees which are required to carry on our vast task. They give so much of themselves to its successful execution.

And now we have ended the record of the highlights of our 1947 activities. A new year has dawned, and with it come new tasks, new responsibilities. The future of the world is clouded with uncertainty, but the American Jewish Committee in its 41 years of valiant service to Jewry has never believed in a defeatist philosophy. We will go on to fight for freedom, dignity and equal rights. Democracy without these is a mere hollow sham. Nineteen forty-eight beckons, and we go to meet it with assurance and renewed vigor.